

PARTRIDGE, WILLIAM

001

PARTRIDGE, WILLIAM, born in England about 1825; listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, 3d District (Yavapai County), age 41, single, resident in Arizona 3 months, occupation - Miner; U. S. Census, 1870, at Weaver, Yavapai County, A.T., age 45, occupation - Miner; member Aztlan Lodge No. 177, F. & A.M. at Prescott, 1874; a description of southern Yavapai County printed in the Prescott Arizona Miner of April 16, 1875, contains this paragraph:

Rich Hill is the place where, in the years 1863-4, many men of many minds picked up quart cups full of gold. An old Arizonan now in Prescott will tell you what an exceedingly rich bonanza that of Rich Hill was. Jack W. Swilling and A. H. Peeples were among the lucky hombres who filled their pockets upon the occasion referred to. The gold alluded to was found almost upon the top of a very high mountain. There are now some forty men at work in the placers of this vicinity, all of whom are doing pretty well. Mr. Partridge, a pioneer of the place, Mr. Marcus and others are following quartz mining with good luck.

The following additional references to him appeared in the Arizona Miner:

July 6, 1877 -- Mr. Partridge, of Antelope, who is at present building a large station and store at that place, was in town to-day making purchases of material for his building.

August 10, 1877 - - Some time yesterday forenoon, Aug. 9th, G. H. Wilson, of Antelope Station, on the Wickenburg road, went down to the next place below on the creek, belonging to William Partridge, where he lost his life at the hands of Partridge, under the following circumstances, as nearly as we can gather them from a written statement sent to the Sheriff by the hands of John Timmerman.

Wilson went to the house of Partridge where were several persons who heard Wilson and Partridge quarreling outside. One of the men stepped out and

saw Wilson running towards the creek, and turning round saw Partridge with a gun. Wilson ran into some brush, and Partridge threw stones in after him. Wilson told Partridge that he was not armed, but if Partridge would put down his gun he would fight him. Partridge called him hard names and said, I have you now.

In a few moments the report of a gun was heard, and in a short time the parties in the house, who appear to have been somewhat timid about approaching too near the gun, went out, and heard Wilson calling for water, which they gave him. He told them he was dying, and requested them to take off his boots. This was done, and after directing that Mr. John Timmerman should take charge of his effects he expired.

The parties present saw Partridge enter the house and come out with something tied up in a handkerchief or white cloth. He gave his affairs into the hands of one of his workmen and left in a westerly direction towards the Sexton mine.

This is the account of the affair brought in by Mr. Timmerman: There are probably two sides to the matter, as there generally is, and when Coroner Cate, who has gone down to hold an inquest returns, we shall be able to ascertain about it.

William Partridge is nearly the same age as Wilson, has lived at Antelope and Salt River for many years, is a miller by trade, was for a long a resident of Shasta county, California, is, we judge from his dialect, of English extraction, and with the exception of his difficulties with Wilson, and one law suit about a mine, has never to our knowledge, had any trouble with anybody, in fact in all his actions and dealings with people, he appears to be one of the most harmless and in-offensive men we ever met.

We, with all who knew them deeply regret the occurrence which has cost the life of a good citizen, and made an outlaw and fugitive of another.

August 17, 1877 -- William Partridge, who killed George H. (Yaqui) Wilson, at Antelope, on Thursday, came in on the stage yesterday and surrendered himself to the sheriff. Owing to the distance to bring witnesses, the examination was deferred until

Saturday next, when it will be held before Justice Cartter. In the meantime, Partridge asks a suspension of public judgment in the matter, as he hopes to be able to show a much greater provocation than the public is yet aware of.

September 7, 1877 -- The trial jury found William Partridge guilty of murder in the second degree for the killing of George H. Wilson and recommended him to the mercy of the court, probably taking into consideration his age and the fact of his having been assaulted by Wilson with a sledge handle, etc. This afternoon the prisoner was called up for sentence in the District Court, and to the astonishment of many who were acquainted with the case, Judge Tweed fixed the time of imprisonment for life.

November 2, 1877 -- Wm. Partridge, who in a moment of excitement and frenzy, killed Geo. H. Wilson, (Yaqui) has been removed, by the Sheriff, to his new and, undoubtedly, lonesome quarters within the walls of the Territorial prison at Yuma. The party left this morning.

March 21, 1879 -- Wm. Partridge who has been in the Territorial Prison for nearly two years, serving a life sentence for the killing of Geo. H. Wilson, is getting old, is feeble and should receive executive clemency. He isn't a bad man.

January 9, 1880 -- Some of our citizens have prepared a petition which is being generally signed, asking Governor Fremont to pardon Wm. Partridge, who is now old and feeble, from the Territorial Prison. Partridge was harassed, threatened, and in many ways illtreated by the man he killed, and it is evident that he committed the rash deed entirely through fear.

January 16, 1880 -- Upon the recommendation of judicial officials and the appeal of our most influential citizens, to-day, Governor Fremont signed a full pardon to Wm. Partridge, who was sentenced for life in the Territorial Prison at Yuma, two years ago, upon his own evidence. Partridge is a man over 60 years of age, whose health, through confinement within the walls of a prison, has suffered much and had not the Governor extended his clemency, disease must soon have carried him to the "other shore." Of the many good things

PARTRIDGE, WILLIAM

- 4 -

done by Governor Fremont, during his administration in this Territory, none are more praiseworthy than that just extended to William Partridge.

January 30, 1880 -- Wm. Partridge, lately pardoned by Gov. Fremont, was in Phoenix last week, on his way home to Antelope Creek, where he did at one time, own some valuable mining property.

A correspondent for the Prescott Courier writing from Congress on January 23, 1896, stated:

Mr. Partridge has two mines bonded on Rich Hill to Petrie and Large. They made three separate mill runs at Peery's, which were very satisfactory. Those mines have considerable development work on them and will undoubtedly sell. He also has three mines bonded to Newman, Wolloth & Co., half a mile from the Yarnell; have been working them the past four months; have made one shipment to Pueblo, and are running fifty tons through the Yarnell mill, which is giving fine results.

The following items are taken from the Prescott Journal-

Miner :

December 1, 1897 -- Wm. Partridge, one of the old time residents of Stanton, is in town. Mr. Partridge lives in a stone cabin at the above place, where he erected it in 1864. He has some very fine mining properties there, which he has been developing for years.

January 17, 1898 -- We met Mr. Partridge, the pioneer of Weaver district, who related at length the truthful side of the early discovery of gold on the top of Rich Hill in 1853, at which time Mr. Partridge lived in a stone cabin at Antelope near Mr. Perry's store. Mr. Partridge told us how Pauline Weaver, after whom the district was named, George Bryant and Mr. Peeples pulled out with from \$35,000 to \$50,000 each, cleaned up in a short time on the top of Rich Hill in 1864.

Mr. Partridge owns the Bogota, Ben Harrison and Devonshire mines near by that are valued at \$25,000 and considered cheap at that price.

Died at Prescott, A.T., September 12, 1899; aged 74, buried there in the Citizens Cemetery; at the time of his death he owned

PARTRIDGE, WILLIAM

- 5 -

mining claims in the Weaver District and personal property valued at \$3,874; an obituary in the Tucson Arizona Star of September 16, reads as follows:

Another old pioneer has gone *over* the Great Divide. William Partridge of Prescott has been a resident of Arizona since '64, during which time he has been prospecting and working for the development of Arizona. The old pioneer was well liked by all who knew him, and was said to be one of the best informed citizens of Arizona on early history. Why were not the facts obtained from him while he lived for the benefit of the living present and future generations? The territorial legislature has been urged to make appropriations for the collection of data from all sources, especially from the pioneer population which is fast passing away.

It is a grave mistake in not having so important a matter attended to. The "old boys" will soon have gone to the beyond, from whence their knowledge and early experiences cannot be hand. What a valuable contribution to the early history of Arizona would the experiences of William Partridge have been. But he is dead and all is lost to the future historians of Arizona.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- The Grand Lodge of California, F. & A. M. - Proceedings, 1874.
Probate Court of Yavapai County - Docket No. 519.
- The Arizona Star, Tucson, September 16, 1899, 2:2 (obituary).
- The Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, January 24, 1880, 3:2.
- The Prescott Courier, October 23, 1883, 2:3-4; November 19, 1886, 4:2; January 25, 1896, 1:4 and September 12, 1899, 3:2 (death notice).
- The Arizona Democrat, Prescott, June 18, 1880, 6:1 and February 4, 1881, 6:1.
- The Journal-Miner, Prescott, December 1, 1897, 4:1; January 17, 1898, 4:4; September 13, 1899, 3:4 (obituary).
- The Arizona Enterprise, Prescott, August 11, 1877, 3:2; January 12, 1:4, February 2, 3:2 and April 24, 1878, 1:4, January 11, 1879, 2:3.
- The Arizona Miner, Prescott, April 16, 1875, 2:2; July 6, 3:1, August 10, 2:5, August 17, 3:3 and 4:3, August 24, 4:2, August 31, 3:1-2 and 4:2, September 7, 3:2-2, September 14, 3:3, and November 2, 1877, 3:1; August 16, 4:2 and November 11, 1878, 3:2; February 7, 3:3-4, March 21, 3:3, May 9, 3:2 and September 19, 1879, 4:2; January 9, 3:2, January 16, 2:5, January 30, 4:2, February 13, 3:3 and June 18, 1880.