

RANDALL, WILLIAM

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Born in Eastport, Washington County, Maine, _____, 1826.

Son of _____ and _____.

Listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, 3d District (Yavapai County) age 37, occupation - Miner, resident in Arizona 9 years, property valued at \$40; U. S. Census, 1870, at Kirkland Valley, Yavapai County, A.T., age 43, occupation - Farmer; after his death Henry A. Bigelow collected money from 26 surviving pioneers of Yavapai County to erect a headstone at his grave, which cost \$50, and wrote the following account of his life:

William Randall was born in Eastport, Maine, in 1826, and in his early years was a sailor. He came by sea to Galveston, Texas, in '54, and from there went through Arizona to San Bernardino, Cal., in '55, with a herd of cattle with Dr. Barton, and the same fall returned to Fort Yuma, in this Territory. Early in '56 he went to Tucson, and there was employed by Wm. H. Kirkland, with whom he remained for six years, most of the time in the lumber business in the Santa Rita mountains.

Kirkland moved to California in '61, and Randall went with him as far as the Gila City placers, in Yuma County, where he remained until the discovery of gold in this county in 1863 brought Kirkland and many others back. Kirkland found Randall at Gila City, and outfitted him and three others and sent them up here to the new diggings and shortly after followed them and discovered and located in what has ever since been known as Kirkland Valley.

In the fall of '63, Kirkland, Randall and Wm. E. Dennison (who was afterwards killed by Indians at the head of the Hassayampa) discovered the richest placer diggings ever found in Walnut Grove. Kirkland sold half of his interest in the Spring of '64 to one McCloud for \$1,500. Later, McCloud purchased all the

rest, and the diggings passed into history as "McCloud's Bar."

It cannot be said that his death was regretted by all who knew him, as is stated in some obituaries, for he was a man who never forgot or forgave insult, or wilful mistreatment, and has some enemies. But those who knew him longest liked him best, and can endorse a statement made by Wm. H. Kirkland, with whom he lived nearly nine years, "A more noble-hearted man never lived."

Died at Prescott, Yavapai County, A. T., November 11, 1887, aged 60; buried City Cemetery in Prescott; an obituary written by H. A. Bigelow and printed in the Prescott Courier of November 16, 1887, stated:

With King S. Woolsey, Bill Murray, G. H. Vickroy and others, who came into Northern Arizona on the placer gold excitement, Randall came to look for gold and was eminently successful. He discovered, in the fall of '63, the placer diggings on the Hassayampa, well known as "McLeod's bar," which paid \$30 to \$40 per day to the man all through the winter of '63 and '64. After gathering in a respectable pile of gold dust, he visited his old haunts in Pima county, but soon returned here to stay. He was a most successful hunter, and for several years devoted as much of his time to supplying Prescott and the mining camps with bear, elk and deer meat, as he did to prospecting.

During the Indian trouble from the spring of '64 for the next ten years, no one was more ready than he, to go to any point to avenge an injury, or to protect the defenseless. He was a cunning and expert trailer, and led many a party to the hidden home of the redskins, and assisted in making good Indians of them. Randall and men like him, are those who made Arizona the quiet, habitable country it is today. In his hunting expeditions he preferred to go alone, and so for years he lived almost alone, and like many others of that habit, was rather taciturn, rarely telling of his exploits in killing game or Indians, even among his most intimate friends.

Most hospitable in his nature, he was always ready to divide his last dollar with a friend, or his last pound of provisions with any one who came hungry to his camp. Of a warm, loving disposition, though undemonstrative

in character, he would go to any extreme to assist or oblige a friend, but was a good hater, and would have nothing to say to or do with anyone he had reason to believe was in any way inimical towards him. Cautious to a fine degree about getting into danger, no one could be more fearless, or prompt in action when forced to take his own part, or that of his friends, or to defend the public interest.

Several years ago he cast his fortunes with an old friend, Isaac Bradshaw, in the mines of Copper Basin, 12 miles west of Prescott, and for five years, at least, was seldom seen in Prescott, unless in company with "Uncle Ike." The decline of copper and silver in the markets left them, like many others, stranded on a lee shore. Bradshaw got some money from the sale of a ranch to the Walnut Grove Water Storage company, and divided with Randall, and went to Castle creek, where he died more than a year ago. Randall stayed alone at Colonel C. C. Bean's camp, in Copper Basin, till failing health caused him last winter to go to Walnut Grove and seek the assistance of friends. In the summer he came to Prescott, and was obliged to ask aid of the county, most of his old friends who are alive, being, unfortunately, unable to give him much pecuniary aid.

Few are now living in Yavapai county, who came here when Randall did. Azrael, or Gabriel, blows the horn on the divide, and one by one the old timers pass over the range obedient to the call, and are seen no more.

It is time in order to preserve authentic records of the early history of this County, that, in the near future, a pioneer society should be formed, and a start made toward the collection and preservation of everything of interest relating to the settlement of Northern Arizona. Such collections everywhere become of increasing value as time passes away. Information that can be had now, from various sources, will not be available.

Fifty years from now, men who did less for the Territory than William Randall, will be spoken of as heroes. Their memories should be kept alive long after the last Apache has gone to Sheol, or the happy hunting grounds.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Prescott Courier, November 11 (death notice), November 16, 1887, 4:2-3 (funeral and obituary by Bigelow); January 2, 1889 (communication by Bigelow to the editor)