

RICE, WILLARD, born in Greensboro, Orleans County, Vermont, October 22, 1832; never married; moved with his parents to Canaan, Wayne County, Ohio, in 1837 and left there via the overland route for California, March 18, 1852, where he became a placer miner near Marysville.

Came from California to Arizona in 1863; listed Territorial Census, April, 1864, in what was afterwards Yavapai County as a Miner, resident in Arizona 6 months, property valued at \$60; employed by Lieut. Charles A. Curtis at Fort Whipple, A.T., as Spy and Guide at \$5 per day January 1, 1865; reported to Lieut. Antonio Abeytia, May 1, 1865, and participated with him in action against Apaches at Point of Rocks; discharged at Fort Whipple, August 8, 1865; reemployed SPY and Guide at Camp Lincoln in the Verde Valley by Lieut. Abeytia at \$142.35 per month and served until January 31, 1866.

Worked as Carpenter at Fort Whipple at \$100 per month, November and December, 1866; employed at Camp Date Creek, A.T., September 1, 1869, as Guide at \$75 per month and served there until May 31, 1870, when he was transferred to Fort Whipple and was discharged there on November 30, 1870; listed U.S. Census, 1870, at Prescott as Army Scout;

Member of a party of about 30 men under Ed. G. Peck who left Prescott in May, 1871, with a prospector named Miller who said he could lead them to a rich deposit of placer gold; they were joined by over 200 others at old Camp Grant and went in to the Sierra Ancha Mountains but Miller never could find the place where the gold was supposed to be so the men from Prescott returned home via the Mogollon Mountains and Camp Verde.

Acted as Guide at \$150 per month with Lieut G.M. Wheeler on explorations in northern Arizona during November and December, 1871; served in the field as Guide and Interpreter under General George Cook at \$125 per month from December

1, 1872 to March 30, 1873.

The Prescott Courier of February 8, 1892, published a letter from Elliott Coates telling of the great need for an active Pioneers' Society in northern Arizona from which *the* following is quoted:

How many are left like Willard Rice, a type of the very brain, bone and sinew of the Territory, who guided many a military scout to success, and whose rifle-stock could be notched from breech-plate to heel-plate with the tally of good dead Indians.

There also appeared in the Courier of September 19, that year, a statement that he had met with a painful accident:

Word has been received from the Cornucopia mine in the Cherry District that Willard Rice, the owner of that property, cut himself in the leg with a knife, inflicting a serious wound.

Died at Prescott, Yavapai county, A.T., January 2, 1899, aged 66; the Prescott Journal-Miner printed the following obituary:

He heard of the rich placer mines in Arizona, gathered a small party of prospectors about him and came hither in 1863, encountering many obstacles and much hardship. Sharing the love and ambition of a majority of prospectors, he eventually traversed a greater part of the mineral portion of Arizona. Since that time he has been identified with some of the most thrilling history of the Territory.

For ten years he was Guide and Scout in the employ of the United States Government, stationed with soldiers at Fort Whipple, near Prescott. He was foremost in all raids and engagements made by the soldiers against the Indians, which at periods were almost daily. Indians feared his most unerring marksmanship. Fully understanding the Indian method and sagacity in warfare he was never harmed or betrayed by them. He loved Arizona and her people, and had unbounded faith in her great resources. He was a man of superior intelligence of kindly disposition, a true and charitable friend, and a good citizen.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- The Quartermaster General's Office - Archives and claims.
 Farish, T.E. - History of Arizona, Phoenix, 1916, Vol 3, p. 329. 3¹¹
 Wells, E.E. - Argonaut Tales, N.Y., 1927, pp. 310, 312, 352, 354, 355 (portrait)
 The Weekly Courier, Prescott, October 2, 1888, p. 3, C. 1; November 7, 1891, p. 4, C. 1; February 8, p. 2, C. 1 and October 19, 1892, p. 4, C. 2.
 The Arizona Journal-Miner, Prescott, January 25, 1899, p. 4, Col. 2 (obituary).