

# SHANKS, ANDREW JACKSON

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SHANKS, ANDREW JACKSON

Born at \_\_\_\_\_ Kentucky \_\_\_\_\_ 18\_\_ (about 1831).

Son of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Came to Northern Arizona from California as a member of a prospecting and mining party organized and directed by Dr. George M. Willing; the following references to him were printed in the Prescott Arizona Miner:

October 31, 1868 - - A detachment of Troop L, Eighth Cavalry, returned from a scout Tuesday last, the detachment was commanded by Lieutenant Wells, and guided by A. J. Shanks. The command scouted in the vicinity of Postle's Ranch, Williamson Valley, and Walnut Grove, but unfortunately found no Indians, although they are thick as bees around Prescott.

March 9, 1872 - - P. McAteer, Tom Reddick, Robert Garside and other citizens of this happy valley (Kirkland Valley) on the road from Prescott to Wickenburg and other points, were in town this week, purchasing plows etc., with which to turn up and cultivate their farms, which are among the best in Arizona. Jack Shanks, who owns an interest with Tom Reddick, went down with the party.

Listed, U. S. Census, 1870, at Prescott, age 39, born in Kentucky, occupation - Miner; served as a member of the Board of Supervisors of Yavapai County, 1869-70.

In reporting his death, the Miner stated:

Dead sure death has taken another pioneer citizen of Prescott. A. J. Shanks, who came here from California, with the Willing Party, in the summer of 1864, succumbed to disease on the afternoon of Friday June 7th, despite the best efforts of an able physician and the kindest offices of devoted friends. Deceased was well and favorably known throughout this Territory and California.

Died at Prescott, Yavapai County, A. T., June 7, 1872, age 41; buried \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery.

A letter written by Dr. George M. Willing and printed in the San Francisco Alta California on September 9, 1864, stated:

The present expedition is a private one and not intended for speculation, but for the purpose of discovering mines and locating such as I have already discovered. Members of party: Messrs. Lounsbery and Lovejoy of San Francisco, and A. J. Shanks of Sacramento, Thos. H. Sawyer, M. Neff, and Bernardo, the Mexican muleteer.

C. B. Genung said in an article written for the Los Angeles Mining Review from Forepaugh, Arizona, that in 1864-65 he engaged A. J. Shanks to work getting out ore at the Montgomery mine; records of the Quartermaster General show that Andrew Shanks was employed at Fort Whipple, A. T., as Teamster at \$100 a month from July 13, 1865 to October 31, 1868; the following was printed in the Arizona Miner of March 21, 1868:

Geo. M. Willing, Chief of the Willing Mining and Exploring Expedition, who is now in St. Louis, has written a letter to A. J. Shanks, of this place, one of his old Black Canon comrades, in which he urges upon the people of this Territory the importance of electing him (Willing) to Congress. The platform upon which the Dr. wishes to stand before the people of Arizona is as sound as a Democratic dollar, and his ideas in regard to the peopling of our Territory, and the development of its mineral and other resources are beautiful and comprehensive, but we rather incline to the opinion that his brain is a little addled if he imagines (which he does) that our people will shoot him into Congress at such long range. He says he is using all his strength and influence in favor of Arizona, and promises to return here soon.

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## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Quartermaster General's Office - Archives and files.  
The Alta California, San Francisco, September 3, 1864, 1:7.  
The Arizona Miner, Prescott; March 21, 2:2, October 31, 2:3 and  
December 26, 1868, 3:2; January 6, 3:3, July 23, 1870, 3:3;  
March 9, 3:1 and June 15, 1872, 3:1 (obituary).  
The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, June 29, 1872, 1:4 (death notice).