

WISE, SAMUEL BOOKER

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WISE, SAMUEL *Booker*

Born at _____ Pennsylvania, _____, 18____ (about 1815).

Son of _____ and _____.

Married, Grecilda Gonzales at Tucson about 1859; son, Miguel, born, 1860.

Went from his home to Baltimore, Maryland, where he worked as a miller; first came to the Gadsden Purchase in 1856; erected a number of adobe houses by contract in 1859 for use of the soldiers at Fort Buchanan; afterwards testified that he and others at that Post lost 51 head of animals stolen by Apaches in December of that year; listed, U. S. Census, 1860, at Tucson, age 41, occupation - Miller; was in Tucson when the California Column arrived in 1862; after the Civil War he "for a time conducted a grist mill, later going into the saloon business;" the Tucson Arizonian of January 24, 1869, stated:

Our old-time friend, Samuel B. Wise, has returned from the settlements on the Gila and reports that everything is prosperous to a remarkable degree in that section.

In 1867, he and William Sniffin acquired the Blue Water stage station about 45 miles northwest of Tucson but were troubled by the Apaches as is shown by the following from the Arizonian of March 12, 1870:

On Wednesday night, the 2d inst. A party of Indians visited the Blue Water Station, broke open a passage through the wall of the corral and took away with them three mules belonging to Mr. (Mortimer R.) Platt of this town, and two horses belonging to the station keepers, Messrs. Wise and Sniffin. This has been an unusually daring trick and leads some to think that these Indians have secured the services of a Mexican or American renegade who engineer the destruction of the wall.

His partnership with Sniffin was dissolved by mutual consent on May 2, 1870; in the Arizonian of June 6, he published a notice claiming 160 acres surrounding the Blue Water well and in the same issue advertised that he had "on hand constantly, a supply of provisions, hay and grain for the accomodation of the traveling public;" listed, U. S. Census, July 19, 1870, as Station-keeper, *at (P.O.) Blue Water* property valued at \$3,400; sold the stage station to John W. Baker, a union veteran from New London, Iowa, who with his wife, a son about 7 years old and a baby some 4 months old, were all murdered there on December 21, 1871, by three Mexicans whom Baker had employed to cut wild hay near the station; the murderers were never captured, escaping to Sonora.

The following items referring to him were printed in the Tucson Weekly Arizona Citizen:

February 4, 1871 - - Frank Larkin of Sweetwater, and Sam B. Wise, of Adamsville vicinity, were in town during the week. Mr. Wise reported that J. D. Walker, member elect to the House, had been unwell, but had so far recovered that he hoped to be able to take his seat about this time.

January 4, 1873 - - Sam B. Wise and Ed Richard from Sanford, spent a few days of the week in Tucson. They both appreciate recreation and enjoyed some on their late visit. Sam complains that we look younger than he does, which is not our fault.

May 17, 1873 - - Charles Page, S. B. Wise, E. Richard, M. Rodgers, J. Devine and D. C. Thompson came in from the Gila this week.

March 7, 1874 - - Samuel B. Wise, a well-known citizen and resident of Pima county some distance below Sanford, has been in town for a week on grand jury business, and he takes occasion to speak of the grievances the

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people of his locality have because they have no public school. He claims that the Sanford district should never have been merged into that of Florence; that there are thirty-two children between the ages of six and twenty-one years in his neighborhood or the old Sanford district; that a great injustice was done in uniting the two districts and thereby excluding these thirty-two children from attendance at any public school.

November 11, 1874 - - At Montezuma S. B. Wise was elected Justice of the Peace and no one constable. This precinct includes the Sanford school district, and S. B. Wise, Milton Ward and William Dempsey were chosen School Trustees.

He was registered as a voter at Tucson in 1880, but afterwards moved to Cochise County as shown by the Tombstone Epitaph of January 1, 1882:

Mr. S. B. Wise, one of the old, old Arizonans, who has a fine ranch at the eastern base of the Whetstone mountains, was in town yesterday. At present he runs a milk-ranch two miles out of Contention. Mr. Wise thinks Contention the coming city.

An obituary printed in the Tucson Arizona Star stated:

When the Tombstone excitement broke out he went over in that direction and ranched and farmed. Finally a heavy drouth killed most of his cattle and destroyed his crops, and he went to Benson and again engaged in the saloon business, living there for ten or fifteen years.

Not a great while ago Mr. Wise went East and visited all the places where he had formerly lived, but it was all so changed that he was glad to get back to the West.

His only dying request was that the remains of his only son, buried at Solomonville, be disinterred and buried by his side in this city. He does not leave much of an estate, but he had enough to pay all expenses of his last illness and burial.

Mr. Wise was a characteristic pioneer. He feared no one and nothing. His only religion was to lead an honest life and that he did.

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Died at Tucson, A. T., April 11, 1898, aged 83; buried _____
Cemetery, in Tucson.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Fish, Joseph - History of Arizona, manuscript.
 Barnes, W. G. - Arizona Place Names, 1935, p. 56.
 Barney, J. M. - The Blue Water Massacre, Manuscript, 1942.
 DeLong, S. R. - Manuscript, A.P.H.S., p. 4.
 The Weekly Arizonian, Tucson, October 27, 1859, January 24, 1869,
 3:1; March 12, 3:1 and June 4, 1870, 2:3-4.
 The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, February 4, 1871, 3:3; March 16, 1872,
 2:3; January 4, 3:2, March 8, 3:2, May 17, 1873, 3:2; February
 21, 3:2, March 7, 2:1, November 21, 1874, 4:2; April 11, 1898,
 4:2 (death notice).
 The Arizona Enterprise, Tucson, March 10, 1892, 1:8
 The Tombstone Epitaph, January 13, 1892, 3:6.
 The Arizona Daily Star, Tucson, April 12, 1898, 4:3 (obituary).

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Probate Court of Graham County - Docket No. 174.
 U. S. Court of Claims - Indian Depredation Docket No. 9104 and
 No. 9105.
 District Court of Cochise County, October term, 1889, Grijaba vs.
 Dunbar (Testimony in dispute over water rights near Tres Alamos).
 The Arizonian, Tucson, October 27, 1859, 2:3.
 The Arizona Star, Tucson, December 17, 1879, 3:1.
 The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, October 22, 1870, 1:2; June 8, 3:2 and
 November 16, 1872, 1:4; November 21, 1874, 4:2; February 13,
 1875, 2:1.
 The Arizona Miner, Prescott, June 22, 1864, 1:4; October 29, 1870,
 2:4; December 23, 1871, 4:1; March 23, 1872, 1:2.
 The Final Drill, Pinal City, February 26, 1881, 2:2-3 (reprint from
 the Tombstone Nugget).
 The Tombstone Prospector, December 1, 4:4, December 10, 4:1 and
 December 15, 1891, 4:1.
 The Oasis, Nogales, April 9 and April 16, 1898, 4:1 (death notice).
 The Arizona Bulletin, Solomonville, April 15, 1898, 7:2 (obituary).
 The Florence Tribune, April 23, 1898, 3:2 (obituary).

WANTED

1. His middle name from the Pima County Great Register.
2. The date and place of his birth in Pennsylvania.
3. Where was he buried?