

WILLING, GEORGE M.

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WILLING, Dr. GEORGE M .

Born at _____ Pennsylvania, _____ - _____ 18 _____

Son of _____ and _____

Married _____ at _____ on _____ 18 _____

Children _____

The following references to him were originally printed in the Albuquerque, New Mexico, Review and reprinted in the Tucson Citizen on January 10, 1874:

Dr. George M. Willing, general superintendent of the Willing Mining and Exploring company arrived here (Albuquerque) from New York on Tuesday. The Doctor is on his way to Prescott, A.T., to superintend arrangements for the opening and development of the mineral property of the company. This corporation was chartered by the State of Pennsylvania in 1866, and owns immense tracts of mineral lands in Arizona and California, of which may be mentioned the Bradshaw and Owen's (Stoneman) Lake Districts. Among its officers are Lucien Birdseye, V. President; W. O. Stoddard (formerly private secretary to President Lincoln) Secretary; and George M. Willing, Jr., General Superintendent.

Upon a plat of the Owen's Lake property shown us by the doctor was marked a lode of gold and silver bearing quartz measuring 3,600 feet long by an average of two hundred feet in breadth. There are numerous other leads marked of large dimensions in other parts of the property but this one seems to be a monster. We congratulate Arizona upon this evidence of her prospective riches and hope the Willing company may be successful in developing her resources.

Dr. Willing is known to many of our residents as the same gentleman who was exploring Arizona in 1865, but had narrowly escaped death at the hands of the Apaches. In his wanderings during the time he was dodging Mr. Lo, the Doctor made some of his most valuable discoveries. He is grateful for having escaped on that occasion and thanks the late Gen. Carleton for his rescue. He now thinks that since the Apaches are comparatively quiet under the judicious management of Gen. Crook, confidence will be restored in mining property and an era of unparalleled prosperity inaugurated.

The Prescott Arizona Miner of March 20, 1874 gave the following report of his death:

We stated in yesterday's paper, that the Dr. arrived here from the States, via New Mexico, on the previous evening. Soon

after his arrival he made haste to visit us, when we learned that his object in again visiting the Territory was to secure title to some mines claimed by the Willing mining and exploring company in the vicinity of Black Canon creek, and a Spanish grant on the Gila river, to which grant a French count was, he said, preparing to lead a colony.

Dr. Willing first came here in the summer of 1864, at the head of a well appointed prospecting party, which operated for several months in the country south of Wickenburg. A year or more later he departed for the States with very rich specimens of quartz, etc., was attacked by Indians and lost most of his property.

The next time we heard of him was in 1867 when he accompanied the Stimpson party from Philadelphia to Mohave county, where Mr. Stimpson and others were murdered by Hualpai Indians, while looking at the mines. Dr. Willing remained on the river, and by so doing saved himself from the savages.

He then returned to the East, where he remained until a few months ago. He had his faults, not the least of which was the habit of stretching the truth, but was, on the whole, a bold adventurer and intelligent man. His native State is, we believe, Pennsylvania. He leaves a wife in the East.

Early in 1884 Col. C. D. Poston wrote letters to menwhom he knew as early arrivals in Arizona urging them to join the Society of Arizona Pioneers then being organized in Tucson; in a reply from Rufus Baldwin Lovejoy, dated at Tombstone, February 16, 1884, these statements appear:

I came to Arizona in the year 1865 with the Dr. Willing expedition. We suffered most everything--lost our animals and all we had. Went to the Bradshaw district and there we found some mines that looked very well. The Dr. went East and got up a Company and came back in 1867, and I came with him from San Francisco and the party from the East, Mr. Stimson from Baltimore and Mr. Hyde from New York. We proceeded to the Bradshaw district where the mine was located, found them all correct as stated. The pronounced them good.

On our return from Prescott to Hardyville we separated, myself and the Doctor to Hardyville and they going to the Sacramento district to see some mines belonging to a man, by the name of Adams. Mr. Stimson, Hyde and others making 8 in all I think. Mr. Stimson, Hyde, Col. Inges Lyon Samuel of S.F., Luk Millbury, Messorer, and the other names I do not recollect. During the time they were there which was but one night three got killed, and the next day they come to Hardyville and reported the loss they

have met with. The Doctor felt very bad.

I told them before going they had better go to Ft. Mohave and get an escort to go with them but they thought there was no danger. My reason for telling them was that I had been on Williams Fork during the time between 1865 and 1867 and we have trouble with the Indians. After returning to San Francisco I thought I would go East with the Doctor and try and have the Company take hold of the mines, but "no" was the answer. They were so frightened they would do nothing.

A few years ago the Doctor came back overland and lost his horse and came into Prescott on foot, the snow being so deep he could not get his horse along. Arriving at Prescott he found so many of the old boys, as we term it in the mountains, he had to drink and drink and there he breathed his last. He was a very liberal man, good hostess and a very good Doctor.

Died at Prescott, A.T. March 19, 1874, buried, Citizens Cemetery, Prescott,

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, January 10, 1874, 1:2
The Arizona Miner, Prescott, March 20, 1874, 3:1 (obituary).