

ALLEN , JOHN BRACKETT

Arizona Daily Star, Tucson,

6/ 14/ 99, 4:4

GONE TO REST.

One of Arizona's Most Respected
Progressive and Useful Pioneers
Passes to the Great Beyond.

Yesterday Gen. J. B. Allen one of the early pioneers of Arizona passed quietly away after a lingering decline for several weeks. A few days ago the deceased was subjected to a very painful and critical surgical operation for cancer in the side of his face which although he bore with marked equanimity (sic) yet the general decline of his strength had so reduced his vital powers, that it was only a matter of a few days at best when those who knew him felt he must be relieved of his suffering. The deceased was nearly eighty years of age and was a native of the state of Maine; and was educated in Boston. The following from THE STAR of last October on the anniversary of his last birthday will best explain some of his traits of character and value to Tucson and territory:

General Allen came to Arizona in 1857, making his first stop at Yuma and participated in the placer gold excitement of that time at Gila City. He came to Tucson in 1858 and has been here or at points tributary ever since. He was first elected member of the Arizona legislature in 1867 and was one of the factors in having the capital removed from Prescott to Tucson. He was three times in all a member of the legislature.

He was territorial treasurer from 1867 to 1872. When he

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assumed of fice the territory was \$26 ,000 in debt. He had a bill prepared which became a law, providing a revenue for the territory. In 1872 when he retired from office the territory was free of debt, with \$16,000 in the general fund and \$5,000 in the territorial school fund. No man did so much for the early financial interest of Arizona as General Allen.

It can be truthfully said that General Allen laid the foundation of the more modern Tucson in early days. He erected a number of the best buildings of his day. When he was constructing the building at the corner of Congress and Meyer streets, twenty five years ago, they said he was crazy. When he erected a residence where the railroad depot now stands (which was then far out in the brush) they said he was a hermit. When he secured the location of the military camp at Fort Lowell, they believed he had gone daft.

General Allen made several large fortunes in and about Tucson and invested every dollar in advancing the interests of the city. He was among the first to inaugurate public schools, churches and everything which partook of progress. Being well educated, he accumulated a vast store of knowledge, rich data, and knew more about Arizona, its history growth and conquests than any living man.

The deceased will be missed in Tucson. His good work for the territory and especially for Tucson will be a lasting monument to his memory. He was a man of generous impulses. On good terms with the community, always endeavoring to help some one or some

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cause. In matters of religion he was a Methodist and before coming to the west he was a member of the church. His life showed he had never forgot the teachings of youth and the counsels and training of his New England home.

General Allen lived a useful life. He made his impression upon Arizona and that impression was for good. His taking off will cause many kind words to be spoken of him and many silent tears will be shed by those who have received his benefactions. May the rest of the good old pioneer of Arizona, the patriarch citizen of Tucson, be undisturbed till the resurrection morn when all will be summoned to receive their just rewards for deeds done in the body.

Arizona Daily Star, Tucson,

March 8, 1906
3/8/06, 1:2

THE BEE INDUSTRY — S

➤ GEN. ALLEN FIRST PROMOTER.

[The honey industry has become one of the wealth producing resources **Or** Arizona. This fact is brought to the attention of The Star by the visit of L. E. **Karr** of Yuma to our city.]
Mr. **Karr** is a member of the firm of **Karr & Kaster** of Yuma who are doing grading work for the Southern Pacific Co., having at present 60 horses working at Pantano, where Mr. **Karr** gives most of his time to looking after operations under contract.

[Seventeen years ago Mr. **Karr** located at Yuma. He is an apiarist of experience. He observed the magnificent field for the honey bees to work and planted a number of hives there in the mesquite

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timber and near the alfalfa fields of that rich valley of the Colorado. The firm of Karr & Kaster have more than 1,000 stands of bees and they are shipping two cars and over of honey yearly to the eastern markets, which production will be increased right along.]

Yuma is a rich field for the apiarist, the low lands being full of honey bearing plant life. The mesquite forests and the alfalfa and the shrubbery growth of the mesa lands make good fields for the bee workers to operate. And as they can gather honey every day in the year, it is proving a profitable industry.

In this connection it can be related that the first honey bees known to Arizona were brought to Tucson in 1872² by General and Mayor J. B. Allen, the most enterprising citizen of Tucson in that day. He brought two stands from Yuma in a wagon, believing honey production would prove a success. From these two stands he sold the first two swarms to L. C. Hughes, which in two years increased to some fifteen swarms, ~~the increase being a total of fifteen in that~~ which made the Hughes apiary too large for a home business and the new swarms were boxed and sent to those who wanted them bad enough to pay for hiving and expressage.

During the early eighties scores of hives were sent from the Hughes apiary to residents and farmers of Graham, Cochise, Pinal, Maricopa and throughout Pima counties. The result being an increase so marvelous that the swarms could not be taken care of so that wild bees, as they were called, swarmed the mountains hereabouts

1700
1875
30

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108

and the places tributary to those having apiaries.

Today there are tens of thousands of the bee stands in Arizona , of which many car loads of honey are shipped annually. Maricopa and Graham counties being the largest shippers and the remarkable fact is so far as the Star has been able to learn all of these bees are the offspring of the two swarms or stands brought from San Diego by General John B. Allen.

The writer of this well remembers the remarks of the old pioneer at that time in these words: "There is not a honey bee east of the California desert or west of the Rio Grande save these two hives. In a few years they will swarm the valleys and thousands of bee trees will be found and cliffs of the rocks will be the harvest homes of the descendants of these two hives of Pioneer bees." ~~All this has come to pass in less than thirty years.~~ ^{four} ~~years.~~

Here is a lesson for the statebuilders Of Arizona. Behold what great results comes (sic) from a very small beginning. General J. B. Allen has been buried almost ten years, but the results of his labors are a myriad of bees, for the incident above referred to was among the least of hundreds of things done for posterity which are today bearing much fruit for the coming state of Arizona.

Arizona Highways, July, 1936, p.15:2,3.

Old Maricopa Wells.

By James M. Barney.

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After the abandonment of Maricopa Wells by the stage company

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that had constructed the station, John B. (Pie Allen, widely known resident of Southern Arizona, took up the Maricopa Wells site in the following notice, which he filed with the U. S. Surveyor-General of Arizona, and is now in the records of that office:

"The Surveyor-General of Arizona is hereby notified that in pursuance of law, I, John B. Allen, of the First Judicial District, in the Territory of Arizona, having pre-empted a tract of land containing one hundred and sixty (160) acres, lying about two miles west of the northwest corner of the Pima and Maricopa Reservation and includes what is known and designated as the 'Maricopa Well'.

JOHN B. ALLEN."

"Tucson, July 27, 1864."

When Mr. Allen pre-empted the Maricopa Wells site, he repaired buildings and corrals and made other improvements of a substantial character about the place. Here he established a store and grain station and carried on an extensive trade with the nearby Indian farmers.

In a biographical sketch of Colonel James M. Barney, which appears in "California Biography", by Alonzo Phelps is found:

"Arriving at Fort Yuma (April, 1865), he (James M. Barney) at once tools a contract to transport supplies to the suffering military at Tubac, three hundred and fifty miles across the Territory, uninhabited by whites save at Maricopa Wells--one hundred and seventy-five miles from Yuma--where J. B. Allen had

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a grain station, and, a few miles farther on, where a primitive
flouring mill was located, and at Tucson, two hundred and seventy-
five miles from Yuma."

In 1867, Allen sold out his interests at Maricopa Wells to
George F. Hooper and Co. of Arizona City, now Yuma.....

ALLEN, General

General Allen, the old pioneer who died in Tucson last Tuesday, came to Arizona in 1857, making his first stop at Yuma, where he participated in the placer gold excitement of that time at Gila City. He went to Tucson in 1858 and has remained there ever since. He was three times a member of the territorial legislature and was a factor in having the capital moved from Prescott to Tucson. General Allen was territorial treasurer from 1867 to 1872, and it is current knowledge that no man did so much for the early financial interest of the territory as did the deceased. One by one the old pioneers merge into eternity.

----Arizona Sentinel, June 17, 1899, 3:4