

# ALLEN, ORLANDO

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ALLEN, ORLANDO

Born at \_\_\_\_\_, Vermont, MAR 14, 1837 (~~about 1837~~)

son of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Married Mary Jane Oswald, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Oswald, at Walnut Grove, Yavapai County, A. T., June 20, 1876, who died near Glendale, Arizona, January 1, 1939, aged 90.

Children, Mabel (Mrs. VAN FLEET) and Bertha (Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_).

Went to California via Panama, 1859; came to Arizona 1863; listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, (3d District) Yavapai County, age 27, born in Vermont, occupation - Carpenter, resident in Arizona 5 months; appointed Postmaster at Prescott to succeed G. W. Bernard, March 9, 1871, and served until June 12, 1874; the Prescott Arizona Miner of August 5, 1871, made the following comment when he took over the office:

The bonds of Orlando Allen, who was recently appointed postmaster at this place, have been approved, and he has entered upon the duties of the office. Our old postmaster, G. W. Barnard, appears pleased at being again free, to rustle in the mountains. Mr. Allen has moved the furniture of the P. O. to his store, on Montezuma street, where the office is now established, and where he intends to keep it in good shape.

and again a week later:

In Allen and Whites store, a few doors south of the Miner office is something we feel like bragging on, it is so convenient, business-like and well fitted up with all "the modern improvements." It looks more like a postoffice in some large, thrifty city than any we have seen in a long time, and all through the good taste, and public spirit of postmaster Allen, who "pans out well", so far, for the public, and who, we believe, will continue in the "same strain". Really, the way Allen has fitted up the P. O. is a credit to the town, and we pat him on the back for what he has done.

Served as a member of the Prescott Town Council, 1877-78; operated the Pioneer butcher shop in Prescott for several years; an advertisement in the Prescott Arizona Enterprise of August 31, 1878, reads:

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## REDUCTION

## BEING THE ORDER OF THE DAY

and being determined to keep up with the spirit of the times, the undersigned has Reduced the Price of Beef and Mutton TO THE FOLLOWING FIGURES;

Loin Steaks . . . . . 15 cts.  
 Chucks, Steaks and Round. . . . 10 cts.  
 Boiling and Rough Beef. . . . . 8 cts.  
 Mutton . . . . . 10 & 12 cts.

A corresponding reduction to restaurant keepers and purchasers of large quantities.

## ORLANDO ALLEN

That he was a staunch Republican is shown by the following taken from the Miner of October 22, 1880:

O. Allen, who is one of the beet men that ever lived In Prescott, tells us that he was a little wavering in his mind as to his duty in the coming election, and at one time thought of voting for some of the Democrats on the county ticket, but held a miner's meeting on his own hook, with himself, and by himself, reconsidered the matter, and after mature deliberation has unanimously resolved to vote the entire Republican ticket without a scratch, believing that in so doing he will best subserve the interests of himself, his family, his neighbors and his country. His admonition to us today was to "tell the people that Allen votes the ticket straight, notwithstanding he has suffered others to rear a seeming contradiction over his place of business, in the way of a banner with Democratic names on it." Allen belongs to no ring, nor can he be controlled by any.

Established a cattle ranch near Walnut Grove about 1883 and moved to the Salt River Valley about 1890; the Prescott Journal-Miner of October 22, 1910, printed the following from a Phoenix correspondent:

Orlando Allen, one of Arizona's earliest living pioneers, and who was a resident of Prescott for many years, is about to depart for Southern California, there to live out the remainder of his days. With the mention of his name, a flood of memories of "those brave days when we were twenty-one", are closed, for Allen came to Arizona first when the desert had been sparsely trod by the feet of white men and whose clear air was un sullied by anything but the occasional flying arrow from the bow of the wily aborigine.

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In 1863 he acquired the Arizona fever and decided to cast his lot with the pioneers who were coming into this land of promise. This was at a time when in the more remote districts, such as Rich Hill, mining was still going forward with bowie knives instead of mining tools.

Allen had been told that hinges of hell were a cold storage plant by comparison with the deserts of the South West, so he equipped himself accordingly. Four pairs of linen trousers, peek-a-boo underwear, coats of the thinnest texture and a light blanket completed his outfit for a year.

It was March, 1863, that he crossed the Guecayampa River. The camp that night was a cold proposition, for two feet of snow fell and the thermometer dropped lower than the horizon. Allen put on his entire year's supply of clothing and, wrapping himself in the blanket, tried to keep from freezing to death.

He prospected for a time about what is now the Parker country, for copper was fifty cents a pound then, and well worth locating. The Indians gave a good deal of trouble and he had many narrow escapes. The savages were possessed of a few guns but depended mostly on bows and arrows for their defensive weapons. Occasionally, though, they killed a prospector and took his gun away. Then they were obliged to kill several other prospectors in order to get enough ammunition to manipulate the firearm.

Phoenix was only a hiatus then, with a few straggling tepees marking the site of the splendid city of today. It was before the day of Governor Goodwin, and the future of the young Territory was all before it.

Allen had the unusual distinction of having been personally acquainted with every executive head of Arizona since the Territory was created, except Governor Irwin, who remained only a few months, and the present Governor Sloan.

Allen was postmaster at Prescott in the early seventies, but for many years has been a resident of Phoenix. Now he is planning to return to his love which lured him towards the setting sun away back in 1859, and will leave soon for Southern California.

Died at Ocean Park, California on \_\_\_\_\_, 1920.

Buried \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_.

The Prescott Courier of March 6, 1920 printed the following announcement of his death:

Orlando Allen, an early day Prescott postmaster and business man died at Ocean Park, California, last week. He was over 80 years of age.

In the early days he ran a meat market business here, the firm of Roger and Allen. He also lived for some years in Phoenix. He was a most worthy man.

WANTED

Obituaries in the Journal Miner and in the Phoenix and Glendale, Arizona newspapers.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Arizona Vital Statistics, 1939 (Mary Jane Allen).  
U.S. Post Office Department - Appointment records.  
Prescott City Council - Minute Book, 1877-78.  
The Arizona Enterprise, Prescott, August 31, 1878, p. 2, c. 3;  
September 5, 1891, p. 1, c. 7.  
The Prescott Courier, March 17, 1883, p. 4, c. 3; May 3, 1884, p. 3,  
c. 1; November 2, 1888, p. 3, c. 1.  
The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, April 15, 1871, p. 2, c. 1.  
The Arizona Miner, Prescott, August 5, 3:3, August 18, 1871, 3:1;  
October 24, 1879; October 22, 1880, 4:1.  
The Prescott Journal-Miner, January 1, 1887, 4:2 and October 22,  
1910, 7:2-3.  
The Arizona Republican, Phoenix, April 13, 1927, Section 2, 3:1.