

JOHN WITHERSPOON ANDERSON

Reminiscences of George A. Brown, Florence, Arizona.

John W. Anderson was born in North Carolina. In 1848, when gold was discovered in California, he was in what was known as the North West - about Minn.) He heard of the discovery in the fall of the year and decided to pull for California as there was nothing to do where he was in the winter. He could not go the Northern route in winter so started over the Southern route - Texas, Mexico, San Bernardino Ranch, Tucson and Yuma. The Indians were troublesome. He passed between Florence and the Pima Villages in June, 1850, and on to San Diego. He went through the mining districts of the whole of California. But he could not find a place that suited him so did not stay, though everybody else seemed to be getting rich.

He went on to Oregon and Washington, served as Indian agent for different warlike tribes and later was agent for the Nez Perce Indians in Idaho, the most civilized of all Indian tribes. His headquarters were at Lewiston, on the Snake river at the mouth of Sweetwater. Later he went to Montana but came back and found his way to Florence, Arizona, in 1869

The first year in Florence he farmed the Hill De Armitt track of 65 acres about one half mile east of Florence. After that he worked for E. N. Fish and Co. as bookkeeper and was there when I came in 1876.

That same year he went to the Silver King to take charge of Charles Mason's business. He was in charge when Mason sold to Barney in 1877 and was still in charge when Mason died in 1878.

Brown

He had stock in the mine himself.

Anderson was a lawyer and Mason made him administrator of the estate. I remember right after Mason's death in San Francisco the family including Mrs. Mason's sister wanted to come home. Mr. Anderson was with them and they came on the train as far as Yuma and from there took a private team to Florence. Anderson telegraphed ahead to have the house ready, but the family reached home before the telegram. (If you wanted to send a message in those days you had to wait for the operator to send a man out to repair the line, though they may have known for days that the line was down - why repair until it was needed.)

About 1898 he went to San Diego for his health and then to San Francisco and the Sandwich Islands, but returned later and died in Florence.

ANDERSON, JOHN WITHERSPOON

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Born at GUILFORD, ~~GUILFORD~~ ^{ORANGE} County, North Carolina, February 10, 1826.

Son of _____ and _____

Never married.

Came to Arizona 1850.

Member from Pima County, H. of R., 6th Territorial Legislature, 1871; member from Pinal County, 11th Territorial Council, 1881; member from Pinal County H. of R., 12th Legislature; ^{1883,} again a member of the Council from Pinal County, 14th Legislature 1887; member from Pinal County, Arizona Constitutional Convention, 1891.

Died at Florence, Pinal County, A.T., May 13, 1898, aged 72.

Buried in Presbyterian section of old cemetery between Adamsville and Florence, Arizona.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Farish, T. E. - History of Arizona, 1918, Vol. 6, pp. 53, 124.

Kelly, G. H. - Legislative History, Arizona, 1926, pp. 49, 89, 104, 130, 155.

Office of Indian Affairs - Service records.

U. S. Census, Florence, A.T., July, 1870.

Great Register of Pinal County, A.T., 1876, 1896.

Board of Supervisors of Pinal County, A.T. - Minute Book.

The Florence Tribune, Florence, A.T., May 14, 1898.

Barney, J. M. - "Forgotten Towns of Arizona, McMillenville" in Arizona Municipalities, Phoenix, May, 1940, pp. 13, 20.