

BAILEY, JOSHUA EATON

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BAILEY, JOSHUA EATON, born at Barre, Orleans County, New York, November 4, 1833; probably a son of Alanson and Sylva Bailey who were residents of that County in 1850; married (1) Zola A. Garber from whom he was divorced on May 19, 1890; (2) Mrs. Ida A. (Garber) Ingold at Baileys Wells, A.T., December 14, 1890; children, Joshua E. Jr., Gideon Garber, Melvin L. and Zora.

Enrolled, January 13 at San Francisco and mustered in February 1, 1862, at Camp Union, near Sacramento, to serve 3 years as Private, Company F, 4th California Infantry; occupation when enlisted - Farmer; went with the Company to Southern California in July, 1862; the Company arrived at Fort Yuma in April, 1863 and was at Camp Lincoln (La Paz) from May 14 to August 23, 1864; promoted to Corporal at Fort Yuma, September 20, 1864; returned to Drum Barracks, California, in December where he was honorably discharged on January 16, 1865.

Joseph Fish states that shortly after his discharge he visited the East and returned via Salt Lake City; in November, 1866, at Hardyville, he and 4 others built a boat and went down the Colorado River to Yuma; the next year he went to Camp Willows (Willow Grove) on the road between Fort Mohave and Prescott where he had charge of a sutler's store for E. D. Tuttle; listed, U.S. Census, 1870, as station keeper, property valued at \$1,900; at that time he and Hiram Kennedy had the stage station at Teamster's Camp, 86 miles east of Yuma; from there he wrote a letter to the

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editor of the Tucson Arizona Citizen which was printed on July 6, 1872, stating:

By Mexican thefts, Yuma County will lose about \$30,000 in taxable personal property, which would remain and increase if there were security against outlaws. The parties owning cattle are driving them out of the Territory, Our losses have been as follows:

Hornsley & Keene, 800 cattle and ten horses and roles; J. G. Tompkins, 100 cattle and two horses; Shakly & Ashby, 75 cattle; Bailey & Kennedy, 35 cattle, four mules and one horse; and other parties about 200 head of horses, cattle and mules. All these within a distance of eighty miles between Stanwix and Gila City.

Every dollar I have in the world is invested in Arizona, in stock, station, and Gila Bend Ditch stock. My interest is with the Territory, and I am doing all I can to forward the farming interests of the Gila.

I hope the present Congress will force the Republic of Mexico to turn over her murderers and robbers of our people to the U. S. Government. It is an outrage upon the American people of Arizona to let these thieves and assassins go without punishment.

In 1871, he helped to start the Gila Bend Canal and from there, on September 15, 1872, the Apaches stole 3 yoke of his oxen, 3 cows and 3 yearlings of a total value of \$535; on October 2d, they got away with a span of large mules worth \$200.

Late in 1873, he disposed of his interests on the lower Gila and moved with his partner, Hiram Kennedy, to Safford, In what is now Graham County, arriving on January 24, 1874, where they opened a store in a Mexican jacal near the bank of the river; in November of that year, he was elected Justice of the Peace for

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the Pueblo Viejo precinct and on March 5, 1875, was appointed as the first Postmaster at Safford; the following is taken from the Florence Arizona Citizen of April 26, 1878:

Mr. J. E. Bailey of Safford, passed through Florence early this week on his return from Phoenix. We were pleased to learn from him most glowing accounts of the prosperous condition of the upper Gila Valley. Mr. Bailey informs us that at Safford, and for a distance of twelve miles down the river, the settlers are moving in very rapidly; over 800 having already located there.

Safford is yet a young town, but its promises are not insignificant. The ditch bringing the water into the town is only just completed. People can now build here and beautify their homes; it is expected that the population within the town limits will rapidly increase. Mr. J. E. Bailey is putting up a handsome store, and making every preparation in a mercantile line to meet the growing demands of this prosperous settlement.

The Yuma Arizona Sentinel of January 11, 1879, stated:

While at Tucson recently we met our old friend J. E. Bailey, who used to run Teamster's Camp station, and who has been farming and trading in Pueblo Viejo valley for a few years past. He had brought 6,000 pounds of beans and potatoes to Tucson, 150 miles, and had sold the lot at 7 cents for the potatoes, and $6\frac{1}{2}$ for the beans.

The week before he had shipped 2,000 pounds of barley to Apache at five cents per pound, 4,000 to Grant and 3,000 to Thomas at same price; he had also shipped 2,000 to Ash Creek and 30,000 pounds of corn to San Carlos, besides sending off some 3,000 pounds of vegetables. He speaks in the highest terms of Pueblo Viejo valley as a farming country and believes it will raise anything that grows.

In 1882 he established a station in the Sam Simon valley; the Clifton Clarion printed this advertisement on January 4, 1888:

BAILEY'S WELLS:

The half way Station between Solomonville and Bowie Station, and the only place on the road at which water, hay and grain and wines, liquors and cigars and good meals can be procured at reasonable rates.

J. E. BAILEY, Proprietor

In 1885 he joined the Society of Arizona Pioneers at Tucson; this story appeared in the Solomonville Bulletin in October, 1892:

Uncle Josh Bailey, of Bailey's Wells, was in Solomonville last Sunday. He had been down the valley and was returning home with a few bales of hay. Now Uncle Josh is known far and near for his liberality and hospitality. He has fed more hungry men in the West, free of charge, perhaps than any other man in it. He has kept stations all over Arizona and never allowed man or beast to suffer for food, money or no money. If any man had come up to Uncle Josh on the streets of Solomonville and asked for a bale of hay, it would have been rolled from the wagon without a word.

Uncle Josh arrived in town about noon and left his wagon in the street and repaired to Solomon's dining room for a bite to eat. Imagine his surprise and disgust when on his return to the wagon he discovered that some one had drove up beside his wagon, cut a bale of hay and carried away about half of it.

Uncle Josh cursed a spell in long meter. He declared that if he had not been in a hurry he would have followed the petty thief and made him come back and get the balance of the bale. Uncle Josh has not been so mad since the republicans nominated John Blake for Probate Judge.

The Tucson Arizona Citizen of January 9, 1899, reported that:

Joshua E. Bailey, one of the old pioneers, and for many years proprietor of Bailey's Wells in the San Simon valley, is about to remove to Eaton Rapids, Michigan, as a permanent residence. Since the sale of his property in the San Simon nearly two years ago he has been a resident of Yuma.

After his arrival in Michigan, he bought a farm in Winsor township, Eaton County, where he died on April 9, 1900, aged 66.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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 Fourn, William - "Reminiscences" in Arizona Historical Review, October, 1935, p. 76.
 Barnes, W.C. - Arizona Place Names, 1935, p. 373.
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 The Adjutant General of the Army - Military Service records.
 U.S. Veterans Administration - Pension records, S.C. 993, 485.
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 The Arizona Star, Tucson, October 14, 1891, 4:1 and January 9, 1899, 4:3.
 The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, January 6, 1872, 4:3; January 3, 2:2 and November 21, 1874, 4:2; April 16, 1885, 4:1; May 29, 1886, 1:2-3, January 9, 1899, 4:3.
 The Arizona Citizen, Florence, April 26, 1878, 2:1.
 The Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, January 11, 1879, 3:4.
 The Clifton Clarion, January 4, 4:4, November 14, 3:2, and November 28, 1888, 3:2.
 The Arizona Enterprise, Tucson, November 3, 1892, 1:7, (reprint from the Solomonville Bulletin).