

BALL, SAMUEL W _____

Born at _____ Virginia, _____ 18 _____ (about 1825).

Son of _____ and _____.

Listed, U. S. Census, 1880, Yavapai County, age 55, born in Virginia, occupation, Herder; the Great Register of Yavapai County shows him as a resident of Pitman Valley, 1882, Williams, 1886, and Chalender, 1888; named by John H. Marion as one of the pioneers who came to Yavapai County about 1863-65 in a list printed in the Prescott Courier on July 7, 1891; the Prescott Arizona Miner of August 20, 1870, printed an account of his escape from the Indians:

One day last week, Samuel Ball, while out hunting in the vicinity of Bradshaw Mountain, ran afoul of a bunch of Apaches, who peppered him with bullets and arrows, perforating his clothing and blackening the skin of his right arm. Sam did not wait upon the order of his going, but went at once, as fast as he could go, just as any other sensible man would have done. It was lucky for him that the reds didn't have a little more powder in their guns. He thinks he made one Indian a little sick at the stomach with a pill from his Detsy Jane. Hope so.

The following is an extract from a manuscript found in the old Governor's Mansion in Prescott:

In 1875, W. H. Ashurst and John Clark brought some sheep to the Territory, coming from California by the way of Stone's Ferry. They stopped a while at Big Sands in Mohave county. At this time Tom Shipp was the only resident in that vicinity. In the spring of 1876 they came onto the foot of Bill Williams mountain where they located about eight miles from the present site of the town of Williams. The same summer SAM BALL and John Lenton came in and located where Williams is now situated. These were the first settlers at this place. C. P. Rogers afterwards came in and bought them out. Ball still remained in the county. Lenton was murdered in 1885.

The Prescott Courier on May 24, 1901, published a letter from the Postmaster at Williams announcing his death:

Williams, Arizona
April 23, 1901

Tim Fell, Prescott, Arizona

My dear Friend — It is my sad duty to announce the death of an

old friend, Sam Ball. He died yesterday at his ranch in Challender of cancer of the liver; will be buried here tomorrow in the K of P cemetery. He was one of the first settlers of Prescott, 1864 and was one of the band of pioneers that beat back the Indians in their raids on Prescott. Please have his death announced in the Prescott papers, as one of the defenders of Prescott in early times.

Sincerely yours,

E. H. Simpson, P. M.

Sam Ball was a worthy man, who had many friends in this section of Arizona who will regret to hear of his death.

The Flagstaff Coconino Sun of April 27, 1901, printed the following obituary:

Samuel W. Ball died at his ranch near Challender on April 21. Mr. Ball was a pioneer of Arizona, coming here first in 1855 from California. He came to Williams mountains in 1874, and for a score of years has remained on his ranch near Challender. He was a quiet, industrious citizen, always ready to extend a helping hand to an unfortunate citizen. He was a native of Virginia and was about 77 years of age. His funeral occurred at Williams on Tuesday.

Addenda from the Arizona Miner:

December 25, 1869 --Sam Ball, of Wickenburg, was in town this week, and talked some of joining the party that is to leave here soon, to prospect the region north of Prescott. Should he do so, he will join the party at Hardyville. Sam is a good mountaineer, and the party would like very much to have him along.

March 26, 1870, --The last of the Richardson prospecting party got in Tuesday last. The party gave the region bounded by the Big and Little Colorado rivers, and the San Francisco range of mountains, a pretty thorough exploration, and failed to find paying diggings. They say the country consists of high, level mesa; many of which are covered with a dense growth of timber, and all clothed with grass. Messrs. Richardson and Ball assure us that it is a delightful country. The northernmost route of the 35th parallel railroad passes through it, and all the men agree that it is an excellent one.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Farish, T.E. - History of Arizona, Vol. 8, p. 135
Colonization Efforts - Manuscript in Governors Mansion, Prescott,
Chapter 5.
The Arizona Miner, Prescott, September 11, 3:1, December 25, 1869, 3:2;
March 26, 2:1, August 20, 1870, 3:1; July 29, 1871, 3:4; September
21, 1872, 3:3.
The Prescott Courier, April 24, 1901, 1:9 (obituary)
The Coeconing Sun, Flagstaff, April 27, 1901, 3:2 (obituary)