

BEACH, CHARLES WASHINGTON

Born at _____ Connecticut, _____, 18 _____
(about 1838) .

Son of _____ and _____ .

Married, Cora A. Kelsey at Wickenburg, A.T., August 10, 1870, who
was born in New York about 1849; children, son, B. W. Beach .

Learned the printing trade at Watertown, Jefferson County, New
York; crossed the plains to New Mexico where he worked as a printer
in 1863 with Edmond G. Ross, former U. S. Senator from Kansas; A. F.
Banta stated in 1889 that he knew Beach in New Mexico, that he came
to Arizona in 1864 with some bull teams and during that year engaged
in hauling hay to Fort Whipple on a contract; was a member of the
second Woolsey Expedition against the Apaches in the spring of that
year; in a message to Secretary R. C. McCormick dated at Ash Creek,
April 2, 1864, Colonel King S. Woolsey wrote:

We jumped a rancheria of Apaches yesterday and
killed fourteen. * * * Artemus Ingalls was wounded
by an arrow. Dr. Alsap dressed the wounds and he
is resting well. The soldiers with me fight like
old hands. Charles Beach killed three Indians,
Holman one.

Became one of the best known freighters in the Territory; in
the winter of 1865 he camped for 4 weeks on the north bank of Salt
River being unable to cross because of high water; afterwards he
hailed freight from the Colorado River to Prescott and Wickenburg;
listed, U. S. Census, 1870, at Vulture City, A.T., age 32, born in
New York; near Prescott, on February 11, 1871, his men discovered
a band of Apaches waiting to ambush his train and drove them off
by a surprise attack; the following references to him were printed
in the Prescott Arizona Miner:

May 14, 1870 - - A private letter from Vulture City, informs us that our old friend and brother type, Charles Beach, has sold his freight train to Messrs. Randall & Bryant, for the sum of \$14,000, and that the purchasers had received the contract for supplying the Vulture mill with quartz.

July 30, 1870 - - Charles Beach, an energetic Yavapai, has returned to Wickenburg, from the lower portion of the Territory, and gone to freighting again. Rumor has it that Charlie will soon unite his destinies with a beautiful and accomplished lady of Wickenburg. Hope so.

July 6, 1872 - - Charles Beach has a contract to deliver about 2,000,000 pounds of grain at Camp McDowell, and keeps four ten-mule teams constantly hauling grain thither from the Salt River valley.

January 22, 1875 - - C. W. Beach's train came in (to Prescott) yesterday loaded with freight for the military and civilians.

That he hauled freight long distances is shown by three items printed in the Yuma Arizona Sentinel in 1872 :

March 30 - - Team departures ---Two trains, one of six and the other of two wagons, belonging to Messrs. Beach and Contreras, respectively, loaded with government and other freights for Camp Grant and Tucson, left this morning.

April 6 - - Eight wagons left, on the 30th, for Grant and Tucson, with Government stores. *The* trains were of Beach and Contreras.

May 18 - - Charley Beach's train arrived last Thursday evening from the interior, and will leave with freight sometime during the coming week.

The Tucson Arizona Citizen on March 22, 1873 announced his appointment as Postmaster at Kirkland Valley, A.T., and on November 29, of that year, stated:

Mr. C. W. Beach has recently purchased several hundred head of cows. This purchase was made on the Verde. The animals will soon be driven from that place to Mr. Beach's ranch, in Kirkland Valley.

T. J. Butler, editor of the Arizona Miner wrote the following which was published in that newspaper on February 5, 1875:

Acknowledgements---We are under special obligations to Mr. and Mrs. Judge Kelsey and Mr. and Mrs. Chas. W. Beach, of Kirkland Valley, for civilities shown us. We were a stranger,--"the storm cloud lowered,"--"The gloomy night was gathering fast" and they took us in. This has reference to our advent into the country two months ago, when we sought the friendly shelter of their roof, to avoid riding over the divide, one terribly cold, stormy night, on the buckboard. Since then we have returned and passed a week very pleasantly in the enjoyment of their hospitality.

He purchased the Prescott Arizona Miner from Butler in 1876 and published that newspaper until 1883; in January, 1878, he supplied some printing equipment to assist in establishing the Salt River Valley Herald, which became the Phoenix Herald in 1879 and was the first newspaper in Phoenix; in March, 1879, he was held to answer to the Grand Jury on a charge of mayhem - biting off the "devil's" ear; the following was printed in the Tucson Citizen on March 21, 1885:

Hon. C. W. Beach, ex-editor of the Miner, today purchased from O. J. Woodward, all his right, title and interest to the McAteer ranch in Kirkland Valley consisting of land, improvements, 300 head of stock and water privileges. This purchase not only gives Mr. Beach title to one of the finest properties in Yavapai County and control of the entire winter system of Kirkland Valley, but virtually settles the long contested case of Kelsey vs. McAteer, which has so long occupied the attention of the courts, and been the cause of so much outlay and trouble.

We are pleased to note this important transfer of property, as, in connection with the land already owned by Mr. Beach in the valley, it will give him possession of property only exceeded in extent by his "rustling qualities" and enterprise and will be the means undoubtedly of keeping Charley with us for a while longer, as it has been his intention, we understand, to dispose of his property in this County and take up

residence in Texas. He is a too public spirited man for Yavapai at present, and were Arizona populated with more men of his calibre, it would have long ago ranked amongst the foremost producers of the country.

Was the principal grading contractor for the Prescott and Arizona Central Railroad in 1886 and became Superintendent of the line when finished; in November of that year the Journal-Miner reported that he expected to ship 200 head of fat steers to Kansas City and that he had sold his interest in a stock ranch near Bill Williams Mountain; the Prescott Courier of September 18, 1889, gives an account of how he was assassinated:

About ten minutes past seven last evening, as Charles W. Beach was sitting in his room in Mrs. Taylor's residence and lodging house, West Prescott, writing a letter to his young son, who is in Los Angeles, Cal. with his mother, some person emptied the contents of the barrel of a shot gun through the window. The greatest portion of the shot struck Mr. Beach under and in the left eye, knocking him over and killing him almost instantly.

The dead man has property in Kirkland Valley and other places in the county and we hope that it will be well taken care of for the family. Like most all men he had his faults; he had too a great many good traits of character. No matter what his bad acts were, every brave, honorable man will condemn the cowardly manner in which he was killed.

In November, 1890, George W. Young of Skull Valley, who had leased land from Beach and with whom he had quarreled, was found guilty of murdering him but the jury recommended mercy since the killing was "under great provocation"; the Phoenix Weekly Herald printed the following shortly after his death:

He was one of the chief participants in the terrible Court House fray in Prescott several years ago, when he saved Sheriff W. O. O'Neill's life by a timely shot from his revolver which killed James McAtter, a man who had cornered O'Neill and was about to cut him to death with a knife.

He was a man of remarkable firmness and daring, and a politician well known throughout the southwest. At the time of his death he was probably the foremost candidate of Arizona for appointment to the position of United States Marshal.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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- The Weekly Citizen, Tucson, March 22, 2:1 and November 29, 1:2, 1873; April 25 4:3 and May 9, 1:2, 1879, March 21, 1885, p. 3.
- The Tombstone Epitaph, March 6, 1882, 6:4
- The Prescott Courier, September 18, 1889, 3:2 (obituary).
- The Phoenix Herald, September 26, 1889, 4:2 (obituary).
- The Arizona Star, Tucson, October 5, 1889, 4:3 and November 30, 1890, 1:2.
- The Journal Miner, Prescott, September 25, October 18, 3:3 and November 15, 1886, 3:2, September 25, 4:1, October 2, 1889, 3:2.
- The Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, March 30, 3:4, April 6, 2:3 and May 18, 1872, 3:3; April 5, 1873.
- The Weekly Arizona Miner, Prescott, April 6, 1864, 3:3; May 14, 3:2, July 30, 1870, 3:4; July 6, 1872, 1:3; February 5, 1875, 2:1.