

BEHAN, JOHN HARRIS

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BEHAN, JOHN HARRIS, born at Westport, Jackson County, Missouri, October 23, 1845; son of Peter Behan, a native of Ireland, and Sally (Harris) Behan, who was born in Kentucky; attended the Westport public schools; married Victoria ^{F.} E. Eaff, a step-daughter of John P. Bourke, at San Francisco, California, in March, 1869; son, Albert P. and daughter, Henrietta, who died at age 5.

Crossed the plains to New Mexico and came to Tucson as an employee of the Quartermaster Department of the California Column; was working at the Cerro Colorado Mine in southern Arizona, late in 1863; listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, at Tucson, A.T., age 19, occupation, Laborer, resident in Arizona 6 months; went to Prescott, A.T., in 1864 and engaged in cutting hay for forage at Fort Whipple and in freighting to the mines with bull teams; located 100 feet on the "Great Eastern Lode" as a mining claim in the Walker District, January 11, 1865.

Served as Deputy under John P. Bourke, Sheriff of Yavapai County, 1867-68; County Recorder and ex-officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of Yavapai County, 1869-70; Sheriff of Yavapai County, 1871-72; member from Yavapai County, H. of R., 7th Territorial Legislature, at Tucson, 1873; Sergeant at Arms, H. of R., 9th Territorial Legislature at Tucson, 1877; Moved to Signal, Mohave County, A.T., 1878, where he operated a hotel known as the "Virginia House"; Member from Mohave County, H. of R., 10th Territorial Legislature at Prescott, in January, 1879.

Moved to Tombstone late in 1879 and was appointed Deputy Sheriff at that place by C.A. Shibell, Sheriff of Pima County; appointed by Governor Fremont as the first Sheriff of Cochise County, A.T., and served from February 10, 1881, to January 1, 1883; was Assistant Superintendent of the Territorial Prison at Yuma when appointed Superintendent by Governor Zulick

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on April 2, 1888, in place of Thomas Gates, resigned; as a result of a Court decree, surrendered control of the Prison on July 5, 1890, to Frank S. Ingalls, who had been appointed Superintendent by Governor Wolfley on October 7, 1889; appointed Inspector of Customs at \$4 per diem June 3, 1893; appointed Inspector to enforce the Chinese Exclusion Act at \$6 per diem March 12, 1894, and served until April 30, 1897.

At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War he offered his services and was employed on May 14, 1898, at Tampa, Florida, as Corral-Master at \$100 per month; transferred to Brigadier General G.F. Humphrey, Division Quartermaster General, at Havana, Cuba, November 23; promoted to Superintendent of Transportation at \$123 per month, December 1, 1898 and served until June 5, 1899; reported by General Humphrey as clerk at \$100 per month en route to China, August 10, 1900, and was in that country during the Boxer uprising; promoted to \$125 per month at Tientsin, China, September 1; served until December 31, 1900; returned to Arizona in February, 1901.

During the construction of the San-Pacifico de Mexico railroad, Col. Epes Randolph placed him in charge of the Commissary Department, with headquarters at Empalme, Sinaloa; his last active work was in the summer of 1911 when he handled the commissary requirements of an engineering party sent by Randolph to prepare plans for closing the breaks in the levees in Lower California, Mexico through which the Colorado River was flowing into the Imperial valley.

Said to have been assured of appointment as Superintendent of the Arizona Pioneer's Home at Prescott when he was taken ill and went to the Agua Caliente hot springs; returned to Tucson where he died June 7, 1912, aged 66; interment in Evergreen Cemetery, at Tucson; his funeral was the m of the Arizona Pioneers Historical Society of which he was a Member.

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