

# BENEDICT, ALBERT CASE

1830 - 1870

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BENEDICT, ALBERT CASE

Born at Barton, Alcona County, Michigan, October 13, 1830.

Son of Allen and Chloe (Case) Benedict

Married Gregoria A \_\_\_\_\_ (1844-1884) ● t \_\_\_\_\_.

on \_\_\_\_\_, 18 \_\_\_\_\_.

Children, John Allen, Albert Safford, James Gregory (adopted by Peter Kitchen) and Mary (Mrs, \_\_\_\_\_) who was adopted by Rank L. Proctor after the death of their father.

(His widow married \_\_\_\_\_ chamberlain ●bout 1881).

First came to Arizona from California with King S. Woolsey and Calvin Jackson early in 1861 and later went on to New Mexico; was a member of the Walker Party which came from the headwaters of the Gila via Tucson to northern Arizona; wrote a letter to his distant cousin, Judge Kirby Benedict in Santa Fe announcing the discovery of gold in April 1863, on the Hassayampa; the Journal of the Pioneer and Walker Mining District shows him as one of the original prospectors whose claim No. #31 ●bove the discovery on the Ookilapava (Hassayampa) river was recorded on June 12, 1863; as a member of the Aqua Fria Mining Company he joined in the location on June 9, 1863, of the "Black" lode situated "about 7 miles north of the Miller boys cabin on the Asiamp" and on June 17 in locating the "Blue" lode about 10 miles west of the Miller boys cabin; he also recorded a claim for 200 feet on the "Phenia" quartz lode on May 1, 1864.

After the ●rrival the California Volunteers at Fort Whipple he was employed as Expressman between that post and Antelope Creek from December 16 to 20, 1863, and ● g\* as Guide from January 1 to 23, 1864; listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, single, resident in Arizona 3 years, occupation - Miner; served as Army Expressman between Fort Whipple and Santa Fe, New Mexico, from

February 1 to May 9, 1865 and as Guide at Camp McDowell, A.T., from July 8 to September 25, 1867.

Moved to Tucson where he operated a hotel of which mention was made in the Arizonian of February 2, 1869:

A. C. Benedict, Esq., of Sahuarita, and formerly proprietor of the Buckley House, has been in town during the week.

Listed, U. S. Census, July 13, 1870, at Cerro Colorado, Pima County, A.T., with wife and child, occupation - Machinist, property valued at \$800; later that year he settled on the Huababi ranch on the Santa Cruz River above Tubac "which he held against the Apaches with his rifle"; the following appeared in the Tucson Arizona Citizen of June 22, 1872:

A. C. Benedict was in town this week from Weababla (Huababi) ranch. He reports his crop looking well. His ranch is located on the Santa Cruz, ten miles above any other inhabitant. At different times all the rich valley of the Santa Cruz to the Senora line has been settled upon, and here and there all along its banks are to be seen deserted houses, each one having been the scene of combat and savage atrocity. In view of the former work of these savages, and the fact that they are now having it all their own way in that region, Benedict's friends entreated him to abandon his post of danger and come to the settlements, but he shook his head mournfully and said that his wife and children must have bread.

Oh, ye enemies of Arizona, would that you were compelled to accept his situation in order to support your wives and babies for a six months. If you have no hearts to soften, such a life might reach your gizzards. The undertaker took Benedict's measure and but little difficulty will be experienced in settling his earthly affairs.

A little over a month later, on July 27, the Arizona Citizen gave the following account of an Apache attack on the Huababi ranch:

A. C. Benedict, Jose Padilla and Tomas Tapia are attacked by thirty Indians and they kill seven--Benedict severely wounded -- Padilla receives a deep flesh wound.

On last Thursday, near Tubac, a well armed band of about thirty Indians attacked the ranch of A. C. Benedict and got the worst of it. Benedict and two laborers were in the field about 300 yards from the house....

Just as the fight was about closed, and he was preparing to mount his horse, a ricochet shot struck Benedict on the inside of the left leg at the ankle and passed through, inflicting a terrible wound. Half a dozen shots passed through his clothes in various parts, two grazing an arm and feet. Jose Padilla was shot through the fleshy part of the left arm. . . . .

A note was sent to Sheriff Ott... he and Mr. Leatherwood went down and brought Mr. Benedict to town, where he is now in charge of Dr. Handy. His wound is very bad, but it is hoped the foot may be saved so as to be of some use, though it is impossible that it can ever be restored to anything near a perfect limb. . . . .

The Citizen of September 7, 1872, printed this item about his appointment in the U. S. Customs Service from which he resigned on June 1, 1873:

On the 1st instant A. C. Benedict was appointed Mounted Inspector of Customs at this port, vice F. H. Goodwin, promoted to a Deputy Collectorship at Arizona City. The former appointment is worthily bestowed upon an unfortunate victim of Apache bullets, and the latter promotion is in accordance with the rules of civil service, which promote officers according to their merit, as opportunity offers.

Elected Treasurer of Pima County on November 5, 1872 and served during 1873-74; appointed by Governor Safford as Territorial Auditor on January 15, 1873 and held that office for over two years; a return to his ranch was noted in the Citizen of February 26, 1876:

A. C. Benedict is about to build a new house on Hhababi ranch very near the old church. It would be difficult to find a more desirable location for stockgrowing and considerable rich land and enough water for stock and farming.....

A post office was established there on May 18, 1876, under the name of "Monument" and he served as Postmaster until his death after which the office was moved and the name changed to Calabasas.

Became a member of Michigan Lodge No. 50, F. & A. M., at Jackson, Michigan, 1856; attended the first meeting of Masons held in Arizona south of the Gila on April 11, 1875, and the following week was elected Chairman of the Tucson Masonic Club which on October 15, 1881, became Tucson Lodge No. 263,

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F. & A. M., under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of California.

Died at the home of Peter Kitchen in Tucson, March 31, 1880, aged 50.

Buried \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery, Tucson, Arizona.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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- The Weekly Arizonian, Tucson, February 2, 1869.
- The Arizona Weekly Citizen, June 22, 3:2, July 27, 2:1, September 7, 3:2, September 21, 3:2, and November 16, 1872, 1:3-4.
- The Arizona Weekly Star, April 1, 1880, 3:4 (obituary).