

BENTLEY, EMMET A.

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BENTLEY, EMMET A _____

Born at _____ Michigan, _____ 18____ (about 1840).

Son of Allen P. Bentley and _____.

The Journal of the Pioneer and Walker Mining Districts shows that on September 4, 1863, he joined with James Smith and T. W. Stewart in locating a placer claim 300 yards long on Lynx Creek; listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, at Tucson, A. T., age 24, born in Michigan, occupation - Mechanic, resident in Arizona 1 year; the following references to him were printed in the Prescott Arizona Miner:

November 30, 1866 - - Mr. E. A. Bentley, publisher of the Arizona Miner since January 1, 1865, left here for California, November 20th, expecting to return on the first of April next, and then to assume the entire ownership and editorial charge of the paper. During his residence in Arizona Mr. Bentley has made many friends who wish him a pleasant journey and safe return.

February 9, 1867 - - A party of four citizens, consisting of L. St. James, A. Wertheimer, E. A. Bentley, of Prescott, and Mr. Henry Colquette from Tennessee, left Skull Valley a few days since, to pass over the lower trail through Weaver's Gap, which they reached about noon. At a point near the summit of the mountain they were attacked by some twenty or thirty Indians, supposed to be Wallapais, and all except Wertheimer were wounded by arrows, although several shots were fired from guns by the murderous wretches. Two horses escaped by a hasty retreat down the mountain.

St. James was slightly wounded just above the knee--Mr. Colquette had his skull fractured and received a severe wound near the pit of his stomach. Bentley was slightly wounded, though several times hit. All returned to Skull Valley, though the last few miles required an ambulance, promptly furnished by Captain Weir, to enable Mr. Colquette to reach the hospital, where he

was attended by Dr. Merriam, post surgeon, who removed several fragments of bone. He is likely to recover.

The wounded returned party desire to present their kindest thanks to Mr. Ehle and family, of Skull Valley, for their generous hospitality.

March 9, 1876 - - Died at Prescott, Feb. 27, 1867 - Emmet A. Bentley in the 27th year of his age.

Mr. Bentley was one of the early settlers of Central Arizona, having been engaged in placer mining on Lynx Creek in July, 1853. After a short trial of miner's life he left this section and for a short time made Tucson his home. Returning to Prescott in June '64, he entered the Miner office as journeyman printer. The Miner was then published by T. A. Hand, who left Arizona for the States and Mr. Bentley took his position as publisher of the Miner in November, 1864, and continued therein until December '66, when having bargained to assume entire control of the paper on the first of April, '67, he went to California on business and on his return hither had reached the divide between Skull Valley and Prescott, where, in company with Messrs. Wertheimer, St. James and Colquette he was attacked by Indians, Mr. W. alone escaping unhurt.

Bentley arrived in Prescott a few days after, and although suffering from three wounds, he entered the office and resumed work until the 23rd ult., when unfavorable symptoms appeared, and on Sunday lockjaw set in, and although all possible care was taken of him by several physicians who attended him with much interest and tendered every assistance in their power, he grew gradually worse and suffered intense pain until two hours before his death, at which time, being exhausted, he quietly and rapidly sank passing away as though falling asleep.

Mr. Bentley's father, mother and sisters, are living at Burlington, Iowa; his father, Mr. Allen P. Bentley, being the publisher and proprietor of the Gazette and Argus.

Mr. Bentley was one well fitted by nature for a pioneer, especially a pioneer printer. Energetic, hopeful, persevering, generous and competent in his profession, he had determined to make his home here. That he was satisfied of our future prosperity is shown in the fact that he had determined to invest his all in the Miner establishment and grow with the Territory, as he expressed it. For the past year he was Librarian of the Arizona Pioneer and Historical Society, and ever evinced a lively interest in everything connected therewith. From his peculiar characteristics, it is a natural consequence that wherever he was known, he has left many friends who will regret to learn of his sudden death.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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The Alta California, San Francisco, March 16, 1867, 1:1.
The Journal-Miner, Prescott, January 10, 1911.