

BARNARD, GEORGE WASHINGTON

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BARNARD, GEORGE WASHINGTON, born at Dexter, Washtenaw County, Michigan, May 22, 1832; son of John Gregg and Emma (Holcomb) Barnard, both being natives of New York; never married; nephew and niece, Frank A. (1862-1939) and Ellen May Barnard (1866-1940).

Went down the Mississippi River and across the Isthmus of Panama to California, arriving in San Francisco, 1850; engaged in mining in California until he heard of the gold discoveries in Arizona in 1863; traveled on foot with 45 men from San Bernardino via Dos Palms to the Colorado River; during the journey he and some of the men, becoming separated from the party for two days, nearly perished on the desert; arrived at La Paz, A.T., August 7, 1863.

Assisted in laying out Mineral City, the name of which was afterwards changed to Ehrenberg; went from there to Rich Hill and the Walker Diggings on the Hassayampa; returned to California but came back in 1864; at Fort Whipple on December 17, 1864, he bought from Jerome Calkins 30 feet in the Nickerson Claim, Accidental Lode, for \$35; was employed for a time as Post Saddler at Fort Whipple; later had a shop on Granite Street in Prescott, being a saddle and harness maker by trade; after the town of Prescott was established he opened the first public house, naming it the Juniper Hotel, the guest rooms being under a juniper tree, divided by tent canvas and equipped with coarse blankets on mattresses of brush.

Served as Coroner of Yavapai County, 1866, and as Justice of the Peace in Prescott, 1867; appointed Postmaster at Prescott, June 29, 1868, to succeed James Grant and served until March 9, 1871, when he was succeeded by Orlando Allen; listed, U.S. Census, 1870, at Prescott, occupation - Postmaster, property valued at \$2,050; appointed by Governor Safford as Justice of the

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Peace at Prescott, June 10, 1870 and was elected to serve during 1871-72;

Engaged in mining and said to have been the original locator of the Senator Mine about 10 miles south of Prescott; appointed Justice of the Peace at Gillett, Yavapai County, A.T., July 29, 1878; listed, U.S. Census, 1880, at Tip Top, then a booming mining camp in Yavapai County, occupation - Saloon Keeper.

Moved to Phoenix where he served as Justice of the Peace in 1882-83 and was again elected to serve in 1891-92 In that strongly Democratic community even though he was a staunch Republican; had a saloon in Phoenix at the time he joined the Society of Arizona Pioneers at Tucson, April 29, 1887; when the Secretary, W.J. Osborn, reminded him about paying his dues he wrote the following letter on May 29, 1888:

Yours of Feb. 1st duly received and noted. In reply I can only state that it becomes necessary to drop my name from the roll at present. Although I am engaged in business, it requires the strictest economy on my part to enable me to pay my debts. This is caused by a complete change of customs in this community since the advent of civilizing influences, viz: The Advent of Railroads and Preachers.

Listed, Benschel's Phoenix Directory, 1892, as Saloon Keeper, on Washington Street between Center and Cortez (now 1st Avenue); homesteaded 160 acres in Section 8, Township 1 North, Range 4, East, on the north bank of Salt River near the town of Tempe which was patented to him on August 29, 1902; he called the place "Palomas Park" and maintained a wayside station to supply the needs of travelers on the dusty road to Phoenix; admitted from Tempe to Arizona Pioneers Home, Prescott, March 26, 1911, and remained there until a short time before his death when he returned to the home of his niece and nephew in Phoenix where he died, August 4, 1912, aged 80; buried _____ Cemetery.

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At the time of his death the Phoenix Arizona Republican made this comment :

Due only to the environment of early days, the pioneer citizens of Arizona were of a type distinctly peculiar to themselves and greatly in contrast with those who are today regarded as men of affairs. In them were developed the highest type of manly virtues, mingled often with the petty vices, and the roll of them is good to look upon for they were men of good deeds and strong action that far outweighed their weaknesses.

It is a rapidly shrinking list and when the name of George W. Barnard was scratched from it by the stroke of death it was lessened by one who died in comparative obscurity and who was never famous, but who had played a large part in the affairs of his adopted country at a time when men were few, little things were big and the manner of their doing led to those conditions from which were evolved the big things of the present. George Barnard belonged to a generation of men who fought Indians and bandits, conquered the deserts and opened the treasure vaults of mineral wealth. On occasion, they drank whiskey but without swilling it, and gambled, but without cheating about the only diversions available in those rigorous days, but they stood always for law and order and the protection of the weak against the designing strong.

The following is taken from his obituary in the Prescott Journal-

Miner:

Like all the "early birds" of that era, he went from one to the other camps, and when a mining strike occurred, Barnard had the wild desire to get his location notice posted up to reap the reward. He never made a large sum of money, but he prospered nevertheless in several deals. Quiet and unassuming, he was one of the best-hearted men in Arizona, and possessed a genial fellowship that will linger long in the memory of the old-time residents who remain. Old age wore out the human machinery after years of privation, incident to the life of the Hassayamper, and when he came to the Pioneers' Home here the same old genial smile was there but the once vigorous frame was shattered. The State has lost one of its splendid citizens, and the old-time colony one of its most generous men.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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- W.P.A. - Roster of Yavapai County Officials, 1942, and of Maricopa County officials, 1939.
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- The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, April 15, 1871, p. 2. c. 1.
- The Tempe News, December 20 and 27, 1901.
- The Daily Herald, Phoenix, August 7, 1894.
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- The Arizona Gazette, Phoenix, August 6, 1912, p. 7, c. 3 (death notice).
- The Journal-Miner, Prescott, August 6, 1912, p. 7, c. 1-3 (obituary)
- The Prescott Courier, August 10, 1912, p. 8. c. 4, (obituary).