

BLACKWELL, JOSEPH B.

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BLACKWELL, JOSEPH B.

Born at _____, Tennessee, _____ (about 1819).

Son of _____ and _____.

Enrolled at Decatur, Meigs County, Tennessee, and mustered in July 12, 1837, at Cherokee Agency, Tennessee, to serve 12 months in the Seminole Indian War in Florida, as Private, Captain Vernon's Company, Lindsay's Regiment, Tennessee Mounted Volunteers; reported in confinement at Fort Poinsett, Tennessee, in February, 1838; honorably discharged with the Company at Fort Cass, Tennessee, July 12, 1838.

Enrolled, age 25, January 24 in Fleming County and mustered in at San Antonio, Texas, February 24, 1847, to serve during the Mexican War as 2nd Sergeant, Captain Taylor's Company, Chevallie's Battalion, Texas Mounted Volunteers; promoted 2nd Lieutenant, July 25, 1847, but not mustered in; deserted September 6, 1847, from La Encantada.

Listed Territorial Census, April 1864, 3d District (Yavapai County), age 40, born in Tennessee, Single, occupation - Farmer, resident in Arizona 6 months, property valued at \$25; U. S. Census, July 1870, at La Paz, Yuma County, A.T., Age 50, occupation - Laborer, born in Tennessee.

He and J. M. Bryan pursued, captured and promptly executed two Mexican deserters from Company A, 1st Arizona Infantry, for the murder of a man employed by David King in digging a well 30 miles west of Wickenburg on the road to La Paz in 1865 or 66; C. B. Gemung stated that they caught up with the Mexicans near the junction of the Salt and Gila Rivers, "marched them far enough from the road so they would not smell bad, tied them to a mesquite tree and shot them."

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Was living at Phoenix, A.T., occupation - Teamster and Cattleman, when he was granted a pension of \$8 per month on January 29, 1887, as a Veteran of the Florida and Mexican wars; the following account of his death was printed in the Phoenix Herald:

A fatal accident occurred at the Commercial Hotel this morning, just before daylight, in which an old timer in this valley and a veteran of the Mexican war lost his life. Mr. Joseph B. Blackwell, familiarly known as "Uncle Joe", retired last night to a cot standing on the new veranda being put up around the hotel and about which no banister has yet been erected. Toward morning he arose it seems and in a sort of a dazed condition walked off the veranda falling into the street below, a distance of fourteen feet, where he seems to have struck on his left knee, badly fracturing the thigh bone and sustaining internal injuries apparently of the spine which proved fatal and he died about 7 o'clock.

"Uncle Joe" was seventy-two years old, and was, in his day one of the finest types of physical manhood in the Southwest. He was a noted member of the Texas Rangers during the Mexican War, and notices of him have found their way into historical papers, notably papers on the Mexican War by Hon. Wm. Cury of Tucson.

He was of a very lively disposition in his younger days, full of jokes and quaint sayings, among which was his laconic description of the situation during the Mexican war when at Saltillo he jocosely exclaimed, "High life in Mexico, boys! Smoking bit cigars in the shade -- wives at home spinning cotton on shares."

Died at Phoenix, Maricopa County, A. T., September 12, 1888; buried _____ Cemetery; he owned a homestead of 160 acres in T. 4 S. R. 10 W. and in a will made at Tucson on May 7, 1888, named Frank W. and Mary H. Fry of Agua Caliente as his heirs.

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SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Parish, T. E. - History of Arizona, Vol. 4, pp. 67-69
The Adjutant General of the Army - Military Service Records.
U. S. Veterans' Administration, Pension Records, Mexican S.C. 181.
Great Register of Maricopa County, 1882.
Probate Court of Maricopa County - Docket No. 140.
The Arizona Republican, Phoenix, April 13, 1927, sec. 2, 4:1
The Phoenix Herald, September 13, 1888, 4:3 (obituary).
The Prescott Courier, September 11, 1888, 1:1 (death-notice).