

BOWERS, EDWARD FRANKLIN I 0001

BOWERS, EDWARD FRANKLIN

Born at Greenfield, Hillsboro County, New Hampshire, June 27, 1838.

Son of _____ and _____.

Married, Olive Ehle (1851-1943), daughter of Joseph and Margaret (Williams) Ehle, at Prescott, July 5, 1869.

Children, George Alfred (1871-1892), Charles Herbert (1875-1944), Edward Franklin, Jr. (1877-1921), and Stella (1873-1940) (Mrs. Richard J. Hambrook); Mrs. Bowers married Hulbert B. Crouch at Prescott on August 1, 1880.

The following is taken from an obituary in the Prescott

Arizona Miner:

He left home when 19 years of age going to Kansas in 1858, and to Colorado in 1859 where he was engaged in mining, prospecting, packing, etc., until the winter of 1862, when he went to California and resumed the business of mining in that State which he followed for three years until 1865 when, in company with his brother, the late Herbert Bowers, W. N. Kelly and others, he came to Arizona and settled in Yavapai County where he continuously resided.

He first engaged in freighting and ranching and on September 30, 1867, the Miner reported that:

A few nights since, the Indians carried off a lot of corn from Ed. Bower's ranch on Granite Creek about seven miles from town. Something must have scared them, as next morning Ed. found a lariat which the red thieves had dropped. They were prospecting for a horse to fasten to that lariat, and will get one soon if our citizens don't keep a sharp lookout for them.

Later he entered into a business partnership with his brother-in-law as is shown by an item printed in the Miner on March 6, 1869;

Ed F. Bowers has become a full partner with D. J. Cook in the Adobe Store at the Corner of Granite and Gurley Streets. The name of the firm will hereafter be Cook & Bowers. Mr. Bowers, like his partner, Mr. Cook, is one of the most enterprising, honest and industrious citizens.

The business must have been successful because he paid a Federal tax of \$136.50 on his income of \$2,750 earned that year; he was also interested in mining as is indicated by another item published in that newspaper on March 26, 1870;

Six or eight men are at work in the hydraulic claims belonging to E. F. Bowers, C. C. Bean and Lt. A. E. Wells on Lynx Creek in the Walker District.

In 1871 he moved to a cattle ranch in Skull Valley, was appointed Postmaster there on April 22, 1872, and served until the office was discontinued on November 11; that same year he was an unsuccessful candidate for Sheriff on the Peoples ticket but was elected to that office as an Independent candidate in 1874 and re-elected in 1876; the Prescott Arizona Enterprise of October 17, 1877, gave the following account of a gun fight in which he was engaged:

Yesterday afternoon quite a ripple of excitement was crated in our usually quiet town by the appearance of two genuine border ruffians on our streets. They first made themselves troublesome at Jackson & Tomkin's Saloon, where they drew their revolvers and flourished them in a threatening manner. Col. McCall, who happened to be there, was covered with the pistols several times and told that if he opened his mouth that they would let daylight through him, and he wisely kept still.

They then commenced firing at a dog, and afterward mounting their horses rode down

Montezuma street at full gallop, yelling like demons and firing right and left at everything that showed itself, the bullets whistling in unpleasant proximity to several persons who were on the street. John Raible's dog was the only thing hit by them. Proceeding on down the street they stopped at the outskirts of the town and reloaded their weapons.

Marshal Standefer and Col. McCall armed themselves and got in Duprez's barouche and started in pursuit. Sheriff Bowers and Frank Murray, City Marshal, also armed themselves, and mounting their horses started after them. Standefer and McCall passed the ruffians on the flat near Moyes' old mill, so as to get on the other side and head them off. Sheriff Bowers and Murray came up on this side, and the Sheriff ordered them to throw up their hands, and surrender, instead of which they opened fire on him. Robert Tullos, one of the desperadoes, slid off his horse and fired three shots at Bowers, all of them coming pretty close, when a charge of buckshot from the Sheriff's gun brought him down. Marshal Standefer also emptied a load into him.

Running across the road Tullos got under the bushes and commenced to load his revolver, still refusing to surrender, when a shot from the sheriff's revolver stretched him out lifeless. Vaughn, his companion, kept firing away but was soon brought down by a bullet in his head, but was not killed. There was so much shooting going on that it was almost impossible to tell who fired the fatal shots. The horse Sheriff Bowers rode was shot in the hind quarters; this was the only harm that befell the pursuing party.

The dead and wounded were brought to the Sheriff's Office and from thence Vaughn, the wounded one, was taken to the hospital, where he now lies, still conscious, but Dr. Day says he cannot live more than two or three days.

This item was printed in the Arizona Miner on October 26,

1877;

We were shown, by Sheriff Bowers, three

specimens of saws manufactured by J. A. Lewis, who holds quarters in one of the cells of the County jail, and is under sentence of death for having committed the crime of uxoricide. These saws were to be used by him in sawing the logs out of the floor of his cell. One is made from a piece of tin, while two are from a piece of hoop-iron.

He was a passenger, having custody of an insane woman enroute to Stockton, California, on a stage that was robbed as described in a Grand Jury report:

The robbing was committed a few miles from Wickenburg, and the stage agent - Pierson - of that place, knew at the time the stage reached his office what was to happen, yet neither Mr. Bowers nor the others were told a word so that they might have provided for what was coming, and to save their effects and perhaps to secure the robbers.

The robbery was committed under cover of guns and pistols, and the least motion of resistance by any of the passengers might have led to loss of life of one or more of the passengers. As it was, all the money had by the passengers was taken from them - some 450 dollars from Sheriff Bowers, and valuable letters mutilated and destroyed.

On January 11, 1878, the Arizona Miner stated:

Sheriff Bowers, has settled with Treasurer Cook. His books show that the entire taxes, according to the assessment roll for the year, amounts to \$53,668.18, of which \$36,954.56 have been collected, leaving \$16,713.62 still delinquent. Of licenses, of all kinds, collected during the year, there are \$8,176. Poll taxes collected amount to only \$841.73. School District No. 1 has been paid \$2,573.70.

The Arizona Enterprise gave the following report of an interview on April 24, 1878:

Ed. F. Bowers, Sheriff of this County, got back from Yuma yesterday. It took all of his time, talent and attention to get the criminal, Lewis, to the Penitentiary, where he was at last accounts. The Sheriff, Ed. G. Peck, T. M. Alexander, Lewis and two Indians went from Ehrenberg to Yuma in a skiff, because there was no steamboat to take them. Peck and Aleck helped Bowers to watch Lewis. They used to land their boat, nights, and Lewis would then work and watch for a chance to escape. He prevailed on his irons to separate. Bowers saw this and informed him that it was no use in trying.

His activities in the Sheriff's Office were frequently mentioned in the Arizona Miner from which the following quotations are taken:

July 5, 1878 - - Ed. F. Bowers raised money sufficient with which to purchase an elegant flag for the court house, and to-day it floats gracefully before the breeze from the flag staff placed on the apex of the observatory of our new court house and jail, the finest building in the Territory.

September 13, 1878 - - Sheriff Bowers and his deputies concluded the removal of all property from the old building on Cortez Street to the new Court House on the public plaza, last evening. The prisoners are comfortably placed in their new quarters and seem to be overjoyed with the change from the old rickety dungeon to the fresh clean departments they now occupy.

October 11, 1878 - - Ed. F. Bowers and Murat Masterson left to-day by Charley Young's stage in the direction of Hassayampa, Turkey Creek, Alexandria, Peck, Bradshaw and Tiger country. They are armed with all the modern electioneering appliances.

These references to him appeared in the Arizona Enterprise:

November 16, 1878 - - Let people talk as they will about Ed. F. Bowers, Sheriff of this County, we know him to be a good man and faithful officer. He has now been Sheriff for nearly

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four years, has turned over every dime collected by him, has done no wrong that we know of. He has been unfortunate in selecting deputies, but not always, may have been a little lenient, but the errors he has committed have been of the head, not of the heart. He will leave behind him a pretty clean record, and we know that his successor, Joseph R. Walker, will do the same.

December 11, 1878 - - Sheriff Bowers will, at the close of his term, take charge of the Dudley House and its bar and billiard room, two popular institutions, made so by Fred Williams and his brother, Andrew, who will, henceforth, turn their entire attention to the management of their several lodging houses, which for comfort and cleanliness cannot be surpassed in San Francisco. Mr. Bowers has purchased the "outfit" of the Dudley House, likewise the saloon, for the sum of \$3,500. His Deputy Sheriff, Robert Walker, will run the office. It is almost needless for us to state that Ed. and Bob know how to run a hotel.

January 11, 1879 - - There are not so many of us in this little mountain town, that we can afford to let good and true men go without a heartache or a tear. The familiar face and the honest manly grip of the hand of Ed. F. Bowers will be seen and felt no more on earth, and ours is the loss.

He has served the people, as they well know, faithfully and conscientiously for four years, and leaves a record as a public servant, without a blemish, and conspicuous for honesty and correctness.

In all his intercourse with his fellow men, in private and public life, he has been noted for unvarying courtesy and kindness, and his generosity is named as his only fault.

Member, Astian Lodge No. 177, F. & A. M., Prescott, died at Prescott, A.T., January 5, 1879, aged 39; buried Masonic Cemetery, Prescott, *monument erected by his brother, George W. Bowers.*

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Farish, T.E. - History of Arizona, Vol. 8, pp. 170, 171.
 Probate Court of Yavapai County, Docket No. 119.
 Yavapai County Marriage Records, Book 1, p. 10.
The Arizona Miner, Prescott, September 30, 1867, 2:1; December 26, 1868, 3:2; January 9, 2:2; March 6, 3:1; April 17, 3:2; July 10, 1869, 2:2 and 3:3; January 1, 4:3; March 26, 1870, 2:1; January 20, 2:1; May 18, 2:2; July 20, 1872, 3:1; January 8, 3:1; February 12, 3:2; April 23, 1875, 4:3; June 15, 3:4, August 17, 3:2, September 7, 4:3, September 9, 2:5, September 29, 3:2, October 17, October 26, 4:2; November 30, 3:2-4:1, and December 7, 1877, 2:3; January 11, 3:1, February 1, 4:3, February 2, 2:2, February 6, 3:2 (numerous other references in 1878) July 5, 4:2, September 13, 4:1, October 11, 3:2; January 10, 1879, 2:3 (obituary and funeral).
The Arizona Enterprise, Prescott, January 11, 3:1, January 23, 2:3, January 26, 3:1, February 2, 2:2, February 6, 3:2, February 23, 3:1, February 13, 4:1; March 20, 2:1, March 24, 1:4 (numerous other references in 1878) November 11, 2:2, December 11, 3:1, January 11, 1879 (obituary and funeral), April 4, 1879, 3:1 (monument at his grave).
The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, October 5, 1872, 2:4, December 13, 1863, 1:2, October 17, 1874, 1:3, January 18, 1879, 2:3 (death notice).
The Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, July 3, 1875, 3:3; July 1, 1876, 3:2; May 19, 3:1, October 27, 1:6 (reprint from the Arizona Enterprise), December 14, 1878, 3:2; January 11, 1879, 3:4 (death notice).
The Salt River Herald, Phoenix, August 17, 1:6, September 7:1:6, and December 11, 1878, 1:7; January 8, 1879, 3:3.

Bowers, Edward Franklin

Arizona Citizen, 12/13/73, 1-2.
 From Miner 11/29/73.

Ed F. Powers recently purchased 200 head of cattle and took them to his ranch in Skull Valley.