

# BROOKS, HEZEKIAH

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BROOKS, HEZEKIAH, born near Elyria, Lorraine County, Ohio, September 7, 1825; son of Hezekiah and Hannah (Johnson) Brooks; married Mrs. Mary C (Smith) Leib (1828-1891), widow of Charles Leib, © t Prescott, A.T. February 28, 1867; adopted daughter, Bessie (Mrs. James Edgar).

Remained on the farm in Ohio until 1850 when he went to California via Panama; engaged in mining in the South Fork of the American River and in Greenwood Valley; conducted a merchandise business in Colona, Eldorado County, California 1851-53; had charge of a store at Georgetown and then moved to Yreka, Siskiyou County, where he was first employed by the local Canal Company, 1854; returned to merchandising and served first as Deputy and then as Postmaster; went to San Francisco in 1861 and engaged in contracting for 2 years.

Left San Francisco in September, 1863, in party organized by George Lount and came to Arizona via Los Angeles; listed, Territorial Census, April 1864, 3d District (Yavapai County) resident in Arizona 7 months, occupation, Miner, property valued at \$1,200; at a meeting held on May 30, 1864, he was selected as one of the Commissioners to lay out and dispose of lots in the proposed townsite of Prescott; appointed by Governor Goodwin as Probate Judge, June 18, 1864, and served in that capacity in Yavapai County until January 1, 1871.

E.W. Wells, in Argonaut Tales, gives an account of the pursuit of a band of Apaches which had raided the Little Chino Valley settlement; twenty mounted soldiers from Fort Whipple guided by Ed. G. Peck attacked the Indians at daylight in Hell Canyon;

The battle commenced at once and it was not long till what was left of the Indians were scattered in all directions, fighting as they ran. A number of them were killed and others wounded. The soldiers took possession of the Indian Camp and the plunder abandoned by the Indians. Clinging to the breast of one of the dead squaws was

a chubby girl baby which was taken in charge by Peck who tenderly cared for it, nourishing it with milk procured from the only cow in Little Chino Valley escaping the Apache raid. He took the little captive to Prescott and presented it to Mrs. Judge H. Brooks who motherly received it and gave it a good home, where it grew to a charming Indian girl and woman, bearing the name of Miss Bessie Brooks.

The following is quoted from the Prescott Journal Miner:

Later, the adopted daughter met and was won by one of Yavapai County's stalwart ones, James Edgar, of whom she is now the happy wife. At the time of her marriage to Mr. Edgar the question was raised that there was an Arizona statute prohibiting an Indian and White person marrying. When it seemed that the marriage would be thus averted, Mr. Brooks came forward, it is alleged, and made affidavit that the bride-to-be, Bessie Brooks, was his legally adopted daughter, and therefore, by adoption, a white girl. On this showing the license was issued, and Mr. Edgar and Bessie Brooks were united in marriage.

Listed, U.S. Census, 1870, at Prescott, occupation, Farmer; wife and child, Bessy, age 3; the Yuma Sentinel printed an item on June 2, 1877, that "Hes Brooks has sold his interest in the Senator Mine to Mr. Fay of San Francisco for \$10,000"; listed, Hinton's Handbook to Arizona, 1879, General Merchandise at Prescott in partnership with Charles T. Hayden; Member, Aztlan Lodge 187(1) F. & A.M. Prescott; died at Cleveland, Ohio; May 30, 1907, aged 81; the Prescott Courier said of him;

He was a prince among Arizona pioneers, a man whom all loved to show the respect they felt for so good a man. He came to this section in 1863 and was the first Probate Judge of Yavapai County and lived for many years on his ranch (Woodside) which adjoins the southwest suburb of this city. In his death a locally historic character and a typical pioneer of the best grade passed over this life's divide to be welcomed by kindred gentle and noble spirits to that high plane suitable to such souls.

BROOKS, HEZEKIAH

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## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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 1907, p 2, c. 2 (obituary).  
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