

CLYMER, FRANCIS (FRANK) P.

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CLYMER, FRANCIS (FRANK) P .

Born at _____ Tennessee or Illinois, _____, 18__.

Son of _____ and _____.

Married, Jesus _____ at _____ on _____, 18__.

who was born in Sonora about 1840.

Children _____

Listed, U. S. Census, 1860, at Copper Mines (Ajo) age 30,
born in Tennessee, occupation - Miner, property valued at \$250; on
January 9, 1862, he wrote a letter from Arizona Copper Mines (Ajo)
addressed to Major Edwin A. Rigg at Fort Yuma stating that he had
been reliably informed that Colonel J. H. Baylor, commanding the
Confederate troops at Mesilla, N. M. had sent a letter to Tucson
stating that he expected to march for western Arizona with 900 men
and that all property not belonging to citizens of the Confederacy
would be confiscated. He concluded his letter by saying:

I can assure you that my informant is a man
whose word is reliable, but as I am precariously
situated you will please be kind enough to not
connect my name with the foregoing information, nor
even the locality from whence you receive it, as
myself and employes are the only ones here that are
posted. The bearer of this knows nothing about it,
nor do I wish him to. I send some letters to your
care which I hope you will mail by the first ex-
press, and if there is any mail for me please send
it by this man. If you have any papers that you
can spare, I will take it as a lasting favor if you
will send me a few. My respects to Captain Galloway,
Mr. Kippen, and Yager.

Most respectfully, yours,

FRANK P. CLYMER,

Superintendent

That he was having a difficult time at Ajo is shown by the
following extract from a letter sent from Fort Yuma, on February 19,

1862, by Major E. A. Rigg to Colonel J. H. Carlton in Los Angeles:

I arrested a man from the Arizona copper mines yesterday and hold him for instructions. His statement I forward to you by this express. I do not think him very dangerous, but thought him much better here than anywhere else for the present. Mr. Clymer, his employer, is reliable. He was one of the first to informme of the movements of Baylor. A copy of his letter to me I forwarded with others to district headquarters. He is obliged to be very circumspect. He told me personally that he could not depend upon anyone around him.

The circumstances are these in reference to the arrest of his employe, John Kilbride; Mr. Clymer sent in his team for provisions for the mines, sending at the same time the letter, a copy of which was forwarded. On its return, near Grinnel's, during the night, whilst the driver was sleeping, the flood overtook him, only awaking in time to save his life, losing the wagon, which was washed into the river with contents, saving only his mules.

His delaying so long, Mr. Clymer sent out a person named Hayward to look after him. He came on here to make arrangements for more provisions, I had him watched closely, and when he was ready to start I stopped him. He states that he is an English subject--a subject of Great Britain. On the same day Kilbride arrived with another wagon for provisions. I 'permitted them to go on and get their arrangements all made to start (Mr. Hayward being only on parole not to leave until I gave him permission), when I gave permission to the wagon to start.

I then had Mr. Kilbride confined (after taking his statement) and sent Lieutenant Mitchell out with his invoices, and overhauled him to see that nothing but provisions were in the wagon, which proved to be the case. He also carried instructions to Kilbride's driver from him to proceed on to the mine and say to Mr. Clymer that he would follow in a short time, and to get through as fast as possible.

I was satisfied that Mr. Clymer had no provisions in hand of any kind, and was suffering for them; that he was our friend, and was acting as such in forwarding information, &c, in addition to that, if I stopped the

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team with the animals--six in the wagon and eight more that were saved from the flood, making fourteen in all--I would have to feed them. After reflecting upon all the circumstances, I concluded to send Mr. Clymer his wagon and provisions. The driver will not know of Kilbride's arrest until he gets home.

I have been minute about this matter, because I was taking a responsibility that might not meet with your approbation, though I trust it may. I have confined Kilbride in a separate apartment from the other political prisoners, not wishing any comparing of notes from different directions.

Peter R. Brady addressed a letter to Major Rigg from Sonoita, Sonora, on March 14, 1862 in which he stated:

I write to inform you of the news here, according to promise. I saw a man a little while ago who has just come in from the Cababi mines. He informed me that three days ago he conversed with a man just through from Tucson, who came through with Captain Hunter's party from Mesilla, and this person seemed to be pretty well posted in regard to everything in Western Arizona.

They are perfectly aware in Tucson of there being a large quantity of powder at the Copper Mines, and that the superintendent is a Union man, and there is some talk of their coming over and taking it. I am very much afraid they will, as it is a big inducement. I know that there is very near a ton of powder there. Fortunately an American came down to-day from the Copper Mines and goes back to-morrow. I have advised him to tell Frank Clymer to hide the powder somewhere about the mine, only leaving a keg or two in the magazine, and to tell the secessionists that he has sold the balance, for if he had none at all they might suspect that he had hidden it and resort to severe measures to make him disclose.***** If you should wish to see me at the river, -Mr. Yager can dispatch a Mexican, and I will be at the river in four days from where I live.

Listed, U. S. Census, 1870, at Overland Stage Stations (Kenyon), age 45, born in Illinois, occupation - Station Keeper, property valued at \$2,500; the following items are taken from the

Yuma Arizona Sentinel of 1872:

(1) March 30--From a private letter received by F. P. Clymer, from his home at Kenyon Station, we learn that on last Sunday a German, named Conrad, hostler in the employ of the Mail Stage Company, and who has been at the station but a few days, absconded with one of Mr. Clymer's mules and saddle. On the day above named, about noon, Conrad borrowed a Henry rifle from an employee of Mr. Clymer, named Johnson, on the pretense that he was going out hunting. Johnson did not discover the theft until a few hours afterward, and, as there were no one at the station but himself and Mr. Clymer's wife, he could not pursue the "flying Dutchman" until after he had gone some twelve miles to get some one to stay at the house, which made it too late then to track the thief. Early next morning, however, he started after him, but with what result, we have not ascertained.

Conrad is a man of medium build, about 35 years of age, 5 feet 8 inches in height, dark hair, inclined to curl, and whiskers shaved off close; his eyes are considerably blood-shot. The mule he stole is a mare-mule, dark brown, of medium size, with collar marks, and has the brand of Woolsey & Martin and several other brands, and is well known in the Territory as Col. Woolsey's favorite riding mule during his campaigns against the Apaches. The saddle is of light California leather, nearly new, and trimmed behind with horse hair. Station keepers and ferrymen should take note of this, and look out for the thief.

(2) April 6--TAKE NOTICE.--A mule, with saddle, was left on my premises, at the Ferry, six miles below Arizona City, on the 28th of March, 1872, by some unknown person. The owner will please come forward, prove property, pay charges and take it away.

A. Bowman

(3) October 12--In the matter of the estate of John Kilbride, deceased, F. P. Clymer settled his final account and was fully discharged.

The Tucson Arizona Citizen published this advertisement early in 1872:

Kenyon Station for sale. The above well known public stand, situated on the Gila River, 18 miles west of Gila Bend Station, and 14 miles east of Oatman Flat, is for sale, together with all properties belonging to it, cheap for cash.

200 breeding goats, will be retained if not desired by the purchaser. For particulars address F. P. Clymer, Kenyon.

The Citizen for May 25, 1872, stated:

F. P. Clymer has sold Kenyon Station and will soon move west of the Colorado into San Diego County a few miles below Yuma, where he intends to engage in goat raising.

The Yuma Arizona Sentinel of April 27, 1878, printed the following:

James Peck, of Mohawk, has got to stand another little notice. It's Angora goats this time. Some years ago he bought a lot of common goats from Frank Clymer, and got a couple of Angora bucks. A pair of dogs were trained to take out, bring back, and guard the flock; no other expense being made. Gradually the old stock has died off or been sold, leaving only young goats of high-grade. The quantity of meat that has been eaten and sold from that little flock is incredible. Nothing in Arizona has yielded as big returns on a small investment. . . .

The following additional reports of his activities appeared in the Yuma Arizona Sentinel:

June 20, 1874--Last Saturday Mr. Frank P. Clymer arrived at the store of Wm. B. Hooper & Co. in this town with 720 ounces of silver, from the Polaris mine, in the San Domingo District, near Sonoita in this Territory. This mine is five miles this side of the Sonora line. The silver was extracted by the crude and primitive Mexican process, with no blast greater than that given by a common blacksmith bellows. There is no base metal in it. The silver is pure, with the exception that it is bespangled with gold. A Mexican named Loreto Aguayo, who came with Mr. Clymer from the same neighborhood had 300 ounces of the same kind of silver, which we saw weighed at the office of Wm. B. Hooper & Co. On Tuesday last two carts arrived from Mr. Clymer's mine, bringing two tons of the same kind of ore from which the above mentioned silver was extracted. Mr. Clymer has been breaking and sacking it at Hooper & Co's corral during the week. . . .

Last Thursday, Wm. B. Hooper & Co. dispatched two teams and a burro train for F. P. Clymer, bound for the Polaris mine, in the San Domingo District. This outfit embraces an assortment of general merchandise.

February 19, 1876--Florence, Feb. 14--Another valuable discovery made in the Globe District extension of Champion mine owned by Clymer and Wilson, has turned up after much searching for....

July 22, 1876--Died at Florence, A. T., July 17, 1876, Frank P. Clymer, aged about 42 years. The announcement of the death of this good and well known citizen was received by Thos. Hughes, Esq., of Yuma, by telegram from Florence. Many persons will feel a pang of regret on hearing of the death of "Frank," who was well known and respected for his many excellent qualities of head and heart.

June 9, 1877-- The Ajo Mine.--The late Frank Clymer's interests in this celebrated mine will be sold, by the administrator of his estate, at Florence, June 30th.

July 14, 1877--The Ajo copper mine has been relocated. The interest in it of Clymer's estate was sold at Florence, June 30, but we understand that the property was jumped prior to that date.

December 22, 1877--The famous Ajo copper mine, southeast of Mohawk station, still lies untouched, to the great surprise of old Arizonans who know something of its history. Properly speaking it is a group of mines rich in copper and carrying a large percentage of gold and silver. It was at one time worked by the father of Hon. J. M. Redondo of this place. That was before the Gadsden purchase of the territory lying south of the Gila river. A party of American adventurers went down and located it and fought for it with parties from Sonora. Being considered debatable ground, nothing was done with it for years.

Finally a company was organized in San Francisco, of which B. P. Cornwall (of Black Diamond fame) was the leading spirit. Large quantities of ore were extracted and shipped to San Francisco, by wagon from the mine to Yuma and from thence by the Colorado river, Gulf of California and the Pacific Ocean. The wagon transportation alone cost \$120 per ton, besides steamboat and

schooner freight. The company was making money, had erected large and commodious buildings at the mine and were preparing to conduct operations on a large scale, when the sudden and great fall in the price of copper, at about the end of the war of the rebellion, made copper mining unprofitable and work was suspended.

The late Frank P. Clymer was employed for several years to take care of the property. After a few years of inaction the company got demoralized and neglected to pay up assessments for paying Clymer's wages. He then sued, attached and bought the property in at sheriff's sale. When he died last year, this part of his estate was appraised at \$20,000 by men thoroughly familiar with the mine. Since that time the Southern Pacific railroad has been built to within a little over 100 miles of the mine and will soon be within fifty miles of it.

The old company used to pay \$20 per barrel for flour, \$10 per sack for barley and for other supplies in proportion. Now everything of that kind costs a third of former prices. Water, fuel and grass are abundant around the mine. Excellent lime rock occurs close by. The buildings are in a good state of preservation. In fact, everything about the property now invites the attention of capital. The deeper workings are now filled with seepage water, but Salazar and other miners who worked below, at the time work was suspended, declare that the ore was better and wider at the bottom than at any other part of the mine.

There is some question as to the title. The minor heirs of Clymer claim it. J. H. Norton and another gentleman of Yuma jumped and located it last spring. Some parties in Florence jumped and located it last June, erroneously recording the location in Maricopa county, and Don Juan A. Robinson, of San Francisco, claims to own a Mexican land grant, which includes the mine. The property is too valuable a one to long lie idle and we trust it may soon pass into hands capable of developing it.

December 29, 1877--From the Citizen (Florence) we learn that the late Frank Clymer's quarter interest in the Champion mine has been sold for \$1,800; administrator's sale.

February 9, 1878--**The Santo Domingo Mines.** These mines are situated in a portion of **Yuma** county rarely visited by miners or **prospectors**. They lie in the extreme southeastern part of **the county**, about 75 miles south of the **Gila** and close to the Mexican **boundary**. The Mexicans have lately worked some of them **successfully**, but as they **are** on American **ground**, these miners could obtain no title and took little interest in developing the ledges.

Cipriano Ortega, owner of nearly all the good land and cattle around **Sonoita**, **claims** to have taken out, from one of these mines, nearly \$14,000 at an expenditure for mining of less than \$100. . . . The boundary line runs through **Quitobaquita**, leaving the spring on our side, but giving most of the good land to **Mexico**; it also puts the ranchos and towns of **Santo Domingo** and **Sonoita** in **Mexico**, but gives us the mines.

The late **Frank P. Clymer** had valuable **claims** down there and shipped considerable rich **ore**, in spite of all the difficulties of desert transportation over new and unbeaten **roads**. He was very enthusiastic over the **results**, but he got afraid of his Mexican neighbors and his attention **was absorbed**, until his **death**, by his discovery of the **Athens** and other rich mines in **Pinal** county.

April 20, 1878-- **Mr. J. A. Robertson** tells us that he has bought the interest of the **Clymer** heirs in the famous **Ajo** mine. He has been out there doing some work and reports himself much **pleased**. He prospected a little to the eastward of **Ajo** and found an excellent mineral **country**.

The Arizona Citizen, then published at **Florence**, printed a notice by **John A. Osgood**, administrator of the estate of **Francis P. Clymer**, deceased, dated November 16, 1877, that he would **sell** at public auction an undivided one-fourth interest in "a certain mining property situated in **the Globe** mining **District**, **Maricopa** County, **Arizona** Territory, known as the **Champion Mine**" and an undivided **one-half** interest in another mining claim "known as the **First Extension (South)** of the **Miami** Mine, situated in the same mining **District**, **Pinal** County, **Arizona** Territory."