

CASTENADA, JOSE MIGUEL I 10001

CASTENADA, JOSE MIGUEL, born in Chihuahua City, Chihuahua, Mexico, May 18, 1838; son of Jose Miguel and Roya Castenada, both natives of Spain; married Ampara Arvizu at La Paz June 24, 1872; children, Miguel F., Eduardo J., Rodolfo, Henry E., Carlos, Alfonso A., Louis, Ida, Aurelia, and Josephane (Mrs. Stephen Roemer).

The following is abstracted from a sketch of his life published in 1901:

John Able had charge of an expedition from Chihuahua to California in 1851, composed of 100 men, 10,000 sheep, 50 head of cattle and 5 wagons with provisions. Jose M. Castenada went along in the commissary department. They camped for about 6 weeks at the San Bernardino ranch south-east of Bisbee, later owned by John Slaughter.

One day there appeared about 300 Apaches, men, women and children, with their Chief, Mangas Coloradas. They were given clothing and 10 sheep and, after a feast, departed with every indication of friendliness. A week later 25 young bucks and 2 chiefs came with a revived appetite for mutton and upon receiving only 2 sheep were highly displeased. At daylight one morning, 5 Indians sneaked into the corral and got away with as many horses after having stampeded the flock. Castenada, who was on guard, gave the alarm and all the sheep were recovered.

After that they proceeded to the Santa Cruz River where they found a white settlement south of Tucson, thence west to Fort Yuma, crossing the Colorado River by ferry. Upon arriving at Carrizo Creek they lost 1,000 sheep, poisoned by an herb growing there. They arrived in Los Angeles with 8,500 sheep some of which were disposed of at from \$8.00 to \$10.00, the price in Chihuahua having been 50 cents a head. The 3,000 remaining were taken to San Francisco and sold at a good figure. However, being passionately fond of gambling, John Able risked and lost all he had made and returned to Mexico no better off than when he left.

He remained in Los Angeles for 6 years, being employed as a young man by a large mercantile establishment; naturalized there as an American citizen in 1858; for the next two years he served as foreman for Abel Stearns at the Alamitos ranch; then went to San

Juan Capistrano and was fairly successful as a trader in cattle, horses and hides; in 1861 he moved to La Paz on the Colorado River; listed there in the Territorial Census of 1864, as a Clerk, resident in Arizona 13 years, which probably referred to when he first passed through on his way to California.

He first engaged in business at La Paz in partnership with G. A. Apalategui but sold his share in the firm to his partner on November 13, 1868, and later opened a store of his own; listed in the 1870 census at La Paz, occupation - Grocer, property valued at \$2,500; shortly afterwards he moved to Ehrenberg and was engaged in a general mercantile business there for about two years; his next business venture was in Tucson where, in partnership with Henry Levin, he engaged in manufacturing beer; they also purchased for \$10,000 what was later known as the Orendorf Hotel, but after about a year, owing to ill health, he sold his interest in the business and returned to Ehrenberg; elected to be a member of the Board of Supervisors of Yuma County in November 1874.

About 1875, he moved his store to Signal City, on the Big Sandy in Mohave County, not far from the McCracken silver mine which was then in full production; the Prescott Arizona Miner for May 7, 1875, reported that he had been awarded an Army contract to supply Camp Mohave with barley at \$4.89 cents per hundred pounds and on May 28 stated that his teams arrived that week in Prescott with 3,629 pounds of freight consisting of general merchandise; due to bad management combined with the decline in the value of silver the

the McCracken mine was approaching a shut down and he decided to seek a new location as shown by an item in the Salt River Herald of November 16, 1878:

J. M. Castaneda of Signal City, is preparing to move his stock of goods from that town and locate in Phoenix. He will open out in the store now occupied by M. L. Peralta, who will move into his new building opposite the American Hotel.

The following references to him were printed in the Phoenix Herald:

April 25, 1879 -- Mr. J. M. Castaneda, formerly of Signal City, has opened up one of the handsomest stores in town, opposite the plaza on Washington street.

May 28, 1879 -- A band of stock, the property of J. M. Castaneda of this city, stopped over night at Agua Fria station, on their way to Tonto Basin from Mohave county. There were about 300 head of cattle, and 200 of horses, sheep and goats. The grazing around that section is unsurpassed anywhere.

January 5, 1880 -- J. M. Castaneda is about to leave Phoenix for the southern mineral fields. Mr. Castaneda was not very fortunate in the selection of his first two business locations--Signal City and Phoenix, and in his new location it is our hope that he may be very successful and accumulate dinero with astounding rapidity.

Listed, U. S. Census, June 1880, at Tombstone, A. T., occupation - General Merchant; he was in business for over a year and then moved to Fairbank where he became a partner of Joseph Goldwater and Joseph Guindani; later he took charge of a wholesale and retail business which the firm started in Bisbee; the Bisbee store was destroyed by fire with a loss of \$85,000 after which he returned to Tombstone; in 1890 he purchased the Virginia Hotel in Benson and four years later again, embarked in the mercantile business which he was conducting at the time of his death.

Died at St. Mary's Hospital at Tucson, A.T., September 28, 1901, aged 63; buried , Benson cemetary.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Chapman Pub. Co. - Portrait and Biographical Record of Arizona, Chicago, 1901, pp. 903-907 (portrait)
The Great Register of Cochise County - 1886-98
Probate Court of Cochise County - Docket No. 200
The Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, November 14, 1868, 3:3; November 21, 1874, 2:3; December 2, 1876, 2:2-3; November 23, 1878, 3:2; October 2, 1901, 3:1 (death notice)
The Arizona Miner, Prescott, May 7, 2:3 and May 28, 1875, 3:1;
The Tombstone Epitaph, September 27, 2:2 and October 1, 1893, 4:2; September 18, 1898, 2:4
The Tombstone Prospector, September 30, 1901, 5:3 (death notice)
The Journal-Miner, Prescott, October 2, 1901, 4:3 (death notice)
The Salt River Herald, Phoenix, November 16, 1878, 3:1
The Phoenix Herald, March 19, 3:1, April 23, 3:1, May 17, 3:1 and May 28, 1879, 3:1
The Phoenix Enterprise, September 30, 1901, 4:3 (death notice)
The Arizona Republican, Phoenix, September 29, 4:4 and September 30, 1901, 5:3 (death notice)
The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, September 28, 1901, 1:5 (death notice)

WANTED

1. Newspaper verification that he was in business with Henry Levin at Tucson in the 1870ties.
2. References to him while a resident of Bisbee particularly the store robbery by Red Tuck in 1885 as stated in the Chapman biography.
3. Any additional mention of him.