

DE LONG, SIDNEY RANDOLPH

SIDNEY RANDOLPH DE LONG.

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Sidney Randolph De Long was one of the most widely known residents of Pima county. For many years he resided in Tucson, of which city he was the first mayor in 1872 and at the time of his death he was serving as secretary of the Pioneer Society. His worth as a citizen was widely acknowledged, for as a business man and in public relations his service was of substantial benefit to the community. A native of New York, his birth occurred in Clinton county, on the 28th of December, 1828. His early years were passed in the state of his nativity, where he was educated, completing his course in the Military Academy at Plattsburg, where he made a specialty of civil engineering. Subsequently he engaged in railroad work and assisted in making the survey for the line extending from Plattsburg to Montreal. This was during the '40s. The desire to try his fortune in the west resulted in his taking passage from New York to San Francisco in 1849 and sailing around the Horn. He arrived in the metropolis the following year and located in Amador county. He engaged in prospecting and also taught school for a time. He voted for the constitution when California was admitted into the Union in 1851 and continued to make his home in that city until the outbreak of the civil war. When the call came for troops in 1861 he responded by enlisting at the Presidio in San Francisco as a member of Company C, First California Infantry. He began his service in the capacity of a private but was later promoted to the rank of quartermaster of the regiment. The troops proceeded by steamer to San Pedro and in the vicinity of Los Angeles went into winter quarters for drill practice. In the spring they marched to Tucson, where they did garrison duty for a time but later were ordered to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Mr. De Long was mustered out in that city in 1866 and immediately returned to Tucson, where he resumed the duties of civil life.

In 1872 Mr. De Long was elected mayor of the city, in which capacity he was serving when the municipality bought two sections of land from the United States government and formed the township of Tucson. Later he turned his attention to commercial activities, becoming a member of the mercantile firm of Tully, Ochoa & Company. Upon severing that connection he began trading at the Indian military post located in the mountains one hundred and ten miles east of Tucson. From there he went to Dos Cabezas, where he engaged in gold mining for several years with a fair measure of success. In 1898 he disposed of his interests at that town and returned to Tucson, making his home at 199 Church street. In 1905 he was chosen secretary of the Pioneer Society and with the exception of one year, when he was receiver of the United States land office, continuously filled that position until his death.

Mr. De Long was married twice and by the first marriage had a daughter, Rachel, the wife of James Whitaker, a well known banker of Galt, California. The wife and mother passed away in 1881 and in 1893 Mr. De Long wedded bliss Maria Fry, a member of an old New England family and a native of Salem, Massachusetts. She went to Tucson in 1878 and for five years was associated with the banking firm of Safforal, Hudson & Company, in the capacity of bookkeeper and assistant cashier, at which time A. P. K. Safforal, president of the company, was governor of Arizona. She was later identified with the David Hudson Banking Company, remaining in that service for two years, following which she became assistant postmaster of Tucson under J. Knox Corbett. She is a well informed woman of progressive ideas and possesses fine discernment and good judgment in matters of business. She holds membership in the Episcopal church, which Mr. De Long also attended. He was for sixty-one years affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, having joined the order in Amador county, California, in December, 1851, and being the oldest Mason of the state at the time of his demise. He maintained relations with his comrades of

the Civil war through his connection with the Grand Army of the Republic and served as commander of the Tucson post. Mrs. De Long is one of the active workers of the Tucson Woman's Club and has served as a member of its historical committees. Politically Mr. De Long supported the republican party and in earlier life took an active interest in public affairs, representing this district in the territorial legislature of 1874. His life was a factor for good in the upbuilding and improvement of the community and his active cooperation furthered public progress in many ways. He lived in Arizona during the great formative period of its development and in later years he related many interesting incidents of the early days and of pioneers who formed the advance guard of civilization and began the great work of subduing the west.

(The above-mentioned information taken from "ARIZONA, PREHISTORIC - ABORIGINAL - PIONEER - MODERN, THE NATION'S YOUNGEST COMMONWEALTH WITHIN A LAND OF ANCIENT CULTURE." BIOGRAPHICAL. Volume III. By James H. McClintock. Published (1916) by the S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois. Pages 373 - 374).

DeLONG, Sidney R.

Biographical Sketch written by Sidney R. DeLong for the Office of Arizona Historian, January 16, 1912.

Name in full: Sidney Randolph DeLong

Born in: Beekmantown, Clinton County, New York

Date of birth: December 28, 1828

Name of parents and whatever may be of interest concerning them: Mother's name Mary Huston DeLong and was born on what is known as Grand Isle, Vermont. Father was born in Goshen, Addison County, Vermont, but taught school in Clinton County, New York, where he met my mother and they were married January 1st, 1828. He died in 1832 and mother died in Minnesota in 1862.

Education of subject of sketch: Mostly in the common schools of New York and Plattsburg Academy and high schools upon Isle La Motte, Vermont.

Where lived before coming to Arizona: California

When came to Arizona and where lived in Arizona: 1862. Lived all the time in Pima County, most the time in Tucson after muster out from the army in 1866.

Occupations: Was placer miner and taught school in California some years.

Official positions held: First Mayor of Tucson in 1871-1872

Details of life, public services etc: Enlisted in Volunteer army in California 27th August, 1861. Served as enlisted man to February 13th, 1863 when received commission as 2nd Lieutenant and was on duty at various points as acting Assistant Quartermaster, having served as such at Fort West, New Mexico, at Fort Cumming, New Mexico, Fort Goodwin, Arizona and Tucson, Arizona, at Santa Fe, New Mexico and at once repaired to Tucson and went into mercantile business with Tully & Ochoa, having made arrangements to do so while in service. Left the Volunteer service in 1866, July 9th.

Marriage, wife's name, children: My first wife's name was Margaret Jameson. Have one child living, a daughter, Mrs. James Whitaker who resides with husband at Galt, California. My 2nd wife is alive yet and resides in Tucson. Her name is Maria Frie (NOTE: That's the way he wrote it although McClintock has Fry. According to McClintock's biographical volume, the daughter by first wife, named Rachael. (P.373)