

FRANCIS, FERDINAND

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FRANCIS, FERDINAND, born at _____

Macon County, North Carolina, June 26, 1833;

Son of _____ and _____

Came to Arizona in 1862 as a teamster with the California Column; he testified before John Wasson, the U. S. Surveyor General at Tucson, A. T., on July 3, 1880, in behalf of the Sopori Land and Mining Company saying that he resided in Tucson, occupation that of Teamster, and that he was very well acquainted with the ranch of Sopori, knew where it was and have known it since 1862, having been over a good portion of it more or less frequently every year since that time except for two years.

Continuing he said:

I have had considerable to do with stock ranches and am somewhat familiar with the business. I consider it a stock or grazing ranch. Some portions of it have been cultivated and some are now being cultivated. AR for mineral, X do not know whether there is any on it or not.

When asked about Apache incursions he said:

They continued up to 1877 and during the years of the Rebellion, from 1861 to 1865, they practically held possession of the Country and drove out all settlers; and from 1865 to 1872 there was no safety in living upon a ranch anywhere in that vicinity so that the country round about the "Sopori" was practically unoccupied during those years.

Became one of the charter members of the Society of Arizona Pioneers, February 9, 1884; the following is taken from an obituary in the Arizona Daily Citizen:

Mr. Francis was an old time Arizona pioneer and but few men had more acquaintances in this Territory than he. He was honest, generous and good hearted and was very popular. Practically all of his life since he arrived at manhood was spent in the employ of the government as a teamster, or wagon master.

There is probably no one who knew Mr. Francis better than did W. J. Osborne. Mr. Osborne knew him in Salt Lake City in 1857. At that time Mr. Osborne was a government quartermaster's clerk and Mr. Francis was a government wagon master. Both came to Arizona a few years later and met frequently thereafter.

Died at the Sisters Hospital, Tucson, Pima County, A. T.

November 26, 1899, aged 66, buried _____

Cemetery, Tucson.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Senate Executive Document No. 93, 48th Congress, 1st Session,
Washington, January 16, 1882, p. 47.
Arizona Pioneers Historical Society - Membership book
Arizona Daily Citizen, Tucson, November 27, 1899, p. 3, c. 4

WANTED

Any newspaper reference to him.