

FARRINGTON, RUFUS ELIAS

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FARRINGTON, RUFUS ELIAS, born at Cherry Creek, Chataqua County, New York, March 29, 1838; son of Zenas and Lovina (Butten) Farrington (one of his ancestors came on the Mayflower); married Mary Elizabeth Shivers (1851-1921), daughter of David Wesley and Sarah Ann (Roberts) Shivers @ t Prescott, A.T., November 12, 1867; children, Ernest Franklin, Grace Lovina, who died in childhood, and Emma Blanche (Mrs. Harry Melville Chapman).

Went to Pikes Peak, Colorado, in the gold excitement of 1859 and was in Denver when it was a small settlement; was a member of the second party to leave Santa Fe, N.M., for the new gold discoveries in northern Arizona, arriving late in 1863; listed, Territorial Census, March 1864, 3d District (Yavapai County) occupation, Ranching, resident in Arizona 3 months, property valued at \$600; helped to survey and settle the town-site of Prescott; named by Act of the 1st Legislative Assembly, approved November 3, 1864, as one of the incorporators of the Fort Mohave and Prescott Toll Road Company which was granted the exclusive right to build and maintain a wagon road between the two places.

suffered serious depredations by Apaches, the first of which was in November 1865, at his road station at Walnut Creek, 40 miles northwest of Prescott, when the Indians stole property valued as follows: a yoke of work oxen, \$200; a Sharps rifle and ammunition, \$40; provisions and bedding in the house, \$150; they also burned 30 tons of hay worth \$60 per ton, \$1,800, and a two horse wagon valued @ t \$150.

In the fall of 1866 his home ranch on Granite Creek, 3 miles northeast of Prescott was "jumped by the Indians about an hour before sundown" who drove @ ff livestock of the following values: 16 work oxen, \$1,600;

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3 fine milk cows, \$250; 2 heavy work mules, 17 and 18 hands high, \$500; 2 mules 15 hands high, \$300; 1 breed jack, \$125; he followed the ~~trail~~ for about 15 miles when Lieutenant West with a squad of soldiers from Fort Whipple overtook him and compelled him to return home; listed, U.S. Census 1870, at Lower Granite Creek, Yavapai County, A. T., occupation, Farmer; engaged in numerous other enterprises including the butcher business, operating freight wagons and furnishing supplies to the Army.

In 1873 he sold his interest in the toll road to W. H. Hardy and moved his family to Deency in Southern California; established a commission and forwarding business in 1875 which accompanied the construction of the Southern Pacific railroad at the several termini eastward from Los Angeles through Colton and Fort Yuma into Arizona; in 1877-78 he also operated a freight forwarding agency at Ehrenberg; Histornell's Arizona Gazetteer, 1881, describes Maricopa, A.T. as the "distributing point for Phoenix, Vulture Mine, Tip Top, Prescott and other localities in Maricopa and Yavapai Counties - stages leave daily on arrival of trains"; an advertisement in that publication reads;

H. E. FARRINGTON & CO. Dealers in General Merchandise and Forwarding Commission Merchants, Maricopa, Pinal Co. and San Simon, Cochise Co., Arizona. Purchase, Sell and Ship Gold, Silver and Copper Ore. We have facilities for moving fast freight or heavy machinery at short notice. Parties desiring to invest in undeveloped mines, prospecting well, will find it to their interest to call on us.

At that time San Simon was the distributing point for the mining camps in the Chiricahua and other mining districts with daily stages to Calaville, 23 miles distant; he was appointed Postmaster at Maricopa on

November 14, 1881, and served until January 16, 1885, when succeeded by Leonidas Forsee; he would not permit the sale of intoxicating liquors at any of his stores.

While at Maricopa he became interested in an irrigation development on the Gila River at Gatman Valley, about 25 miles west of Gila Bend known as the Cox and Herceess Canal which did not prove profitable; in 1883 he moved to Phoenix near which he established the first large orchard and nursery in the Salt River Valley; it consisted of "80 acres, about a mile south of the City limits on the Center Street road, near the Yairgrounds" and in 1892 was thus described;

Almost every conceivable kind of plant and tree are to be found in his nursery. His immense stock of such trees and plants occupies about ten acres and comprises the finest varieties of early and late peaches, apricots, nectarines, plums, prunes, figs, mulberries, etc. His stock of ornamental trees and shrubberies include the pepper, umbrella, hardy catalpa and white ash. The white ash is a native of Arizona and comes next to the cottonwood for quick growth and excellent timber. His supply of this tree is very large. He keeps constantly on hand several varieties of the arbor vitae, oleander, cannas, roses, etc. In his orchard at this place may be seen over five thousand royal apricot trees, between three and four years old, which this season yielded a large crop of fruit. He has also over one thousand trees of early and late peaches, apricots, plums, prunes and nectarines, all bearing heavily, and also has in his orchard, three and one-half miles west of the city, 31 acres of Blair peaches.

The following is extracted from an advertisement which he inserted in the Phoenix Gazette of October 29, 1893:

TREES...I have the trees and have got to sell them extremely low under this Cleveland administration. Will take hay or grain; in fact, almost anything except jawbone..."

Member, Society of Arizona Pioneers, Tucson, and of Astlan Lodge No. 167 (1) F. & A.M., Prescott; died at Phoenix, Maricopa County, A.T., August 17, 1899, aged 66; buried, old City (Pioneers) Cemetery, Phoenix.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Acts of the 1st Territorial Legislature, Prescott, 1864, pp. 32-33.
 Farish, T.E. - History of Arizona, Phoenix, 1915, Vol. 2, pp. 249, 263.
 Elliott & Co. - History of Arizona Territory, S.F., 1884, p. 224
 (portrait).
 Hinton, R.J. - Handbook to Arizona, S.F., 1878, appendix, p. 52.
 Disturnell, W.C. - Arizona Directory and Gazetteer, S.F., 1881, pp.
 145, 167, 256.
 Bensel Co. - Phoenix Directory, 1892, p. 67.
 Great Register of Maricopa County, 1884.
 U.S. Court of Claims - Indian Depredation Docket No. 2750 and 3934.
 U.S. Court of Claims - Indian Depredation Docket No. 1175 (Monihan).
 U.S. Post Office Department - Appointment records.
 The Arizona Miner, Prescott, April 20, 3:4, May 11, 3:1 and December
 14, 1864, 2:4; October 24, 1868, 2:1; January 9, 1869, 2:2;
 July 15, 3:3 and November 27, 1871, 3:2; March 23, 1872, 2:4;
 August 3, 4:2 and August 17, 1877, 4:2.
 The Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, July 28, 1877, 3:1.
 The Salt River Herald, Phoenix, January 29, 1879, 2:1.
 The Phoenix Herald, May 10, 3:2, July 19, 1879, 3:1; January 29,
 1880, 4:1; March 22, 3:1 and August 22, 1883, 3:1; January 9,
 1884, 3:2; January 28, 1887, 3:1.
 The Arizona Gazette, Phoenix, March 18, 3:1, May 24, 3:1 and June 18,
 1881, 3:1; September 28, 2:5 and October 21, 1882, 3:1; February
 5, 3:1, April 18, 3:1, May 26, 3:1, June 12, 3:1, July 17, 3:3,
 July 20, 3:3, August 25, 3:2, August 27, 3:2, August 29, 3:2,
 September 8, 3:2, September 13, 3:1, September 18, 3:2, November
 5, 3:3, December 3, 3:2 and December 13, 1883, 3:1; January 8,
 3:1-2, January 9, 1884, 3:2; January 3, 1887, 3:1; October 29,
 1893 (advt.).
 The Arizona Republican, Phoenix, August, 1892 (special edition);
 August 17, 1899, (obituary) and April 13, 1921, sec. 2, 14:4.
 The Arizona Star, Tucson, July 13, 1888, 4:2.
 The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, August 19, 1899, 1:5 (death notice).
Pick and Drill, Prescott, August 19, 4:1 and August 26, 1899, 1:1-4
 and 2:1-2 (obituary).

WANTED

1. The full text of the newspaper articles on the attached sheet which were located by Mrs. Kitt.
2. Do not bother to look for anything else except mention of him in the Arizona Miner prior to 1872.