

# GAVIN, WILLIAM

GAVIN, WILLIAM, born at \_\_\_\_\_ Nova Scotia, Canada, <sup>60</sup>  
\_\_\_\_\_ 18\_\_ (about 1835; son of \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_.

Listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, 3d Judicial District (Yavapai County) age 30, resident in Arizona 2 months; on June 30, 1865, he recorded the following mining claims in the Big Bug District to which he had acquired title prior to that year; 200 feet each in the following named claims, Chispa, Sonoma, Big Bug, Ella, Bed Rock, Sinaloa, Euridyce, Buncomb, Bourbon and Napa.

He was at Big Bug, Yavapai County, when the 1870 Census was taken, occupation - Hunter; the following references to him appeared in the Prescott Arizona Miner:

March 20, 1874 - - Messrs. Hitchcock and Rogers, of Big Bug, are in town. Mr. H. informs us that his wheel and arrastra, also the wheel and arrastra of Wm. Gavin were working well.

March 10, 1876 - - ISABELLA MILL AND MINE ON BIG BUG.--Mr. C. E. Hitchcock commenced work on the Isabella mine with a small force, under Billy Gavin, on the 1st of November. They now have four shafts from 50 to 60 feet deep, and levels run 50 feet each way showing a vein of ore from two-and-a-half to four feet wide. They have out 500 tons, and are averaging 2½ tons per day to the man.

Work commenced on the mill and buildings December 1st, and in 65 days the ditch, water-wheel, road, etc. were completed, and in 90 days the 10-stamp mill was running with 300 tons of ore in front of the batteries. This is perhaps the quickest work in the way of mill building and mine developing on record.

It is of record that In March, 1878, he sold 12 mining claims in the Humbug District for \$1,000 but he must have had additional resources to accomplish what was reported in the following items printed in the Arizona Miner:

August 23, 1878 - - Some of Billy Gavin's old friends would be surprised should they happen to be traveling through North Carolina and meet him dressed up in a fine suit of black clothes, "biled" shirt, stove-pipe hat, and a pair of high heeled boots, such being a part of the regimentals he has donned.

April 18, 1879 - - C. E. Hitchcock and family, we learn, are living in Alabama, Billy Gavin is also in Alabama, has purchased a farm and become a genuine granger. These people who lived so long in Arizona and had their share of trouble and hardships, we are pleased to know are now quietly passing their days beneath the shades of the palm, fig and orange groves of the balmy South.

He gave up farming in Alabama and returned to mining in Yavapai County as is shown by numerous reports in the Prescott Courier some of which stated:

April 8, 1882 - - Billy Gavin and T. W. Boggs are developing a good mine two miles below Cottonwood Station. One of the owners found the float from the mine some years ago but never pushed his investigation of the ledge until recently.

August 11, 1885 - - THE PINE SPRING MINE - - This property, which, some two months ago, was discovered by Messrs. Gavin and Morgan, is in the Turkey Creek District, about 24 miles south of Prescott. When first found many people said it was a "blow-out." It is not anything of the kind. It is now opened by a good sized shaft a depth of between 40 and 50 feet and has every indication of being a true fissure vein. They have sacked, ready for shipment, ore of sufficient value to make them feel that they are well fixed, financially. They could, to-day, sell their ore for from \$50,000 to \$100,000; that is, the best ore they have taken out.

This mine is owned by the discoverers, Messrs. Gavin and Wm. R. Morgan and John M. Roberts, whom they located with them. The writer has known Mr. Gavin since 1864; Mr. Roberts, from a later date, and Mr. Morgan for a few years. Gavin and Morgan were "hard up" when they struck the treasure; Roberts was well fixed. They deserve the success that is theirs.

No man in Arizona has done more prospecting than Gavin, and his efforts have been made in other sections beside Arizona. From boyhood up he has been on the frontier "chasing the wild deer," hunting flet and breaking rock. He has discovered a great many good ledges, the best of which is undoubtedly the Pine Spring, from which we hope he will realize at least a million.

He has risked his life here and elsewhere throughout the West. Indians have often tried to kill him, but he was wise as well as lucky and always came out first best. His eyes are now getting laxy, but they used to serve him so well that no one could hit a deer any better than Billy; nor has any living Arizonan killed more of them than he.

In the matter of personal appearance, Billy is everything but a dude or dandy, and his acquaintances often ask us the question if we think Billy will put on any style; now that he has "struck it rich." We opine not; he has had "stakes" before and was never known to "fix up" much.

August 18, 1883 - - Two teams, hauling about ten tons of rich silver ore from the Pine Spring mine, Turkey creek district, passed through Prescott Saturday afternoon last bound for Ash Fork, on the Atlantic & Pacific railroad, over which the ore will be taken to Pueblo, Col. Mr. Gavin was with the wagons and will accompany the ore to Pueblo.

Happening to meet him on the street he was pleased to inform us that when he left the mine, about four days ago, the shaft was down 55 feet, at which depth the rich ore was two feet thick and very rich. He showed a large piece of horn silver, which had come from a streak in the bottom of the shaft. It was about two inches in length,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in width and over an inch thick. Those who know believe that the ten tons will sell for from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

April 26, 1884 - - Billy Gavin, with whom we prospected, camped and dodged Indians, as far back as 1864, visited the city yesterday. Billy has stuck to prospecting and mining and has "struck it." We have followed printing, farming, sheep and cattle raising and have been strusk. We do

not envy Billy his good luck in the mines; he richly deserves it.

That he left Arizona for Idaho early that year is indicated by the following item printed in the Prescott Journal-Miner of April 16, 1887:

Billy Gavin, one of the locators of the Pine Spring mine, on Turkey creek, is now in the Coeur d' Alene country.

Died at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.

Buried \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery.

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Yavapai County Book of Mines, 1865, p. 157.  
 The Weekly Arizona Miner, Prescott, March 20, 1874, 3:1; March 10, 1876, 3:2; April 12, 3:1 and August 23, 1878; April 18, 1879, 3:2.  
 The Arizona Enterprise, Prescott, January 30, 3:1, February 27, 3:2, May 11, 3:1 and June 5, 1878, 3:1.  
 The Arizona Gazette, Phoenix, May 24, 3:1 and October 11, 1883, 4:2.  
 The Arizona Journal - Miner, Prescott, April 16, 1887, 3:3.  
 The Prescott Weekly Courier, March 19, 3:8, April 8, 1:8, July 29, 3:2, September 23, 4:3, September 30, 2:2, October 21, 3:1-4, November 11, 2:2 and December 16, 1882, 2:1; May 26, 2:1 and 4:2-3, June 16, 2:4, June 23, 4:1, July 7, 4:3, July 14, 4:2, August 4, 3:3-4, August 18, 1:3, September 8, 4:1, September 15, 3:1 and 4:3, September 22, 3:3, September 29, 4:2, November 10, 1:3, November 17, 2:1, November 24, 1:9 and December 8, 1883, 3:1; January 5, 2:2, February 23, 3:3, March 1, 4:2, and April 26, 1884, 4:1; January 9, 4:3, and March 20, 1885, 3:3; July 10, 1886, 2:2; January 29, 1890, 1:3.

#### WANTED

1. Obituaries or anything to show what finally became of him.
2. References to him in the Arizona Miner before 1874.