

GIRD, RICHARD, born near Cedar Lake (Litchfield), Herkimer County, New York, March 29, 1836; son of John and Laura (King) Gird; one of his maternal ancestors came on the Mayflower; married, Nellie McCarthy of San Francisco, California, in 1881.

Worked on his father's dairy farm and attended common schools; read all the books in the school library and became proficient in mathematics; went to his brother Henry in El Dorado County, California, 1852; located land in the Russian River valley and engaged in ranching until 1857; sailed from San Francisco for Valparaiso in February, 1858; travelled over the greater part of Chile examining mines and assisted in the construction of the first railroad in South America; returned to California via New York, 1861.

Came to Arizona with the first assaying and Civil Engineering outfit in the Territory, 1863; joined with the Bradshaw brothers in establishing a ferry across the Colorado River near La Pas; located the first road from La Pas to Prescott; listed Territorial Census, 1864, at both Olive City and Prescott, occupation - surveyor, resident in Arizona - 12 months, personal property valued at \$40; went with several parties of armed men to prospect for mines in different directions from Prescott.

Jointed the second expedition against the Apaches commanded by Col. King S. Woolsey, which explored central Arizona from Prescott to Camp Goodwin on the upper Gila in June, July and August, 1864; always carried a surveyor's compass with him, took accurate bearings on natural objects of importance and made full notes of his journeyings; as a result of the knowledge thus acquired he was commissioned under an Act of the 1st. Arizona Legislature, approved October 25, 1864, to make an official map of the Territory, which was completed in 1866.

Employed by General Irvin McDowell to assist the Topographical Engineers of the Army in making military maps of Arizona and worked with Professor Whitney in making geological maps of parts of the Territory; engaged in the business of manufacturing mining machinery in San Francisco, 1867-73; returned to Arizona in 1874 where he erected mills at various mines and put into operation the first successful smelter.

As Assayer at the Signal Mine in Mohave County, it was his practice to make free assays for prospectors, and when Edward Schieffelin brought him samples of ore he quickly determined its richness; left Signal with Schieffelin and his brother Albert on February 14, 1878 and hurried to the discovery near the San Pedro river; they staked out the Tough Nut, Goodenough, Lucky Guss, Contention and other mining claims, where the town of Tombstone was afterwards located; he became Superintendent of the Tombstone Mill and Mining Company, erected reduction works at Charleston and turned out the first bullion from them; served as the first Postmaster at Tombstone, A.T., from December 2, 1878 to February 25, 1879.

Sold his 1/3 interest in the mining properties at Tombstone in 1881 for \$800,000 and that year purchased the Santa Ana del Chino rancho in San Bernardino County, California and additional lands until his holdings included 46,000 acres; at one time he owned 800 horses and 6,000 cattle; he laid out the town of Chino on a square mile of land, built a narrow gauge railroad from Ontario and donated 2500 acres of land to Oward Brothers which resulted in the construction of a sugar beet factory in 1891.

About ten years later he unsuccessfully engaged in extensive mining operations in Mexico with the result that at the time of his death he had lost most of his fortune; died at Los Angeles, California, May 29, 1910, aged 74; buried, Rosedale Cemetery, Los Angeles

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