

GOLDWATER, MICHAEL, born at Konin, Russian Poland, in October, 1821; married, Sarah Nathan in London, England, March 4, 1850; children, Morris, Samuel, Henry, Benjamin, Baron Nathan (Barry), Elizabeth, Carrie (Mrs. Philip N. Aronson) and Annie (Mrs. Ralph Prager).

Went from England to California in 1852 and first located in the mining town of Sonora, Tuolumne County; his wife and son, Morris, arrived from England in 1854 and resided with him in Stockton and San Francisco; moved in 1858 to Los Angeles where he was naturalized as an American citizen in 1861.

Came to La Paz on the Colorado River in 1862 to engage in business with his brother Joseph under the firm name of J. Goldwater and Bro.; listed there in the Territorial Census taken in April, 1864, age 44, married, family in California, resident in Arizona 2 years, occupation - Merchant, property valued at \$15,000; changes in the river channel made it difficult to unload freight from steamboats directly into freight wagons at La Paz so they moved their store about 6 miles down stream to a bluff on the Arizona bank at a place which was called Mineral City but became the town of Ehrenberg in 1869.

After the arrival of Federal troops in 1863 they engaged for more than a decade in bidding on Army contracts to supply grain and provisions to the military posts in central and northern Arizona and in carrying out such contracts, built up a large freighting business both from California and New Mexico as is indicated by a paragraph which appeared in the Tucson Arizona Citizen of December 10, 1870:

The Santa Fe Post of Nov. 26th, says: "Mr. M. Goldwater, Esq., of Ehrenberg, Arizona, is in our city, and has favored us with a visit. Mr. G. came to Santa Fe by the new road via Camp Verde, which he assures us is one of the best and smoothest roads in the country, and it is 60 to 70 miles shorter than the old one. M. Goldwater yesterday got the contract for 500,000 pounds of corn, to be delivered at Camp Verde, in accordance with the advertisement of Capt. Hawley, which appeared in The Post, and will undoubtedly purchase it in our Territory and have it taken hence by teams".

The Prescott Arizona Miner of October 29, 1870 reported that "the train of Wilson W. Jones and M. Goldwater has lately delivered a very large load of Government stores at Camp McDowell which was hauled over the new road from Ehrenberg to Salt River and McDowell" and on May 18, 1872, stated that he was in Prescott from Ehrenberg to bid on Army contracts; it was on June 15 of that year when he, with his brother Joseph and Dr. W. W. Jones, were attacked by Apaches near Granite Mountain, west of Prescott, his brother being severely wounded; the Miner of May 7, 1875, also announced that J. Goldwater & Bro. had been awarded Army contracts for supplying Camps McDowell, Verde, Fort Whipple and the Whipple Depot with barley during the fiscal year, 1875-76. .

In 1872 he and his brother opened a branch store in Phoenix on the northwest corner of Jefferson and First Streets which was managed by his son, Morris, until 1876 when the stock was moved to Prescott upon the establishment of their general merchandise business at that place; the following is taken from the Prescott Arizona Enterprise of January 5, 1878:

Dropping into the beautiful store of J. Goldwater & Bro., this morning, we found the old war chief in bad humor, on account of the failure of a certain Mohave Mining Company to pay some of its checks, when due. But, he showed us several bars of silver bullion, which looked very nice and very tempting. They came from the Silver Glance furnace, on the Colorado river.

That robbers as well as Indians caused him trouble is shown by articles printed in the Yuma Arizona Sentinel:

April 17, 1880 - - We are under obligations to Howard Douglas, the popular and efficient proprietor of the stage and mail line between this place and Ehrenberg, for the particulars of the robbery of Goldwater Bro's. store in Ehrenberg, on Monday night. About 11 o'clock Mr. M. Goldwater was awakened by a noise in his room and found himself looking into two ugly sixshooters, held by two resolute men in disguise, one had on a mask and the other was blacked with charcoal. After binding his hands and feet they carried him in the store room and at the muzzle of their revolvers, compelled him to open the safe containing about \$3,000 in money and gold dust, which they secured, and after helping themselves to some canned goods, and a valuable gold watch, hastily departed. Their entrance was effected through the corral, and so quiet was their operations that the cook, a Chinaman sleeping in the next room was not awakened by the noise. Mr. Goldwater thinks the men were Americans from the determination and resolute character of the whole proceedings.

May 1, 1880 - - Mr. Michael Goldwater and his son, Henry Goldwater, arrived from Ehrenberg Thursday. They came down the Colorado in a small boat, and reported everything quiet at Mohave and other points along the river. No clue has as yet been obtained to the perpetrators of the robbery committed on him at his store in Ehrenberg....Mr. M. Goldwater is on his way to San Francisco, Mr. H. leaves today for Prescott.

The following is an extract from an obituary published in the Prescott Courier:

He was in business at La Paz, Ehrenberg, Vulture, and in fact, was well, widely known and favorably known all along the Arizona frontier, for he was a man of great energy, business ability, and correct methods of transacting business. In 1876 he moved to Prescott and started the business which is today continued by his sons, both in this city and Phoenix. He left for San Francisco in 1886, where he has since resided.

He built the store now occupied by Morris Goldwater & Brothers in 1879, and the building at that time was one of the most substantial in northern Arizona, and its builder was in receipt of great praise for showing so much faith in the future of the then struggling village of Prescott.

In 1885, at the earnest solicitation of his fellow citizens, he ran for mayor of Prescott, was elected and proved to be one of the most progressive mayors the City ever had. He was one of the business pillars of this community at a time when such pillars were greatly needed, and he was one of the few who had the foresight and backed it up.

Died at San Francisco, California, April 19, 1903, aged 81; buried there in Sherith Israel Cemetery.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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- Farish, T. E. - History of Arizona, Vol. 2, pp. 286-288; Vol. 6, pp. 207, 211, 212.
- McClintock, J. H. - Arizona - The Youngest State, Chicago, 1916, pp. 404, 566.
- Prescott Town Council. - Minute Book. 1885-86.
- The Arizona Historical Review, Phoenix, April, 1929, p. 9.
- The Arizona Miner, Prescott, November 27, 1869, 3:1; October 29, 1870, 2:3; May 18, 3:1, and June 22, 1872, 2:2; May 7, 1875, 2:3.
- The Arizona Enterprise, Prescott, January 5, 3:4, January 16, 2:5, February 2, 3:1 and February 13, 1878, 3:1-2.
- The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, December 10, 1870, 4:1; September 30, 1876, 1:6.
- The Arizona Graphic, Phoenix, March 10, 1900, 5:3 (reprint from the San Francisco Chronicle).
- The Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, May 12, 1879, 2:3; April 17, 3:2 and May 1, 1880, 3:2, April 22, 1903, 3:2 (obituary).
- The Arizona Journal-Miner, Prescott, September 5, 1898, 1:5; April 20, 4:2 and April 21, 1903, 3:2-3 (obituary).
- The Prescott Courier, June 14, 1897, 3:3; April 21, 1:6 (obituary) and April 27, 1903, 4:1.
- The Arizona Republican, Phoenix, April 21, 1903, 3:2 (obituary).

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- The Arizona Miner, Prescott, July 6, 3:3, August 10, 2:3, September 7, 5:1, October 26, 3:1-2, November 23, 1877, 3:2; February 1, 4:2, April 26, 3:4, May 31, 3:3, August 23, 4:3 and August 30, 1878, 3:1 and 4:1; April 18, 3:1-2, May 9, 4:1, May 30, 3:2 and August 1, 1879, 3:1; February 20, 3:2, April 23, 1:6, May 28, 3:1 and July 30, 1880, 3:3.
- The Prescott Weekly Courier, March 11, 3:3, April 29, 3:1, and August 5, 1882, 4:3; May 26, 3:4, July 14, 3:1 and 4:1 and August 18, 1883, 4:2; January 12, 3:1, February 2, 3:2 and 4:4, March 29, 4:3, July 4, 4:4, November 14, 3:1, December 5, 4:4 and December 12, 1884, 3:2; January 1, 3:2-3, April 3, 4:3, April 10, 4:2, May 21, 3:2, August 7, 4:3, and August 14, 1885, 4:1-3.
- The Arizona Enterprise, Prescott, December 4, 3:1 and December 7, 1878, 1:5.