

# GRIFFIN, NORMAN LEE

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GRIFEN, NORMAN LEE, born at Otselic, Chenango County, New York, October 7, 1833; probably a son of James CO Griffin; never married.

Was in Tucson when the Walker Party arrived there from New Mexico in the spring of 1863; John J. Miller, a member of the Party, remained in Tucson but when news was received of the discovery of gold in the placer diggings on the Hassayampa Griffin went with him to follow the trail of the Party via Maricopa Wells into what is now Yavapai County; listed, Territorial Census, April 1864, single, resident of Arizona one year; occupation, Miner; property valued at \$400.

Joined the rush to the silver discoveries in what is now Gila County and became one of the organizers of the Globe Mining District in December, 1875; he was serving as Constable at Prescott at the time and returned shortly afterwards; served as Justice of the Peace at Lynx Creek in 1883, 1887-88, 1891-92 and 1895-98; member of Aztlan Lodge No. 1, F. & A. M., Prescott; admitted from Yavapai County to the Arizona Pioneers Home in Prescott, February 6, 1911, where he died, May 26, 1916, aged 82; buried, Masonic Cemetery, Prescott; the account of his death in the Prescott Journal Miner reads in part:

He arrived in this section from Tucson on June 7, 1863, or nearly six months before the gubernatorial party reached the boundary line of Arizona, to officially proclaim the founding of the new territory on December 28, 1863, at Navajo Springs. Of a party of eight who made the perilous trip from the south to the north, he is the last to be summoned.

Characteristic of the early-day resident, Judge Griffin was kind, generous, and genial. He extended help to the struggling, and his old cabin on Lynx creek was always open with a kind greeting and warm welcome to any. He followed mining, and prospered therefrom in later years. One conspicuous trait of his long life was his fidelity to the cause of Masonry, with which order he had affiliated for over 51 years ago, clinging faithfully and zealously to its faith from beginning to end.

The Prescott Courier had this to say about him;

He perhaps had as many friends as any man in this County, of which he was a resident from its very early history. His name is synonymous with honor and courage. During the more active years of his life he was a man of force; he was an upbuilder of the country and an upholder of every honorable cause. In the death of N.L. Griffin, Yavapai county loses one who made present-day citizens secure in the possession of homes and comfort. His last years were spent at the Pioneer Home in this city. There has never been, never will be, a more deserving guest of the Home.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- U. S. Census, Otselic, Chenango County, New York, 1840.
- Parish, T. E. - History of Arizona, 1916, vol. 6, p. 87.
- McClintock, J.H. - Arizona, The Youngest State, 1916, p. 617.
- Jackson, O. - The White Conquest of Arizona, L.A., 1908, p. 10 (portrait)
- The Great Register of Yavapai County, 1882-1908.
- Arizona Pioneers' Home, Prescott, - Admission and death records.
- W.P.A. - Roster of Yavapai County Officials, 1942.
- The Arizona Miner, Prescott, December 17, 1875, p. 1, Col. 3.
- The Arizona Daily Star, Tucson, October 12, 1909, p. 4, Col. 3.
- The Journal-Miner, Prescott, May 27, 1916, p.1, Col.5 (obituary)
- The Prescott Courier, May 27, p. 5, Col. 4 and June 3, 1916, p. 5, Col. 3 (obituary),

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- The Prescott Courier, April 21, 1883, 4:2. ← we do not have this volume in State Lib.
- The Journal-Miner, Prescott, May 18, 1916, 6:2. 6:6

WANTED

Further newspaper references to him.