

LEE, JEFFERSON HARRISON

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01

Born at _____ Ohio, _____ 18__ (about 1836).

Son of _____ and _____

Married, Agnes A. _____ at _____ on _____ 18__.

Who was born in Indiana about 1842. Children; Edward, Albert L., John, Fitzhugh, Carl, Mary and Lillian.

Came to Arizona with his wife from Colorado in 1864; the Prescott Arizona Miner of March 26, 1870, carried this item:

J. H. Lee, of Round Valley, who, last week, was reported dead, was in town on the 19th inst. We learn from him that it was the third report of the kind that had been started about him. Some of his cattle strayed away; he went out to gather them up, and having stayed away from home for some time, it was thought he had been gobbled by Indians. He wishes us to return his sincere thanks to General Wheaton for sending troops to guard his family and place; also, to those citizens of Prescott and vicinity who went out to "bury" him.

Listed, U. S. Census, July 27, 1870, at Williamson Valley, Yavapai County, A.T., age 35, born in Ohio, occupation, Farmer; on September 14 of that year, the Apaches stole 7 head of his cattle; listed Disturnell's Arizona Gazetteer, 1881, at American Ranch, 12 miles north of Prescott on the road to Mineral Park, Stage Station and Liquor Saloon.

The Prescott Gourier in the 1880's speaks of him as:

A good old pioneer from American Ranch, 12 miles west of Prescott, who has returned from the railroad where he disposed of a load of grain, potatoes, etc. Mr. Lee has the finest country home in this part of Arizona, produces good crops and owns a great many animals.

That same newspaper reported on June 1, 1890, that:

J. H. Lee of American Ranch, has finished his contract with the Government for digging up and boxing for shipment the remains of U. S. soldiers. He found 18; the remains of men who had been dead for twenty to twenty-five years.

The following account of his life was printed in the Prescott, Journal Miner:

The death of Mr. Lee takes away one of the most resolute men of pioneer days, as well as one of the state's most exemplary citizens. He settled at American ranch, near the foot of Granite mountain, when that locality was infested with Apaches, and life was all the more insecure as the rugged range nearby afforded shelter for Indian depredations that followed for many years. Lee met these perilous situations heroically and single-handed had the credit of making more "good injuns" than any other man who lived in the County.

The American ranch in early days was on the main traveled road to California but for years was completely isolated by many miles from any habitation whatever.

Year in and year out this courageous frontiersman combatted dangers that were imminent from the time the sun rose until it set, in building a home for his wife and children, and in reclaiming the land to make it supporting. His recital of early day perils can best be judged, when it is stated that he never left the home alone for five consecutive years to come to Prescott during the day time, invariably traveling after nightfall. At work in the field he was ambushed several times, but in each case he was the victor in a sharp fight.

"Of course I got in many tight places but got out all right, because my time had not come," he informed friends. The fact of the matter was that Lee had all the cunning of the red man, and was ready for any emergency. His physical ability was remarkable. At 70 years of age he went to Alaskan gold fields, remaining away for two years. Fire destroyed his property there and the old homestead claimed him for the rest of his life.

Died at American Ranch, Yavapai County, A. T., April 7, 1915, aged 79; buried Mountain View Cemetery, Prescott, Arizona

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Probate Court of Yavapai County,-Docket No. 1191
 McClintock, J. H. - Arizona, The Youngest State, 1916, p. 611.
 Farish, T. E. - History of Arizona, 1918, Vol. 8, p. 135.
 Jackson, O. - The White Conquest of Arizona, L. A., 1908, p. 28 (portrait).
 Disturnell, W. C. - Arizona Business Directory and Gazetteer, S. F., 1881, p. 123.
 The Arizona Miner, Prescott, March 26, 1870, p.3, c.2.
 The Journal-Miner, Prescott, April 9, 1915, p.5, c.6 and p. 6., Col. 4, (obituary).
 The Prescott Courier, May 13, p.3, c.5 and July 8, 1882, p.4, c.2; August 4, 1886, p.3, c.2; May 10, p.4, c.2 and November 2, 1888, p.4, c.1, October 23, 1891, p.4, c.2; June 1, 1892, p.4, c.1, and April 10, 1915, p.5, c.3, (obituary).

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