

LYON, ABRAHAM

001

LYON, ABRAHAM, born in England about 1833; never married; at the time of his death his sister, Mrs. Maria Gershon was living in St. Louis, Missouri, with her 3 sons, Samuel, Sylvester and George; another sister, Lizzie Lyon, was then on a visit to England.

Came to the Gadsden Purchase in 1857; in his annual report dated at Santa Fe, October 10, 1862, J. L. Collins, Superintendent of Indian Affairs for New Mexico, stated:

In consequence of having detailed agent Ladadie to accompany the expedition against the Mescaleros, a vacancy existed in the Tucson agency, which I have filled by the appointment of Mr. Abraham Lyon, as special agent, as will appear by the accompanying papers. Mr. Lyon is well acquainted with the Indians of Arizona, especially with the Pimas, Papagos and Maricopas, and will doubtless make an energetic and useful agent. He is now enroute for the agency and is taking with him a small lot of farming implements for the Indians.

In the History of Arizona by T. E. Parish, there is a statement that in April, 1863, sub-agent Abraham Lyon was in Tucson and received 100 stand of old arms which he delivered to the Pima Indians to aid in the defense against the Apaches; his name appears in the Territorial Census taken early in 1864 in the 3d Judicial District, which later that year became Yavapai County, as a single man, age 31, resident in Arizona 8 years, occupation - Miner; the Sheriff's Census of Pima County taken in 1866 and again in 1867 lists him as a resident of Tubac; elected on November 11, 1868, as Night Watchman for the House of Representatives, 5th Territorial Legislature, at Tucson, and served until the session ended on December 16; the following references to him were printed

LYON, ABRAHAM

001

LYON, ABRAHAM, born in England about 1833; never married; at the time of his death his sister, Mrs. Maria Gershon was living in St. Louis, Missouri, with her 3 sons, Samuel, Sylvester and George; another sister, Lizzie Lyon, was then on a visit to England.

Came to the Gadsden Purchase in 1857; in his annual report dated at Santa Fe, October 10, 1862, J. L. Collins, Superintendent of Indian Affairs for New Mexico, stated:

In consequence of having detailed agent Ladadie to accompany the expedition against the Mescaleros, a vacancy existed in the Tucson agency, which I have filled by the appointment of Mr. Abraham Lyon, as special agent, as will appear by the accompanying papers. Mr. Lyon is well acquainted with the Indians of Arizona, especially with the Pimas, Papagos and Maricopas, and will doubtless make an energetic and useful agent. He is now enroute for the agency and is taking with him a small lot of farming implements for the Indians.

In the History of Arizona by T. E. Parish, there is a statement that in April, 1863, sub-agent Abraham Lyon was in Tucson and received 100 stand of old arms which he delivered to the Pima Indians to aid in the defense against the Apaches; his name appears in the Territorial Census taken early in 1864 in the 3d Judicial District, which later that year became Yavapai County, as a single man, age 31, resident in Arizona 8 years, occupation - Miner; the Sheriff's Census of Pima County taken in 1866 and again in 1867 lists him as a resident of Tubac; elected on November 11, 1868, as Night Watchman for the House of Representatives, 5th Territorial Legislature, at Tucson, and served until the session ended on December 16; the following references to him were printed

in the Tucson Arizonian during the year 1869:

March 14 - - - Mr. Abraham Lyon left Tucson last week and has gone to Arizona City. He has been appointed Customs officer at that place, and upon his arrival will assume the duties of his office. Mr. Lyon came to the west in 1857 since which time he encountered many of the dangers and was an actor in many of the scenes which lend so much romance to the frontier life.

May 1 - - - Abraham Lyon, of Arizona City, is our only authorized Agent in Arizona.

July 10 - - - Thursday was quite an eventful day in Tucson. Hon. A. P. K. Safford, our new Governor, arrived on Thursday morning. He reached the Nine Mile Station on Tuesday evening and was there met by a party of our citizens by whom he was escorted into town. Mr. Lyon from Arizona City, arrived with the Governor.

July 31 - - - Mr. Abraham Lyon left for the Cerro Colorado mine on Thursday. This mine is 75 miles distant from Tucson on the Altar route. Mr. L is, we think, running a serious risk in going thither with a party of only three men, himself included.

August 28 - - - Latest accounts from the Apache Pass mine report everything going on vigorously. Several miners are constantly at work taking out rock. Mr. Arnold--connected with the McPherson discovery--examined some specimens of the rock brought from the Pass and pronounced them surpassingly rich. There can be very little doubt as to the justice of Mr. Arnold's opinion, in this respect; of this, all who have any knowledge of mines may convince themselves by calling upon Mr. Lyon who will be happy to submit several specimens to their examination.

And January 8, 1870 - - - Mr. Lyon has arrived from San Pedro and brings tidings of a few cases of pillage by Indians. No murders, or outrages of a serious character have been committed for several weeks; but sufficient has been done in the petty larcenyline to satisfy the inhabitants that there are a few red thieves in the neighborhood.

Listed, U. S. Census, June, 1870, at Tucson, age 38, occupation - Wagon-master, property valued at \$300; on February 17, 1871, he made an affidavit that was included in a memorial to Congress asking protection against hostile Indians which stated:

Abraham Lyon, sworn: Testifies that he has lived in the Territory since 1857 and is a freighter by occupation; that he has traveled extensively over the Territory and has witnessed many depredations and murders that have been committed by the Apache Indians; and that the murders and robberies have been of more frequent occurrence during the last two years than heretofore since his residence in the Territory; that he formerly traveled through the country with 4 or 5 men and now deems it unsafe to travel without 12 or 15 men.

The Tucson Arizonian reported the following about his troubles and his death:

July 23, 1870 - - WHAT HE THINKS OF IT: - - On Monday last, Abraham Lyon, a wagon-master in the employ of Hinds & Hooker, was arraigned before Magistrate Meyer on a charge of assault and battery. It was clearly shown that Mr. Lyon, while on the road, whipped one of his teamsters who had for some time evinced considerable insolence and obstinacy of disposition. Mr. L had the satisfaction of whipping his man--this is admitted--but the gratification cost him \$40.00 by decree of Court.

Now, here is what Abraham thinks of the matter; and we are inclined toward the opinion that there is some sound sense in his argument: The position of a man in charge of a train passing over roads where human habitations are frequently 50 to 100 miles apart and where savage Indians lurk at every mile, is a very responsible one, and should be vested with authority somewhat similar to that vested in the captain of a vessel at sea.

There is certainly some analogy between the positions, as mutiny in either case must result

LYON, ABRAHAM

- 4 -

in disaster. Of course legal decisions must be rendered in accordance with "the laws made and provided;" but it frequently happens that laws become changed because found wanting or extravagant--and we will venture to suggest an incompleteness in the law which denies the wagonmaster the privilege of enforcing subordination where his position renders it impossible for him to either dispense with their services or to replace them by others more tractable.

April 22, 1871 - - - Abraham Lyon, another of Arizona's "old hands" was killed last week while on his way to Camp Apache, in charge of the herd of Messrs. Hinds & Hooker. It is well known that Mr. Lyon was a man of very despotic character, and when vested with authority generally exercised it to an extreme; moreover he was seldom to be found elsewhere than in authority--owing to his fidelity, industry and fine executive ability.

A private letter from Camp Apache says: On the morning of April 1, A. Lyon, was shot and instantly killed, in a row with a man from your place. Lyon snapped his gun twice at him, but it was not loaded. Lyon's last words were-- "he has shot me, I'm a dead man." The shooting occurred about 6 miles northerly from Kennedy's Wells.

A Court record made by Charles H. Meyer, Justice of the Peace at Tucson, reads:

Territory of Arizona vs Henry Gasset.
Murder committed on the first of April, 1871, upon the person of Abraham Lyon. Defendant gave himself up. Discharged on insufficient evidence.

His estate consisted of personal property valued at \$405, the list of which included a revolver, scabbard and belt valued at \$11.50; a California saddle, \$30; a black dress suit, \$20; a sole leather trunk, \$20, and a Guinea gold coin, \$5.50. A number of articles belonging to him were taken to his relatives in St. Louis

LYON, ABRAHAM

- 5 -

by Estevan Ochoa among which were a gold bracelet and 2 rings, 2 pairs of sleeve buttons, 10 photographs and 3 silk handkerchiefs, white and fine; he willed his interest in the Harris gold bearing quartz lode at Apache Pass to his sister Lizzie, and she was also the beneficiary of an insurance policy while residing at 9 Arnold Road, Tooting Gravency, Surrey, England.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Farish, T.E. - History of Arizona, Vol. 2, p. 153.
 Bancroft, H.H. - History of Arizona & New Mexico, p. 501.
 Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1862, p. 384.
 5th Arizona Legislature - Journals, p. 18.
 Probate Court of Pima County - Docket No. 71.
 The Weekly Arizonian, Tucson, March 14, 3:1, May 1, 2:1, July 10, 3:1, July 31, 3:1, August 28, 1869, 3:2; January 1, 3:1 and 3:2, July 23, 3:2, August 27, 1870, 3:1; April 22, 1871, 3:3 (obituary).
 The Arizona Enterprise, Tucson, March 10, 1892, 1:9.

Oury Property Record, 1862-64, p. 78. (Tucson and Vicinity)

Record of Mines.

No.1. A mining claim of twelve hundred yards square to be called the Keo-chin-i-cum Mine has been taken up by Abraham Lyon, Charles O. Brown, Wm. S. Oury, Geo. Bryant and Michael Leydon. Said claim commences at the South West end of the survey made by H.S. Washburn of the lead known as the "Tiger silver lead" and following the vein with all its dips angles and spurs and is situated in what is known as the Cokespa mining district Arizona Territory

Recorded Feb. 4th 1864

Wm S. Oury
 Recorder.