

MCKENNA, MICHAEL

1

MCKENNA, MICHAEL, born at Providence, Rhode Island, February 10, 1832; son of Michael McKenna; his mother was drowned in the Mississippi River in 1844; both parents natives of Ireland; married Manuela Sosa (1852-1907), daughter of Jose Maria and Solana M. Sosa, at Tucson, A. T., January 20, 1867; They had 12 children of whom 5 were living in 1899; Michael, Stephen, Manuel, Anna (Mrs. Frank W. Sabiche), and Katherine (Mrs. W. C. Brown of Cananea).

Ran away from home at the age of 11 years and worked as cabin boy on a schooner that sailed in and out of St. Marks, Florida; later served as cabin boy on a steamboat on the Rio Grande between Fort Brown and Camargo, Mexico; was also office boy for the Army Quartermaster at Camargo; enlisted in the Regular Army under the name of David Dunton at Saltillo, Mexico, December 9, 1846, and assigned as Bugler to the Band of the 1st U. S. Dragoons; transferred to Captain Philip Kearny's Company F., same Regiment and, after service on the Rio Grande, participated in the siege of Vera Cruz, March 9-29; took part in the battle of Cerro Gordo, April 12, 17-18, and the capture of the City of Mexico, September 12-14, 1847.

Listed as a deserter July 31, 1848, at a camp at the Carrollton race course, near New Orleans, Louisiana; in an affidavit made at Tucson, December 2, 1890, he stated that the circumstances were that his father obtained permission from the Commanding officer to take him home to see the family with the understanding that he was to be returned to camp the next morning but upon returning the next day found the regiment had embarked on a steamboat Up the Mississippi River, and, not knowing where to report, returned home; in response to a Memorial adopted by the 18th Arizona Territorial Legislature in 1895 Congress passed a special act,

MCKENNA, MICHAEL

- 2 -

2

approved May 22, 1896, granting him an honorable discharge as of July 31, 1848.

Reenlisted, age 21, under his own name at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, June 18, 1853, to serve 5 years in the Regular Army; occupation when enlisted - Blacksmith; assigned to the Band, 1st U. S. Dragoons and later transferred to his old Company F; served in campaigns against the Ute and Apache Indians; stationed at Fort Union, N. M., October to December 1854, and at Taos in February and March 1855; participated in the actions at Cochotopé pass March 19 and at Punched Pass, New Mexico, March 22 and 23, 1855; marched across southern Arizona via Tucson to Fort Tejon, California, in 1856 where he was honorably discharged on June 18, 1858.

Returned to Tucson in 1864; gave his occupation as Miner when serving as Representative from Pima County, 3d Territorial Legislature, at Prescott, October 3 to November 6, 1866; listed, U. S. Census, 1870, at Tucson, occupation, Clerk in store; Jailer of Pima County, 1873-74; two prisoners, William H. Drum and Kilda Marshall, broke jail on the night of January 29, 1874, but he took their trail the next day and captured them 18 miles west of Maricopa Wells.

Deputy Assessor of Pima County, 1880-81; charter member, Society of Arizona Pioneers, Tucson, January 31, 1884; in later years was employed in the Tucson shops of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company; McKenna Street in Tucson named for him; died at his home in Tucson, May 4, 1904, aged 72; buried Catholic Cemetery, Tucson.

MCKENNA, MICHAEL

- 3 -

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Arizona Pioneers Historical Society, Tucson - Membership and Minute books.
The Adjutant General of the Army - Military service records
U. S. Veterans Administration - Pension records Mex. W.C. 13, 836
Probate Court of Pima County - Docket No. 1448
54th Congress, 1st Session - H. R. 3596 by Delegate Murphy, House Report 131,
Senate Report 603, Act of May 22, 1896 (29 Stat. p. 728)
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Acts and Memorials, 18th Territorial Legislature, 1895, p.145
Farish, T. E. - History of Arizona, Vol. 4, p. 165
Kelly, G. H. - Legislative History, Arizona, Phoenix 1926, p. 24
W. W. Elliott & Co. - History of Arizona Territory, S.F., 1884, p.64
Barter, W. C. - Directory of the City of Tucson, S.F., 1881, p.98
The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, November 1, 1873; February 7, 14, and 21, 1874
The Tucson Citizen, May 4, 1904, 5:5 (Obituary)
The Arizona Star, Tucson, May 4, 1:6 and May 5, 1904, 8:2 (Obituary and funeral)