

# NEAHR, DAVID

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NEAHR, DAVID, born at Mohawk, Herkimer County, New York, 1826; his parents were both natives of the State of New York; married Maria Epsas (1842-91), a Cocopah Indian, about 1858; children, Freedom (James), Freeson (William), Freeman (Harry), Freeborn (Charles), Freecome (Frank), Freeling (Major), Freeland, Freechild (Chito), Fanny<sup>F</sup> (Mrs. Thomas Arriola) and Fida Mary (Mrs. Mateo Pancrazi).

Learned the trade of steam engineer at Norristown, Pennsylvania; came to Fort Yuma in 1855 and was employed by the Colorado Steam Navigation Company as Chief Engineer for over 10 years; listed, U. S. Census, 1860, at Arizona City (Yuma) as Steamboat Engineer; while at work on the river he also became interested in mining and in 1863 joined in the location of 8 claims in the La Paz District, 13 in the Castle Dome District and 2 in the Weaver Mining District.

Listed, U.S. Census, 1870, at Arizona City, as Grocer, property valued at \$5,500; elected at a joint session of the Arizona Legislature as one of three members of the Board of Territorial Prison Commissioners created by an Act approved February 12, 1875, which authorized an issue of 5 year Territorial bonds amounting to \$25,000 for the erection of a Territorial Prison at Yuma; the prison was built and he continued to serve on the Board being its Chairman in 1882.

On October 5, 1875, he purchased the Northeast Quarter of Section 7, Township 1 North, Range 6 East for \$600 from George W. Buck to whom the land had been patented on April 10, 1874; a few years later, on March 6, 1880, he filed plat of Neahr's Addition to the town of Phoenix which subdivided the quarter section that is now bounded on the east by 7th Avenue, on the south by Harrison Street, on the west by 15th Avenue and on the north by Woodland Avenue; the Carnegie Library now occupies the block near the

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the center of the addition which he designated as "Public Grounds".

In addition to his general merchandise store in Yuma he continued to be interested in mining by making 8 placer locations along Laguna Gulch in 1872 and by joining in the location of 8 placer claims in the Gila City Mining District in 1877; the following newspaper item was printed on August 10, 1878;

The new Picacho quartz mill is being put up in solid shape, with heavy stone foundation and walls. The proprietor, Mr. David Neahr, is a practical mechinist and is giving the job personal supervision.

That he found some gold there is shown by another item in the Yuma Sentinel of June 4, 1898;

Harry Neahr, son of David Neahr, sports a watch fob of gold taken from the Picacho mine nineteen years ago. It was designed and manufactured by his father, David Neahr.

Listed, U.S. Census, 1880, at Yuma as Merchant and the following year his name appears in Disturnell's Arizona Gazetteer as prospector of the Agua Caliente Hot Springs; at the time of his death he also owned 200 acres of patented land near Palomas, in Yuma County, upon which he had 100 head of cattle, 13 horses, 8 mules and a Kentucky Jack; the Neahr Addition to Phoenix was appraised at \$4,900 in 1884;

Died at Yuma, A.T., March 26, 1884, aged 58; buried, Yuma Cemetery; the Yuma Arizona Sentinel said of him;

Mr. Neahr has been identified with Yuma for 29 years. Coming here at such an early day he had been able to watch the growth and progress of every industry and has assisted in many of them. Into whatever business he embarked he carried the same principles of honesty and rectitude. As engineer, machinist, merchant and miner, Mr. Neahr was always recognized as a thoroughly honestman. His funeral which took place Thursday afternoon, was attended by a large concourse of friends and relatives. The funeral service of the Masonic order was read.

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## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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