

PERALTA, MIGUEL LAURO

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PERALTA, MIGUEL LAURO

Born at Ures, Sonora, Mexico, September 29, 1838.

Son of Miguel and _____ Peralta.

Married, Dolores Arviza at _____ on _____ 18__ (about 1866)

Children, Miguel Jr., Lauro, Arnulfo, Pablo, Raymundo, Maria
(Mrs. _____) and Dolores (Lolita).

First came to Arizona from Sonora in 1859 and went with his father to San Diego, California; they returned in 1864 to engage in mining in Yavapai County; while there they met Dr. George M. Willing Jr., who, on October 20, 1864, purchased from his father for \$1,000 a Spanish land grant which later served as the basis for the fraudulent claim of James A. Peralta-Reavis to a large area of land in Central Arizona; with reference to this grant, Charles D. Poston stated in 1891:

I was also importuned to purchase Miguel Peralta's title from the King of Spain for the Salt River Valley; but my experience with Spanish grants in Texas, California, and Arizona did not incline me to invest, even if the grant had been made by the Pope of Rome and guaranteed by the Continental Congress.

A report on the Valenciana mine, located about 40 miles southeast of Prescott, written by H. A. Bigelow in 1878, states:

The Black Canyon mines were first discovered in 1864 by Mexicans, who were working placers in Turkey Creek, on which Black Canyon is situated, and they at once built arrastras and worked the mine for two years, during which time they extracted, according to Peralta's books, over \$35,000 in gold.

Three times the Apaches stole from the Peralta party all their horses and mules harassed the miners so much that they abandoned the mine. During the present year, M. L. Peralta & Co., worked three tons from the bottom of the old workings.

Listed, U. S. Census, 1870, at Wickenburg, A. T., occupation - Merchant; appointed Postmaster at that place in April, 1878; the Prescott Arizona Enterprise of May 29, 1878, reported that:

M. L. Peralta, a big merchant of Wickenburg, and Mr. Frank Kirkland, came in to-day. Mr. Peralta has lately purchased about 250 head of stock cattle which are grazing on the Santa Maria, in this County.

He sold his Wickenburg store in August, 1878, and moved to Phoenix where he was nominated on the Democratic ticket for County Treasurer but was defeated at the general election by Francis A. Shaw; the following references to him were printed in the Salt River Herald which in March, 1879, became the Phoenix Herald:

November 16, 1878 - - Work was commenced last Monday morning on the foundation of M. L. Peralta's new (adobe) building, (N.E.) corner Washington and Center streets. It will cost, when completed, \$6,000, and be one of the handsomest buildings in our midst. The building will have a frontage of 50 feet on Washington street, with a depth of 65 feet on Center street. The main store will be 30 x 65, and fitted up in a manner suitable for a mercantile business of large dimensions. A storeroom adjoining occupies a space of 20 x 65. The private office of Mr. Peralta will be fitted up in the rear part of the main store.

March 8, 1879 - - The new postoffice, in Peralta's new building, will be the best in the country.

March 15, 1879 - - Peralta's new building is finished and the work of moving in has commenced.

March 22, 1879 - - Peralta's teams arrived from the railroad a few days since with an immense quantity of goods for that enterprising merchant.

March 29, 1879 - - A brick pavement has been completed in front of the store of M. L. Peralta

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and the Bank of Arizona. This is the first sidewalk of the kind in Phoenix and we think it will prove a great improvement over the present styles.

April 2, 1879 - - M. L. PERALTA

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Corner of Washington and Center Streets.
The Largest, Best and Most Complete Stock in Every
Department,

EVER BROUGHT to PHOENIX.

Immense New Stock Will Arrive This Week Fresh from
First Hands,

Bought Expressly For This Market,
And Selected With Great Care.

Great Reduction in Prices in All Departments. Silver
Dollars Taken at Par for Merchandise.

April 12, 1879 - - On Wednesday evening Mr. M. L. Peralta received per Peralta and Fowler's teams, at his store on the corner of Washington and Center streets, upward of 30,000 pounds of merchandise consisting mostly of dry goods.

June 4, 1879 - - The large hay scales of M. L. Peralta, are the only ones in the valley. They are doing considerable business in the shape of weighing loads of hay and barley.

June 21, 1879 - - M. L. Peralta who returned from a trip in the north-western portion of the county, informs us that the mill at Seymour will start up about the 10th. A frame building 20 x 40 has lately been completed and is now used by him as a store. The town is quite lively and will soon be quite a city.

December 31, 1880 - - M. L. Peralta, our oldest merchant in the valley, has marked his prices down very low for the next thirty days, and buyers with ready cash will find it a paying investment to lay in a supply of goods now.

He went out of business in Phoenix early in 1881 and was later associated with Joseph Goldwater who had a store at Fairbank in Cochise County; was living there when he joined the

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Society of Arizona Pioneers on January 9, 1882, occupation - Merchant; the Phoenix Arizona Gazette of October 25, 1883, reported that he was a visitor from Tucson and the Prescott Courier stated on February 23, 1884, that he was then living in Sonora; the following announcement of his death by suicide was printed in the Nogales Oasis of November 6, 1897:

Having some business yesterday morning at the room of Mr. Miguel Peralta, who had been the book-keeper at his store, Mr. A. F. Paredes went to the room of the gentleman, on International Street, and was shocked and horrified to find him stretched in death upon the floor; a bullet wound in his head and a pistol in his hand with a discharged cartridge told that the fatal wound had been self inflicted.

The authorities were notified, and Justice Duffy empanelled a coroner's jury who took the testimony of several who knew of some facts bearing upon the case. Mr. Thomas Harrison testified that about three o'clock in the morning he took the deceased (who had been drinking and gambling) to his room. Mr. Paredes introduced a note from the deceased which was found on the table with a Mexican dollar resting upon it which read: "I had the money; I have lost it: goodbye."

Deceased was an old and well known citizen of Pima county, having resided many years in Tucson and was also at one time in business at Crittenden. He was a native of Ures, Sonora, but was raised and educated in California.

Died at Nogales, Santa Cruz County, A.T., November 5, 1897,

aged 59; buried _____ CEMETERY.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- The Arizona Miner, Prescott, November 25, 4:5 and 3:4, December 23, 1871, 3:1; January 6, 4:6, September 21, 4:2, and October 5, 1872, 2:3; March 20, 1874, 4:3; January 8, 1875; May 24, 3:3, June 7, 4:2, August 9, 3:3, August 16, 1:6, November 15, 1878, 2:4; September 26, 1879, 3:1.
- The Prescott Courier, August 11, 1883, 1:4; February 23, 1884, 2:1; April 24, 1885, 2:3.
- The Arizona Journal, Prescott, March 21, 1884, 2:1.
- The Arizona Enterprise, Prescott, April 20, 3:2, May 15, 1:4, May 29, 2:2, June 5, 1878, 1:3.
- The Salt River Herald, Phoenix, February 23, 2:4 and 3:2, March 13, 3:1, March 27, 3:4, August 10, 3:2, August 24, 2:4, September 28, 3:2, October 19, 3:1, November 16, 3:2, November 30, 3:3, December 21, 3:1 and December 28, 1878, 2:3; 1878; January 4, 3:3, Jan. 15, 3:1, Jan. 25, 3:1, February 5, 3:1, Feb. 15, 3:1, Feb. 22, 2:2 and 3:1; Feb. 26, 1879, 3:1.
- The Phoenix Herald, March 8, 3:1, March 12, 3:2, March 15, 3:1, March 22, 3:1, March 29, 3:2, April 2, p. 4, (adv.), April 12, 3:1 and 3:3, April 19, 3:2, May 7, 3:2, May 14, 3:1, May 21, 3:1, May 28, 3:3, June 4, 3:1 and 3:3, June 21, 3:1, July 5, 3:1, July 12, 3:1, July 23, 3:1, September 13, 1879, 3:1; December 31, 1880, 4:1; May 27, 3:2, May 30, 3:1, June 8, 3:1 and June 22, 1881, 3:1; October 13, 1882, 1:6 and 2:5; April 25, 1891, 3:4.
- The Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, August 17, 1878, 3:2.
- The Nogales Herald, November 11, 1889, 4:1.
- The Arizona Gazette, Phoenix, August 14, 3:2 and November 9, 1882, 3:1.
- The Oasis, Nogales, February 1, 1896, 8:3; November 6, 1897, 5:2 (obituary).

WANTED

1. Any additional references to him in the A. A. Johns file of the Miner. ✓
2. Obituaries in the Prescott or other Arizona newspapers. *None*