

PHY, JOSEPHUS

PHY, JOSEPHUS, born in Platte County, Missouri, May 22, 1845; son of Aguilla and Polly Phv; married, (1) Christ ina Cavaness, daughter of Mathew Cavaness, at Phoenix, A.T., October 14, 1876, from whom he was divorced at Phoenix on April 9, 1878, (2) Jesusita Rabago at _____ on September 16, 1882; children, Amelia (Mrs. _____ Smith), Louise (Mrs. _____ Merion) and Rose (Mrs. _____ Proto).

Came to Prescott, A.T., 1864; in 1865 he fought off by himself a band of Apaches for over 3 hours at Woolsey Hill between Mint Valley and Skull Valley, Yavapai County, A.T., on the road to Prescott, defending his wagons and 6 mule team until help arrived from Skull Valley and the Indians were dispersed; was one of the organizers of the Salt River Farming Ditch Company at Phoenix, A.T., January 1, 1870; the Apaches stole 6 head of his cattle in the Salt River Valley, August 10, 1870; appointed Deputy Sheriff at Phoenix in 1871; late in February, 1872, at the Hay Camp on the Agua Fria west of Phoenix, he and Milton Warden killed two Mexicans, one of whom was Joaquin Barbe, who, a few days before, had robbed the Prescott-Phoenix Stage Station at Martinez Ranch and murdered Samuel T. Cullumber, the Station-keeper, and Harris, the stock-tender; while still serving as Deputy Sheriff in 1875 he was waylaid, stabbed and thrown into an irrigation ditch for dead by Mexicans just north of the present site of the Hotel Adams in Phoenix; was living at the Agua Fria Stage Station in May, 1877, when 29 head of livestock were stolen by two Mexicans; he pursued them to near Gila Bend and recovered the animals.

Moved to Tucson about 1880 where he went into partnership with Adam Sanders in the business of supplying domestic water obtained from a spring south of the town which was delivered to their customers from large tank wagons; finding his occupation gone by the construction of a water system which piped water to the residences he removed to Florence in 1884; member of Tucson Lodge No. 4, F.&A.M.

and of the Society of Arizona Pioneers.

Appointed Under-Sheriff by J. P. (Pete) Gabriel, Sheriff of Pinal County, in 1886; the next year they quarreled and Gabriel discharged him; bad blood continued between them and when they met about 8 P.M. on June 1, 1888, in J. G. Keating's Tunnel Saloon in Florence a pistol fight occurred; both men began firing at the same instant; Phy shot Gabriel in the right groin and through the left lung but the Sheriff recovered and lived until July 29, 1898, when he died of natural causes near Mineral Creek in Pinal County; Phy was hit in the abdomen, the right thigh and through the lungs and died at 12:30 that night, aged 43; buried in the Masonic section, Florence Cemetery, Pinal County, Arizona.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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- Barter, G.W. - Directory of the City of Tucson, S.F., 1881, p. 101.
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- The Arizona Weekly Citizen, Tucson, June 9, 1888, (obituary).
- The Arizona Enterprise, Florence, June 2, p. 3, and June 9, p. 3, 1888, (obituary).
- The Tombstone Daily Prospector, June 5, 1888, p. 3, Col. 2 & 3, (obituary).