

PUNTENNEY, ELI

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Born at _____ Indiana _____, 18 ____ (about 1844).

Son of Wilson and Fannie Puntenney, both born in Ohio.

A. F. Banta wrote from St. Johns, A.T., on September 23, 1889, that in 1864 Eli Puntenney and James Fine owned a stone cabin in a little valley just below Prescott; from a corral adjoining the cabin Apaches stole 54 head of oxen belonging to Charles Beach while they were all asleep in the cabin; listed, U.S. Census, 1870, at Williamson Valley, Yavapai County, age 26, born in Indiana, occupation - Farmer; the Prescott Arizona Miner of August 17, 1870, printed the following:

Indian news has been rather scarce for some weeks past, but the reds "still live". Sunday morning, the 21st inst., they gobbled up fourteen head of horses and mules in Williamson Valley belonging to C. C. Bean, Eli Puntenney, and other farmers. Monday night they took six fine government mules and two horses from Dan O'Leary at a camp of a government train about a mile this side of Camp Hualpai. The fine stallion that Puntenney lost some time ago was recently seen in possession of the Zuni Indians, who stated that they thought him from the Navajos.

The Prescott Courier of February 3, 1905, stated:

Eli Puntenney, who has been here for some time on Indian claim business, will leave for Needles, California. An Indian claim agent, Mr. Stannsbury, will arrive in Prescott from Washington in about thirty days.

Died at Needles, San Bernardino County, California, August 28, 1913, aged 70; buried, Evergreen Cemetery, Phoenix, Arizona; the following obituary was printed in the Prescott Journal-Miner:

For the past eight years the deceased had resided in Needles, California, where he was established in the blacksmith and wood working business. Two years ago he was a visitor to this section, coming to renew early day associations and from his popularity met with a generous reception from many

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friends.

In the early days Mr. Puntenney was a sturdy citizen, the owner of several ranches in various localities adjacent to Prescott, and was one of the most generous of men and with a temperament that made him a host of friends and not an enemy. The passing of this man again thins out the ranks of the Hassayamper, and news of his death will be regretted by all who enjoyed his acquaintance.

In reporting his death the Prescott Courier gave this review of his life:

Deceased is well and favorably remembered as a pioneer of this County, where he resided for about a quarter of a century. He was among the first settlers in Williamson Valley, being the original owner of the ranch now owned by Joe Matli. He also engaged in the blacksmithing business at Simmons and was an active business man at whatever he undertook. When Fort Whipple was headquarters he was one of the contractors who furnished hay and produce for the garrison.

In earlier days he was in charge of the Porter freight teams across the plains, and he also freighted between Prescott and Fort Mohave in the days when that avocation, on account of the Apache, was more dangerous than the life of a soldier. The death of Eli Puntenney strikes from the rapidly shortening list of our pioneers one who was honored by the men of his day and generation, among whom he made his mark because of his fearlessness, his generosity and his integrity.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Dawes Publ. Co. - What Made Arizona (Arizona - Its Men), Phoenix, 1920, p. 33.
 Barnes, W. C. - Arizona Place Names, 1935, p. 350.
 The Arizona Miner, Prescott, August 17, 1870, 3:2; June 24, 1871, 3:1
 The Prescott Courier, February 3, 4:1, June 16, 1905, 4:1; September 6, 1913, 3:4 (obituary).
 The Journal-Miner, Prescott, February 8, 1887, 3:4; January 1, 1890; September 9, 1913, 3:4 (obituary).
 The Arizona Gazette, Phoenix, August 29, 1913, 1:3 (death notice).
 The Arizona Republican, Phoenix, September 4, 1913, 3:4 (funeral).
 The Needles Eye, Needles, California, August 30, 1913, (obituary).

WANTED

Any references to him in the newspaper indexes.