

POINTER, WILLIAM

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Born at _____ Kentucky _____, 18 _____.
(About 1809).

Son of _____ and _____.

Married _____ at _____ on _____, 18 _____.

Children _____.

Came from Colorado to Northern Arizona, 1863; the Journal of the Walker Party shows that he located the Pointer lode on Lynx Creek, February 20, 1864; listed, Territorial Census, April 1864, 3rd District (Yavapai County) age 55, born in Kentucky, Married, family in Missouri, occupation, Miner, resident in Arizona one year, property-valued at \$40; the Prescott Arizona Miner for October 9, 1869, states that:

Z. Jackson, "Uncle Billy" Pointer, J. W. Simmons, Tom Simmons and eight or ten others returned to town from a trip to the Verde River after having killed 13 deer, and caught about 500 pounds of fish.

Rossiter W. Raymond wrote the following in his third annual report on mines and mining west of the Rocky Mountains, 1871:

The Billy Pointer Ledge on Lynx Creek is, considering all the circumstances connected with it, by far the best vein in the Walker district, and perhaps the most valuable in all the Prescott region. The lead was discovered and located by William Pointer, familiarly known as "Uncle Billy Pointer," an old Coloradopioneer, who came to this country in 1863, after having made and lost a fortune in one of the Gilpin County gold leads, which to this day has a good reputation. Uncle Billy owns 400 feet on the lead, and ever since 1866 he has worked this property entirely alone for a living.

He is a fine specimen of a Western pioneer, one of the men who have always kept in advance of the railroads, and who don't feel well unless separated from civilization by hundreds of miles of Indian country. He is now quite old and white-headed, but he still does all his work without any aid whatever. He sinks his shafts and mines his ore, leaving his faithful dog at the mouth of the shaft to watch for Indians, and when he has dug out a bucket-full he ascends the ladder and winds it up himself. In the same manner he takes it alone to his arrastra, which

is close by, and grinds his own ore by water-power, the 18 foot wheel of which was built by his own hands. He has sunk two shafts, one 34, and the other 22 feet deep, and three prospect holes of 10 to 12 feet in depth on the main vein and its branches. None of the ore worked so far has yielded less than \$30, nor more than \$42 per ton.

In 1866, the first year of his working the vein, Uncle Billy took out \$300; in 1867, 1868, and 1869, \$2,000; and in 1870, \$1,200. Considering the circumstances and the surrounding difficulties, the most prominent of which are the Indian troubles and the distance from which Mr. Pointer has to get his supplies, (for he can neither plant anything nor raise stock,) this yield is very satisfactory. There is sufficient water in Lynx Creek at this point to run the arrastras continually for six months by water power; and Mr. Pointer told me that in one year he had run for nine months .

His return to Colorado is shown by an item in the Prescott Enterprise printed on January 5, 1878:

Our old stand-by, Uncle Billy Pointer, has written a letter to Hon. S. C. Miller, from which letter we learn that the old gentleman is living at Castle Rock, Douglas County, Colorado. Singular to relate, he has not visited his folks in Missouri.

Died at _____ on _____, 18 _____.

Buried _____ Cemetery _____.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Great Register of Yavapai County, 1876
- Raymond, R. W. - Mining Statistics West of the Rocky Mountains, 1871, pp. 249, 250
- W. P. A. Writers Project - Journal of the Walker Party, p. 59
- The Arizona Miner, Prescott, October 9, 1869
- The Arizona Enterprise, Prescott, January 5, 1878, p. 3, c.2 and July 10, 1878, p.1., c.4.