

# POSTLE, ROBERT

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POSTLE, ROBERT, born in England, 1837; married Hannah I. Shivers, daughter of David Wesley and Sarah Ann (Roberts) Shivers, at Prescott, A.T., September 10, 1867; children, Robert David, Rosina Ann (who died in infancy), and Alice (Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_); after his death Mrs. Postle married S.C. Rees and the 10th Territorial Legislature passed an Act approved February 7, 1879, providing:

That the name of Alice Postle and the name of Robert Postle, only daughter and son of Robert Postle, be changed to Alice Rees and Robert Rees.

Came to the United States before he was 18 years old; listed, U.S. Census, 1860, at Tucson, age 23, born in England, occupation - Grocer; after the outbreak of the Civil War he went to New Mexico and at Santa Fe on February 7, 1863, was mustered in to serve 3 years as 2d Lieutenant, Company L, 1st New Mexico Cavalry; promoted to 1st Lieutenant at Fort Craig, N.M., September 4, 1863, and transferred to Company G, same Regiment; on October 3, 1863; while on an expedition from Fort Canby, N.M., under command of Colonel Christopher Carson, he discovered a Navajo Indian whom he pursued and wounded; was himself slightly wounded by the Navajo before capturing him; charged with "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman" and tried by court-martial at Santa Fe upon the following specifications:

1st - "In this; that Lieutenant Robert Postle, 1st N.M. Vols., did after having run his horse against a horse of Captain Joseph Birney of the same Regiment, and having by this act ascertained that his horse was the fastest, did make a race with the said Captain Joseph Birney for one hundred and fifty (\$150) dollars, thereby intending to defraud him of this amount. This at Fort Canby, N.M., on or about the fifth day of October, 1863."

2d - "In this; that Lieut. Robert Postle, 1st N.M. Vols., after having been asked if he had ascertained the relative speed of the two horses, did, in the most positive terms disclose that 'he had not', which statement was false and was made with the view of defrauding the said Captain Joseph Birney of the amount of one hundred and fifty (\$150) dollars. This at Fort Canby, N.M., on or about the fifth day of October, 1863."

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He was found guilty and dismissed from the service of the United States on December 31, 1863 pursuant to General Orders No. 33, Department of New Mexico; came to Arizona and located a ranch at the original site of Fort Whipple in the Little Chino Valley, after that Post was moved 21 miles south to near Prescott in May, 1864; declined a Commission as 2d Lieutenant tendered by Governor Goodwin by letter written at Maricopa Wells May 31, 1865, upon the condition that he recruit a company of Infantry in Yavapai, Mohave and Yuma Counties for service against hostile Indians; naturalized as an American Citizen in the 3d Judicial District Court at Prescott, October 11, 1865; was an able horseman and had a strong appreciation for the sports of the turf; owned a noted race horse which was stolen by the Apaches shortly before his death.

Died of liver complaint at Prescott, Yavapai County, A.T., April 9, 1871, aged 34; his estate consisted of a 160 acre ranch near the present railroad station at Del Rio which, with a grist mill, live stock and farm implements, was valued at \$3,250; a report of his death in the Prescott, Arizona Miner reads;

Deceased was well and favorably known all over this Territory and New Mexico, and hundreds of friends will mourn his untimely taking off. His remains were followed to the grave Monday last, by a large number of people.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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