

PRATHER, ABRAHAM

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PRATHER, ABRAHAM, born at Hagerstown, Washington County, Maryland, April 14, 1833; son of Perry and Elizabeth (Troxell) Prather, both natives of Hagerstown; his grandfather came to Maryland from England as a missionary.

As a youth, moved with his parents to Illinois and came to Arizona in 1864; listed in the Sheriff's Census of Mohave County in 1866; he served as a member of the Grand Jury at Prescott in June, 1871, and was an election judge for the Williamson Valley precinct, Yavapai County, in October 1872; the Prescott Arizona Miner of February 1, 1878, stated:

The past four days showed indications of a storm which would undoubtedly have taken place had it not been for the unthoughtfulness of Abe Prather, who yesterday slipped his coat on which had the effect of driving clouds and storm up north.

The following references to him were printed in the Prescott Arizona Enterprise, in 1878:

May 1 - -The Silver Flake and Kit Carson mines have been bonded by Mr. D. A. McKinley, of San Francisco, who, we learn from Col. Robert Wood, has agreed to pay \$25,000 for the same, inside of four months. This transaction may be considered a sale. The mines are in Big Bug District, about 15 miles east of Prescott; they are pretty well prospected and developed; their ores have always been rich. The price is very low, but some of the owners were not getting along harmoniously, hence the sacrifice.

We rejoice over the fact that so good a man as Mr. McKinley has become heir to the pie. Robert E. Wood, T. J. Butler, V. Gleason, Fred Williams, E. D. Thomas, N. and H. Ellis, own the Carson; John Taylor, A. Prather and R. C. Wood own the Silver Flake. 'Rah for old Big Bug District, she's coming out.

October 19 - - Counterfeit Mexican dollars have recently been seen here, by Abe Prather, J. N. Rodenburg and other keen-eyed citizens who are down on baseness of every sort.

November 2 - - Abe Prather, one of the oldest and best citizens of Arizona, has gone to Verde to work for John G. Campbell (candidate for Delegate to Congress). Mr. Prather has lost several thousand dollars by working for Woolsey and Davis, so he proposes, from this on, to work for a man who has never cheated a working man out of his just dues. Campbell is that man.

The Prescott Arizona Miner for December 5, 1879, announced that:

Abe Prather, well and favorably known to all the voters in the Prescott precinct, comes to the front to-day, announcing himself as candidate for Marshal of this Village, at the ensuing election in January. The gentlemen out for this office have many friends, and it looks as though the race is to be a spirited one.

The Prescott Courier published these items about him:

April 4, 1884 - - Abe Prather, a veteran Arizonian, is in command at the Post Trader's store at Whipple, during the absence of Mr. Oliver.

November 21, 1884 - - Abe Prather, the good-natured presiding genius of the Whipple Barracks trader's store, was in town yesterday, "shaking" with tried friends.

April 20, 1886 - - Abe Prather, one of the most ancient of Hassayampers, continues to do the fair thing by Prescottites who visit the Whipple Trader's institution.

The following is taken from an obituary printed in the Prescott Journal-Miner:

Abe Prather was among the last of the mule team era of freighting days, and first came across the Colorado River with his outfit early in 1864, bringing supplies to Prescott a short time after the capital of Arizona was established here. It required a brave heart and a steady hand to make such a journey at that time, but Prather performed his duty fearlessly and faithfully for his employers.

Later he continued freighting in and out of this city to military posts adjacent, when he entered civil pursuits. As a resident of this city for over half a century he won the affection and good will of all. He came west over sixty years ago, from Athens, Illinois, locating in California, being a member of an exploring party of which Fred W. Williams, a resident of Prescott, was associated.

Died at Prescott, Arizona, March 9, 1916, aged 82; buried, Yavapai County Cemetery.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Arizona Division of Vital Statistics - Death Certificate, 1916
 Illinois Department of Health - Death Certificate of his brother,
 Washington B. Prather, February 16, 1931.
 The Arizona Miner, Prescott, June 24, 1871, 3:1; July 20, 4:1
 and October 12, 1872, 3:4; June 29, 1877, 2:1; February 1,
 1878, 4:1; December 5, 1879, 3:1-2.
 The Arizona Enterprise, Prescott, May 1, 3:2, October 19, 3:2,
 October 26, 3:2 and November 2, 1878, 3:1.
 The Prescott Courier, November 11, 1882, 4:1; April 19, 4:3 and
 November 21, 1884, 4:2; April 17, 1885, 3:7; April 20, 3:1
 and July 24, 1886, 3:1; March 11, 1916, 5:2 (obituary).
 The Journal-Miner, Prescott, March 10, 1916, 5:4 (obituary).