

PURCELLA, FRANK, born in Naples, Italy, about 1832; married, at Prescott, A.T., on April 20, 1882, by Rev. Julius Dereches, to Luz Romero.

Listed, Territorial Census, 1864, at La Paz, age 32, born in Italy, occupation - Clerk, resident in Arizona 1 year; U. S. Census, 1870, at Wickenburg, age 38, occupation - Merchant; this sketch of his life is taken from an "In Memoriam" printed in the Phoenix Herald a few days after his death:

Frank Purcella came to Arizona in 1862, settling at La Paz, in the employment of Manuel Ravena, where his kind and gentle disposition, with an honest character won for him the confidence of his employer. In Prescott Ravena opened a branch store in company with Theophile Louisillon, with Frank Purcella as manager and did a flourishing business up to the time of Ravena's death.

Purcella then came to Wickenburg and associated in business with M. L. Peralta. The town of Phoenix springing up, that firm opened a branch store here and done well. Dissolving partnership, Frank Purcella continued in business and recently had removed to Tempe in company with James Murphy.

Amidst the regret of all those who knew him, he passed away, let us hope to a land where the golden sun-lit shores will rival those of his own fair Italy.

The Great Register of Maricopa County shows that he was naturalized as an American Citizen in a court of record at New York City in 1852; the following references to him appeared in the Prescott Arizona Miner:

January 6, 1872 - -Notice: Miguel Peralta of Wickenburg, A.T. is hereby authorized to collect all the debts of the late firm of M. Peralta & Co. Francisco Purcella having sold all interest in the firm, hereby acknowledging the same.

August 24, 1872 - - Frank Purcella arrived by buckboard from the Colorado River, recently.

September 14, 1872 - - "We the undersigned, summoned as a jury to hold an inquest on the bodies of the following named persons found murdered in the stage coach, about six miles from the town of Wickenburg, on the La Paz road, on the morning of the 5th of November, 1871, from all the evidence obtained from the two surviving passengers, do find that C. S. Adams, John Lentz, Fred W. Loring, Fred W. Shoholm, W. G. Salmon, and P. M. Hamel (found scalped), came to their death by gunshot wounds, received at the hands of Indians trailed toward the Date Creek Reservation.

(Signed) F. Purcella, David Morgan, ^{Ames} Barnett, Charles H. Richardson, Julius Goldwater, M. W. Webber, Dennis May, Chas. Barbour, Mac. Morris, Foreman.

He and Miguel L. Peralta formed another business partnership as is shown by an item in the Phoenix Salt River Herald of February 23, 1878:

The firm of Peralta & Purcella have disposed of their entire stock of goods and real estate in Phoenix, to A. Goldman. The latter gentleman has shown himself an enterprising business manager, and with his increased facilities, has now the largest establishment for trade in our town.

Died at Phoenix, A.T., November 12, 1882; buried, Catholic Cemetery; an obituary in the Phoenix Arizona Gazette stated:

Frank Purcella, one of the early settlers of this city, and widely known throughout the Territory, has passed to the other land. He was a native of Italy, aged about 50 years, and was universally respected and esteemed. May the sands rest lightly on the mortal remains of Frank Purcella.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- The Great Register of Maricopa County. 1876-1882.
The Probate Court of Maricopa County - Docket No. 63.
Farish, T.E. - History of Arizona. 1918, Vol. 8. p. 294.
The Arizona Miner, Prescott, January 6, 4:6, August 24, 3:1 and
September 14, 1872, 2:1.
The Salt River Herald, Phoenix, February 23, 1878, 2:4 and 3:2.
The Arizona Gazette, Phoenix, November 16, 1882, 3:2 (obituary).
The Phoenix Herald, November 17, 1882, 3:1 and 3:2 (In Memoriam).
The Prescott Courier, November 18, 1882, 2:1 (death notice).
The Tombstone Epitaph, November 18, 1882, 3:4 (death notice).