

QUESSE, LOUIS

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QUESSE, LOUIS, born at Minden, Westphalia, Prussia, about 1828; stated to the Census Taker in 1864 that he came to the United States under the age of 5 years; married, Manuela Otero (1844-1892), daughter of Manuel and Maria Clara Otero, at San Augustin Chapel in Tucson about 1858; children, Trinidad, Rosario, Louisa, Clara and one other, all of whom died when young.

Enlisted in the Regular Army at New Orleans, Louisiana, July 14, 1845, to serve 5 years; occupation when enlisted - Blacksmith; assigned to the Band of the 3rd U. S. Infantry; transferred on April 17, 1846, to Company H, same Regiment, and promoted to Corporal; honorably discharged at Taos, New Mexico, July 14, 1850.

Signed a petition to Congress dated at Tubac, February 27, 1858, asking for protection against the Apache Indians; was employed for a time as blacksmith at Tucson by John W. Sweeney; listed, U. S. Census, 1860, at Tubac, age 32, occupation - Blacksmith, property valued at \$3,000; Territorial Census, 1864, at Tucson, age 37, occupation - Blacksmith, resident in Arizona 6 years; he suffered serious losses by depredations committed by Apaches the first of which was described in a letter written at Tubac by J. B. Forbes and published in the Tucson Arizonian on January 31, 1869:

EDITORS ARIZONIAN:- - Yesterday at about 2 o'clock p.m. news was brought of the capture by the Indians of one hundred head of beef cattle from Mr. Lewis Qusse, short two miles from this town. As quick as thought six mounted citizens under Don Ramon Romano were in the saddle, and ere these novel-praised, romantic, greasy cusses had proceeded two miles with their spoils they were overhauled by the little band of pursuers. The Indians numbered thirty and felt disposed to have a "brush," but the citizens put spurs to their horses

and would have rode over them had they not scattered to the mountains. Sixty head of cattle were recaptured when night put an end to the chase.

Many shots were exchanged; however, none of our party were injured. To-day, Mr. Quesse and his men are picking up the remainder of his stock. A few days previous to this Mr. Quesse lost all his horses.

News has just been brought here, of the loss by Mr. Peter Kitchen, (on the Potrero) of all his stock by these red d---ls.

There are at least three hundred citizens within an area of fourteen miles of this place who need protection, and who are so widely separated that they cannot protect themselves.

Another report of this same raid was printed in the San Francisco Alta California on February 1, 1869, as part of an account of Indian outrages in Southern Arizona:

About (January 10, 1869) a man came running into this town (Tubac) shouting at the top of his voice, "Apaches", and upon inquiry, he stated that seven Indians had just driven off the whole herd of cattle belonging to Louis Quesse, whose ranch is situated about a mile and a half north of Tubac on the Santa Cruz river. Quesse being at the time in Town on business, upon hearing the news, borrowed a horse and rifle and, with seven citizens, which very willingly assisted him, and to which everybody speedily loaned horses and arms, started in the direction indicated as having been taken by the robbers. Two hours after, the whole party returned, having recaptured all of the cattle except three, which the Indians had succeeded in killing.

In 1891 his brother-in-law, Sabina Otero, testified, in behalf of an Indian depredation claim made by his widow, that in January 1869, Quesse lost 2 fine American horses valued at \$500, 2 other horses worth \$200 and 8 head of cattle worth \$240; he further stated that during the following month they drove off 27 head of cattle worth \$900; on August 15, 1869, the Indians took 6 horses and 2 mules worth \$750 and in October, 9 head of cattle valued at \$270.

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In 1870 the Apaches made four raids securing 11 head of his cattle in January, 6 head in February, 4 in April and 15 head in October all valued at \$30 each or a total of \$1080; listed, U. S. Census, 1870, at Tubac, age 42, occupation - Farmer; property valued at \$4,000.

At the time of his death he owned a house and lot in Tubac, a blacksmith shop there with tools and 200 pounds of iron; 160 acres of land on the east side of the Santa Cruz River, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Tubac, 219 head of livestock and 66 chickens, an ambulance, a wagon and farming implements.

Was taken with pneumonia at Tubac and died at Tucson, Pima County, A. T., March 17, 1871, aged 43; buried in the old Cemetery on Stone Avenue, Tucson.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Adjutant General of the Army - Military Service records
U. S. Court of Claims - Docket No. 8758
The Probate Court of Pima County - Docket No. 66
The Weekly Arizonian, Tucson, January 31, 1869, 2:4
The Alta California, San Francisco, March 3, 1869, 2:4
The Arizona Daily Star, Tucson, August 30, 1942, 8:1