

SANFORD, JAMES MONROE

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SANFORD, JAMES MONROE, born in Nova Scotia, Canada, November 21, 1821; son of James and Sarah (Wooliver) Sanford; attended school at Douglas, York County, New Brunswick; never married.

Went to St. Louis, Missouri, in 1847 and crossed the plains to Sacramento, California, 1849; engaged in placer mining on the Yuba River for two years and then acquired a farm of 320 acres in the Sacramento Valley which he sold for \$5,500 in 1861; he gave the following account of his arrival in Arizona to the Williams News:

"A party of 83, including myself, left Sacramento in the spring of 1862, and traveled 700 miles overland to Fort Mohave. We met parties returning from the placer diggings that we were headed for. The diggings had worked out so we concluded to prospect the country north of the Gila. We prospected the Colorado River, from the mouth of Williams Fork to the mouth of the Grand Canyon, and found gold all the way, but it was so fine it was unsatisfactory. During the next spring with John Brown of San Bernardino, I ran a ferry boat from Fort Mohave to the California side. It was the first ferry boat on the Colorado, and used to transport cattle, horses, etc., across the river.

He then stated that later in the year he left Fort Mohave with 12 other men to prospect toward the headwaters of the Bill Williams River after being told by Indians that there was gold there but, having traveled some distance up that stream, they saw signs of so many hostile Apaches that they turned back.

After he and Jose Zapata left the party, 9 of them were killed by the Indians and the remaining 2 who escaped, died soon afterwards. The interview then indicates that in the Spring of 1863 he went to the gold discovery at Rich Hill, which is doubtful, but he did give his assaying tools and a pack animal to a first

class miner named Curtin who made \$400 or \$500 within a few days and then started back to Fort Mohave to get more men; continuing he said:

"I must mention the fate of my mining partner, Curtin. He got within 40 miles of Fort Mohave and stopped at an Indian camp. The Indians killed him and ate his horse. Some of our men stopped at the camp the following year and recognized Curtin's rifle and the aluminum scales belonging to my assaying apparatus, which, with the nice little chains to which it was suspended, was found attached to a squaw's buckskin jacket as ornaments."

"In the summer of 1863 I went from mining to ranching. I had the first ranch on the Colorado river (at Cottonwood Island), and put in a crop of most every kind of vegetable. I had a market for my produce at El Dorado where there were then about 400 miners but the Piutes gathered the crop. I then came to Prescott, where I built the first house. The mining camp was then at Lynx Creek."

He was one of a committee of 5 which drafted the By-Laws of the Walker Quartz Mining District, approved at a meeting of miners of Lynx Creek and vicinity held on November 24, 1863; between January 20 and May 15, 1864, he joined in the location of 8 different mining claims, two of them, the "Pine Mountain" and "Twin", located on March 1, being on Rich Gulch "near the house of Sanford and Smith", the "Box Elder" on March 25 "near Sanford's upper house" and the "Monitor" on May 15, "150 yards above Sanford's old cabin"; the following is abstracted from the Journal of the Walker Mining District for March 6, 1864:

At a called meeting of miners the trial respecting a disputed mining claim between J. M. Sanford and McKinnie & Hutton came to be tried before a jury of the whole, 7 witnesses were sworn and testified for the plaintiff and 5 for the defendants. The case was argued and the jury gave as a result: For Plaintiff 11, for Defendants, 18. So it was ordered that verdict for defendants be entered. On motion the meeting was adjourned Sine Die.

Listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, 3d District, resident 8 months, occupation - Farmer, property valued at \$135; he planted a crop of corn on his place on Granite Creek which was damaged by an early frost on August 17, 1864; moved to the Verde Valley in May, 1865, where he developed a farm of which he said:

I went to the Verde and put in a fine crop, which the Apaches with customary enterprise gathered. Not completely discouraged from becoming a farmer I planted another crop in 1866, but again the Apaches saved me the labor of gathering it. I then returned to Prescott.

That he continued to have an interest in mining is shown by the following items printed in the Prescott Arizona Miner:

August 28, 1869 - - At Walker's Mining District, a ledge named the "Box Elder" is being sunk upon by its owners, Jackson & Co., Capt. Solomon Shoupe, L. N. Griffin and J. M. Sanford, and from what we have learned about the ledge, it is, in our opinion, as well as in that of its owners, a confoundedly rich thing.

December 29, 1869 - - Box Elder mine (Lynx Creek District) Yavapai County. Refractory ores in shaft yield \$312 per ton. Surface ores yield \$94 per ton. Lode runs 3/4 of a mile.

Listed, U.S. Census, 1870, at Prescott; occupation - Farmer; acquired the reputation of being the best chimney-builder in the town and was frequently employed at that work; started a small saw mill which he profitably operated for a number of years; made investments in real estate; at one time owning 93 lots and a number of houses in the Prescott townsite; naturalized as an American Citizen in the District Court at Prescott, May 10, 1876.

In 1881, while the Atlantic and Pacific (now Santa Fe) railroad was being built he furnished lumber for different construction camps; moved to Williams where he was appointed Justice of the Peace on November 4, 1882, and served until January 8, 1884; again elected to that office in 1888 and re-elected continuously until 1900; in 1884 he located a stock ranch near Williams, invested \$2,000 in cattle, and successfully managed the business until he sold it in 1892; the following is taken from an obituary in the Williams News:

James M. Sanford, an aged and highly respected citizen of Williams, died at Phoenix, on Tuesday night of this week where he went last fall to spend the winter. He came to Arizona about 50 years ago, and once in the early days owned all the land lying between Prescott and Fort Whipple.

The deceased came to Williams over 25 years ago. He leaves considerable real estate in this city. Among the several blocks of town property there are eight cottages belonging to him.

Died at Phoenix, Arizona, March 29, 1910, aged 88, buried in the K. of P. section of the Old City (Pioneers) Cemetery, at Phoenix.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Chapman Pub. Co. - Portrait and Biographical Record of Arizona, Chicago, 1901, pp. 165-169 (portrait).
- McClintock, J. H. - Arizona, The Youngest State, Chicago, 1916, p. 399.
- Farish, T.E. - History of Arizona, Vol. 2, p. 311; Vol. 4, pp. 65, 230.
- W.P.A. Historical Records Project - Journal of the Pioneer and Walker Mining Districts, Phoenix, 1941, pp. 6, 12, 28, 30-33, 46, 68, 81, 93, 119, 126.
- Probate Court of Coconino County - Docket No. 190.
- The Arizona Miner, Prescott, August 28, 2:1, December 25, 1869, 1:3; March 15, 1878, 2:2; July 11, 1884, 4:1.
- The Arizona Republican, Phoenix, March 31, 1910, p. 6, c. 3. (obituary).
- The Williams News, April 2, 1910, p. 1, c. 5 (obituary), and an undated clipping from that newspaper, clipping book 2, A.P.H.S., Tucson.