

SCHWENKER, HENRY

SCHWENKER, Henry, born in the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, December 27, 1832; came to the United States with his parents when a boy; married by Padre Jovenceau to Refugia Ximenes at Tucson, A.T., September 1, 1875; his widow married A. J. Davidson at Tucson, May 1, 1890.

Was an early pioneer in California; enlisted, age 29, at Sacramento, September 20, 1861, to serve 3 years as Private, Company E, 5th California Infantry; immediately promoted to Commissary Sergeant and transferred to the regimental Field and Staff; stationed at Camp Union until April, 1862, when he went with the headquarters of the Regiment to Camp Wright in San Diego County; marched from there via Fort Yuma and Tucson to the Rio Grande; was at Franklin (El Paso) Texas from August, 1863, until honorably discharged at that place on December 14, 1864.

Remained there for some time and became a member of El Paso Lodge No. 130, F. & A. M.; he later returned to Arizona and served as Postmaster at Apache Pass (Fort Bowie) from April 8 to May 25, 1870; listed there when the U. S. Census was taken on August 11 that year as Clerk in store, property valued at \$700; the following is copied from an account of his death printed in the Tucson Arizona Citizen:

In the proper place, a mere notice of this death appears, but more is due the memory of one who had the good fortune to command perfect respect of all who knew him, as in the case of deceased. He was never mentioned save as a competent bookkeeper or a good citizen, or as an honest man. In him we never discovered a fault nor heard any person say he possessed one. With a remarkably pleasant and even humorous disposition he possessed ample firmness.

The circumstances of his death are about these: His residence being some distance from his place of labor, he kept and carried a revolver on his way home in the evening. On Tuesday at 9 p.m. having put on his coat and being ready to step out, reached for the revolver which was in a scabbard, and in doing so, caught the barrel end, when the weapon fell out, the hammer striking a letter press, or table on which it stood, was discharged and the ball entered the left breast and passed through to near the right shoulder.

He has for years been the bookkeeper and trusted employee of Messrs. Tully Ochoa & Co. in whose counting room he was at the time. Mr. Burns, a clerk of the firm, was in the room at this time. He did not see the handling of the pistol, but on hearing the shot, he heard Mr. Schwenker say "where am I hit?" If another word was uttered Mr. Burns did not hear it. Death took place at 9:10 p.m.

Save the time of one visit to Cincinnati, Ohio, he has been in the employ of Tully, Ochoa & Co. for several years - and continuously in Tucson for two years past. Members of the firm have known him for fourteen years. He has a brother and sister in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The funeral took place Wednesday, under the auspices of the Masonic Fraternity. The beautiful and impressive service of the order, being held at the grave. Many citizens followed the remains to the cemetery, and we have no doubt all felt that the community had lost one of her best citizens.

Died at Tucson, Pima County, A. T., June 27, 1876, aged 43;
buried G. A. R. Cemetery, Tucson, War Department headstone.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Orton, R.H. - Records of California men in the War of the Rebellion, Sacramento, 1890, p. 676
Pima County Marriage Records - Book 1
The Adjutant General of the Army - Military service records.
U. S. Post Office Department - Appointment records.
Arizona Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. - Tucson Masonic Club Records.
The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, July 1, 1876, 2:6 and 3:2 (obituary).