

# SMITH, PHILIP WILLIAM

2001

SMITH, PHILIP WILLIAM, born in England about 1828; married, Maria Jesus Bustamente at Willcox, Cochise County, A.T. on January 29, 1884, by W. F. Nichols, Justice of the Peace, both being residents of Dos Cabezas.

Came to the United States and was naturalized as an American citizen in Kentucky in 1849; came to Arizona in 1863; the following references to him were published in the Prescott Arizona

## Miner :

November 28, 1868 - - We are glad to learn that the Vulture rock continues to pay big. At latest dates both mills were running. Mr. Reese, has, we learn, taken charge of Smith & Wickenburg's mill, and was working the ore closer than before. It was generally believed in Wickenburg that under his manipulations the ore was paying extremely well.

February 20, 1869 - - Notice: The partnership heretofore existing between P. W. Smith and Henry Wickenburg is this day dissolved by mutual consent. All indebtedness of the firm will be settled by P. W. Smith, at Wickenburg. P. W. SMITH  
Wickenburg, February 1, 1869 Henry Wickenburg

August 29, 1869 - - P. W. Smith, who is well known all over this Territory, and Southern California, for largeness of soul, and goodness of heart, arrived in Prescott Wednesday last from Wickenburg. We are sorry to learn from him that he intends leaving the Territory and settling down on his ranch, near San Diego, California. Bill, as his numerous friends familiarly call him, is one of the fathers of our sister town of Wickenburg, having settled there early in 1864, and expended his means and energy freely in the development of the great mine that supports that town. We wish him unbounded happiness in his retreat at San Diego.

That he did not remain in California is shown by two articles printed in the Arizona Miner in 1872.

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February 24 - - In the Wickenburg District, the Vulture mill is, as usual, pounding away. Bill Smith is prospecting for water at a point near the Vulture mine, which mine is too well known as the largest and richest gold mine in the world for us to say aught about it, in this article.

December 14 - - Mr. P. W. Smith, from Wickenburg, visited Prescott last week and stated that his efforts to obtain water by sinking wells on the Hassayampa, twelve to fifteen miles below Wickenburg and some five miles below the sinking of the creek, have not been successful. Mr. Smith has sunk five or six wells -- from fifty to a hundred and eighty feet in depth -- and has now abandoned the project, and proposes to lay a flume underground from the mouth of the canyon of the Hassayampa to the point where he is erecting the quartz mill.

The flume or box will be nine inches square and nearly five miles long. His object is to place his mill where his supply of water will be unailing, where wood is plenty, and the distance to haul quartz will be five miles less than at the old location of the mill at Wickenburg. Mr. Smith has his claims on the Vulture lode opened sufficiently to insure a supply of quartz of good quality, and will push his operations ahead without delay.

The following items appeared in the Tucson Arizona Citizen:

October 11, 1873 - - We learn with regret that P. W. Smith, the successful mill man, near Wickenburg, was recently wounded in the arm by the accidental discharge of a pistol. The ball entered the fleshy part of the right arm, near the shoulder, causing a painful though not serious wound.

November 1, 1873 - - Persons just arrived from Wickenburg tell us that Smith's ten-stamp mill was doing well with Vulture ore. The proprietor was making moves toward erecting a furnace. Mr. Peter Taylor, Mr. Smith's assistant, was doing well amalgamating in an arrastra.

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November 29, 1873 - - Bill Smith's mill, near Wickenburg, is crushing between 110 and 115 tons of ore every week.

April 10, 1875 - - P. W. Smith of Smith's mill below Wickenburg, came to town on Monday with some \$6,000 in gold bullion and disbursed it for goods.

In the 1875 report of the U. S. Commissioner of Mining Statistics, Henry A. Bigelow of Prescott is quoted as follows:

"The Vulture Mining Company, near Wickenburg, has not resumed operations and has even, it is claimed, neglected to do the work required by Congress, so that on the 1st of January the property was open for relocation. Advantage has been taken of this state of affairs by Dr. W. W. Jones and others, who have relocated the claim, and expect to utilize the immense masses of low grade ores in sight at the mine.

"The 10 stamp mill of Mr. P. W. Smith, which works gold ores taken from the extension of the original Vulture, has been running steadily throughout the year with profitable results. This is the only mill in Yavapai County which has run during the past year."

His name appears in the Great Register of Yavapai County for 1876 as Philip William Smith, age 48, born in England, resident at Smith's mill; the Yuma Arizona Sentinel of February 2, 1878, indicated that he may have been seeking to dispose of his mining interests:

The old Vulture mine seems to be coming to the front again. The old company pounded out millions in gold, squandered it and quit. P. W. Smith has kept alive the reputation of the grand old mine by mashing gold out of it for the last six years. And now several parties are taking hold of various portions of it. Prof. Thomas Price of San Francisco, has been out to examine it and report to Haggin & Tevis; Gashweiler is out there; so is Hamilton, who

gave his name to the town of White Pine; so is Sevenoaks, who was brought before the public lately by his Black Hills successes and by that Pine street shooting scrape.

That such was the case is shown by an item printed in the Arizona Miner on March 8, 1875:

F. L. Brill one of Wickenburg's oldest and most active citizens came in last evening. Mr. B., informs us that the sale of the Vulture mine, to San Francisco parties had been consummated, and that on Tuesday last P. W. Smith and Doctor W. W. Jones, left for the city for the purpose of executing deeds and receiving their money.

The details of the transaction as reported in the Phoenix Salt River Herald were reprinted in the Arizona Sentinel of August 17, 1878:

A deed from P. W. Smith, W. W. Jones and A. H. Peeples, of Wickenburg, to John Howard Smith of Alameda County, California, was filed for record last Tuesday, conveying the Chief of Arizona Quartz Mining claim, and an undivided one-half interest in 906 feet known as the Resurrection of Gold Quartz claim, both on the Vulture lode, also a large lot of machinery and a quantity of ore. Consideration, \$202,500; being \$100,000 for each of the former gentlemen and \$2,500 for A. H. Peeples.

He went to Tombstone and is listed in Disturnell's Arizona Gazetteer, 1881, as "General Merchandise" at the corner of Allen and 4th Streets; he signed the original roll of the Society of Arizona Pioneers at Tucson in 1884 but did not complete his membership; the late John A. Rockfellow in his recollections stated:

In 1889, while engaged in *surveying* mines about Dos-Cabezas, I saw P. W. Smith quite often and had many long evenings with him there, sitting in Tom Chatterman's store. At that time he was

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retired -- a very interesting person and quite intelligent. He spoke with a decided foreign accent, and I was surprised to learn from him that he was a native of Kentucky.

This is about the story he told: As a child, it was known that he would inherit quite a fortune. Designing people took him to Switzerland and left him to grow up. His living and education were provided for. When grown to manhood he returned to the United States to find his fortune had been dissipated. (His accent, of course, was due to his life in Switzerland).

He was one of the very big, intelligent men of Arizona of those early days. I had the honor of naming one of the streets of Dos Cabezas after him.

Died at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.

Buried \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_.

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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 The Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, February 2, 3:3 and August 17, 2:3 and November 23, 1878, 3:2.