

SIMMONS, JOHN FRANKLIN

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SIMMONS, JOHN FRANKLIN, born at _____, Arkansas, _____ 18__ (about 1840); son of John Wilson and Mary (_____) Simmons: married, Sarah Margaret Akhert (1848-1883), a native of Missouri; at Prescott, A.T., November 12, 1877; children, a son _____, Annie (Mrs. _____), _____ (Mm. Charles Evans), and twin daughters born 21 days before the death of his wife in December, 1883.

Emigrated with his parents to Kansas in the early sixties, and came with them to Arizona in 1864; listed, U. S. Census, 1870, at Prescott, age 30, occupation - Farmer; U. S. Census, 1880, age 40, with his wife, Sarah, age 32, and daughter, Annie, age 1, his cattle brand was an S, near side on hip with a swallow fork on each ear.

Died at his home near Prescott, A.T., March 1, 1908, aged 68; an obituary in the Prescott Journal-Miner reads:

In the death of John F. Simmons, Sunday night, at the midnight hour, Yavapai County loses one of its honored pioneer citizens and the Territory a man who assisted in blazing the pathway of civilization over its mountains and mesas, then inhabited by wild beast and Apache Indians who contested the right of the white man to explore and develop its limitless mineral and agricultural resources.

With a party of hardy men and brave women, almost all of whom have passed away before him, John Simmons arrived in Yavapai County from Kansas in 1864. He became identified with the community at once and never changed his place of residence. He settled in Miller Valley and was engaged in farming and stock raising there until his death.

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Simmons' cemetery, in Miller Valley, wherein he will be laid to rest this afternoon, holds the remains of many of his kith and kin, including his wife, a son and one daughter, who preceded him to the grave years ago.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Great Register of Yavapai County - 1876-1894.

Yavapai County Marriage Records, Book 1, p. 69.

The Prescott Morning Courier, March 3, 1908, p. 1, c. 2. (obituary).

The Arizona Journal-Miner, Prescott, March 3, 1908, March 3, 1908, p. 1, c. 3 (obituary).