

SPEEDY, JAMES

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SPEEDY, JAMES, born in the city of Valparaiso, Republic of Chile, October 22, 1846, of English and Chilian parentage; married, (1) Jesus Ribeyra at Tucson, March 2, 1872, from whom he was divorced on August 17, 1888; their daughter _____, married Frank Burke; (2) Mrs. Augustina (Murietta) Montano at Tucson, September 24, 1888; son, Francisco, born at Nogales, August 25, 1892.

Came to California with his parents in 1849 and received a common school education in Sacramento; enlisted at San Francisco January 8, 1862, to serve 3 years as Private, Company I, 2d California Cavalry; occupation when enlisted - Steward; the two principal stations of the Company were at Camp Babbitt, near Visalia, and at Camp Bidwell, near Chico, California; he was promoted to Sergeant on November 1, 1864, and honorably discharged by expiration of enlistment at San Francisco, January 11, 1865.

Left for Arizona late in the fall and arrived in Tucson on Christmas Eve, 1865; said to have been clerk for the Post Trader at Camp Grant but his principal employment during the early years of his residence in the Territory was as express rider for the Army and as stage driver for the mail line; was driving the stage from Tucson to Fort Bowie when attacked by Apaches at Sulphur Spring, July 15, 1869, when one of three men in an accompanying carriage was killed; served as Doorkeeper, 5th Territorial Council, at Tucson, from November 14 to December 16, 1868; listed, U. S. Census, 1870, at Florence, A.T., occupation - Laborer, property valued at \$1500.

He and C. A. Shibell sold the Desert Stage Station, located between Point of Mountain and Picacho Stations, to Lionel M. Jacobs on August 14, 1873; ran a passenger wagon between Tucson and the Santa Rita placers in 1875, leaving Tucson on Mondays, returning Wednesday, and the fare each way was \$5; member from Pima County, H. of R., 10th Territorial Legislature at Tucson, 1876; listed Barter's

Tucson City Directory, 1881, residing at the corner of Church and Franklin Streets, occupation - Mining.

Moved to Nogales about 1882 when the town was beginning to develop and was a saloon keeper there when he joined the Society of Arizona Pioneers on June 5, 1885; was also a comrade of Negley Post No. 1, G. A. R. in Tucson.

Served as Deputy Sheriff at Nogales first under C. A. Shibell and then under F. M. Shaw where he established a reputation as "a terror to all evil doers in and around that place" but did not get along very well with the Mexican officials in Nogales, Sonora; on the night of March 3, 1887, he and another peace officer exchanged shots near the boundary line with Mexican soldiers who had crossed into Arizona intending to compel a prostitute to return to their country; the following is a newspaper account of an incident which occurred on March 15, 1887:

"Deputy Sheriff Speedy was standing in front of the Post Office in Nogales, Arizona, a few feet from the dividing line, when he was accosted by a custom house official from the Mexican side in a very friendly manner, inviting the Deputy Sheriff to take a drink with him, which Mr. Speedy very politely declined. Then the official asked him to take a cigar, at the same time saying that he was a friend of the Deputy Sheriff and that he had a great many friends in Mexico. After receiving so much taffy Mr. Speedy concluded that he would step across the street, a distance of about thirty feet, to take a cigar that was so courteously offered.

"The Mexican then began to talk in a general way about the late difficulty between the two countries, and soon showed his hand by introducing a personal matter, in the course of which he denounced Mr. Speedy and his relations in the foulest and most abusive manner. At the same moment he drew his pistol and other Mexicans did likewise. Mr. Speedy had no arms and his assailants were between him and the door; but by a little maneuvering he got out and escaped across the line. There was one shot fired during the melee."

Served as Constable of Nogales precinct, 1886-1892; died of pneumonia at Nogales, Santa Cruz County, A.T., March 15, 1897, aged 50; buried _____ Cemetery, at Nogales; when he passed away it was written of him that:

"'Jim' Speedy was a man of nerve who took part in many of the stirring scenes enacted on the southern border of Arizona within

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the last thirty years and brought before the courts of justice many desperate criminals. The funeral yesterday was largely attended, the National Guard and A. O. U. W., of which he was a member, were out in force. A large concourse of friends also attended. Today the flag of the Arizona Pioneers is at half mast in respect to his memory. "

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Society of Arizona Pioneers, Tucson - Membership Book, p. 144.
 Orton, R.H. - Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion, Sacramento, 1890, p. 268.
 Kelly, G.H. - Legislative History, Arizona, Phoenix, 1926, p. 88.
 By-Laws of Negley Post No. 1, G. A. R., Tucson, 1892, p. 16.
 Adjutant General of the Army - Military Service records.
 U.S. Veterans' Administration-pension records, S.C. 907, 951.
 Pima County Marriage Records - Book 1 and Book 2.
 Barter, G.W. - Tucson City Directory, 1881, p. 108.
 5th and 10th Arizona Territorial Legislatures - Journals.
 The Arizona Enterprise, Tucson, March 10, 1892.
 the Arizona Republican, Phoenix, August 2, 1892, p. 40, c. 2.
 the Arizona Star, Tucson, September 26, 1878, p. 2, c. 2; March 17 and April 8, 1887; April 18, 1888.
 The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, July 10, 1875; March 12, p. 4, c. 2, and March 19, p. 2, c. 2; March 17, 1897, p. 2, c. 3 (obituary).