

# SPRING, JOHN ARNOLD

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SPRING, JOHN (JOHANN) ARNOLD, born at Thun, Canton of Bern, Switzerland, May 8, 1845; son of Christian and Maria (Buchler) Spring; married (1) Manuela Molina at Tucson, A. T., 1870, who died in 1874, and (2) her sister, Refugia Molina, at Tucson, A. T., August 22, 1874; children: Arnold, Anna (Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Varreda), Manuela (Mrs. Thomas A. Legarra), and Nellie (Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_).

Enlisted as a substitute at New York, N. Y., June 29, 1864, age 19, to serve as Private, Company D, 7th New York Infantry; wounded in the shoulder in action on the south-side railroad near Petersburg, Virginia, April 2, 1865; honorably discharged at Washington, D. C., June 29, 1865; reenlisted September 15, 1865, and assigned to Company E, 14th U. S. Infantry, which in July, 1866, became the 32nd U. S. Infantry; occupation when enlisted, clerk; left Hart's Island, New York, November 11, 1866; and sailed for the Pacific Coast where he served in California until April 11, 1866; marched from Fort Yuma via Tucson to Fort Bowie, A. T., arriving May 6; stationed for a month at Fort Bowie and then went to Fort Wallen, where he remained until August 20, 1866; moved with the Company to Camp Lowell, near Tucson, A. T., where he was honorably discharged, as 1st Sergeant, by reason of expiration of his term of service, September 15, 1868.

Listed, U. S. Census, 1870, at Tucson, occupation, clerk in brewery, property valued at \$300; worked as a bartender for

Alexander Levin at Tucson, 1871; employed as the first public school teacher in Tucson; the school was located in a rented building at the northeast corner of Meyer and McCormick Streets and 34 students, all boys, were enrolled on the opening day, March 4, 1872; listed, Barter's Tucson City Directory, 1881, as bookkeeper, 221 Court Street; resided at Tucson until September 11, 1894, when he entered the Pacific Branch, National Soldiers' Home, Sawtelle, California; wrote a series of articles depicting life in Tucson in the seventies, which were printed in The National Tribune, Washington, D. C., about 1903; transferred to National Soldiers' Home, Hampton, Virginia, September 25, 1923, where he died on December 6, 1924, aged 79; buried in the National Cemetery, Hampton, Elizabeth City County, Virginia; became a member, Arizona Pioneers Historical Society, \_\_\_\_\_, 18\_\_.

#### Sources of Information

- Lockwood, F. C. and Page, D. W. - Tucson, the Old Pueblo, 1930, pp. 63-69, 76.
- Lockwood, F. C. - Pioneer Days in Arizona, 1932, pp. 264, 330.
- The Adjutant General of the Army - Official records.
- U. S. Veterans Administration - Pension and Hospital Records, S. C. 439,164.
- The National Tribune, Washington, D. C.