

SWEENEY, JOHN WILLIAM

SWEENEY, JOHN WILLIAM, Born in St. Louis, Missouri, 1836; married Manuela Ramirez (1847-1878) at San Xavier Mission, A.T., May 10, 1863; children, ^{Samuel T.,} Serafina (Mrs. Peter R. Brady, Jr.), Catherine (Mrs. Henry W. Brady), Dolores (Mrs. Simon Argulo) and Mary (Mrs. Claude Michea).

Listed, U. S. Census, 1860, at Tucson, occupation - Blacksmith; was in partnership with John Burt who established the first blacksmith shop in Tucson in 1856; the Tucson Weekly Arizonian of February 7, 1869, printed this about him:

Our persevering fellow townsman, Johnny Sweeney, has nearly completed his wagon-making establishment---a commodious building, we would judge, 100 feet square, having a stone foundation of fine mason-work, in places nine feet deep. All this Johnny has accomplished by the sweat of his brow and it is pleasant to reflect that the toils of the industrious are amply remunerated.

At the breaking out of the late Rebellion, Johnny was in tolerable fair circumstances, but by the officiousness of new-fledged officers of the California Volunteers, he lost nearly everything he possessed. This neither caused him to commit suicide nor pause to repine over his loss, but he has applied himself diligently to business and we are glad to see him once more on the straight road to prosperity.

Listed, U. S. Census, 1870, at Tucson, occupation - Blacksmith, property valued at \$4,000; at that time he was a partner of Charles T. Etchells who purchased his interest in the business in September, 1873, Sweeney having moved to Florence; member from Florence, Pima County, H. of R., 7th Territorial Legislature, which met in Tucson on January 6, 1873; elected School Trustee in Pinal County, November 7, 1876.

At the time of his death he owned four lots in Tucson valued at \$462, a field of 21 acres in the valley west of Tucson valued at \$800; in Pinal County he had a farm near Florence worth \$1,000 and owned the Picacho Stage Station, located about 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles north of the present railroad station of that name, where, in 1875, he had

built a stone water tank about 24 feet square and 4 feet deep,
died near Florence, Pinal County, A.T., January 11, 1878, aged
42; buried in the Catholic section of the Florence Cemetary (headstone)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Kelly, G. H. - Legislative History, Arizona, Phoenix 1926, p. 59.
Seventh Territorial Legislature - Journals, 1878.
Probate Court of Pinal County, A. T., Docket No. 25.
Board of Supervisors of Pinal County - Minute Book.
Great Register of Pinal County - 1876.
U. S. Census, Tucson, 1860; U. S. Census, Tucson 1870.
The Weekly Arizonian, Tucson, February 7, 1869, p.2, c.2.
The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, March 1, 1873.