

WEAVER, BENJAMIN HENRY

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WEAVER, BENJAMIN HENRY, born at Palmyra, Lenawee County, Michigan, March 17, 1837; son of Howard and Phoebe (Crandall) Weaver; married Caroline E., daughter of Varney A. Stephens at Prescott, A. T., July 8, 1869; children, Benjamin Varney, Cora Elizabeth (Mrs. Anthony A. Johns), Georgia Myrtie (Mrs. John M. Aitk^Ean), Josephine ✓ Edith (Mrs. Rudolph Baehr) and Pearl Ivy (Mrs. J. E. Wilson). *Josephine & Pearl Ivy Wilson*

Apprenticed to the printer's trade, age 14, and worked for 3 years with the Hillsdale, Mich., Stanard and a year on the Adrian Watchtower; engaged in farming in Michigan and Illinois, 1856-58; left for Pikes Peak, Colorado, in March, 1859, and continued on to California, arriving in August; was at Virginia City, Nevada, for some time in 1860.

Engaged as civilian employee at Benecia Barracks and reported at Wilmington, near San Pedro, as Teamster at \$35 per month; January 1, 1862; left for Fort Yuma in April and arrived at Tucson with the California Column in June; went to Mesilla, on the Rio Grande, in October and later to El Paso; returned to Tucson in March, 1863, and arrived at Wilmington, April 19; promoted to \$50 per month May 1; promoted December 8, to Express Rider at \$75 and carried dispatches to and from Fort Yuma; promoted to \$100 per month June 1, 1864; discharged from the Quartermaster Service at Wilmington, Calif., September 20, 1864; employed as printer on the Wilmington Journal for about a year.

Came to Prescott, A.T., in the fall of 1865 to work as printer on the Arizona Miner; late in 1866 he settled on a farm in Chino Valley; engaged in freighting with teams between Prescott and Fort Mohave and Prescott and Ehrenberg, 1867-69, during which time he had several narrow escapes from attacks by hostile Apaches; served as Public Administrator (Coroner) of Yavapai County, 1871-72, and had the property of five murdered men to care for when he assumed office.

With John H. Marion purchased the Arizona Miner in 1870 and helped to publish it until 1874; among his most treasured possessions were the files of the Miner for that period of which he said:

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"That newspaper stunt of mine was considered as glorious in its day, and I got as much pleasure out of it as the people did who compelled me to put the forms on the press and grind out a second edition."

The following is quoted from his obituary in the Prescott Courier:

"When the writer came to Prescott in 1879, he was running a general merchandise business in his own building located almost opposite where the Sherman House now stands. He called it the "Ready Pay" store. He ran this business for a number of years, started the transfer business afterwards, in which business he was engaged when he passed away.

"He was a most honorable and industrious man with strong convictions as to the right and an equal determination to stand by those convictions. He was not a man who would stand silent and hear one of his fellow citizens slandered or villified, but would promptly speak up and defend the absent one, whether a personal friend or not. This is a rare quality, and one showing a peculiar nobility of mind. He was a charter member of the Prescott I. O. O. F. lodge, the mother lodge of that order in Arizona."

At the time of his death the Journal Miner said of him:

"Benjamin H. Weaver, worthy pioneer, exemplary citizen and good man, has gone over the Hassayampa range, into eternity. Of the passing of this pioneer there is much to say in commendation and nothing whatever which can reflect on the past life of this splendid man.

"Merchandising, mining, and the express business, in addition to his newspaper career, have been his pursuits and he was in active harness steadily until only a few weeks ago, rounding out one of the most eventful and useful lives of any man who ever lived in Arizona.

"The passing of Mr. Weaver brings sharply to mind the need of a concerted effort to collect and preserve the lore of his day. Within a few years there will be none whose memory reaches back to those pioneer days. The history of Arizona and its previous relics should be kept."

~~Supervisor of Yavapai County, 1884-1888~~; died at Prescott, Yavapai County, Arizona, February 5, 1920, aged 83; buried I. O. O. F. Cemetery, Prescott.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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The Quartermaster General - Archives and Claims records.
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