

WELLS, SAMUEL

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WELLS, SAMUEL

Born at _____ Connecticut _____ 18__ (about 1826).

Son of _____ and _____.

Married _____ at _____ on _____, 18__.

Children _____.

Listed, U. S. Census, October 9, 1860, at Arizona City (Yuma), age 34, born in Connecticut, occupation - Merchant, property valued at \$2,000; the San Francisco Alta California of February 17, 1862, reported that storms in Arizona had caused such a raging flood in the Gila that "the Colorado was unable to carry off the superabundant water" and that:

The Gila River rose to such an unprecedented stage, that its waters flowed over and through the site of Colorado City, (now Yuma) washing away or destroying nearly all the houses of that place. Hooper and Hinton's large store, Well's store, and the billiard saloon were carried away or washed down; Hooper and Hinton saved most of their stock; Mr. Wells lost most of his; Capt. Johnson's house was seriously injured—in short, the place was nearly obliterated from the face of the earth.

The loss of his store is also mentioned in a more detailed report made on January 23, 1862, by Major E. A. Rigg, 1st California Infantry, in command at Fort Yuma; the report was forwarded by boat to Pilot Knob, thence by horse and an Indian runner to Colonel J. H. Carleton at Camp Wright, California, and stated:

I have the honor to report to you that Fort Yuma is now an island. The river at this point commenced rising on the 20th instant, and at 1 o'clock this morning reached its highest point. The rise yesterday afternoon was so sudden that in three hours it rose from its already high stage nearly six feet, overflowing its banks and carrying everything before it.

Colorado City is entirely washed away; Mr. Hooper's dwelling house and Captain Johnson's are the only buildings left standing on that side of the river. The rise was so sudden that Mr. Hinton, Mr. Hooper's partner, could only save a portion of their goods, and although I rendered him and others all the assistance in my power, very little was saved. It was impossible to send many men to their assistance. Two boat loads (twenty men) passed over safely. The boats not being able to return, I could send no more. The ferryboat dared not venture out for fear of being carried away.

The principal losers are Messrs. Hooper & Hinton; store entirely washed away; the steam-boat company's machine shop and store with contents washed away; Mr. Samuel Wells, store washed away, and but a small portion of his stock of goods saved; Mr. Gage's billiard and ten-pin alley entirely destroyed and entire contents lost. All of the dwellings on that side of the river are washed away, including Mr. Jones', four miles up the Gila. A boy of his was taken from a tree near the house this morning, who had been there during the night.

The whole country is submerged between here and Pilot Knob and impassable for anything but boats. Mr. Yager made a narrow escape. The water came up to his house and corral, but did no damage of a serious nature. The road between here and Pilot Knob has been impassable for animals since the 21st instant. All communication between the fort and Yager's has been with boats since that time. A large number of cattle have been drowned between here and the Laguna mines, and all along the river to Genzales'. Yager's wood wagon, twelve miles below, has been carried away, and his stock, or a large portion of it, drowned. He has, however, enough in his corral to meet any demands upon him, besides fifty head on the desert coming over, unless New River or Carriso Creek are impassable. The Gila River extends as far as the sandhills on the right and to the foot-hills on the left. We are now perfectly safe from any attack from any enemy, being surrounded by water.

Died at Yuma, Arizona Territory, January 7, 1879.

Buried _____ Cemetery _____.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Rebellion Records Series I, Vol. 50, part 2, pp. 815-818.
The Alta California, San Francisco, February 17 and March 5, 1862.
The ARIZONA CITIZEN, Tucson, January 18, 1879, 2:3 (death notice).
The ARIZONA SENTINEL, Yuma, January 11, 1879, 3:4 (death notice).

WANTED

There should be something more than a mere death notice in the sentinel and I hope that Mr. Miller can find earlier references to him in that or other newspapers.

Wells, Samuel

Arizona Miner, Prescott, 7/26/78, 3-4.

Sam Wells, an experienced miner, for many years connected with the mines in Nevada, has returned to Prescott from Phoenix, where he has been sojourning for the past few months, in hopes of gaining lost health.

