

# WILSON, GEORGE H.

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WILSON, GEORGE H. (Yaqui); born in Belgium about 1820; listed, Territorial Census, 1864, at Castle Dome, A.T., age 44, single, occupation - Miner, resident in Arizona 3 years; in announcing his death the Prescott Arizona Miner stated:

"Yaqui Wilson", as all old settlers, as well as travelers who have had occasion to stop at his place, know, was one of the kindest and most accommodating of men, and as he had seen much of the world, and had the faculty of retaining what he once learned, he was a very agreeable conversationalist.

Some years ago he lived on the Yaqui river, in Sonora, where he was engaged in trade; and being constantly annoyed by first one and then another faction claiming to be the government of Mexico, sandwiched in between bands of guerillas, who claimed no allegiance nor rendered obedience to any authority, all of whom were continually levying forced contributions upon him, he became exasperated, and being on good terms with the Yaqui Indians, who were really the best citizens of the country, he placed himself at their head as captain, and inaugurated a revolution, defied the laws of Mexico, and declared themselves a free and independent people.

This didn't last long; the Mexican government troops came down upon them, Wilson fled to Guaymas, was captured imprisoned, released, recaptured, escaped to California, and finally settled in Arizona where, with the exception of his difficulty with Mr. Partridge, which has been going on for some time, he has always been considered a good and useful citizen, a man of more than ordinary energy, and earnestly intent on the development of the resources of this portion of Arizona. He was probably between 50 and 60 years of age, and, we should judge from his accent, a native of some of the German States.

In an article printed in the Los Angeles Mining Review, Charles B. Genung expressed his belief that Charles P. Stanton, induced William Partridge to kill Wilson and gave the following account of how he came to his death:

C. P. Stanton, an Englishman, came to Arizona from Nevada in 1870, and did assaying at the Vulture Co. Mill near Wickenburg until the mill and mine were closed down by Sexton White. He then went to Antelope Creek near the Leviathan, about two miles from Rich Hill, and built a small cabin in which he made his home for several years. His cabin was near the stage station of Yaqui Wilson and, as Wilson was pretty busy some times, he got Stanton to assist him.

There was an old Englishman named Partridge living on the creek about half a mile below Wilson's. The stage company decided to build a barn of their own at Partridge's place, as he had plenty of water. After the barn was built there was no place for the stock tender to eat and as the stage passengers were in the habit of eating when the stage stopped at Wilson's, Partridge concluded he would start a station, so he put up a house with several rooms and had everything fixed up for store and station but the passengers would get off the stage at Partridge's place and walk to Wilson's and get their dinner, the stage picking them up as it came along on the way to Prescott.

Partridge was an Englishman and very avaricious; wanted to get everything in the country. Stanton worked him up to kill Yaqui Wilson by telling him that Wilson had threatened to put him out of the way as he did not want him there with an opposition business. Stanton had thought if he could get rid of Wilson that he would have no trouble in getting the station.

Wilson had some pigs and he would go out every day with a pole and knock the fruit off of the prickly pear which grew in abundance and the pigs followed and ate the fruit. One day he was near Partridge's house with a sledge handle, knocking off the prickly pears, when Partridge started after him with a rifle. Wilson had no gun and made a run for a short, brushy gulch and crawled into the brush and hid but Partridge ran around to the mouth of the gulch to where he could see Wilson and shot him to death.

He hid out for a few days, but as it was impossible for him to get out of the country he made his way to Prescott and surrendered. Was tried and sent to the penitentiary for life.

Partridge told my son, F. M. Genung, his story while waiting for the stage in Peoples Valley when he was on his way to Prescott to give himself up after killing Wilson.

The substance of the report of the killing which appeared in the Prescott Arizona Enterprise is as follows:

Wilson was the owner of the stage station on Antelope Creek and Partridge has recently built a rival establishment about half a mile below. The first that was seen of the difficulty was that Wilson was running towards the creek and Partridge was following with a gun. Wilson told him to drop his gun and come to where he was and he would fight him. Partridge continued to follow Wilson and the latter hid in the brush.

Partridge then threw stones into the brush until he managed to get Wilson out of his place of concealment. Partridge then said, "I've got you now", fired and Wilson fell. Partridge then told Richard Mayne, who was near, to take charge of everything, went to the house, and went over the hills with a small white package in his hands. Wilson called for water, which was given him, asked to have his boots taken off, which was done, and died about ten minutes after he was shot.

The deceased, "Yaqui" Wilson, was so called, from having at one time lived on the Yaqui River, in Sonora, and having once led a revolution of the Yaqui Indians against Pesquiera, in which he was not successful. He was captured but afterwards escaped to California. He was an energetic and persevering but peaceful citizen and his loss will be deeply felt in the neighborhood in which he lived, which abounds everywhere with the marks of his energy.

A document, purporting to be the last will (nuncupative) of G. H. Wilson, in which Wilson bequeaths all his property to John Timmerman, has been filed in the Probate Court.

The following items are from the Prescott Arizona Miner:

August 27, 1877--C. P. Stanton, a witness in the Partridge-Wilson homicide case came in, today from Antelope bringing in the sledge hammer handle that Mr. Wilson attacked Mr. Partridge with, which to us looked about as dangerous a weapon as a pistol or gun.

August 28, 1877--In the Partridge-Wilson case the testimony for the defense is now being taken. It will probably go to the jury tomorrow.

August 30, 1877--The jury in the case of Partridge for the killing of Wilson stood four for murder in the first degree, five for murder in the second degree, two for manslaughter, and one for acquittal on first ballot. After being out some four hours, the jury returned a verdict of murder in the second degree, recommending the prisoner to the mercy of the Court. This crime is punishable by imprisonment for a period of not less than ten years which may extend to life.

Killed at Antelope Station, Yavapai County, A.T., August 9, 1877, aged 57; buried there.

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- The Arizona Enterprise, Prescott, August 11, 1877, 3:2; January 11, 1879, 2:3  
 The Arizona Miner, Prescott, August 10, 2:5, August 17, 3:3 and 4:3; August 24, 4:2, August 31, 3:1-3 and 4:2, September 7, 3:2-3, November 2, 1877, 3:1; (a number of references to the trial imprisonment and subsequent pardon of Partridge by Governor Fremont on January 16, 1880)  
 The Los Angeles Mining Review- p. 11 (Loose leaves, no date)

#### ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- The Arizona Miner, Prescott, December 26, 1868, 2:3; April 13, 3:1 and September 28, 1872, 3:1; May 14, 3:2 and December 31, 1875, 2:4.  
 The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, June 22, 1872, 2:3 and August 23, 1873, 4:2.