



	1	2	3	4
16			PAULINE MOSS 1876 - 1908	
15	DAUGHTER OF W.J. & OLIVE MARKS 1908 - 1916		CHARLES F. MOSS INFANT MALE, 1910-1910 1871 - 1920	ROBERT BALL 1908 - 1928
14		HANNA MEILING 1873 - 1909	SOPHIA MOSS 1916- INFANT MALE 1916 1878 - 1910	
13		ANNIE M. MORRISON 1872 - 1925	HERMAN GERWIEN 1844 - 1909	
12			WM SHILLIAM 1854 - 1918	OLDEST WOODEN MARKER
11				
10				H. DEMPIONE - 1904
9		JOHN LLOYD RHODES 1912 - 1914		JAMES HIGGINES
8			John Lopnow John Lopnow 1841-1913.	
7				
6	DR L.L. SCHWAB 1878 - 1918	MARTHA ROBINSON 1857 - 1918	MOLLIE CURRAN 1861 - 1912	
5	HENRY WM BROWN 1928 - 1928		SAMUEL BAKER 1884 - 1921	
4	MRS S.T. MAYHEW 1848 - 1918	ROY O. FOURR 1889 - 1919		
3	INFANT SMITH 1922 - 1922	WM FOURR 1839 - 1935	MONROE UPTON HARMON 1911 - 1911	
2	MAYHEW TOMPKINS SCHWAB 1899 - 1924	LUCINDA J. FOURR 1854 - 1942	WOOD MARKER	
1	ROSA M. SCHWAB 1875 - 1948	ELMER J. GUMM 1868 - 1922	CHARLES WILSON BROWN 1889 - 1919	

**Rosa M. Schwab 1877-1948**

Row 1 column 1

Name: Rosa M. Schwab  
[Rosa M. Mayhew]  
Gender: Female  
Race: White  
Marital Status: Widowed  
Age:73  
Birth Date:30 Mar 1875  
Birth Place: Bath NC  
Death Date:27 Nov 1948  
Death Place: Benson, Cochise, AZ  
Father: Benjamin F Mayhew  
Mother: Sally Mayhew  
Spouse: Dr. Lester L. Schwab  
Rosa Marian Grubbs Schwab  
BIRTH: 30 Mar 1877  
Bath, Beaufort County, NC,  
DEATH: 27 Nov 1948 (aged 71)  
Benson, Cochise County, AZ,  
BURIAL: Seventh Street Cemetery  
Benson, Cochise County, AZ,

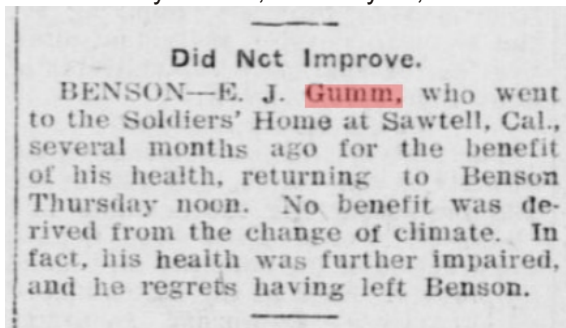


**Elmer J. Gumm 1868-1922**

Row 1 column 2

Elmer J Gumm  
BIRTH: Mar 1864  
Bourbon County, Kansas, USA  
DEATH: 28 Jan 1922 (aged 57)  
Sawtelle, Los Angeles County, CA  
Benson, AZ

Bisbee daily review., February 23, 1922



SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR -  
Elmer J. Gumm, Corporal, Co. E,  
1st Territorial Volunteer Infantry.  
Enlisted 27 June 1898  
at Albuquerque, NM;  
Discharged 11 Feb 1899  
at Albany, GA.



**Charles W. Brown 1899-1919**

Row 1 column 3

Name: Charles Wilson Brown  
Birth Date:9 Feb 1889  
Birth Place: Crosby County, TX  
Death Date: 31 May 1919  
Death Place: Benson, AZ,  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ



The Benson signal., June 07, 1919

## Accidental Shooting Causes Death

### Chas. W. Brown Died from the Effects of a Pistol Bullet Last Saturday Evening

An accidental shooting resulting in the death of Charles W. Brown, a well known cattleman, occurred last Saturday evening about 8:30 o'clock at his home about twenty miles north of Benson. A pistol, supposed to be unloaded, accidentally discharged by his wife was the cause of the distressing affair. The deceased who was ill, was being attended by a neighbor, Mrs. I. G. Fletcher. She had been rubbing his head, which was aching severely. Mr. Brown asked her to rub

9th, 1889, coming to Arizona about twelve years ago. He married on February 14th, 1917, Miss Kate Lindsay, of Oklahoma. Besides his wife he leaves his father, three brothers and four sisters. His father, Mr. J. P. Brown came on from Brownwood, Texas, to be at the last services, which were held Tuesday at 5 p. m. conducted by Rev. Wm. Brown at the M. E. Church and burial in the Benson cemetery.

Mr. Brown was highly respected upright and reliable, a good business man, well esteemed by all who knew him. Many friends join with the family in mourning his untimely death.

the back of his neck which was paining him. She helped him to turn over and was rubbing his neck when he said to Mrs. Brown, who had come into the room, "Katie show Mrs. Fletcher the gun Mr Henshaw gave you."

Mrs. Fletcher coming from her home alone brought along her pistol of 32 caliber, which she carried for protection against snakes and other dangers, which she laid on a table in a corner of the room. Mrs. Brown picked up this gun instead of her own. Her own she had been snapping all that afternoon, showing the new weapon. She started

to snap the revolver but was surprised and startled when she heard the report at the first pull on the trigger. Seeing what she had done Mrs. Brown cried out, "Who has been fooling with my pistol? Oh, Brownie have I shot you?" He answered that she had. She then ran to him and expressed her sorrow and offered what consolation she could.

Two brothers of the deceased, Messrs Geo. and John Brown, well known cattlemen, had just come to the house, and were eating supper in the dining room when they heard the shot. They ran in and did all that could be done for the relief of their brother, but with little avail, as his death occurred in a little less than an hour.

The bullet entered the back near the spine and ranged downward, coming out near the groin, probably severing the spinal column in its course.

Mr. Brown had been attended on the evening of his death by Dr. R. E. Franklin, of this place, who pronounced the patient suffering from congestion of the lungs and in a serious condition. The shooting probably happened within a short time after the doctor took his leave.

A coroner's jury was summoned by Justice C. L. Rucker Sunday morning which went down to the **Brown** home, where an inquest was held. The verdict rendered was that the deceased came to his death by the accidental discharge of a pistol in the hands of his wife, Mrs. Kate Brown.

Charles Wilson Brown was born in Crosby County, Texas, February 9th, 1889, coming to Arizona about twelve years ago. He married on February 14th, 1917, Miss Kate Lindsay, of Oklahoma. Besides his wife he leaves his father, three brothers and four sisters. His father, Mr. J. P. Brown came on from Brownwood, Texas, to be at the last services, which were held Tuesday at 5 p. m. conducted by Rev. Wm. Brown at the M. E. Church and burial in the **Benson** cemetery.

Mr. Brown was highly respected upright and reliable, a good business man, well esteemed by all who knew him. Many friends join with the family in mourning his untimely death.

**Mayhew Tompkins Schwab 1899-1924**

Row 2 column 1

Name: Mayhew Tompkins Schwab  
 Birth Date: 3 Aug 1899  
 Birth Place: Roanoke City, VA

Death Date: 18 Jan 1924  
 Father: Lester Linwood Schwab  
 Mother: Rosa Marian Schwab



**Henry Wm Brown 1928-1928**  
 Row 5 column 1

Name: Henry William Brown  
 Gender: Male  
 Birth Date: 2 Jun 1928  
 Birth Place: Benson, AZ  
 Death Date: 2 Jun 1928  
 Death Place: Benson, AZ  
 Father: Albert Brown  
 Mother: Elizabeth Brown



**Infant Smith 1922-1922**

Row 3 column 1

Name: Infant Smith  
 Birth Date: 29 Jan 1922  
 Death Date: 29 Jan 1922  
 Burial Place: Benson, AZ

Arizona Death Certificate:  
 Henry William Brown, infant son of  
 Albert Brown (b. Evening Shade, Ark)  
 and Elizabeth Schwat  
 (b. Roaushe, VA), born & died on  
 6/2/1928 in Benson, AZ. Premature  
 birth, 6 1/2 mos



**Monroe Upton Harmon 1911-1911**

Row 3 column 3

Name: Monroe Upton (Baby) Harman  
 Birth Date: 2 Mar 1911  
 Death Date: 18 Sep 1911 6 mo  
 Cause: Cholera  
 Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
 Father: James Givens Harman  
 Mother: Anna Lee Harman



## William Fourr 1842 - 1936

Row 3 column 2



William Fourr was born in Missouri on July 11, 1842. He headed west while still in his teens when he hired on as a cattle driver with a herd headed to Fort Craig in New Mexico in 1861. He worked at the Fort for several years until he heard about a gold discovery in Arizona and headed for Prescott to try his luck. He didn't find gold so he hired on as a rider on the southern Arizona mail route between Gila Bend and Yuma. He later managed the Kenyon and Burk stage stations on the toll road along the Gila. While connected with the stage route Fourr met many of Arizona's leading pioneers: Charles T. Hayden, Jack Swilling, Tom Jeffords, the Ourys and many other.

For a while Fourr and his family ranched at Oatman Flat along the Gila where they were often raided by the Apaches. Eventually Uncle Billy joined Col. Woolsey, the famous Indian fighter, in an unsuccessful effort to recover their livestock stolen by the Apaches. Fourr tried life in California, briefly, but returned to Arizona in 1880 where he established his ranch, the Fourr-F, in the Dragoon Mountains. The first few years in this area were exciting with continuing trouble from the Apaches at the nearby Cochise stronghold and all the outlaws in Tombstone which was also not far away. Eventually, life settled down and Fourr became a very successful cattleman. He and his wife Lucinda had twelve children, eight of whom survived to maturity. Many of Fourr's descendants continue to live in Arizona.

William "Billy" Fourr and Lucinda Jane Nunn. "Mr. Fourr married Miss Nunn in 1867...His ranch, which is one of the best known in the state, is but five or six miles from the famous Cochise Stronghold where the Indian warrior Cochise, with his band of followers, stood off a large force of soldiers for weeks until finally a treaty was made with him."-- Arizona Republican, Wednesday Morning, February 9, 1921

"Married an immigrant girl from Texas. Had to know her about a year, her folks were camped at Gila Bend and farming. They went to California later. Cost me \$600.00 to get married, the dog gone, Justice of the peace Billy Baxtor, had to come from Maricopa on a mule and the Indians were bad, and he had to ride at night, and the "dog-on" feller charged me \$150.00. Then there were other expenses. But I had plenty of money for those days, and every one knew it. After I had been married about a year, I left my young wife with her mother, and went on an Indian fight." William Fourr Reminiscences 1925.

## Lucinda J. Fourr 1854-1942

Row 2 column 2

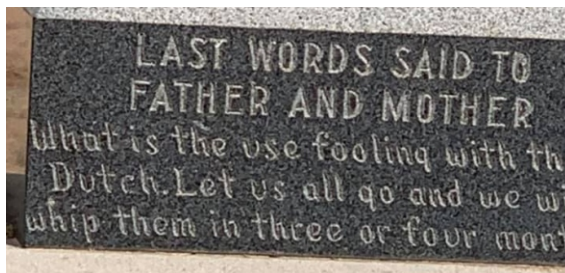


## William Fourr 1841-1935

Row 3 column 2



Roy O. Fourn 1889-1919  
Row 4 column 2



Roy O. Fourn 1889-1919  
Row 4 column 2

The Benson signal., April 12, 1919

**Death of Roy Fourn in Siberia**

The sad news has been received by the family of the death of Roy O. Fourn, with the American army in Siberia. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Fourn, of Dragoon, received a telegram telling of his death from the War Department last Saturday, without giving particulars, and it was supposed he was killed while fighting the Bolsheweki, but later advices state his death was due to pneumonia.

Mr. Francis Goodman, of St. David, has a son in the same company Roy was in, and received a letter from him the same day the telegram was received that young Fourn died from pneumonia, after a short illness.

Roy Fourn was born and reared in this county. He was a young man of splendid habits and more than ordinary ability. He received training at Camp Kearney, California, and went to Russia as a member of the 31st infantry.

The parents and relatives are almost heart-broken over his untimely death, particularly as his last letters indicated that he expected soon to return home.

In addition to his parents the deceased is survived by two brothers and five sisters:

J. W. Fourn, of Douglas; R. M. Fourn, of Dragoon; Mrs. Fred S. Bennett, of Tombstone; Mrs. W. J. Bennett, of Benson; Mrs. J. A. Lamb, of Tombstone; Mrs. D. A. Adams, of Dragoon; Mrs. Ed F. Echols, of Mescal.

TOMBSTONE, May 8.—According to word received by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. **Fourr** of Dragon, the body of their son, Roy **Fourr**, who died of pneumonia, in Siberia, where he was with the American expeditionary forces, is being shipped home and has arrived in San Francisco. Mr. **Fourr** received notice from the department there, asking further disposition of the body, and ordered it sent to Benson, where the funeral will be held. It is expected to arrive in Benson this week. The death of the Cochise county boy has met with general regret, when the news was received, and a number of friends of the family will go to Benson to attend the funeral when announced.

The Benson signal., May 10, 1919

### Burial of Roy O. **Fourr**

The remains of Roy O. **Fourr**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. **Fourr**, of Dragoon, who died of pneumonia in Siberia, where he was with the American Expeditionary Forces, arrived Thursday from San Francisco. The funeral services took place yesterday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock, at the residence of Mr. W. J. Bennett, brother-in-law of the deceased, the services conducted by Rev. Wm. Brown.

The burial was carried out with military honors, the casket draped with the national colors and with a guard of honor of returned soldiers in uniform carrying arms ahead of the procession. At the cemetery a salute was fired over the grave and "taps" was sounded, as part

of the ceremony.

Many relatives and friends from different portions of the county were present to attend the last sad ceremonies.

Dr. LL Schwab 1878-1918

Row 6 column 1

The Benson signal., December 14, 1918

Dr. L. L. **Schwab**, has been confined to to bed for over a week with a severe case of influenza.

The Benson signal., January 04, 1919

### Death of Dr. L. L. **Schwab**

Dr. L. L. **Schwab** died at his home at this place about 9:30 last Saturday evening after a serious illness of several weeks. He had been in failing health for some time, coming to Benson with his family about a year ago from El Paso, Texas. It was hoped the climate here would benefit him, but it was not to be. He became popular with all during his residence here and much regret is felt at his decease.

Dr. **Schwab** was born in Warrenton, Virginia, and was in his 41st year. He made his home during his entire professional career in Roanoke, Va., from where he removed to El Paso, Texas, two years ago, spending about a year there.

He leaves a widow, three sons and six daughters. Other surviving relatives are his mother, two sisters and four brothers. He was affiliated with the State Medical Society of Virginia and the American Medical Association.

There was a large gathering at the funeral services, which were held at the home on Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Rev. William Brown, of the Presbyterian Church, conducted the services. Two of Dr. Schwab's favorite hymns were sung, "Abide With Me" and "Nearer My God to Thee." Burial was at the Benson Cemetery.



Samuel Baker 1884-1921

Row 5 column 4

Name: Samuel D. Baker

Gender: Male

Race: White

Marital Status: Married

Age: 37

Birth Date: 28 Jan 1884

Birth Place: Illinois

Death Date: 26 Mar 1921

Death Place: Benson, AZ

Died of Tuberculosis





Samuel Daniel Baker & Nettie Pearl Baker.

Samuel D. Baker was born in Illinois on January 23, 1884. He was the son of John W. And Margaret Jane Cecil Baker. Samuel Baker married Nettie Pearl Baker. They had two children: Audrey Baker Bingham and George Harold (Sammy) Baker.

Samuel Baker played professional baseball for the Cleveland Indians on the Lexington, KY / Grand Junction, CO circuit from approximately 1902 to 1912. He contracted tuberculosis while playing baseball games in the rain, so he came to Benson in 1917 in attempt to recover from T. B. His family stayed in Illinois for two years before they moved to Benson in 1919. Samuel Baker raised rabbits for the local restaurants and did odd jobs around the community while he was trying to heal from the tuberculosis. His wife Nettie was a professional seamstress and made her living that way.

Samuel Baker died on March 26, 1921, just two years after his family joined him in Benson. Both children of the marriage, Audrey Baker Bingham and George Herald Baker, grew up and remained in Benson.

**Martha W. Robinson 1857-1918**

Row 6 column 2

Bisbee daily review., July 27, 1918

Mrs. Martha W. **Robinson** died Monday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. C. Keen, at Benson. Mrs. **Robinson** had been an invalid for six years. She was well known in Tucson where she had made her home for two years. Besides her daughter in Benson, she is survived by another daughter, Mrs. Harry Huddleston, in Tucson, also one son, D. I. **Robinson**, formerly a Southern Pacific employe and now a soldier with the American forces in France.

A large number of friends attended the funeral at Benson Tuesday, conducted by J. R. Brown, minister of the Christian church of Tucson.

The Benson signal., July 27, 1918

## Death Of Mrs. **Robinson**

The death of Mrs. Martha Westbrook **Robinson** occurred last Monday morning at 9 o'clock at the home of her son-in-law and daughter Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Keen of this place. The deceased had been an invalid for the past six years from a fracture of the hip due to a fall, and had been steadily failing since the first of May, but her last serious illness extended only over a period of a few days.

Mrs. **Robinson** was a native of Tennessee, but had lived long in southwest, coming to Benson to make her home a few years ago. She is survived by two daughters and a son, Mrs. J. C. Keen, of this place, Mrs. Harry Huddleston, of Tucson, and Dunklin I. **Robinson** formerly a railroad man of Tucson, but now serving with the American army in France.

Funeral services were held Tuesday morning at the Keen family resident, conducted by Rev. J. R. Brown, of the First-Christian Church, of Tucson, of which denomination the deceased was a

member. The interment took place at the Benson Cemetery, attended by a large number of friends.



**Mollie Curran 1861-1912**  
Row 6 column 3

Name: Mollie Curran  
Age in 1910: 49  
Birth Date: 1861  
Birthplace: Arkansas  
Home in 1910: Benson, AZ  
Race: White  
Gender: Female  
Relation to Head of House: Wife  
Marital Status: Married  
Name: Mollie Curran  
Death Date: 4 Aug 1912  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ



**John Lopnow 1841-1913**  
Row 8 column 3

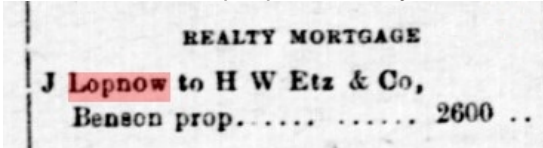
Name: John Lopnow  
Age: 47  
Birth Date: Jun 1852  
Birthplace: Germany  
Race: White  
Gender: Male  
Immigration Year: 1853  
Spouse's Name: Albertina Lopnow  
Marriage Year: 1883  
Years Married: 17

Cochise review., June 05, 1900

Last week Mr. W. C. Land bought what was formerly known as the Bryan property of John **Lopnow**; consideration, \$4,050. Mr. Land is corresponding with California parties with the view of sinking an artesian well.

Mr. John **Lopnow** has purchased the John Allen property in Benson; consideration, \$2,300.

Tombstone epitaph., January 12, 1913



Name: John Lopnow  
Cemetery: Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial or Cremation Place: Benson, AZ



**John Lloyd Rhodes 1912-1914**  
Row 9 column 2

Name: John Lloyd Rhodes  
Gender: Male  
Birth Date: 26 Apr 1912  
Death Date: 7 Aug 1914  
Drowned in a pool near ST David  
Birth Place: Mammoth, AZ  
Father: John Rhodes  
Mother: Bessie Peal Rhodes  
Mother: Bessie Peal Mcaimey

Bisbee daily review, August 12, 1914

## CHILD DROWNS IN BENSON RESERVOIR

BENSON, Ariz., Aug. 10—One of the saddest events that has been chronicled in this vicinity for a long time occurred yesterday, when Lloyd **Rhodes**'s 2-year old grand-son of the well-known cattleman, Thomas McKinney, fell into a reservoir at the McKinney ranch, south of town, and drowned.

Mrs. **Rhodes** and the unfortunate son came from their home at Mammoth a short time ago to spend a few weeks with grand-father and grand-mother. The little boy enjoyed himself by playing about the yard, and no thought of danger ever entered the minds of the older folks. Yesterday he was missed for a short time and an investigation found his lifeless body in the reservoir, which is about two or three feet deep. Dr. Powell of Benson was summoned and he went at breakneck speed in his auto to the ranch but all in vain, life was extinct.

The mother and grand-parents were stricken with grief, and today a cloud of sorrow hovers over the ranch where only a day ago nothing but happiness reigned.  
The father was notified at Mammoth and arrived in Benson this morning.

**H. Dempione 0000 -1904**  
Row 10 column 4

Name: H Dempione  
Birth Date: Unknown  
Death Date: 1904  
Cemetery: High Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ



**James Higgins - Unknown**  
Row 9 column 4

Birth: unknown  
Death: unknown Burial  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Benson, AZ



**William E. Shilliam 1854-1918**  
Row 12 column 3

Name: William Shilliam  
Birth Date: 3 Oct 1854  
Birth Place: London England  
Death Date: 20 Feb 1918  
Home in 1900: Benson, AZ  
Race: White  
Gender: Male  
Immigration Year: 1870  
Relation to Head of House: Head  
Marital Status: Married  
Spouse: Minnie Bauer Shilliam  
Marriage Year: 1893  
Father's Birthplace: England  
Mother's Birthplace: England  
Years in US: 30  
Naturalization: No  
Occupation: Deputy Sheriff



Household Members	Age	Relationship
William Shilliam	45	Head
Minnie B Shilliam	27	Wife
Mary E Shilliam	6	Daughter
Margurite Shilliam	3	Daughter

## William Shilliam Dies in Benson

Advices were received in this city yesterday of the sudden death of William Shilliam, which occurred in Benson on Wednesday afternoon. He had not been in the best of health for the past year, but was able to be up and around. Wednesday about noon he walked into the butcher shop of Henry Etz and sat down in a chair and had been sitting there a few moments when he suddenly fell over on the floor dead. He was 63 years of age and had been a resident of the state for over 35 years and had been a resident of the Benson section of Cochise county for over 25 years. He leaves a wife, two daughters and a son to mourn his loss. They have been making their residence in this city for the past few years on ac-

count of the school facilities. He was prominent member of the Republican party and always took active interest in that organization. He has been justice of the peace of the Benson precinct for a number of years and was also the U. S. commissioner for that district. One of his daughters has been secretary for Superintendent Philbrook of the Bisbee schools for the past few years.

The funeral services were held in Benson yesterday afternoon and were well attended by his many friends in that vicinity. He has many friends throughout the state who will regret to learn of his death. The sympathy of the many friends is extended to the widow and her children in the hour of their loss.

**JUDGE SHILLIAM  
DIES AT BENSON**

Word reached Tombstone last night of the death yesterday afternoon of Judge Wm. Shilliam, pioneer of Benson. It seems that Judge Shilliam, who is justice of the peace and U. S. Commissioner there, and has been for years, was sitting in a chair in the H. W. Etz meat market and was noticed to what the employes thought to be asleep. After he had remained in this position for some time they went to awaken him and found that life had passed away, and the body had been in a sitting posture for several hours. Judge Shilliam was a pioneer of Cochise county,

having resided here for the past 40 years and was well known throughout the state. He had been active in politics for many years and until his death was Justice of the Peace and U. S. Commissioner. He was buried in Benson this afternoon, a number going down from here to attend the funeral.

The Benson signal., February 23, 1918

**Old Pioneer  
Dies Suddenly  
Heart Failure**

Benson was surprised and shocked to learn Wednesday afternoon of the sudden death of Judge W. E. Shilliam, an old and respected citizen and pioneer of Southern Arizona. He was apparently as well as usual when he walked into the meat market of H. W. Etz and Co. a little while afternoon, and sat down, Mr. Etz noticed after a time that he seemed to have fallen into a doze, and went to arouse him. He then discovered that life was extinct. Death seemingly had been painless

Wm Ewart Shilliam was a native of England, coming to America when a young man and soon afterward

finding his way to the Southwest, and Arizona. The dangers and excitements of a new country appealed to his nature and he was engaged in many enterprises in the country then infested with Indians and bad men that required nerve and daring. Judge Shilliam, so called from his positions as justice of the peace for several years of Benson from his positions as justice of the peace for several years of Benson precinct.

He first located in the Warren district, then in its making, and his family are now living there.

Deceased was a member of the Masons and Odd Fellows and held his membership in Tucson in both orders. He was active in politics until the last few years since when his infirmities have kept him from active participation in the political affairs of the State except to a limited extent He was for a good many years a leader among the republican forces of the territory and state.

Judge Shilliam is survived by a wife, two daughtzrs, Misses Ethel and Margurite Shilliam, and a son William M. Shilliam, all of whom were present at the funeral. Mrs. A. Bower and Mrs. Geo. Meyer, mother and sister of Mrs Shilliam



were also present.

Funeral services were held at the Methodist Church conducted by Rev. David Roberts, and burial took place in the local cemetery attended by a large number of friends.

**Annie M. Morrison 1872-1925**

Row 13 column 2

Name: Annie M Morrison

[Annie M Meiling]

Gender: Female

Race: White

Marital Status: Married

Age: 53

Birth Date: 25 Dec 1872

Birth Place: Mount Phoenix, UT

Death Date: 31 Aug 1925

Death Place: Benson, AZ

Father: Jauns Meiling

Mother: Hannah Meiling



Anna M. Christianson Morrison.

**Herman Gerwein 1844-1909**

Row 13 column 3

Bisbee daily review., June 22, 1909

#### Old Resident Dies.

Word was received here at an early hour yesterday morning that H. Gerwein, who was taken to the hospital at Tucson a few days since from here suffering from typhoid fever, had died at that place. Mr. Gerwein was one of the oldest settlers in the San Pedro valley at Benson, coming here in the early eighties. He came here from California in 1881 and has been a resident of this city ever since. He was a prosperous merchant and had for a number of years been conducting a lumberyard at this point. He was sixty-eight years of age and leaves a service will be held tomorrow after-noon.

Arizona republican., June 23, 1909

## PROMINENT CITIZEN OF BENSON DIES

Herman Gerwein a Resident and Business Man of Many Years.

Benson, June 21.—(Special Correspondence of The Republican.)—Herman Gerwein an old-time resident of Benson died at the Sisters' hospital at Tucson, June 20, 1909 at 2:30 o'clock a.m. Mr. Gerwein was sixty-six years of age and a native of Austria. He left a wife and two little girls to mourn his loss and they have the sympathy of the entire community. Mr. Gerwein had been in the lumber business here for a great many years and he had many friends among all classes of citizens. He was a staunch republican, well known to the leaders of the party in the territory. He was an affectionate husband and father, a kind neighbor and an honest man.

There has been a good deal of sickness here from some undiscovered cause, though Benson is recognized as one of the most healthful towns in the territory. All the cases of illness are mild however and soon yield to treatment.

The people here are rejoicing at the near completion of the Benson canal. While the canal is not quite finished, it is supplying water to all of the farmers who are ready to use it, in abundance. There are some fine crops and varieties of vegetables growing under the canal such as Irish and sweet potatoes, cabbage, cantaloupes, watermelons, onions, beans, corn and other garden stuff that cannot be beat in any man's country. The soil and climate here are perfection.



The railroad business here is growing tremendously Range cattle are looking well but rain is badly needed.

The oasis., June 26, 1909

It is reported that a typhoid fever epidemic is prevalent at Benson. Mr. H. Gerwein, who had lived in Benson since 1881, was taken to the hospital at Tucson last week. suffering from typhoid fever, and died a few days later. Quite a number of others have been stricken during the past week.

Bisbee daily review., June 25, 1909

## PROMINENT MERCHANT OF BENSON IS DEAD

Herman Gerwein, the Benson lumber merchant and banker, died at the hospital in Tucson of typhoid fever, after a brief illness. The remains were taken to Benson where the funeral was held.

During the prevalence last week of typhoid fever in Benson Mr. Gerwein was attacked and on advice of the physician he was taken to the hospital at Tucson.

Hermann Gerwein was born in Germany. He has passed most of his time in Benson since he came to this country, having lived in that town over thirty years. Deceased has been engaged in the lumber business and in recent years became associated with the Citizens Bank of Benson as a stockholder, director and officer. Mr Gerwein was a member of the industrial school board during the

early days of its existence. He enjoyed the confidence and respect of every resident of Benson.

The oasis., July 03, 1909

Cochise Co. Press: In the death of Mr. Gerwein Benson has suffered the loss of one of her oldest and most substantial citizens, one who has been prominently identified in the upbuilding of the town and district for nearly three decades. One week ago last Tuesday Mr. Gerwein was taken to the Tucson hospital with the hope that with

the skilled medical attention of that institution he would recover from the fever which had stricken him two weeks before. He was accompanied by his wife who returned home as soon as he began to feel better. The following Friday word was received that he was worse and Mrs. Gerwein hastened to his bedside, leaving on the night train, and was with him when death came the following Sunday morning about two o'clock.

Name: Herman Gerwein  
Gender: Male  
Race: White  
Marital Status: Married  
Age: 65  
Birth Date: 10 Feb 1844  
Birth Place: Germany  
Death Date: 20 Jun 1909 (aged 65)  
Death Place: Tucson, AZ  
Father: Gerwien  
Mother: Catherine Gerwien

Name: Katherine Srhembs Gerwien  
Gender: Female  
Death Date: 3 Jun 1934  
Death Place: Los Angeles .  
Obituary Date: 3 Jun 1934  
Obituary Place: Louisville, KY

Race: White  
Gender: Male  
Immigration Year: 1866  
Relation to Head of House: Head  
Marital Status: Married  
Spouse's Name: Catherina Gromein  
Marriage Year: 1895  
Years Married: 5

OBITUARY - "Arizona Republican Newspaper" Published June 23, 1909, Phoenix, AZ

"Herman Gerwein an old time resident of Benson died at the Sisters Hospital at Tucson, June 20, 1909 at 2:30 o'clock. Mr. Gerwein was sixty six years of age and was a native of Austria. He left a wife and two little girls to mourn his loss and they have the sympathy of the entire community. Mr. Gerwein had been in the lumber business here for a great many years and he had many friends among all classes of citizens. He was a staunch republican, well known to the leaders of the party in the territory."

Herman Gerwein  
Street Address 1048 Folsom  
Francisco, CA  
Occupation Cabinetmaker, Dwl  
San Francisco Directory, 1873

Gerwein Herman, cabinetmaker, dwl 1048 Folsom



Herman Gerwein's Wife J. H. Horenn  
Gender: Female  
Newspaper Title: The Courier-Journal  
Mother: Katherine Srhembs Gerwien  
Not buried in Benson Died in 1934 in  
Louisville Ky



**Hanna Meiling 1873-1909**  
Row 14 column 2

Name: Hanna Meiling  
Birth Date: 1873  
Death Date: 1909  
Maiden Name: Peterson  
Gender: Female  
Birth Place: Copinhagn, Demnark  
Cemetery: Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Father: Jens James Meiling  
Mother: Hannah Meiling



**Mrs. Sophia Moss 1871-1908**

Row 14 column 3

Name: Sophia Moss  
Gender: Female  
Birth Date: 21 May 1878  
Death Date: 10 Dec 1910 (aged 32)  
Death Place: Arizona  
Cemetery: Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Spouse: Charles Francis Moss  
Children: Infant Male Moss  
Name: Sophia May Williams  
Gender: Female  
Marriage Age: 31  
Marriage Date: 21 Apr 1910  
Marriage Place: Arizona



**Gwendolyn Marks 1908-1916**

Daughter of W. J. And Olive Marks

Row 15 column 1

Name: Gwendolyn "Babe" Marks  
Birth Date: 12 Apr 1908  
Birth Place: MO  
Death Date: 17 Oct 1916  
Death Place: Benson, AZ  
Cemetery: Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Father: William John Marks  
Mother: Olive Ann Marks

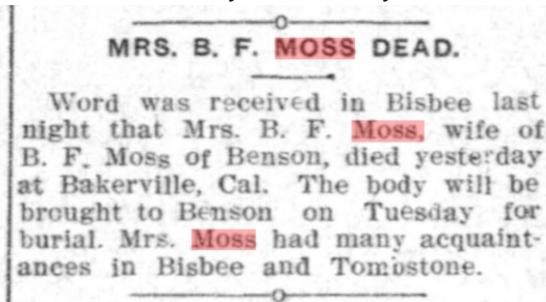


**Mrs. Pauline Moss 1876-1908**

Row 16 column 3

Name: Pauline Moss  
Pauline Lewis Moss  
Birth Date: 3 Mar 1876  
Death Date: 16 Jul 1908 (aged 32)  
Death Place: Bakersfield, , CA  
Cemetery: Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ

Bisbee daily review., July 19, 1908



**Robert Thetus Ball Jr. 1908-1928**

Row 15 column 4

Name: Robert Thetus Ball Jr  
Birth Date: 30 Mar 1908  
Birth Place: Oklahoma,  
Death Date: 3 Jun 1928 (aged 20)  
Death Place: Globe, Gila County, AZ  
Cemetery: Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ



June 8, 1928

**ROBERT T. BALL KILLED**

About five o'clock last Sunday evening there came a telegram from San Carlos (Coolidge) dam to Mrs L. R. Richhart announcing that her son, "R. T." Ball had been hurt, but not seriously. About seven o'clock this was followed by another message saying "R. T." had sustained a broken leg and internal injuries. This was immediately followed by another stating his condition was serious.

Mrs. Richhart, and her daughter and son, Laliah and Douglas, were at Apache. Edward Ball was at the Powder Plant, and Mr. Reed, a brother to Mrs. Richhart was at home, Benson.



On receipt of the last mentioned telegram Mrs. Richhart was notified, and she and the children left for Benson at once by auto. On arrival here and after hurried preparations Mrs. Richhart and Ed. Ball left for San Carlos. While enroute there a message came announcing the death of "R. T."

The cause of his death was as follows: Far above there were workmen. R. T. had his men below. A piece of timber 4x6, 16 ft. long, had become detached from its mooring above, and had fallen. The distance was about 100 feet. It struck Robert T. Ball.

Arriving at San Carlos and finding her son a corpse, Mrs. Richhart gave orders for the embalming of the body. That was Monday. The body was prepared, and accompanied by the mother and brother arrived at Benson about 2:30 Tuesday. It was met at the depot by a large group of friends and at once conveyed to the home on sixth street.

Here the body was held in state until ten A. M. Wednesday, when appropriate services were held at the church "R. T." had attended so faithfully. The body was followed to the grave by a long line of friends and sympathizers where interment was made. Rev. M. L. Edwards, new pastor of the Pres-

byterian church officiated in funeral ceremonies.

Robert T. Ball, son of Mrs. L. R. Richhart (who is a teacher in the Benson grammar school,) was one of Benson's most prominent and exemplary young men, age just twenty. He had graduated at the Benson high school and entered the University of Arizona. He was foremost in church work, being a musician, a member of the town band, a member of the Presbyterian church and the senior Christian Endeavor. "R. T." as he was lovingly called by his friends was clean in personal habits, and one of the hardest workers; "self effort" seemed to be his watch word, along with that of his brother, Edward. The mother while the boys were young, struggled heroically for their education, but the boys showed their appreciation just as soon as they got old enough to be of help.

"R. T." was popular with old and young, and there is a vacancy in Benson church and society which will be hard to fill as it was filled. Cut down in the bloom of youth, with every chance of success, is a blow for the mother and family hard to bear. At the time of his death he was foreman of a group of thirty carpenters. This is evidence of his sterling worth for his age.

Under the laws of Arizona there will no doubt be compensation. But no mother speaks of money as compensation. Poor Robert is gone, never to return. Let us quote the lamented William McKinley: "It is God's way; His will be done."

Charles Francis Moss 1871-1920  
Row 15 column 3

Name: Charles Francis Moss  
Gender: Male  
Race: White  
Marital Status: Married  
Age: 49  
Birth Date: 27 Jun 1871  
Birth Place: Mossville, PA  
Death Date: 6 May 1920  
Death Place: Benson, AZ  
Father: Marion Francis Moss  
Mother: Dasdemeona Moss

Tombstone epitaph., March 28, 1920,

#### RETURNED HOME

H. P. Merrill returned home yesterday from Tucson where he went to accompany **C. F. Moss**, of Benson, who entered the Tucson hospital following a seige of serious illness. The doctors expressed every hope for the rapid and complete recovery of Mr. **Moss** which is pleasing news to his many Tombstone friends.



Charles Francis Moss 1871-1920

# C. F. MOSS OF BENSON DIES

## Good Roads Enthusiast of Cochise County Passes Over Divide

BENSON, May 6.—C. F. Moss, owner of the Moss Pharmacy here and well known throughout Cochise county, died tonight at his home of digestive troubles from which he had been suffering for the last six weeks.

Moss was particularly known for the public spirited stand he took in the building of roads in Cochise county. He was always ready to back any good roads movement and spent much of his own time in this work, which became a sort of hobby with him.

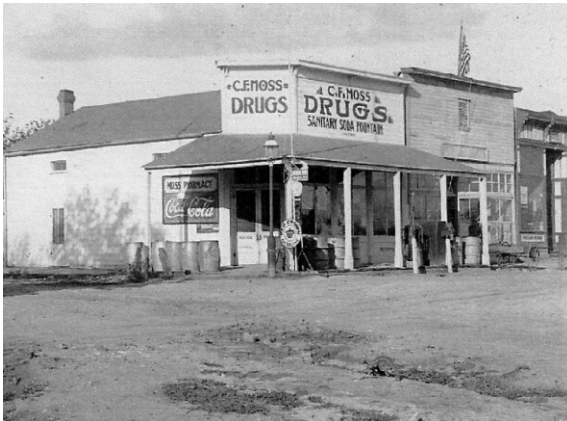
The deceased is survived by a wife, daughter and a brother. He was about 45 years old.

but for the past several days his condition became worse and he passed away last night. He was a victim of lung trouble.

Mr. Moss was well known about the county and particularly through his activities in road building and boosting, resulting in the building of good roads in the vicinity of Benson. He was always ready to back any good roads movement and many times gave of his own time and money in the furtherance of road construction. He was a business man of ability and owned considerable property in Benson.

He leaves a wife and daughter and brother, S. B. Moss, and sister Mrs. H. P. Merrill, of Tombstone. Mr. and Mrs. Merrill left this morning for Benson, where the funeral will be held.

According to word received this afternoon the funeral of Mr. Moss will be held in Benson tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. A number of friends will go from here to attend.



Moss Drug Store c1920

### C. F. MOSS OF BENSON DIES

According to word from Benson this morning C. F. Moss, well known resident of Benson, and owner of the Moss Pharmacy there, died late last night, following an illness which lasted for several months. Mr. Moss was taken to the hospital at Tucson some time ago and had improved



	1	2	3	4
32		HELENA TREU 1873 - 1917		
31		FRITZ TREU 1874 - 1904	MIGUEL F. CASTAÑEDA 1874 - 1916	
30		ISSAC. H. WATKINS 1858 - 1903	BLANCHE WATKINS CASTAÑEDA 1878 - 1902	
29		JOHN. M. GANDY 1847 - 1905	JOSE MIGUEL CASTAÑEDA 1836 - 1901	
28		SALLY EAKER WATKINS 1857 - 1908	AMPARO, A. CASTAÑEDA 1850 - 1927	
27		NINA MARY CASTAÑEDA 1882 - 1905	LILLAH RICHART 1882 - 1934	
26		GERTRUDE M. CASTAÑEDA 1904 - 1909		PATRICK J. DELAHUNTY 1847 - 1904
25				ALICE HUGHES 1889 - 1892
24		MANUELA A. GOLDWATER 1829 - 1928		PHEBIE, V. HUGHES 1864 - 1892
23		KNIGHTS		FRANCES ARMITAGE - 1922
22	HORTENCIA O. SOTO 1913 - 1913	of	MILTON FAIALEE 1858 - 1927	HERBERT ARMITAGE 1847 - 1935
21	HORTENCIA O. SOTO 1910 - 1910	COLUMBUS		L. H. ROTER 1863 - 1898
20	LAUFENCE DUNBAR 1906 - 1907	BENSON HOLCOMB 1859 - 1925	MALVINA E. REDFIELD 1836 - 1906	MARK WALKER 1840 - 1901
19		IDA L. RATH 1883 - 1908	HELEN REDFIELD 1917 - 1920	LEONARD ADAMS 1903 - 1909
18			HENRY KEMPF 1864 - 1908	
17		FREDERICK J. CLARK 1851 - 1909	DESEMONA BIRD MOSS 1844 - 1918	THOMAS GRIBBLE 1842 - 1903

**Fredrick J. Clark 1851-1909**  
Row 17 column 2

Name: Frederick J Clark  
Birth Date:abt 1851  
Death Date:4 Feb 1909  
Died of Bright's Disease  
Cemetery: Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Fred Clark shows up first in the  
1883-1884 Benson directory as  
a Southern Pacific Engineer



**Desemona Bird Moss 1844-1918**  
Row 17 column 3

Name: Desdemona B. Moss  
Gender: Female  
Birth Date:1844  
Death Date:1918  
Cemetery: Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial or Cremation Place: Benson, AZ

Spouse: Marion Francis Moss  
Children: Charles Francis Moss  
Sterling Bird Moss



**Thomas Gribble 1842-1903**  
Row 17 column 4

Bisbee daily review., September 12, 1903

**SATISFACTION OF MORTGAGE.**  
Estate of Thos. **Gribble** to Wm.  
Ohnesorgen.

Name:Thomas Gribble  
Gender:Male  
Spouse:Anita Gribble  
Child:Estelle E Gribble

Thomas Gribble  
Death Date:19 Mar 1903  
Cemetery: Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial or Cremation Place: Benson, AZ



**Henry Kempf 1864-1908**  
Row 18 column 3

Daily Arizona silver belt., February 11, 1908

Henry **Kempf**, a prominent citizen  
of Benson, is dead. He had been sick  
a number of days, but showed marked  
signs of improvement, and the day be-  
fore his death his wife left for St.  
Louis.

Henry Kempf  
BIRTH: 1864  
DEATH: 1907 (aged 42-43)  
BURIAL: Seventh Street Cemetery  
Benson, AZ





**Henry Kempf 1864-1908**

**Ida L. Rath 1883-1908**

Row 19 column 2

Name: Ida Lucy Rath  
Birth Date: 3 Aug 1883  
Death Date: 22 Dec 1908 (aged 26)  
Died in Child birth  
Cemetery: Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Father: Carl Bock  
Mother: Lucy M Bock  
Name: Ida Lucy Bock  
Gender: Female  
Age: 20  
Birth Date: 1884  
Marriage Date: 26 Jan 1904  
Marriage Place: Benson, AZ  
Spouse: George Rath

**Helen Redfield 1917-1920**

Row 19 column 3

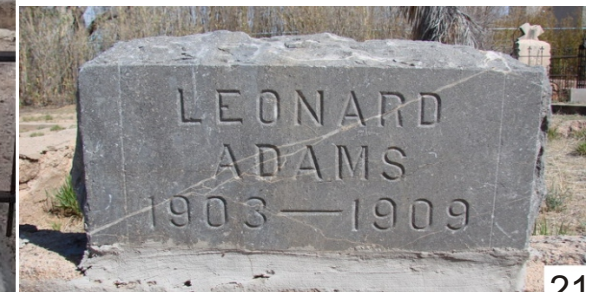
Helen Elizabeth Redfield  
Gender: Female  
Race: White  
Age: 2  
Birth Date: 14 Jul 1917  
Birth Place: Benson, Arizona, USA  
Death Date: 7 May 1920  
Death Place: Benson, AZ  
Father: Leonard Redfield  
Mother: Fannie Gertrude Redfield



**Leonard Adams 1903-1909**

Row 19 column 4

Leonard Adams  
Birth Date: 1903  
Birth Place: Benson, AZ  
Death Date: 20 Feb 1909  
Age: 6 years  
Cause: Diphtheria  
Death Place: Benson, AZ  
Cemetery: Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Father: Pearl Adams  
Mother: Mary Flint Adams



**Lawrence Dunbar 1906 -1907**  
Row 20 column 1

Lawrence Monroe Dunbar  
Gender: Male 7 months  
Birth Date: 27 Jan 1906  
Birth Place: Johnson, AZ  
Death Date: 24 Jul 1906  
Cause: Cholera  
Father: Ed Dunbar  
Mother: Delfina Soto



**Benson Holcomb 1859 -1925**  
Row 20 column 2

Name: Eli Benson Holcomb  
Gender: Male  
Race: White  
Marital Status: Married  
Age: 66  
Birth Date: 8 Feb 1859  
Birth Place: Greensburg, IN  
Death Date: 29 Jun 1925  
Death Place: Benson, AZ  
Section Foreman: SPRR  
Father: Asa Eli Holcomb  
Mother: Emma Holcomb



**Malvina E. Redfield 1836 -1906**  
Row 20 column 3

Name: Malvina E Redfield  
Gender: Female  
Birth Date: Dec 1836  
Birth Place: Lisle, NY,  
Death Date: 1906  
Cemetery: Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Father: Harmon Pierce  
Mother: Glorvinia Pierce  
Children: Leonard Darius Redfield



**Mark Walker 1840 -1901**  
Row 20 column 4

Name: Mark Walker  
Death Date: 29 Aug 1901  
Birth Date: 1831  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ

Arizona daily citizen., September 04, 1901

Mr. Mark Walker, several years connected with the University of Arizona, died at his home in Benson on August 29th at 70 years of age. He was a native of Scotland.



**Hortencia O. Soto 1910 -1910**  
13 days old  
Row 21 column 1

Hortencia Soto  
Gender: Female  
Race: Mexican (Latino)  
Marital Status: Single  
Age: 13 days  
Birth Date: 26 Apr 1910  
Birth Place: Arizona  
Death Date: 9 May 1910  
Death Place: Benson, AZ  
Father: Valente Soto  
Mother: Concepcion Ohnesorgen Soto



L. H. Roter 1863-1898  
Row 21 column 4

Name: Louis Henry Roter  
Birth Date: 9 Jul 1863  
Death Date: 10 Aug 1898  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Gender: Male  
Marriage Date: 19 Dec 1889  
Marriage Place: Bisbee, AZ  
Spouse: Anna Statia Green  
The border vidette., August 11, 1898

L. H. **Roter**, for a long time employed on the N. M. & A. railroad, but recently engaged in the saloon business at Benson, died yesterday morning at Benson from the effects of a hemorrhage of the lungs. He was buried yesterday evening.

The oasis., August 13, 1898

Mr. Louis R. **Roter** was seriously seized with hemorrhages of the lungs and died in a couple of hours. His remains were interred the same afternoon. Deceased was well known in southern Arizona, having been long in the employ of the New Mexico & Arizona railway, in charge of a work train and as section foreman.



Hortencia O. Soto 1913 -1913  
5 months old

Row 22 column 1

Name: Hortencia O Soto  
Birth Date: 11 Jan 1913  
Death Date: 9 Jul 1913  
(aged 5 months)  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ



Milton Fairlee 1858 -1927  
Row 22 column 3

Name: Milton Fairlee  
Gender: Male  
Birth Date: 18 Sept 1858  
Albany, NY  
Death Date: 10 Jun 1927  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Father: Simon Fairlee  
Mother: Susan Rhinehart  
Children: Susie Edith Guerra



Milton Fairlee and partner Peter Jensen owned the Mansion Hotel built in 1904



Milton Fairlee

**Herbert Armitage 1849 -1935**

Row 22 column 4

86 Years

Herbert Armitage  
 Age in 1910: 61  
 Birth Date: 1849  
 Birthplace: England  
 Home in 1910: Benson, AZ  
 Immigration Year: 1881  
 Marital Status: Married  
 Spouse's Name: Fannie Armitage  
 Father's Birthplace: England  
 Mother's Birthplace: England  
 Native Tongue: English  
 Occupation: Butcher  
 Industry: Own Farm  
 Home Free or Mortgaged: Free  
 Naturalization Status: Naturalized  
 Years Married: 34

Household	Age	Relationship
Herbert Armitage	61	Head
Fannie Armitage	52	Wife
Ethel T Armitage	20	Daughter

The oasis., July 31, 1897

Miss Ethel Armitage has been very ill with scarlet fever. She is now convalescent.



**Francis Armitage 1858 -1922**

Row 23 column 4

64 years

**Manuela Goldwater 1829-1928**

Row 24 column 2

Name: Manuela Arvizu Goldwater  
 Gender: Female  
 Birth Date: 1829  
 Birth Place: Mexico  
 Death Date: 16 May 1928  
 Name: Manuela Arvizu  
 Gender: Female  
 Affidavit or License Date: 31 Jul 1888  
 License Place: Cochise, AZ  
 Spouse: Joseph Goldwater  
 Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
 Children: Amparo Castaneda



Manuela Arvizu Goldwater

Nogales international., May 18, 1928

**PIONEER NOGALES RESIDENT  
 DIES AT AGE OF 99 YEARS**

Mrs. Manuela **Goldwater**, age, 99 years and 5 months, believed to be the oldest pioneer of southern Arizona, died at 3:15 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at 403 Sonoita street, Nogales where she made her home for many years with three of her grandchildren, Miss Ida Castaneda, Miss Aurelia Castaneda, Carlos Castaneda, and her grand neice, Sophie Doll.

Funeral services were held at 6:45 o'clock Thursday morning at Sacred Heart Church after which the remains were taken to Benson for burial.

Mrs. **Goldwater** was born in the state of Sonora in 1829—just 30 years after the death of George Washington and the year that Andrew Jackson, seventh president of the United States, was inaugurated. The year of her birth was 32 years before the outbreak of the Civil War. She spent practically all her life in the Benson and Nogales districts.

Besides the above-mentioned grandchildren, she is survived by five other grandchildren, two of whom reside in Guadalajara and Mexico City and the other three in Nogales, one of the latter being A. A. Castaneda, well known Nogales shoe merchant. She also leaves four great grandchildren. Her only child, Mrs. Amparo Castaneda, died in Nogales a year ago.





**Phebie V. Hughes 1864 -1892**  
Row 24 column 4  
Phoebe Victoria Hughes  
Gender: Female  
Birth Date: 26 Jan 1864  
Death Date: 10 Jan 1892  
Death Place: Arizona  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Spouse: William Thomas Hughes  
Children: Alma Retta Goodenow



**Alice Hughes 1889 -1892**  
Row 25 column 4

Name: Alice Hughes  
Birth Date: 15 Mar 1889  
Death Date: 14 Jan 1892 (aged 2)  
Cemetery: Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ



**Gertrude M. Castaneda 1904 - 1909**  
Row 26 column 2  
Name: Gertrude Castaneda  
Age: 5  
Birth Year: April 13, 1904  
Death Date: 14 May 1909  
Cause: Colitis  
Death Place: Benson, AZ



Gertrude Mary Castaneda 25

Patrick J. Delehanty 1847-1904  
Row 26 column 4

Name: Patrick Delahanty  
Age:48  
Birth Date: Nov 1847  
Birth Place: Waterford, Ireland  
Death Date:12 Jul 1904  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Birthplace: Ireland  
Race: White  
Gender: Male  
Immigration Year: 1872  
Relation to Head of House:  
Marital Status: Single  
Years in US: 38  
Occupation: Cattle Raiser



Patrick J. Delehanty

Bisbee daily review., August 09, 1904

## SENSATION STORY FROM BENSON

DEATH OF P. J. **DELEHANTY** AND  
THE PRODUCTION OF AN AL-  
LEGED WILL OF DECEASED  
ENGENDER SOME  
SPECULATION.

DEATH OF P. J. **DELEHANTY** AND  
THE PRODUCTION OF AN AL-  
LEGED WILL OF DECEASED  
ENGENDER SOME  
SPECULATION.

Reports from Benson, says the Tucson Citizen, indicate that there is considerable excitement in that lively town over the death and alleged last will of P. J. **Delehanty**, who died on the 11th of July.

**Delehanty** was well known to many people in Southern Arizona. He took an active part in Cochise county politics at one time, and some years ago was a member of the Board of Supervisors. For several years he conducted a saloon in Benson and it is understood that at the time of his death he was worth considerable property.

It was the custom or habit of Delehanty during the last ten years of his life to go on a couple of sprees a year. During these sprees, which lasted from ten days to two weeks,

he did not pay much attention to his ordinary business affairs. For forty-eight of forty-nine weeks of the year he eschewed liquor and paid devoted attention to business.

Delehanty had been on one of his periodical sprees at the time of his death. According to reports he was on the verge of delirium tremens the evening before he died. He was cir-

culating about the town rather freely with four or five thirsty companions, all of whom were pretty well under the influence of drink. When Delehanty became pretty "rocky," well along in the night, one of his companions proposed to send for Dr. M. G. McCorkle, who was the division surgeon of the Southern Pacific at Benson. This was done. McCorkle stated that he was well on the way to delirium tremens and urged that he be removed to his, McCorkle's, house for convenience of treatment. This was done.

Toward morning on the 11th Delehanty died and immediately thereafter Dr. McCorkle produced this will:  
M. C. McCorkle, M. D.

Division Ry. Surgeon for S. P.  
E. P. & S. W.

Attending Physician and Surgeon  
To Territorial Industrial School.  
Benson, Arizona, July 10, 1904.

Be it known to all men, I this day, while in my right mind and able to transact all my business in a lawful way, in the presence of these witnesses, I make my last will to read as follows:

I this day bequeath the following to Walter Delahanty and Mary Delahanty the following all my real estate and personal property—after giving Lucile McCorkle Ten Thousand Dollars Cash for the kindness rendered by her father, M. G. McCorkle, during my illness and other times in my life—to settle all legal bills and have M. G. McCorkle to be my Executor to transact all business for me and settle my business as above stated.

After the above is complied with turn over to Walter and Mary Delahanty all that remains in the hands of my executor M. C. McCorkle.

Signed in the presnce of thees witnesses.

P. J. DELAHANTY.

business for me and settle my business as above stated.

After the above is complied with turn over to Walter and Mary Delahanty all that remains in the hands of my executor, M. C. McCorkle.

Signed in the presence of the witnesses.

P. J. DELAHANTY.

Subscribed and swore to before me this 11th day of July, 1905.

WM. OBNORSORGEN.

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4.

The Lucile McCorkle mentioned in the will is the daughter of Dr. McCorkle. The will was in the handwriting of Dr. McCorkle, written on McCorkle's office paper, and he claimed that Delahanty, when he began to grow worse, dictated it to him. It is stated by those who know that Delahanty did not like McCorkle and would have nothing to do with him, and that Delahanty did not even know McCorkle's daughter.

Two of the alleged witnesses of the will, it is said, claim they were so drunk that they have no recollection of the occurrence. The third is a tin horn gambler whom nobody is over ready to believe.

The day that McCorkle produced the alleged will, he first told someone about it. He was asked to produce it, and said the writing was so bad that no one but himself could read it. He read it, however, or pretended to read something, and in this document it was \$2,000 that was set down for the benefit of Lucile McCorkle. When the document was finally presented by McCorkle the amount had grown to \$10,000.

On the 13th of July, McCorkle sent the will to Probate Judge O'Brien to be probated, but stated that he could not act as executor and asked that Stephen Roemer be appointed. The Probate Judge refused to admit the alleged will to probate.

be probated, but stated that he could not act as executor and asked that Stephen Roemer be appointed. The Probate Judge refused to admit the alleged will to probate.

In the meantime the suspicion of Benson people was aroused and a good deal of sensational talk about the death of Delahanty, and his alleged will, got into circulation.

McCorkle left for Tucson and spent at least one day in this city. Then he disappeared and has not been heard from since. Before departing it is said that he quietly disposed of whatever property he had, and he left nothing behind the loss of which would seriously discomfort him.

The Benson people are anxious to locate McCorkle. There is also a movement on foot to have the body of Delahanty exhumed, and the heart analyzed. The talk has reached that stage where the allegation is heard supposed to reside in Ireland.

It is estimated that Delahanty's estate will amount to from \$35,000 to \$40,000. He had no kindred in this country so far as known. The Walter and Mary Delahanty mentioned in the will are a brother and sister who are supposed to reside in Ireland.

Bisbee daily review., August 11, 1904

## AUTOPSY IS HELD AT BENSON

### REMAINS OF P. J. DELEHANTY EXHUMED AND CONTENTS OF STOMACH EXAMINED. NO POISON DISCOVERED

Vital Organs Will Be Shipped to Eminent Specialist in San Francisco for Further Analysis—Benson Sensation Stirs Up Town.

(Special to Review.)

Benson, Aug. 10.—There was an autopsy held today on the body of P. Delahanty, who died and was buried here three weeks ago. The cause of the autopsy was the sensational talk concerning Dr. M. G. McCorkle, who was attending **Delehanty** at the time of his death. A will which was executed by **Delehanty** was cause of the talk which

reflected seriously on the attending physician. The will was signed by **Delehanty** and witnessed by Mr. Gandy and Justice Ohnesorgen, of this place. He bequeathed two thousand dollars to a daughter of Dr. McCorkle, and the remainder of the **Delehanty** estate, said to amount to \$40,000, to two of his sisters in Ireland. The will, as presented for probating at Tombstone, it is claimed, had been tampered with, and that instead of "two" thousand dollars being bequeathed to Dr. McCorkle's daughter, it is claimed it had been changed to read "ten" thousand dollars.

It is believed that this reported "tampering with the will" was the cause for the talk to the effect that **Delehanty** had been poisoned by Doctor McCorkle.

The talk was augmented and was given more color of truth by the fact that Dr. McCorkle left Benson almost immediately after the death of **Delehanty**.

Steve Roemer and other prominent citizens of Benson undertook to ferret to the bottom the causes which had led to a sensation in Benson. A week ago Mr. Roemer went to Los Angeles to procure the services of an expert to make an examination of the heart and stomach of **Delehanty** to determine if death had been caused from poison, as charged by those who were doing most of the talking. Mr. Roemer consulted with Thomas A. Price, the noted California expert chemist. It was not possible for Mr. Price to visit Benson and he advised that an autopsy be held by physicians in Benson and in case they were in doubt as to the contents of the stomach that it be sent to him at San Francisco for analysis.

The autopsy today was made under the direction of Justice Ohnessorgen. The physicians were Drs. Caven, of Bisbee, Johnson, of Tombstone, and Powell, of Benson. A coronor's jury was summoned, and the exhuming of

the body and its examination was carried on in their presence. The doctors found nothing unusual in the stomach, but recommended that the vital organs of the body be sent to San Francisco for analysis. This was done. The heart and stomach was sealed in jars, and will be forwarded to San Francisco.

The absence of Dr. McCorkle is explained by those who have confidence in his innocence by the serious illness of his wife at the home of her father in the state of Washington. It is stated that Dr. McCorkle had asked to be relieved as company surgeon at Benson before the death of **Delehanty**. After **Delehantys** death the Doctor sold out to Dr. Powell and left for the bedside of his sick wife. It is stated that Dr. McCorkle had, on several occasions, treated **Delehanty** for heart trouble, and was so treating him at the time of his death, and a few hours before his death called Dr. Powell in consultation.

There seems to be an agreement of opinion by those who saw the Delehanty will, offered for probate by Dr. McCorkle, that it had been either altered before or after its execution.

District Attorney Cunningham was present at the autopsy today. He told your reporter that there was no doubt that the will had been changed. This he considered as no evidence that Dr. McCorkle had poisoned **Delehanty**. "I think this would be a circumstance to show that Dr. McCorkle did not cause the death of **Delehanty** by poisoning," said the District Attorney. "If this had been a case of poisoning there would have been no necessity for changing the will after **Delehanty's** death; the will would have been fixed as desired before the poison was administered."

Mr. Roemer, who returned from San Francisco on Friday, saw Dr. McCorkle in that city. The Doctor had arrived there en route to Benson to

demand that an autopsy be held, and that he be relieved thereby of the suspicion which had been cast upon him by the talk in the community. Mr.

Roemer told him that a thorough investigation had been started, and that it would be carried through in an honest effort to determine the truth of what had been suspicioned and talked. Mr. Roemer told the Doctor that he could accomplish nothing by coming to Benson, and if his wife was in a critical condition he had better remain with her.

Yesterday Mr. Roemer received a telegram from Mrs. McCorkle's mother stating that her condition was yet dangerous.

# DELEHANTY

## NO POISON VICTIM

SAN FRANCISCO EXPERTS WHO EXAMINED STOMACH AND OTHER ORGANS MAKE REPORT.

### A CONCLUSIVE FINDING

Declare That No Trace of Poison Existed—Coroner's Jury Promptly Finds Verdict to the Effect That Delehanty Died From Causes Other Than Poison—Verdict and Affidavits

in Matter Remove Every Suspicion From Dr. McCorkle.

(Special to Review.)

Benson, A. T., Sept. 5.—Dr. McCorkle has been fully vindicated in the matter of suspicion cast at the time of the death of the late Patrick Delehanty. Vindication comes through the following correspondence, which covers the ground, is self-explanatory, and sufficient in itself to fully present the situation and remove all shadow of suspicion that may have been cast upon Dr. McCorkle:

"Territory of Arizona, County of Cochise.

"Benson, Arizona, Aug. 10, 1904.

"We hereby certify that at the autopsy of Pat Delehanty, held this day, we do not find any apparent cause of death, and recommend that the organs which we have removed and sealed be examined by a chemist.

(Signed.)

"C. L. CAVEN, M. D.

"C. S. POWELL, M. D.

"Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of August, 1904.

"WM. OHNESORGEN,

"Justice of the Peace and ex-officio Coroner Precinct No. 4."

"Benson, Ariz., August 10, 1904.

"Mr. Thomas Price, San Francisco, Cal.:

"My Dear Mr. Price: I am sending you by express a box containing the heart, liver and stomach of P. J. Delehanty, deceased. The doctors held an autopsy today, but were unable to say what caused death, and recommended that the organs be sent to a chemist to be analyzed. They claim that his heart was all right. Dr. McCorkle says he gave him at different times morphine, strychnine, ether, whiskey and nitro glycerine.

"Now, make a complete analysis of the organs. The organs are in five

glass jars. Drs. Caven and Powell signed their names on a piece of paper, and the paper was sealed over the top, so the top can not be removed without breaking the seals. They were sealed before the coroner and the jury; the five jars were put into a redwood box, packed in bran; the box is sealed with forty seals (for public use, Benson, Ariz.).

Yours truly,

(Signed.) "STEPHEN ROEMER,  
"Special Administrator of the Estate of P. J. Delehanty, Deceased, Benson, Ariz."

"San Francisco, Cal., Sept. 1, 1904.

"Stephen Roemer, Esq., Special Administrator of the Estate of P. J. Delehanty, Deceased, Benson, Ariz.:

"Dear Sir: We duly received from you, per Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express, a sealed redwood box containing five glass jars, each jar sealed and bearing the signatures of Dr. C. L. Caven and Dr. C. S. Powell, and labeled to contain the stomach, heart, kidney and spleen, respectively.

"These various organs were subjected to detailed toxicological analyses, but in no instance were we able to detect the presence of the least trace of any poisonous ingredient, of either an organic or inorganic nature.

Special tests were made for strychnine, morphine, ether and nitro-glycerine, but in each instance with negative results.

(Signed.) Very truly yours,

"THOMAS PRICE & SON,

"Per THOMAS PRICE.

"Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 1st day of September, 1904.

"GEO. T. KNOX,

Notary Public, City and County of San Francisco, Cal."

"Territory of Arizona, County of Cochise.

Before Wm. Ohnersorgen, Justice of the Peace and ex-officio Coroner. In the matter of the inquisition upon the body of P. J. Delehanty, deceased.

"We, the undersigned jurors, summoned to appear before the ex-officio coroner of the Precinct No. 4. in the County of Cochise, at Benson, on the

**Delehanty No  
Poison Victim**

(Continued from Page One

10th day of August, A. D. 1904, at 1 o'clock p. m., to inquire into the cause of the death of P. J. Delehanty. The request was made by parties, the body was exhumed, and an autopsy was held by Drs. C. L. Caven and C. S. Powell. Having been duly sworn according to law, and having made such inquisition, after inspecting the body and having witnessed the autopsy, and having witnessed the sealing of the stomach, heart, liver, kidney and

spleen, and turned over to Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express to be shipped to Thos. Price & Son of San Francisco, Cal., for analysis.

"On the return of the expert chemist's analysis, we, upon our oaths, each and all do say, that the deceased came to his death, on the 12th day of July, A. D. 1904, in this county, not from poison.

(Signed.)

"M. K. SIPE.

"J. H. FREDRICK.

"W. H. SCHARDIN.

"C. W. STEIDEL.

"D. W. WORMACK.

"Dated Benson, Ariz., this 3rd day of September, 1904."

Bisbee daily review., September 17, 1904

**Refuses to  
Receive Will**

**ANOTHER CHAPTER ENACTED IN  
THE PATSY DELEHANTY  
AFFAIR.**

Probate Judge Considers Protest Filed Against Acceptance of Alleged Will and Turns It Down—Appointment of Administrator Deferred 30 Days.

Bisbee daily review., November 24, 1904

Tombstone ,Sept. 16.—Probate Judge Goodbody has heard the application for letters of administration in the matter of the estate of Patsy Delehanty, of Benson, and put the appointment over for thirty days. Five applications were presented, coming from Messrs. Roemer, Etz, Brant, Tarbell and Street.

The will in question was rejected by the court on sensational grounds set forth by Special Administrator Roemer, acting for the estate. The paragraph in Mr. Roemer's objection which are vital follow:

"That said document now offered for probate is not the last will and testament of said deceased.

"That said document was not attested by at least two competent witnesses subscribing their names thereto in the presence of said decedent at his request, nor did said decedent declare to said witnesses that he published said document as his last will and testament.

"That at the time said document is alleged to have been signed by decedent, said decedent was under fraudulent misrepresentations in this, that the decedent was misled and deceived into the belief that said document gave all his property of every kind to Walter Delehanty and Mary Delehanty, a brother and sister of said deceased residing in Ireland, and that said document contained no other devise or bequest, whereas said document devised and bequeathed many thousands of dollars to other and different persons against the wish of said decedent, and by reason of such fraudulent representations.

"That the mind of the said decedent was weak, debilitated and deranged to such and extent as to incapacitate him from making or understanding a will."

★  
**Regarding Delehanty Estate**—Attorney Shelley, of Tucson, and Attorney E. J. Coffey, of San Francisco, were registered at the Copper Queen yesterday. Their visit was in reference to matters connected with the estate of the late Pat Delehanty, of Benson. Mr. Coffey represents the foreign heirs who have entered claim to a portion of the property. The attorneys left last evening for Douglas to look further into the affairs of Mr. Delehanty.  
★

Bisbee daily review., July 14, 1904

★  
**Supervisors Take Recess**—Supervisor John Bowen returned from Tombstone last night, where he has been attending the Supervisors' meeting and the board of equalization. The board has taken a recess because of the death of Patsy Delehanty.  
★

The Coconino sun., August 13, 1904

Some sensational developments are looked for in the probating of the will of the late Patsy Delehanty, of Benson, and a contest is believed to be probable. Friends of the deceased claim that his final testament was made while under the influence of a spree. The estate is valued at \$60,000. A brother and sister in Ireland are thought to be the only relatives.—Review.

Arizona republican., July 16, 1904

**AN OLD TIMER DEAD**—P. Delehanty died in Benson a few days ago. He has a wife and children in California. Mr. Delehanty was formerly a member of the board of supervisors of Cochise county and was a well known business man.



Nina Mary Castaneda 1882 - 1905

Row 27 column 2

Name: Nina Mary Castaneda

Birth Date: 16 Jul 1882

Death Date: 7 Mar 1905 22 yo

Cause: Appendicitis

Seventh Street Cemetery

Burial Place: Benson, AZ

Name: Nina M Merrill

Marriage Date: 31 Jul 1902

Marriage Place: Tucson

Spouse: Edward J Castaneda

Lillah Richart 1882 - 1934  
Row 27 column 3  
Lillah Read Richhart  
Birth: 12 Nov 1882  
Death: 1 Jun 1934 (aged 51)  
Burial Seventh Street Cemetery  
Benson, AZ

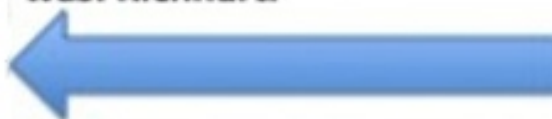


Dallas Morning News., June 3, 1934

## Dallas Morning News Sunday, June 3, 1934

Mrs. Richhart (widow of Mr. Robert T. Ball of Wapanucka; and second wife of J.D. Richhart, who killed her) She was the daughter of John Jeremiah Read and Mrs. J.J. (Lillah Porter) Read.

NOTE: "Richart" is a misspelling in the newspaper; actual name was: Richhart.



Sally Eaker Watkins 1857 - 1908

Row 28 column 2

Name: Sally Tullula Bomar Watkins  
Gender: Female  
Birth Date: 28 Oct 1857  
Death Date: 23 Nov 1908 (aged 51)  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Spouse: Issac Henry Watkins  
Children: Bennie Florence Echols  
Benjamin Franklin Eaker  
Edith Emma Ryan

Father: Gen Alexander Carlton Bomar 1808-  
Mother: Emily Teresa Chapman Bomar 1818-

Married: Benjamin Franklin Eaker, Sr  
Married: Dr Isaac H Watkins 1891, Silverton, Briscoe County, Texas

Children of B F Eaker and Sally Bomar:  
Blanche 1879-1902 SC  
Bessie Florence "Bennie" 1882 SC  
Benjamin Franklin Eaker, Jr 1885 SC

Children of Dr Isaac H Watkins and Sallie H Bomar Eakers Watkins:  
Edith Emma Watkins 1892-1970  
Paul Bomar Watkins 1895  
Cuba "Neen" Watkins 1898



Amparo E. Castañeda 1850-1927  
Row 28 column 3

Name: Amparo Castaneda  
Gender: Female  
Birth Date: 1852  
Birth Place: Calabasas, Mexico  
Death Date: 4 Feb 1927  
Death Place: Nogales, AZ  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ

Mother: Manuela Goldwater  
Spouse: Jose Miguel Castaneda  
Children: Edward Jose Castaneda  
Rudolph Castaneda  
Carlos Castaneda  
Miguel Fernando Castaneda  
Alfonso A. Castaneda



Amparo Encinas Castaneda

Nogales international., February 06, 1927

## MRS. AMPARO CASTANEDA, WELL KNOWN PIONEER, PASSES AWAY

Death claimed another pioneer when Mrs. Amparo Castaneda, 75 years of age, one of Nogales' most beloved women, died suddenly at 8:30 o'clock Friday evening at the family home 403 Sonoita avenue. Mrs. Castaneda had been ailing for quite awhile but her death was somewhat unexpected.

Pending receipt of word from out of town relatives, funeral arrangements had not been made up 5 o'clock last evening.

Mrs. Castaneda is survived by three daughters and five sons. Among the daughters are Miss Ida Castaneda of Nogales and Mrs. Steve Roemer of Tucson.

The sons are Al, Ed, Rudolph, Henry and Carlos. Al is proprietor of the Model Shoe Store of this city. Henry, who lives in Los Angeles, and Carlos who is route agent for the Wells Fargo Express Company with headquarters at Guaymas, wired Saturday that they would arrive here Sunday.

Mrs. Castaneda was very well known in Nogales, Benson, Tucson and other parts of southern Arizona through her long residence in this part of the state. In her death Nogales loses one of its most interesting and valuable women. Her cheerful and vital personality will be greatly missed.

The border vidette., February 12, 1927

## MRS. CASTANEDA LAID TO REST

(Wednesday's Herald)

Mrs. Amparo A. de Castaneda, pioneer Arizona woman and beloved mother of Alfonso and Ida Castaneda of this city and of Henry Rudolph, Carlos, Josephine and Aurelia of California and Mexico, was laid to rest in the Castaneda family plot in Benson yesterday afternoon beside her husband and two sons.

Requiem high mass was held at the Sacred Heart church here yesterday morning at seven o'clock, conducted by Father Duval. The little church of Sacred Heart was filled; indicative of the many friends of the family, the many admirers of the pioneer woman.

Immediately following mass a funeral cortage of the funeral car of the Carroon mortuary and six cars in which rode the members of the family and close friends departed for Benson where committal services were held again by Father Duval and assisted by the priests of Tombstone.

Funeral services were under the direction of Frank Carroon.



**CASTANEDA FUNERAL**

Funeral services for Mrs. Amparo **Castaneda**, 75, were held at 7 o'clock Tuesday morning at Sacred Heart Church, and the remains shipped to Benson for burial Tuesday afternoon. Among Nogales persons attending the interment at Benson were Miss Ida Castaneda, A. A. **Castaneda**, and City Clerk Phil Herold.



**Jose Miguel Castaneda 1836-1901**  
Row 29 column 3

Name: Jose Miguel Castaneda  
Gender: Male  
Birth Date: 1836  
Birth Place: Mexico  
Death Date: 28 Sep 1901  
Death Place: Tucson, AZ  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Spouse: Amparo Castaneda  
Children: Edward Jose Castaneda  
Rudolph Castaneda  
Carlos Castaneda  
Miguel Fernando Castaneda  
Alfonso A. Castaneda

Arizona daily citizen., September 28, 1901

**Death of J. M. Castaneda**  
**The Benson Merchant.**

J. M. **Castaneda** of Benson died at St. Mary's hospital this forenoon at 11:30. Mr. **Castaneda** was brought to Tucson last evening and was taken to the St. Mary's hospital last night in a dying condition.

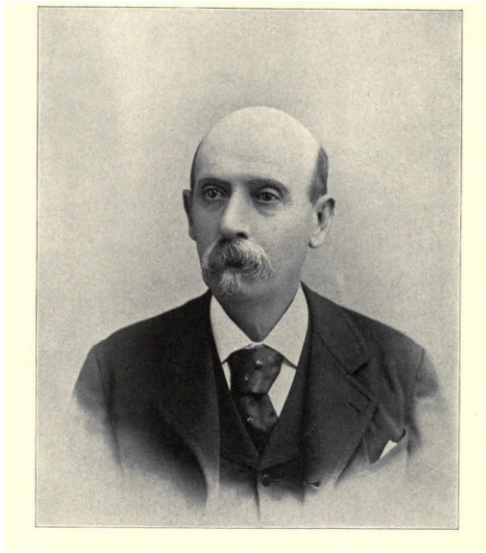
About two weeks ago he was taken with a bad attack of dysentery, but paid no attention to it. The case became serious and his family decided to bring him to the hospital in Tucson. Mrs. Castaneda, her daughter and son M. F. Castaneda were here at the time of his death as was also Henry **Castaneda** who is a student at the University.

Dr. Boido attended Mr. **Castaneda** after his arrival here. The body was taken by the family to Benson, on the 2:30 train where interment will be made.

Mr. **Castaneda** was 65 years of age and has been in the Territory for forty years and at Benson twenty years. He was proprietor of the Virginia Hotel at Benson and also kept a large store there. He is widely known all over the Territory and his loss will be deeply felt by his many friends.

The oasis., October 05, 1901

Citizen. J. M. Castañeda of Benson died at St. Mary's hospital this forenoon at 11:30. Mr. Castañeda was brought to Tucson last evening and was taken to the St. Mary's hospital last night in a dying condition. About two weeks ago he was taken with a bad attack of dysentery, but paid no attention to it. The case became serious and his family decided to bring him to the hospital in Tucson. Mrs. **Castaneda**, her daughter and son M. F. Castañeda were here at the time of his death as was also Henry Castaneda who is a student at the University. Dr. Boido attended Mr. Castañeda after his arrival here. The body was taken by the family to Benson, on the 2:30 train where interment will be made. Mr. Castañeda was 65 years of age and has been in the Territory for forty years and at Benson twenty years. He was proprietor of the Virginia Hotel at Benson and also kept a large store there. He is widely known all over the Territory and his death will be deeply felt by his many friends.



José Miguel Castañeda was born in Chihuahua, Mexico in 1836, He came to California while on a trading expedition through Apache territory and settled in Los Angeles. He stayed there 25 years, becoming a successful businessman. By the early 1870s, José had moved to Yuma where he met his wife, Amparo Arvisu Goldwater. They eventually had ten children who joined them in their business enterprises.



José Miguel Castañeda Bought the Virginia Hotel in 1888

When the Tombstone mining district boomed, the Castañedas moved to Contention and Fairbank. There they partnered with Amparo's relations to open the Goldwater-Castañeda Store. Eventually another store opened in Bisbee and José became manager. It was there on December 8, 1883 that the infamous Bisbee Massacre took place. During the robbery, José hid the money in his bed and pretended illness. In the aftermath, five people died in the shootout and all the perpetrators were captured and hanged.

Four years later, he relinquished his share of the stores to his sons and moved to Benson. By then, the Castañedas were one of Cochise County's most prosperous families. They established a large ranch near Benson and bought the Virginia Hotel in town. The 25-room property was described as one of the most modern and opulent in the territory, and served people traveling on the railroad from its location nearby.

José Miguel Castañeda passed on September 28, 1901. His family continued to run the Virginia Hotel until 1936 when the property was sold and the hotel torn down. There is now a Circle K store on that site at 4th & Huachuca Streets.



**John M. Gandy 1847 - 1905**  
Row 29 column 2

Name: John M Gandy  
Birth Date: 1847  
Birth Place: England  
Death Date: 17 May 1905 (57 years)  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Native of London, Eng  
Occupation: Bookkeeper.



**Blanche Watkins Castaneda 1878-1902**  
Row 30 column 3

Name: Blanche Mary Castaneda  
Birth Date: 8 Jun 1878  
Death Date: 14 Apr 1902



**Issac H. Watkins 1859-1903**  
Row 30 column 2

Isaac Henry Watkins  
Birth Date: 15 Aug 1858  
Death Date: 6 Jul 1903 (aged 44)  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Birthplace: North Carolina  
Home in 1900: Benson, AZ  
Race: White  
Gender: Male  
Marital Status: Married  
Spouse's Name: Sallie T Watkins  
Marriage Year: 1891  
Years Married: 9  
Occupation: Physician

Household Members	Age	Relationship
Isaac H Watkins	39	Head
Sallie T Watkins	38	Wife
Blanche P Watkins	20	Daughter
Bessie F Watkins	18	Daughter
Frank Watkins	15	Son
Edith Emma Watkins	18	Daughter
Paul Watkins	5	Son
Cuba Watkins	2	Daughter



Dr. Issac Henry Watkins and daughter Edith c1892

Bisbee daily review., July 19, 1903

**DEATH OF DR. WATKINS.**  
On Tuesday forenoon last Dr. Isaac Henry Watkins, after a lingering illness, passed to the great beyond. Seven years ago Dr. Watkins came to Benson with his family, and has resided here since up to the time of his demise. He was aged 42 years and was a native of South Colina. In the medical world Dr. Watkins was numbered among the best in the territory. He was affable and sociable, and generous to a fault, and he had not an enemy except himself. He was everybody's friend and had an open hand to the need.

Dr. Watkins was honored and highly respected by all who knew him, and he had a host of friends.

The funeral was held from the family residence Wednesday at 11 a. m., and was largely attended. Rev. W. H. Sowell conducted the services, both at the home and at the grave, and he consoled the bereaved ones with tender words. A choir composed of Mesdames Sanders, Minton, Etz and McCorkle, sang beautifully words that are soothing to broken hearts.

The pall bearers were, W. M. Zeek, John Grandy, Henry Waktor, George Rath, George Etz and W. C. Ferris.

The remains were interred in the Benson cemetery.

Deceased leaves to mourn his loss a widow and five children, Mrs. Bennie Benton, Frank Eaker, Edith, Paul and Nina.

The floral offerings were numerous and beautiful, quite completely covering the casket and grave.—Benson Press.

Miguel Fernando Castaneda



Miguel F. Castaneda 1874-1916  
Row 31 column 3

Name: Miguel Fernando Castaneda  
Birth Date: 30 May 1874  
Birth Place: Ehrenberg, AZ  
Death Date: 23 Oct 1916  
Death Place: Benson, AZ  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Father: Jose Miguel Castaneda  
Mother: Amparo Castaneda  
Spouse: Blanche Mary Castaneda

The Benson signal., October 28, 1916

## M. F. CASTANEDA, WELL KNOWN CITIZEN PASSES AWAY

### Death Came Unexpectedly Last Monday Morning.

In the early hours of last Monday morning occurred the passing away of Miguel F. Castaneda, proprietor of the Virginia Hotel and almost a life long resident of Benson. His death in its suddenness came as a great shock and surprise to his family and friends. While he had been in poor health for some time, he was not considered dangerously ill, and his condition seemed in nowise critical. The cause of his death was hemorrhage of the stomach, he having been

afflicted with stomach trouble for a long while past.

Mr. Castaneda was 42 years of age and one of the best known citizens of Benson, having resided here with the other members of the family for about twenty-five years. He was born at Ehrenberg, Yuma county, a mining town on the Colorado river, where his father, the late J. M. Castaneda, was engaged in business.

In his residence here Mr. Castaneda was identified with various enterprises. For some years he was in the mercantile business and at one time the proprietor of a large brick manufacturing plant, later destroyed by fire.

For several years prior to his death Mr. Castaneda had been conducting the Virginia Hotel. He was one of Benson's best known citizens and had a large acquaintanceship throughout the county and state.

He is survived by his mother, three sisters and four brothers, who have the sympathy of the entire community in their bereavement.

Funeral services were conducted at the Catholic Church at 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, the Rev. F. A. Collymore being called from Tombstone to officiate. Interment was in the Benson Cemetery, attended by a large number of friends.

**Miguel F. Castañeda 1874-1916**  
Row 32 column 3

Miguel Fernando Castaneda  
BIRTH: 30 May 1874 AZ  
DEATH: 23 Oct 1916 (aged 42)  
Benson, AZ  
BURIAL: Seventh Street Cemetery  
Benson, AZ  
Birthplace: Arizona  
Home in 1910: Benson, AZ  
Race: White  
Gender: Male  
Relation to Head of House: Son  
Marital Status: Widowed  
Father's Name: A A Castaneda  
Father's Birthplace: Mexico  
Mother's Birthplace: Mexico  
Native Tongue: English  
Occupation: Proprietor  
Industry: Hotel

Household Members	Age	Relationship
A A Castaneda	55	Head
Miguel F Castaneda	35	Son
Edward Castaneda	33	Son
Alfonso Castaneda	15	Son
Josephina Castaneda	28	Daughter
Aurele Castaneda	17	Daughter
Frank Kasada	29	Employee



**Helena Treu 1833-1912**  
Row 32 column 2

Helena Treu  
Age: 67  
Birth Date: 24 Dec 1833  
Death Date: 29 Mar 1912  
Death Place: Los Angeles, CA  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Home in 1900: Benson, AZ  
Race: White  
Gender: Female  
Immigration Year: 1854  
Marital Status: Married  
Spouse's Name: John Treu  
Marriage Year: 1867  
Years Married: 33  
Father's Birthplace: Germany  
Mother's Birthplace: Germany  
Mother: number of living children: 6  
Years in US: 46

Household	Age	Relationship
John Treu	69	Head
Helena Treu	67	Wife
Fritz Treu	26	Son



## MRS. JOHN TREU IS LAID NEAR HUSBAND

Highly Esteemed Woman Is  
Dead in Los Angeles.  
Buried at Benson

Mrs. John Treu, mother of John Treu, was buried in Benson Monday morning at ten o'clock. She died in Los Angeles, and the service there was held under the auspices of the First Presbyterian church of Los Angeles, of which she was a member. Numerous floral offerings attested the esteem in which she was held, the coffin being almost buried in violets and other flowers, one especially lovely tribute from Los Angeles being a large wreath of orchids. Many floral pieces accompanied the casket to Benson, her last resting place, where she was buried between the graves of her husband and son.

When the end came in Los Angeles her four remaining sons were with her, these being H. W. Etz, George Etz, John Treu and Max Treu of Douglas. Her one daughter, Mrs. Wm. Dyke of Colorado also survives.

Mrs. Treu was seventy-eight years old, and her splendid traits of character had endeared her to a host of friends in Los Angeles. Rev. Waite, of the Presbyterian church at Benson, officiated at the funeral. She leaves a large estate to her family.

	1	2	3	4
48		FRANCISCO, A. MARTINEZ 1852 - 1919	DALLA ASHBURN 1883 - 1891	AMELIA BOAK 1868 - 1893
47		DARIO, A. MARTINEZ 1860 - 1933	JESSIE ASHBURN 1891 - 1891	EDGAR, SAMUEL TITUS 1865 - 1906
46		W. J. MCGILL 1840 - 1923	RUBY ASHBURN 1895 - 1896	MARY, WERT, TITUS 1867 - 1948
45		ELIZABETH MCGILL 1865 - 1915	ANNIE ASHBURN 1870 - 1896	
44		CLARA DOUGLAS	HULDAH ASHBURN 1830 - 1912	
43		ALBERT PERRY 1856 - 1898	ELBERT, H. ZEEK 1886 - 1890	ELIZABETH LOGAN 1861 - 1895
42		GEORGE, E. TEMPLE 1872 - 1905	HARRY ZEEK 1887 - 1889	FELTON, L. LOGAN 1884 - 1885
41		DANIEL, G. TEMPLE 1820 - 1899	CORA, E. ZEEK 1890 - 1890	
40			CLYDE, E. ZEEK 1894 - 1896	JOSE GUINDANI 1843 - 1896
39			EDGAR ZEEK 1892 - 1896	
38			NELLIE ZEEK 1870 - 1896	
37		MABEL TEMPLE 1881 - 1907	WM. MORGAN ZEEK 1857 - 1928	
36			ALBERT CHEEK 1904 - 1904	HELENA MARY TREA 1902 - 1903
35				HERBERT TREA 1898 - 1898 2-MOS
34			JOSEPH, D. REDDOCK 1910 4-DAYS OLD	ETZ BABY 1894 - 1894 2-MOS
33		JOHN TREA 1831 - 1907	JOSEPH N. REDDOCK 1873 - 1914	

**John Treu 1831-1907**

Row 33 column 2

Name: John Treu  
BIRTH: 8 May 1831  
DEATH: 1 Jul 1907 (aged 76)  
Birthplace: Germany  
Home in 1900: Benson, AZ  
Race: White  
Gender: Male  
Immigration Year: 1854  
Relation to Head of House: Head  
Marital Status: Married  
Spouse's Name: Helena Treu  
Marriage Year: 1867  
Years Married: 33  
Father's Birthplace: Germany  
Mother's Birthplace: Germany  
Years in US: 46  
Naturalization: Naturalized  
Occupation: Stone Mason  
House Owned

Household	Age	Relationship
John Treu	69	Head
Helena Treu	67	Wife
Fritz Treu	26	Son

John Treu enlisted on May 27, 1861, as a Private in the 1st Kansas Infantry and served in Company A and Company I. He was discharged on June 16, 1864.

Row 33 column 2  
Bisbee daily review., July 31, 1907

In the probate court orders have been made appointing Mrs. Helena Treu as administrator of the estate of her late husband, John Treu, and Elizabeth Helena Rigler as special administrator of the estate of John Jacob Rigler.



**Joseph N. Redock 1873-1914**

Row 33 column 3

Joseph Newton Reddock  
Birth: 25 Apr 1872  
Smith County, TX  
Death: 8 Mar 1914 (aged 41)  
Phoenix, AZ  
Seventh Street Cemetery

Tombstone epitaph., May 24, 1914

**J N Reddock; order hearing petition for letters testamentary.**



**Joseph D. Reddock 1910 4 Days Old**

Row 34 column 3

The border vidette., July 23, 1910

We are sorry to announce the death last Sunday, at Benson, of the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Reddock. The little one only lived a couple of days.

The oasis., July 30, 1910

The many friends in Nogales of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Reddock of Benson will learn with regret their sad loss in the death of their infant son, aged four days, which occurred at that place Monday of last week.

Name: Joseph Dudley Reddock

Gender: Male

Race: White

Marital Status: Single

Age: 4 Days

Birth Date: 14 Jul 1910

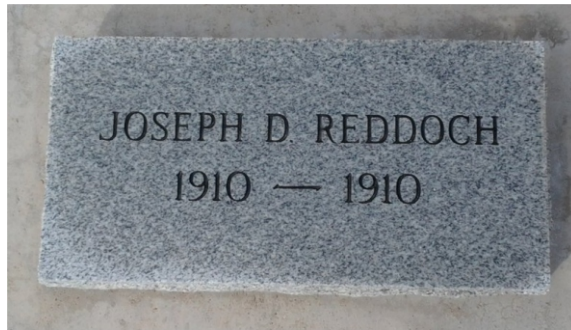
Birth Place: Benson

Death Date: 18 Jul 1910

Death Place: Benson, AZ

Father: Joe. W. Reddock

Mother: Nora Reddock



**Albert L. Cheek 1904 - 1904**  
Row 36 column 3

Name: Albert L Cheek  
Birth Date: 5 May 1904  
Death Date: 3 Dec 1904  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ



**Mabel Temple 1881-1907**  
Row 37 column 3

Name: Mabel Ellen Temple  
Birth Date: 19 Sep 1881  
Death Date: 10 Jan 1907 (aged 25)  
Death Place: Naco, AZ  
Cemetery: Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Spouse: Horace Jewell Temple

Bisbee daily review., January 11, 1907

**Baby Etz 1894-1894**  
Row 34 column 4

Name: Baby Etz  
Birth: 1894  
Death: 1894 (2 Months)

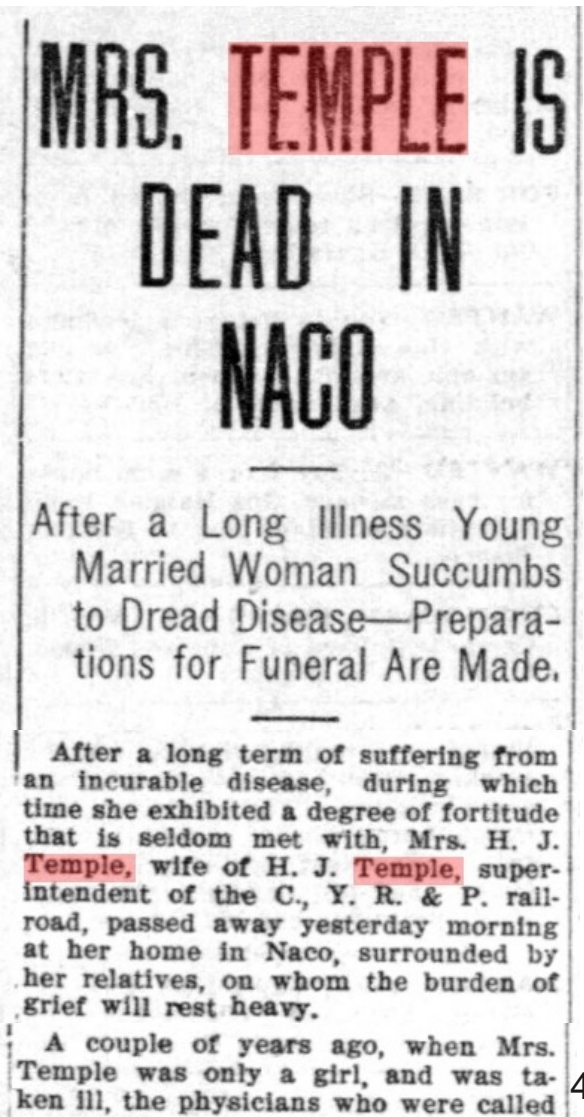
**Herbert Treu 1898-1898**  
Row 35 column 4

Name: Herbert Treu  
Birth: Nov 4 1898  
Death: Nov 18 1898 (2 weeks)



**Helena Mary Treu 1903-1903**  
Row 36 column 4

Name: Helena Mary Treu  
Death Date: 12 Oct 1903  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ





to attend her were forced to make known the fact to herself and husband that the young woman was suffering from an incurable disease.

That the blow contained in the knowledge imparted to them by the physicians was such as oftentimes unseats the reason of a human being is apparent from the desperate efforts that have been exerted to overcome the dreadful disease. The most eminent medical authorities in the United States were consulted, every course of treatment which promised the slightest relief was resorted to, but gradually the strength of the young woman failed, in spite of all medicine and medical skill, until the end which was expected came yesterday morning.

Even though it had become apparent long before death that there was no hope of recovery, and that the end would come in a short time, the grief of those who knew the deceased was none the less poignant.

Mrs. Temple was 25 years of age.

The body will be shipped to Benson today on a special train, attended by members of the Masonic lodges at Bisbee, Douglas and Naco. The Rev. Harvey M. Shields will conduct the funeral ceremonies.



**William Morgan Zeek 1857-1928**  
Row 37 column 3

Name: William M. Zeek  
Gender: Male  
Race: White  
Marital Status: Widowed  
Age: 71  
Birth Date: abt 1857  
Birth Place: Indiana  
Death Date: 20 Nov 1928  
Death Place: Benson, AZ  
Spouse: Nellie O'Brien



The People below all perished in the flood of October 1, 1896

**Nellie Zeek 1870-1896**

Row 38 column 3

**Edgar Zeek 1892-1896**

Row 39 column 3

**Clyde Zeek 1894-1896**

Row 40 column 3

**Annie Ashburn 1870-1896**

Row 45 column 3

**Ruby Ashburn 1895-1896**

Row 45 column 3

**Nellie Zeek 1870-1896**

Row 38 column 3

Name: Nellie Zeek  
Death Date: 1 Oct 1896  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ



**Clyde Zeek 1892-1896**

Row 39 column 3

Name: Clyde B Zeek  
Death Date: 1 Oct 1896  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ

Son of W.M. & Nellie Zeek.  
Aged 2yrs 4mos & 20ds.  
"He carries the Lambs in his bosom"



**Clyde Zeek 1894-1896**  
Row 40 column 3

Name: Clyde B Zeek  
Death Date: 1 Oct 1896  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ

Son of W.M. & Nellie Zeek.  
Aged 2yrs 4mos & 20ds.  
"He carries the Lambs in  
his bosom"



**Jose Guindani 1843-1896**  
Row 40 column 4

Name: Jose Guindani  
Birth Date: 1843  
Death Date: Apr 1896  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ



**Daniel G. Temple 1820-1899**  
Row 41 column 2

Name: Daniel Goodell Temple

Gender: Male  
Birth Date: 30 Sep 1820  
Death Date: 14 Feb 1899 (aged 78)  
Cemetery: Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ

Father: Charles Temple

Mother: Bridget Temple

Spouse: Elizabeth M Temple

Children: Horace Jewell Temple  
Charles Robert Temple  
Ida Temple Piper  
George Earl Temple

The oasis., February 18, 1899

#### Obituary.

Doctor Daniel Goodell Temple, an account of whose tragic death appears in another column, was born in Massachussetts in 1820, and at the date of his death was about seventy-nine years of age. He practiced his profession in Louisiana, in which state he was a prominent citizen for more than thirty years. Later he resided a number of years in Texas and removed to Arizona abbut six years ago. During the past ten years his mental and physical powers have been gradually failing, and the patient care and solicitous devotion shown him by his wife and sons and daughters in his feeble old age have been rare and touching. In their sad loss the bereaved family have the heartfelt sympathy of the entire community.

#### Sad Tragedy at Benson.

Tuesday afternoon a telegram from Benson conveyed the sad intelligence that Monday night Doctor Temple had wandered away from home in a fit of mental aberration and was drowned. Deceased was a very old man, and for the past year or more his mental faculties have been failing. He was missed Monday night and search was instituted, many solicitous friends and neighbors joining. The search was continued all the night and Tuesday until about three o'clock

in the afternoon, when his lifeless remains were found in the San Pedro river. As he was very old and feeble, it is thought his death was comparatively easy.

Deceased, who was about eighty years of age, was a native of New England, but resided many years in Louisiana, practicing the profession of dentistry. He leaves a wife and five children to mourn his loss. His sons are Charles, J. J. and George Temple, and his daughters Mrs. Cheek of San Francisco and Miss Ida Temple, now in the senior class of the territorial normal school at Tempe. The three sons are all in the railway service, Charles being assistant agent for the Southern Pacific Co. at Deming, J. J. is agent for the N. M. & A. Co. at Huachuca, and George has charge of the S. P. yard at Bowie. In their sad loss the bereaved family have the sympathy of a wide circle of friends.

The oasis., February 18, 1899

Monday evening Mrs. Bird went to Benson, summoned by the sad bereavement in the family of her friend Mrs. L. L. Temple.

Tombstone epitaph., February 19, 1899

Rev. Roberts was called to Benson this morning to officiate at the funeral of Mr. Temple who died there Monday night.

DEAD IN THE SAN PEDRO.

Tragic Death of Dr. Temple of Benson Last Week.

Tuesday afternoon a telegram from Benson conveyed the sad intelligence that Monday night Dr. Temple had wandered away from home in mental aberration and was drowned. He was a very old man, and for the past year or more his mental faculties had been failing. He was missed Monday night and search was instituted, many solicitous friends and neighbors joining. The search was continued all the night and Tuesday until about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when his remains were found in the San Pedro river. As he was very old and feeble it is thought his death was comparatively easy.

Deceased, who was about 80 years of age, was a native of New England, but resided many years in Louisiana, practicing the profession of dentistry. He leaves a wife and five children to mourn his loss. His sons are Charles, J. J. and George Temple, and his daughters Mrs. Cheek of San Francisco and Miss Ida Temple, now in the senior class of the territorial normal school at Tempe. The three sons are all in the railway service, Charles being assistant railway agent for the Southern Pacific company at Deming, J. J. is agent for the N. M. & A. company at Huachuca and George has charge of the Southern Pacific yard at Bowie. In their sad loss the bereaved family has the sympathy of a wide circle of friends.



Cora Zeek 1894-1896  
Row 40 column 3

Name: Cora E Zeek  
Born: May 6, 1890  
Death Date: 15 Nov 1890  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ



George E. Temple 1872-1908  
Row 42 column 2

Name: George Earl Temple  
Birth Date: 4 Jul 1872  
Death Date: 30 May 1905  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Father: Daniel Goodell Temple  
Mother: Elizabeth M Temple

Bisbee daily review., June 01, 1905

**Terribly Injured**—Word was received in the city yesterday that George Temple had been run over by an engine in the railroad yard at Bowie, a leg being cut off at the hip. Temple jumped from an engine on which he was riding, landing directly in front of another engine, the approach of which he had not noticed. His condition is very serious. He is a brother of Superintendent Temple of the Cananea road, and of Agent Temple, of the E. P. & S. W. at Douglas.

Bisbee daily review., June 02, 1905

C. R. Temple will leave this evening for Bowie, where he goes to visit the bedside of his brother, Geo. Temple, who was injured yesterday at that point. Geo. Temple was yardmaster at Bowie and while working fell under a train and had one of his legs cut off and also received other injuries. A telegram from there today stated that he was very low.

Bisbee daily review., June 03, 1905

Rev. Harvey M. Shields went to Benson this morning to conduct the funeral services over the remains of George Temple. Mr. Temple was injured by a train at Bowie station and died at the railroad hospital in Tucson, as reported yesterday.

The oasis., June 03, 1905

**A Fatal Accident.**  
At Bowie Tuesday, Mr. George Temple who was in charge of the helping engines of the S. P. railway running out of that place, was run over by a locomotive and one of his legs crushed. A special

train conveyed the wounded man to the hospital at Tucson, his mother, Mrs. L. L. Temple, of Benson, boarding the train at that place. At Tucson an amputation was found necessary and performed. It was hoped he would recover, but Wednesday his condition became worse, and he died that night. His remains were conveyed to Benson, and there buried yesterday. Deceased was a brother of Mr. J. J. Temple, superintendent of the Cananea railway, and Charles J. Temple, superintendent of the Nacozari railway. Miss Ida Temple, a young lady well known in Nogales is his sister. The young man had been many years in the service of the S. P. Co., and was thoroughly liked and trusted. His loss is a sad blow to the bereaved family.

Harry W. Zeek 1887-1889  
Row 42 column 3

Name: Harry W Zeek  
Birth: October 1887  
Death Date: 15 Apr 1889  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ



Albert Perry 1856-1898  
Row 42 column 3

Name: Albert Perry  
Gender: Male  
Birth Date: 12 Feb 1856  
Death Date: 17 Jan 1898  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Father: Albert George Perry  
Mother: Harriet Elizabeth Perry  
Children: Glen Emmett Perry  
Guy Perry



**Elbert H, Zeek 1886-1890**  
Row 43 column 3

Name: Elbert H Zeek  
Birth Date: 1887  
Aged 4yrs 8mos & 11das.  
Death Date: 29 Oct 1890  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ



**Eizabeth Logan 1861-1896**  
Row 43 column 4

Name: Elizabeth Garrison Logan  
Gender: Female  
Birth Date: 31 Jan 1861  
Birth Place: TX  
Death Date: 14 Aug 1895  
Cemetery: Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ,  
Spouse: David Harum Logan  
Children: Maude H. Jones  
George Artley Wilbur Logan  
Felton L Logan

Elizabeth GREENWOOD She married David Harum LOGAN on Jan 20, 1882 in Benson, AZ. She was the mother of 3 children. It is possible she died of complications of childbirth, as her last child was also born in 1895

The oasis., August 24, 1895

sufferings and prolong her life, but all without avail, and she peacefully passed away, leaving bereft a fond husband and three lovely children. Beside these her immediate relatives are a father and two brothers at Benson, and four sisters and a brother in El Paso, Texas.  
Her funeral was largely attended by all the old residents of Benson, and many friends and acquaintances, whose heartfelt sympathies were thus evinced for the sorrowing ones who mourned the loss of a model wife and mother, an affectionate friend, a good neighbor.

**Felton Logan 1884-1885**  
Row 42 column 4

Name: Felton L Logan  
Birth Date: 24 Apr 1884  
Death Date: 6 May 1885  
Aged 1y & 12d  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Father: David Harum Logan  
Mother: Elizabeth Garrison Logan



**Death of Mrs. Logan.**  
Died, at Benson, Arizona, Aug. 13th, 1895, Mrs. Bettie Logan, beloved wife of D. H. Logan, aged 34 years, 6 months and 12 days.  
Deceased was married to Mr. D. H. Logan, who was one of the pioneers of Benson, at that place in January, 1882. They resided at Benson until some three years ago, when the failing health of Mrs. Logan caused their removal to California. Her health had been undermined by repeated attacks of "the grip" and pneumonia and in February last consumption supervened. Hoping a return to Arizona would benefit health and prolong her life Mr. Logan brought her back to Benson last spring. Everything possible was done to alleviate her



Name: Clara Douglas  
Residence Place: Benson  
Marriage License Place: Tombstone  
Marriage Date: 2 Jun 1908  
Marriage Place: Tombstone  
Spouse: Henry R Armbrust

**Huldah Ashburn 1830-1912**  
Row 44 column 3

Huldah Ashburn  
Gender: Female  
Birth Date: 20 Jan 1830  
Death Date: 4 Apr 1912  
Death Age: 82  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Spouse: James Ashburn  
Children: James Ashburn  
Oscar F Ashburn



The border vidette., April 06, 1912



Huldah Ashburn

**Aged Lady Dies.**

After an illness of one week, Mrs. Huldah **Ashburn**, mother of Hon. O. F. **Ashburn** of the Pennsylvania ranch near Patagonia, passed away early last Thursday morning at the Sisters' Hospital in this city, at the age of 82 years.

Yesterday morning the body was shipped to Benson, where for many years deceased resided, and where the funeral was held yesterday afternoon, the pastor of the Benson Methodist church, officiating.

A large number of members of the Elks lodge of which Mr. **Ashburn** is a member, and other friends, were at the Nogales depot to show their respect for the dear departed and sympathy for their grief stricken brother, who accompanied the remains to Benson, being joined at the ranch by his wife and other members of his family, who all attended the funeral

**Elizabeth McGill 1865-1915**  
**William McGill 1840-1924**  
Row 45 column 2

Elizabeth McGill  
Birth Date: 4 Apr 1855  
Birth Place: Ireland  
Death Date: 29 Nov 1915  
Death Place: Benson, AZ  
Burial Place: Benson, Az  
William J McGill  
Birth Date: 1840  
Birth Place: Ireland  
Death Date: 3 Jan 1924  
Death Place: Douglas, AZ  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Spouse: Elizabeth McGill



## BENSON PIONEER IS KILLED WHEN CARS RUN OVER HER BODY

BENSON, Nov. 29.—(Special)—Mrs. Elizabeth McGill, one of the oldest residents of Benson, was accidentally killed here this morning by being struck and run over by a string of box cars on the Southern Pacific railroad. Her body was badly mangled.

Mrs. McGill lives on the south side of the track. She also has property on the north side and was in the habit of crossing over the tracks going to and from her different places. She generally crossed over the tracks and not on the regular crossing and this was the case this morning. A west bound freight train had just pulled into the yards and the crew had cut off several cars and were letting them down into the house track when the old lady started to cross. A brakeman, who was on top of one of the cars, saw her and hollered at her, but evidently she did not hear him. He tried to set the brakes so as to stop the cars but they were going too rapidly. He then, at the risk of his own life ran down the ladder on the side of the car, and tried to reach her and push her out of the way, and by so doing nearly lost his own life. The cars were stopped before all of them had passed over her, but life was extinct when she was

taken from under the cars.

Mrs. McGill and her husband have been residents of Benson for over thirty years and the old couple have been familiar sights on the streets here during all that time. The sympathy of the entire community is extended to Mr. McGill who was a faithful companion to his wife and has been taking care of her during the past few years as she was becoming somewhat feeble minded.

An inquest was held by Coroner Shilliam and the railroad company and the train crew was held without blame.

The Benson signal., December 04, 1915

## Old Couple Parted By Sad Death

Nothing in years has touched the sympathy of Benson people like the sudden death Tuesday of Mrs. W. J. McGill, who was run over by a Southern Pacific freight train, and the simultaneous parting of the contented old couple who have made Benson their home for over thirty years.

Mr. and Mrs. McGill had both passed their sixtieth year. They had no children to comfort them in their old age but had money in the

bank which together with the income of some Benson residence property was ample means to keep them in plenty during their old age. There was nothing to worry them and their daily tasks of feeding the chickens, gathering the eggs and looking after their property was just enough work to content

them. They were devoted to each other and seemed very happy in this sweet old age. For years they have lived this simple life with nothing to mar its pleasure, except an incident which occurred a few months ago, when Mrs. McGill showed signs of insanity and was taken to the state asylum. With the chivalry of a gallant knight of old, the old man came to her rescue and stubbornly fought every procedure to take his life-mate from the humble home to the far-away and dreary asylum. He finally gained her release by furnishing the state authorities with a bond. He personally took the bond to the superintendent of the asylum and escorted his companion home, where they have since lived that same simple life until Monday, when by this ghastly accident, they were suddenly separated in this life forever, and above the power of any of his noble efforts to bring her back

Today this old man goes about his tasks alone; no one to assist him; no one to share his humble home. He is broken in spirit and there is naught of the jolly jesting which has so familiarly characterized him in the town

The accident occurred about noon Monday while Mrs. McGill was crossing the tracks opposite Judge Shilliam's office. She was going in the direction of the water tank while an engine with a string of box cars was backing down the house track. When the cars hit her she was walking in the middle of the track with the approaching cars behind her. A brakeman endeavored to warn her but all in vain. One truck of the car passed over her, severing the left arm, crushing the left side and bruising the head. Life was extinct when the body was picked up

A coroners jury was summoned and an inquest held. No blame was attached to the company or the train crew.

Services were held at the Catholic church Tuesday at two o'clock with Fr. Joseph Aymemi officiating. Interment was made in the local cemetery.

Elizabeth O'Neil was born in Ireland about the year 1855. She came to America with relatives

when a child and they settled in Nebraska. She came to Cochise when a young woman and was employed as a school teacher in Tombstone. It was in Tombstone that she met Wm. McGill and was married in the year 1883. They established their home in Benson where she has resided until her death, Monday, November 29, 1915.

**Edgar Samuel Titus 1865-1906**  
Row 47 column 4

Edgar Samuel Titus  
 Gender: Male  
 Birth Date: 19 Jan 1865  
 Death Date: 15 Aug 1906 (41)  
 Cause: Consumption  
 Death Place: Benson, AZ  
 Seventh Street Cemetery  
 Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
 Father: Enos Titus  
 Mother: Mary Ann Titus  
 Race: White  
 Marital Status: Married  
 Birthplace: New Jersey,  
 Home in 1900: Bridgewater, NJ  
 Race: White  
 Gender: Male  
 Spouse's Name: Mary F Titus  
 Marriage Year: 1886  
 Years Married: 14  
 Occupation: Salesman (Trav)  

Household	Age	Relationship
Edgar S Titus	35	Head
Mary F Titus	32	Wife
Mable H Titus	13	Daughter

Tombstone epitaph., August 05, 1906

Edgar S Titus, justice fees. 177 60

Tombstone epitaph., September 09, 1906

H. D. Cheseldine has filed his bond of \$1,000 as justice of the peace of Benson to take the place made vacant by the death of Edgar H. Titus, and has entered upon his duties. He was appointed at the recent meeting of the board of supervisors.

Bisbee daily review., September 09, 1906

Aug. 2. Edgar S. Titus, J.  
P. fines ..... 5.00





**Annie Ashburn 1870 -1896**

Row 45 column 3

Name: Annie Eliza Ashburn

Gender: Female

Birth Date: 2 Jun 1873

Death Date: 1 Oct 1896

Burial Place: Benson, AZ

Wife of Oscar F. Ashburn. Aged 23yrs 3ms & 29days. "Thou hast called me I shall enter the portals of light.

Annie Eliza Fenter and Oscar F. Ashburn were married on 18 JUL 1889. Three children were born of this marriage, all of whom died as children. Annie Eliza and two of her daughters, Della May and Rubie, were drowned during a cloud burst on 01 OCT 1896.



Annie Eliza Ashburn



**Ruby Ashburn 1895 -1896**

Row 46 column 3

Rubie Ashburn

Birth: 19 Aug 1895

Death: 1 Oct 1896 (aged 1)

Daughter of O.F. & Annie E.

Ashburn. Aged 1yr 1mo and 13days. "Heaven's beloved die early"



**Della May Ashburn 1893 - 1896**

Row 48 column 3

Della May Ashburn

Birth: 21 May 1894

Death: 1 Oct 1896

Seventh Street Cemetery

Benson, AZ

Child of O.F. & Annie Ashburn. Aged 3 yrs 4 ms & 11days. "They have entered the portals of life eternal"

**Jessie Ashburn 1880 -1891**

Row 47 column 3

Jessee Ashburn

Birth: Sept 30, 1890

Death: 4 May 1891



The People below all perished in the  
 flood of October 1, 1896  
 Annie Ashburn 1870 -1896  
 Ruby Ashburn 1895 -1896  
 Della May Ashburn 1883 -1896  
 Nellie Zeek 1870-1896  
 Cora Zeek 1894-1896  
 Edgar Zeek 1892-1896  
 Clyde Zeek 1894-1896

Tombstone prospector., October 05, 1896

## THE FLOOD AT BENSON.

### Description of its Awfulness by Our Correspondent.

BENSON, October 2, 1896.

ED PROSPECTOR:—An impressive warning came yesterday to the people of Benson which most vividly and forcibly reminded us that in the "midst of life we are in death." Those who witnessed the storm yesterday say they can never more doubt the theological idea of an ancient deluge. Houses floated away like toys upon the deep.

The storm came about 12 in the day. Many describe the water spout as twisting and writhing like a snake, until finally it burst upon the little village with such terrible force that it was almost swept from the face of the earth. The depot of the S. P. Co. is almost demolished and Wells, Fargo

Hotel were watching those who were on the platform of the depot and could see them only when flashes of lightning came, the storm cloud was so dense.

Hotel were watching those who were on the platform of the depot and could see them only when flashes of lightning came, the storm cloud was so dense.

Two of our most esteemed citizens, Mr. Ashburn and Mr. Zeek, each now mourn the loss of wife and babies. Mrs. Ashburn and two babies were visiting Mrs. Zeek when the storm came and, without a moment's warning or any human aid, were all six swept down with the flood. The bodies of Mrs. Ashburn and Mrs. Zeek have been recovered by the searching party, but the four children are all missing.

No trains reached Benson from any direction last night or today and it is reported that miles of track each way have been washed away, and no trains can possibly reach Benson until Monday.

Wrecking trains are in Benson and everything is being done that can be to clear things up.

Tombstone prospector., October 05, 1896

The funeral of Mrs. Ashburn and Mrs. Zeek took place at half-past eleven Saturday from the hall (the largest building in town), Rev. D. Roberts officiated. The hall was filled with sympathizing friends.

Searching parties are out from early morning until dark trying to recover the remaining bodies.

The heartfelt sympathy of the whole town is with the bereaved husbands.

Tombstone prospector., October 06, 1896

## BENSON'S CALAMITY.

### Further Details by an Eye Witness.

ED PROSPECTOR:—The first unusual thing to be noticed was a very black cloud that seemed at first to take the shape of a funnel, then it rapidly changed and seemed to divide into three prongs or spurs going out from the main body; they seemed to rapidly protrude until they seemingly touched the mountain and then receded into the main body again. Nearly everybody in town was attracted by the terrible threatening appearance of the cloud; people hurried to their homes and the doors and windows were closed, then the wind came and everything seemed to be enveloped in a heavy fog, the rain falling in torrents and the wind blowing a perfect gale. Then it began to hail and the hail stones on the roof sounded like a regular musketry fire, the hailstones being perfectly round and many of them as large as eggs. The gulches were overflowing already with water and now the addition of as much more of hail made it very thick and the pressure very great against everything it run against, tearing down fences and the very earth in places.

When it first began to rain Mr. Zeek, our barber, was at home; he and his

wife were trying to get a hen and her chickens in out of the wet and the children kept running out in the rain. Mrs. Ashburn, wife of Oscar Ashburn, took her two little children, aged two and four respectively, and run across the street to keep the children in the house while the father and mother were after the chickens. It was raining so bad by the time the chickens were housed that Mrs. Ashburn told Mr. Zeek if he would close her front door that she would stay with his wife and children until the storm was over. Mr. Zeek closed her door and rode on his bicycle to his shop as fast as he could, never dreaming that it was the last time that he would ever behold his wife and little ones alive. In a short time he looked out and saw his house coming down the street in a torrent of water and go to pieces right before his eyes and he was powerless to render any aid to those who were drowning.

The telegraph operator and others in the depot looking out through the closed window beheld the women and children go swiftly past grabbing and clutching at the floating debris but they were powerless to render any aid as the water was between three and four feet and running quite swift.

As soon as the storm was over every man in town turned out to search for the bodies. The first to be recovered was that of Mrs. Ashburn who was found about a half mile below town

on dry land with her arm clutching a fence post, but dead. In a short time afterwards the body of Mrs. Zeek was found about a quarter of a mile beyond in a hole, just one foot protruding and the head down, the hail packed firmly around so that it required the efforts of strong men to pull the body out.

Although there has been a constant search for the bodies of the children they have just at this writing, 6 p. m., succeeded in another. that of Mr. Zeek's youngest child, little Clyde, three years old. He was found buried in the sand about one and a half miles below town,

The funeral of Mrs. Zeek and Mrs. Ashburn was held today, Rev. Roberts officiated and everybody in the little village turned out to pay their respects to the dead.

There were six persons drowned in all—four little children and their mothers. The force of the water was terrific, it mashed an old hide house containing hides, baled hay etc. against the express office and then the express office was jammed against the depot. A whole train of freight cars standing on the track was started in motion, and would have run wild but for the drift against the express office and depot wedging in between and stopping them.

There were very many narrow escapes from drowning, and nearly everybody in town have suffered more or less financially. Mr. Walker, the druggist, came near losing his whole

building and stock, but has saved the greater part. Mr. Gerwin lost a great deal of lumber: Mr. Ets, the hide house containing baled hay and hides.

The Arizona sentinel., October 10, 1896

The funeral of Mrs. Ashburn and Mrs. Zeek took place at 11:30 Saturday from the hall (the largest building in town), Rev. D. Roberts officiating. The hall was filled with sympathizing friends.

Searching parties are out from early morning until dark trying to recover the remaining bodies.

The heartfelt sympathy of the whole town is with the bereaved husbands.

The bodies of the two little children of Oscar Ashburn and William Zeek have been found. They were deposited in a quantity of hail, which formed a genuine ice floor. When found the bodies were in a state of perfect preservation.

Dario A. Martinez 1860 -1933

Row 47 column 2

Name: Dario Martinez

Birth Date: 1860

Death Date: 1933 (aged 72-73)

Seventh Street Cemetery

Burial Place: Benson, AZ

Children: Fernando Sanchez

Martinez Maria Martinez

DARIO MARTINEZ

1860 — 1933

# COMPANION IS HURT WHEN CAR JUMPS HIGHWAY

Phoenix Racing Driver When  
on Way to Smelter City to  
Enter Race, Meets Death

## SIDE-SWIPE OTHER CAR

Racing Car Approaching at  
High Rate of Speed Hits  
Machine on Roadside

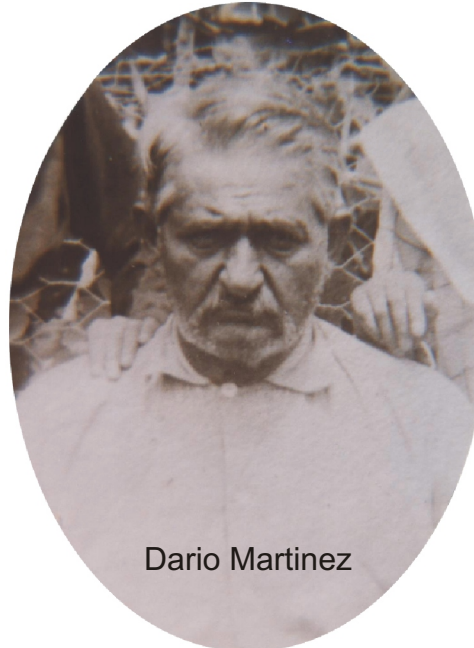
Howard Dillman, of Phoenix, was instantly killed about 3:30 yesterday afternoon when his racing car, a Stutz special, was wrecked about two and one-half miles west of Benson. Joe Diaz, Dillman's mechanic, sustained a deep cut in his head and minor cuts and bruises. His injuries, according to Dr. J. W. Morrison, of Benson, were not serious, and Diaz planned to return to Phoenix last night.

Dillman and Diaz were on their way to Douglas where they were to draw places today for the Douglas-Phoenix road race tomorrow. Their car had been entered in the race by the Texas Realty Company, of Phoenix.

**Dario Martinez**, owner of a cattle ranch about 15 miles from Benson, was a witness of the accident. Martinez had stopped his Dodge touring car on one side of the road to pour water into the radiator. The big Stutz approached at a high rate of speed and, when Dillman attempted to pass Martinez' car, the Stutz side-swiped the touring car, got out of the driver's control and literally plunged from the road, overturning several times. Diaz was thrown clear of the car. Dillman had no chance to get from behind the steering wheel. His body was terribly crushed.

Diaz, dazed and bleeding, was hurried to Benson and taken to Doctor Morrison's office. He said last night that he remembered the Stutz approaching and starting to pass another car, but nothing more.

The big Stutz, according to Deputy Sheriff Wein, who hurried from Benson to the scene of the accident, was almost completely demolished.



Dario Martinez

Francisco O. Martinez 1852 -1919

Row 48 column 2

Name: Francisco Martinez

Gender: Male

Race: White

Marital Status: Widowed

Name: Francisco Martinez

Marriage Date: 6 Oct 1894

Marriage Place: AZ

Spouse: Ilania Chaves

Age: 67

Birth Date: abt 1852

Birth Place: Arizona

Death Date: 21 Nov 1919

Death Place: Bisbee, AZ

Father: Juan M Martinez

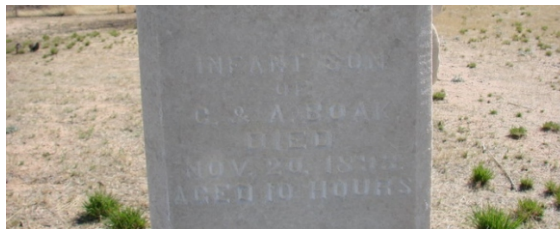
Mother: Carmen Martinez



**Amelia Boak 1868 - 1893  
and Infant Son Boak 1893- 10 hours  
Row 49 column 4**

Name: Infant Boak  
Birth Date: 20 Nov 1893  
Birth Place: AZ  
Death Date: 20 Nov 1893 (10 hours)  
Death Place: AZ  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Name: Amelia Boak  
Gender: Female  
Birth Date: 13 Jul 1868  
Birth Place: England  
Death Date: 25 Nov 1893 (aged 25)  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ  
Name: Amelia Ann Cobb  
Gender: Female  
Marriage Date: 4 Nov 1891  
Marriage Place: Colorado, TX  
Spouse: Christopher Boak  
Occupation: Laborer  
Age: 23  
Birth Date: Abt 1857  
Birthplace: England  
Race: White  
Gender: Male  
Marital Status: Married

**Amelia Boak 1868 - 1893  
and Infant Son Boak 1893- 10 hours  
Row 49 column 4**



	1	2	3	4
55				
54				
53				THOMAS CROCKETT 1895 - 10 DAYS OLD
52				
51				ANGEL MARTINEZ 1887 - 1915
50				
49			ROSEMARY ASHBURN 1910 - 1913	INFANT SON BOAK 1893 - 10 HRS

**Rose Mary Ashburn 1910-1913**

Row 49 column 3

Rose Mary Ashburn  
Gender: Female  
Age: 3  
Birth Date: 3 Oct 1910  
Birth Place: Patagonia  
Death Date: 3 Oct 1913  
Cause: Typhoid Fever  
Death Place: Santa Cruz, AZ  
Father: O. F. Ashburn  
Gender: Female  
Father: Oscar F Ashburn  
Mother: Minnie Ashburn



**Rose Mary Ashburn**

**Angel Martinez 1887-1915**

Row 51 column 4

Name: Angel Martinez  
Age in 1910: 22  
Birth Date: 1888 [1888]  
Birthplace: Arizona  
Home in 1910: Benson, AZ  
Race: White  
Gender: Male  
Relation to Head of House: Son  
Marital Status: Single  
Father's Name: Dario Martinez  
Father's Birthplace: Arizona  
Mother's Name: Guadalupe Martinez  
Mother's Birthplace: Mexico  
Native Tongue: Spanish

Household	Age	Relationship
Dario Martinez	50	Head
Guadalupe Martinez	40	Wife
Ramona Martinez	25	Daughter
Angel Martinez	22	Son
Eduardo Martinez	17	Son
Elena Martinez	11	Daughter
Anita Martinez	10	Daughter
Maria Martinez	7	Daughter
Fernando Martinez	5	Son
Alonzo Martinez	3	Son
Ermenia Martinez	0	Daughter
Angel Calistro	21	Adopted Son



Tombstone epitaph., December 15, 1907

**Angel A Martinez** to wed **Manuela Burba**, both of Pirtleville.

Bisbee daily review., July 14, 1910

**Twin Boys Born.**  
Mrs. **Angel Martinez** of Naco road, gave birth yesterday to twin sons. Mother and children are reported to be doing nicely.

Name: Angel Martinez  
Age in 1910: 23  
Birth Date: 1887  
Birthplace: Arizona  
Home in 1910: Bisbee Ward 1, A  
Street: Naco Road  
Race: White  
Gender: Male  
Relation to Head of House: Head  
Marital Status: Married  
Spouse's Name: Manuela Martinez  
Father's Birthplace: Mexico  
Mother's Birthplace: Mexico  
Native Tongue: English  
Occupation: Laborer  
Industry: Warehouse  
Employee or Other: Wage Earner  
Home Rented: Rent  
Farm or House: House  
Able to read: Yes  
Able to Write: Yes  
Years Married: 3  
Out of Work: N

Household	Age	Relationship
Angel Martinez	23	Head
Manuela Martinez	22	Wife



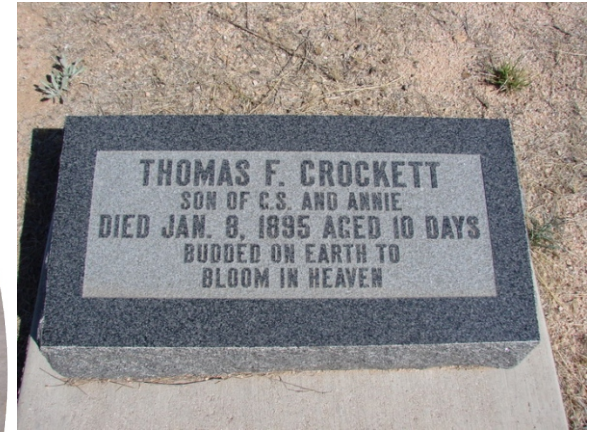
Angel Martinez

**Thomas Crockett 1895-1895 10 Days Old**  
Row 53 column 4

Name: Thomas F Crockett  
Death Date: 8 Jan 1895  
Seventh Street Cemetery  
Burial Place: Benson, AZ

The oasis., January 10, 1895

BORN:—At Benson, Arizona, December 29th, 1894, to the wife G. S. **Crockett**, a son.



### Los Tiraditos 1884

End of the Cemetery road

The story goes that in November of 1884 three Mexicans came into Town and two were accused of attempted train robbery and one was accused of stealing a horse. So instead of trying them in the court, the mob decided to take them over to and hang them from the tall lumber racks because there were no trees tall enough to hang them from. The Gerwein Lumber yard is where the Horseshoe restaurant is now.



# Outcast Graves Legends Evolve Around

By DONETTA SANDERS  
Republic Benson Correspondent

Moonlight reveals three graves peached precariously on the brink of a deep ravine near the base of a rocky hill in southeast Benson.

Shadows cast by two decrepid wooden crosses lie like black ribbons across a third mound devoid of a marker. The rest of the town's original cemetery sleeps quietly across the ravine and inside a sagging wire fence.

Who lies outside the cemetery's confines? Who decreed these three souls were not fit to be buried with the "good and honorable folks" of this frontier town?

Castaways' have become a shrine to the Mexican people in town. Some say, at night, they can hear moans as the three souls plead for a resting place within the hallowed ground.

Several different stories are told about Los Tiraditos, but the most likely and most often repeated goes like this:

In the early 1880s, most likely '82 or '83, two bandits tried unsuccessfully to heist the train outside of Benson.

The last rail had recently been laid through this part of the state, so Benson was a bustling new railroad town.

Although not as notorious as some rip-roaring communities of the Southwest, the area had its share of gunslingers, card sharks and hold-up men.

The train offered one more way for the get-rich-quick artist to try his hand.

These two bandits blundered and were caught by the law. A would-be horse thief was apprehended about the time the train robbers were brought in. Details of their death have been lost through the years except that each was hanged by the neck until dead.

Frontier justice (sometimes questionable) was often triggered by too much liquor, hot tempers and incompetence. Burial for the three was decreed outside the cemetery in their own private potters, field on the side of the hill.

These lonely graves are shrouded in protective secrecy, passing time or poor memories with no records to

approve or disprove the legends which evolve around them. Flowers and burning candles left on the rocky mounds are

mute evidence that others still care.

Los Tiraditos "The Little"



Outside--- Two crosses are the only markers for three graves of The Little Castways, denied rest in Benson's cemetery.

Erosion has completely seperated Los Tiraditos from the old seldom-used cemetery. The three graves perch forlornly on the jutting point ready to be obliterated by nature.

During the war years, especially World War I, the flames from the glowing candles often marked the hill at night. Bright crepe paper flowers were tenderly placed on the rocky mounds. All Saints Day still finds Los Tiraditos cleaned and decorated. Candles burn and prayers are offered.

Quite often the flowers and candles are carried through the sticky red clay of the deep wash and up the side of the hill. The path from the road through the old cemetery lies deep in clinging weeds and is seldom used.

Mexican children are often

The Arizona Republic K-9  
Phoenix, Sunday, Mar. 10, 1968

the ones to make the pilgrimage. Los Tiraditos' lonely vigil is broken as loose rocks rattle down the hillside and a small hand holding three candles appears at the top of the ravine.

"Buenos noches, Tiraditos, rest in peace."

In 2008 a group of Historians, photo below, exhumed the three Tiraditos and placed them inside the cemetery on hallowed ground after nearly 125 years. They are buried at the very back of the cemetery at the end of the main road in where a plaque tells the story.



Alvah Fenn- Elizabeth Brenner- Edward F. Ellsworth

## Elizabeth Brenner

**From:** "Elizabeth Brenner" <lizbrnr@vtc.net>  
**To:** <managingeditor@news-sun.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 20, 2008 12:47 PM  
**Subject:** THE LOS TIRADITOS LEGEND

The legend is a true historical fact!

On April 4 and 5 of 2008, Vay Fenn, Edward Ellsworth, Don Brenner, and Elizabeth Brenner after long years of curiosity, dug at the original site where the three Mexican men were buried after their hanging. They had come into town not ever expecting to ever leave again. The hispanic population who lived here, before Benson ever existed and was a ranch, thought these men were innocent. A train had been robbed and a horse stolen. Who did it? Was it these men or the evil work of the notorious outlaws running loose? There was virtually no law in the 1880's. Just posses trying to catch outlaws.

The hangings took place at the Lumber Yard that was right by the Horseshoe Cafe on the east side, close to the train. In 1883 the mesquite trees were not tall enough to hang anyone, so they used the beams in the lumber yard to hang them. The townspeople had a big celebration! Back then that was the most excitement going on. No TV showing the old west, the real thing!

Coffins were hastily made of lumber; one for two men and one for the third. We know because when we found them two were together; one with his head facing west on his side and the smaller one with his head facing east. The third man didn't have a head, but the body was west with feet to the east. Where was his head? On a pole for all to see as was sometimes the custom? You better be good or this will happen to you! Or was it pulled off when he was hung, as sometimes happened? Then where was it put?

They were not to be buried in "hallowed" ground with the "good" people, but on the south side of potters field behind the cemetery on 7th Street called Benson Pioneer Cemetery in the death records book. Later this land became private land on the other side of a wash put in by SPRR and The Town of Benson, to take the water around the town instead of 4th Street. Some of potters field was gone! But the Mexican men were saved on the other side of the wash and kept safe by a growing mesquite tree. Saved for 125 years so that we could find them.

We found them 8 feet down because 4 feet of dirt had filled in over the years. Two men were buried 4 feet and the third about 3 feet. Shallow graves with rocks on top and crosses to the west end. At first candles and food were taken to their graves and many prayers said on their behalf. This tradition was kept for generations by the hispanic families, even children. There was wax found in the tree from the candles and many broken candle holders.

Now the Los Tiraditos are safe from washing away in the 8/14/2008 metery at the end of the road by the back fence. A monument will be placed there with the story on a bronze plaque.

Only one name is known according to history handed down: Antonio Ramirez

There will be another celebration with the Reverend Father Michael Bucciarelli there to bless the new graves.

JUSTICE IS DONE  
REST IN PEACE

The public is invited to visit the graves. Feel free to burn candles, leave flowers, and pray!

Thank you Vay Fenn for the use of your backhoe and all the hard work you put into this effort.

Thank you Edward Ellsworth for your contribution of history and furnishing the containers for the bones. We know your deep desire to help with the work.

Thank you Don Brenner for all your help and work. Thank you for making the metal crosses.

As for me, Elizabeth Brenner, I am happy that we have proof that the historical story from 1883 is TRUE!!!

