

Newspaper Articles

This section is composed of obituaries and general articles from Prescott newspapers reprinted here in chronological order, following the years Citizens' Cemetery was in use. It is hoped that the reader can come to a deeper and more accurate understanding of Prescott's early history by studying these articles. Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation are true to the original articles. Because the newspapers were usually just eight pages long, I refrain from listing page and column numbers. Almost every article can be found in the Sharlot Hall Museum archives.

The Miner, July 20, 1864 –

☞ The Town of Prescott ☞

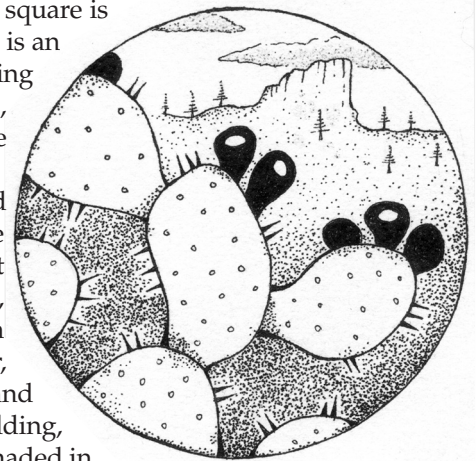
Our friends abroad will be glad to know all the facts touching our new and hopeful town. Let us begin by saying that the name was preferred to Audubon and Granite City, which had been proposed, because of the Aztec memorials everywhere existing in this region, and confirming the conclusions of the great American historian, Prescott, as to its former occupation. An esteemed correspondent of the *Miner*, from whom we have several valuable historical communications in reserve had suggested that the capital of the Territory should be Aztlan. Without expressing an opinion as to whether Prescott is, or is not, to be the capital, we think the name preferable, though Aztlan would have been a very proper designation for the Territory, far more easy to interpret, and more appropriate, than Arizona.

Moreover the compliment to the memory of the illustrious Prescott is well deserved. To rare ability as a writer and historian, he added all the qualities which ennoble man. He was a good citizen, a true patriot, and an honor to a most reputable ancestry. His biography, lately published in Boston, and a copy of which we hope to receive at an early day, abounds in interesting incidents illustrative of his genius, his industry, his perseverance under difficulties, including the blindness of his later years, his purity and amiability of character, and his love of country, which should make us proud to have his name associated with a settlement for which we have faith to believe there is to be a prosperous future.

The town—may we soon say the city—of Prescott, is located at a point near to the intersection of the 34° of latitude, with 112° of longitude. So lately has this region been opened that the existing maps of the Territory have it only in blank.

The spot chosen and surveyed for the town embraces a beautiful mesa of two quarter sections of land upon Granite Creek, running with the same for a mile. The streets all run with the cardinal points of the compass, and are an hundred feet wide. The squares are each 325 × 600 feet including an alley of 25 feet running lengthwise. The lots, saving those facing the plaza, are 50 × 150 feet. Those upon the plaza, which is composed of an entire square, are 25 × 125 feet on the north and south, and 25 × 150 feet on the east and west sides. The land reserved for the public buildings, should the Legislature be convened here, is an entire square, situated on the highest point from which a grand view of the surrounding country can be had. This square is directly connected with the plaza by a street called Union Street, which is an hundred feet wide, and runs through the center of the only intervening square. From the public park a street called Liberty Street (same width), runs through the first square, in the opposite direction, thus opening the public grounds to access and view from every quarter.

The other streets of the town are named either after persons identified with the former or present history of this part of the Territory - thus those running north and south, after Granite Street, which is upon the east bank of Granite Creek, are called, Montezuma, Cortez, Marina, Alarcon, Coronado, and Whipple, while those running east and west are known as Sheldon, Willis, Gurley, Goodwin, Carleton, Aubry, Leroux, Walker, and Lount streets. Much of the site is covered with fine pines, cedars, and live oaks, which will, in all cases where they do not interfere with building, be left undisturbed. The plaza and public square could not be so well shaded in



twenty years by planting. Although the bed of Granite Creek is dry at many points, there is at all seasons more or less of running water, and by digging from one to three feet water is everywhere to be had, and of a superior quality. The recent success in well-digging at Fort Whipple, leads to the belief that water can be had anywhere upon the town site, though the mesa is quite high. It is proposed to have a well in each corner of the plaza. The huge flagstaff in the center, a description of which has been given, is one of the finest sticks of the kind we have ever seen...

After Mr. Groom had completed the survey of the site they called in three disinterested persons Messrs. James A. Halstead of Fort Yuma, William F. Scott of Tucson, and Charles M. Dorman, who dividing the lots into three grades, valued them respectively at \$15, \$10, and \$7.50 each, and the four chief corner lots on the plaza at \$20 each...

Already, notwithstanding the scarcity of tools and of hardware, and the want of a saw-mill, a dozen stores and houses are in course of erection. The Miner office, the offices of Dr. Seeley and Garvin, the billiard saloon of Mr. John Dickson, the store of Mr. A. Wertheimer, the hotel of Mr. Jackson, the restaurant (or Juniper House) of Mr. Barnard, and the houses of Mr. Mahon and Mr. White, are well advanced. Others are contracted for and will be built without delay...

The Miner, September 21, 1864 – (editorial)

☞ **Take Their Scalps** ☞

It is generally believed that numerous hostile Apaches from the country east of the Rio Verde are encamped between Prescott and Mohave, ostensibly to gather acorns and other supplies, but really to perfect arrangements for an attack upon Prescott. They have for a long time been urging a combination of all the savage tribes to make certain the destruction of the whites, and failing in this they now boast of an early accession of a sufficient number of their own people from the east to enable them to undertake the work. That they seriously premeditate attacking Prescott, in sufficient strength to take off all our stock, if not to destroy the place and its inhabitants, there is no longer any doubt. Now while we have no apprehension of a movement calculated to accomplish anything more than the robbery of our stock, we think it important that our plotting assailants should be visited at once, and that in a manner calculated to show them that they cannot trifle with us. Let the band to the west of us be immediately destroyed.

Captain John Moss, of Mohave, Indian agent, now here, and who has just had a conference with the Indians between Mohave and this place, seems to know the precise whereabouts of this hostile band, and if he will make it known to Col. Woolsey and his men they will be on the march at once. We must not wait for the offensive, but immediately assume the aggressive, if we would have our lives and property secure. While it is desirable to avoid collision with the friendly Indians to the west of us, and indeed with all friendly Indians, it is equally desirable that our implacable enemies should feel our power at once.

Capt. Moss cannot do our citizens a better service, nor one for which he will be more gratefully remembered, than by showing them to the hostile Apaches who are planning our extermination. We will vouch for the result.

Two or three expeditions lately talked of here have been abandoned, owing to doubt as to the presence of Apaches in the vicinity. There is now no good reason for delay in organization and effective work with powder and ball.

The Miner, March 7, 1868 –

☞ **Death of a Pioneer** ☞

It becomes our sad duty, once more, to record the death of one of our most gifted citizens, John P. Bourke, who departed this life on the morning of the sixth instant, after an illness of several weeks' duration, during which time he suffered much pain, and bore it with Christian fortitude until Death came to his relief, and his spirit took its departure for its last resting place in the blessed land beyond the tomb.

The subject of this notice was born in Ireland, and was brought to the United States when a child. Until he became of age, he resided with his people in the State of Maine. From Maine he removed to New York City, and resided there until 1849, when he emigrated to California. He came to Arizona in the fall of '63, and has resided here since. For two years, he filled the position of Sheriff of this county with credit to himself and the county. At the recent election, his fellow citizens elected him Recorder of the county, which position he filled with ability until sickness prostrated him. We were intimately acquainted with the deceased, and shall ever respect his memory for his noble, generous and manly traits of character. His intellect was of the highest order, and in all the walks of life,