

MONIHAN, JAMES DAVIDSON

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MONIHON, JAMES DAVIDSON, born at St. Johns, Oneida County, New York, November 6, 1837; son of James and Ann (Martin) Monihon; married Josie C. Linville, daughter of Hiram H. and Rebecca S. (Motherseed) Linville, at Phoenix, A.T., March 15, 1877; daughter, Rebecca Ann (Mrs. Homer H. Savage).

Moved with his parents to St. Lawrence County, N.Y., where he worked on the home farm and attended the public schools; in 1855, at the age of 18, he went via Panama to California, where he mined for placer gold in Sierra County and later engaged in quartz mining; enrolled at LaPorte, Plumas County, August 16 and mustered in at Camp Downey, near Oakland, August 30, 1861, to serve 3 years as Private, Captain Henry M. Benson's Company F, 1st California Infantry; went by sea to Southern California and later marched to Fort Yuma where, on April 8, 1862, he was detached from the Company and assigned with two Corporals and 13 other Privates of the 1st California Infantry to the command of 1st Lieutenant William A. Thompson who had received two 12 pounder mountain howitzers and a supply of shot, shell and canister ammunition; shortly afterwards the detachment accompanied Vicks wagon train to Fort Barrett, near the Pima Village; while there he rode with a party over to Salt River and first saw the valley which was later to be his home; he made reference to that trip in address of welcome to the Santa Fe, Prescott and Phoenix Railway when he was Mayor of Phoenix by saying:

"Little did I think when I first spread my blankets on the dreary sands of this glorious valley in May, 1862, that within a quarter of a century there would be a city of 10,000 inhabitants holding a grand jubilee over the advent of a second railroad."

He arrived in Tucson in time to serve as gunner of the howitzer that was used to fire a salute to the American Flag on July 4, 1863; the detachment left Tucson with other troops on July 10 and on the 15th they were attacked in Apache

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Pass by about 450 Indians under Mangas Coloradas and Cochise; the California Volunteers present numbered but 130 men about half of whom were detailed to guard the supply and ammunition wagons; the fight lasted from mid-day until after four P. M., the soldiers being without water after an all night march of forty miles from Dragoon Springs; the deadly effect of the shells from the howitzers were something never before experienced by the Apaches who finally gave up their positions in the rocks so that the Californians secured the spring in the pass and obtained water for themselves and the teams that night; Mangas Coloradas was severely wounded in this action and the Apaches afterwards said that they lost 69 warriors; two soldiers were killed, one of whom belonged to the howitzer detachment, and three others were wounded.

He went on with the troops from Apache Pass to the Rio Grande and remained at Mesilla until September 28, 1862, when the Company departed for Fort Craig where he was promoted to Corporal in October; stationed there until October, 1863, when he marched with the Company via Fort Wingate and the Little Colorado River for Fort Whipple, A.T.; reported as on detached service at Antelope Springs from December 14 so that he did not arrive at the Fort until January, 1864; listed in the Territorial Census taken in April as a soldier; he joined with 10 other California Volunteers in locating mining claims in the Walker District on April 25, 1864, as they were permitted to do by a general order issued by General J. H. Carleton; honorably discharged at Fort Whipple, A.T., August 29, 1864, by expiration of enlistment; employed as civilian guide for scouting parties at Fort Whipple from November 15 to 26, 1865, and from March 1 to May 31, 1866.

Late in 1865 he located a ranch at Willow Grove on the road to Fort Mohave about 85 miles from Prescott where he built a station for the accommodation of

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travelers and immediately after his discharge as Army guide moved out with additional supplies; he then went on to Hardyville to purchase seed potatoes and other things to complete his stock of goods leaving Edward Clower in charge; about a week afterwards when returning with the freight teams of S. C. Miller he met Milton Hadley and William King at Union Pass who told him that the Wallapai Indians had burned his station and killed Clower.

He afterwards valued his losses as a frame house, \$765; clothing and bedding \$234; provisions, \$489; garden seed \$87; a Spencer and a Henry rifle worth \$80 and \$65 respectively; 2 Colts pistols at \$20 each, and 1,000 rounds of ammunition; the Indians also stole 4 horses each worth \$100 and a thoroughbred horse from Kentucky which he valued at \$340; after suffering this loss he became a mail and express rider between Prescott and the Bully Bueno mine; operated the Plaza Feed and Livery Stable in Prescott in 1868.

Listed, U. S. Census, July, 1870, at Big Bag, Yavapai County, A. T., occupation, Miner; shortly afterwards he moved to the Salt River Valley arriving with six dollars, two pounds of tobacco, a gun and a dog; signed the articles of the Salt River Town Association on October 20, 1870 and planted the first cottonwood tree on the townsite afterwards called Phoenix; established a livery stable on the northeast corner of 1st Avenue and Washington Street in 1872 which he successfully conducted for ten years at first in partnership with the Starar Brothers; in 1874 he and Ben Bleck contracted to carry the mail once a week to Fort McDowell; that same year he was elected to be a member of the Board of Supervisors of Maricopa County; was captain of the first bucket brigade and was active in organizing the first fire department in Phoenix; in 1881 he was nominated as a Republican for Mayor of Phoenix but was defeated by seven votes; went to the eastern States with

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with his family in 1883 and remained for six years; returned in 1889 and began the construction of the Monihen Block on the site of his livery stable, which was rated at its completion as the finest business edifice in Arizona.

Elected Mayor of Phoenix, 1893 and reelected 1896, as a lover of fine horses he was for many years Vice-President of the Trotting Association and served as Judge at races; Comrade, J. W. Owen Post No. 5, G.A.R.; was Post Commander in 1894 and delegated to the National Encampment in Boston, 1889; Senior Vice Commander, Arizona Department, 1899; member Arizona Lodge No. 2, F. & A. M., and also belonged to the Chapter, Commandery and Shrine in Phoenix; died at Phoenix, A.T., September 2, 1904; aged 66; buried old City Cemetery; reinterred, Greenwood Memorial Park, January 29, 1921 (War Department headstone).

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- The Phoenix Herald, March 15, 3:2, April 30, 3:1, May 3, 3:1, May 17, 3:1, June 4, 3:1, October 17, 3:3 and October 24, 1879, 3:3; January 16, 4:2, February 6, 4:1, February 27, 1:2 and 4:1, and December 24, 1880, 1:2; January 21, 4:2, February 18, 4:2, February 25, 4:2, April 29, 4:2 and May 6, 1881, 4:3; September 8, 4:1, October 13, 3:2, and November 17, 1882, 3:2; February 3, 3:3 and December 18, 1891, 1:2; December 24, 1897, 4:2.
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