

# CURTIN, ANDREW

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CURTIN, ANDREW, born in County Clare, Ireland, in 1845; son of Andrew Curtin, Sr. ; the maiden name of his mother was Quinn; never married.

The following statements are taken from an account of his life printed in the Prescott Journal Miner when reporting his death and burial:

When nine years old he went with his parents and brothers and sisters to Australia. After a few years' residence in that country he went alone to New Zealand and thence to San Francisco. Hearing of the fabulous wealth of Arizona, he came here, reaching Prescott in 1864.

After disposing in 1879 of his mining interests, he went to Downey, Cal., and up to his return to Prescott two weeks ago he had resided there continuously.

After nearly a third of a century he returned to the scenes of his younger days to begin where he left off in mining work. He had perfected every little detail to go to the old Alta claim, that he had patented 30 years ago, to develop that property.

Of the hundreds that made the Bradshaw mountains famous in mineral annals in his day, Mr. Curtin is practically the last in the long line to answer the final summons. He was an exemplary man and a good citizen.

The Prescott Arizona Miner on three occasions in 1875, reported his successful mining operations:

August 27 - - ANOTHER RICH DISCOVERY--THE "SILVER PRINCE."--On the 22nd of this month Andrew Curtin discovered a lode of silver-bearing ore within half a mile of the Peck mine that promises excellent results. A chunk weighing fifty pounds was submitted to those veteran prospectors, Wm. Cole and E. S. Junior, who pronounced it worth \$5 per pound, and as the lode is well defined for more than a mile, the discoverer and his companions naturally concluded they had a good thing

and selected samples of the qualities of ore found in the lead and brought them to town for assay.

Day before yesterday Mr. L. B. Jewell made three careful assays of the different ores with the following results, beginning with the lowest grade: Assay No. 1 went \$408.21; No. 2, \$422.34; No. 3, \$2,959.20. Mr. Jewell vouches for the correctness of the assays, and Mr. D. K. Houghtelin assures us of the truth of the other circumstances connected with the discovery. Three claims have been located on it by Andrew Curtin, D. K. Houghtelin and S. A. Smith.

October 22 - - The Silver Prince is about one half a mile southeast of the Peck and on the same belt. It was not discovered until the latter part of August. . . . several tons of ore that assays up among the thousands have been taken out and shipped; and at seven different openings on the surface; twelve hundred feet apart, there is a show of uniformly rich ore . . . . One third interest in this mine, bought the day of the discovery for \$500, is now held at the modest price of \$300,000.

December 24 - - SILVER PRINCE ORE. --Mr. Houghtelin had three assays made on Tuesday from ore which he and Mr. Curtin are having packed in from the Prince. Mr. Peltz did the assaying. A sample of forty sacks went \$809; one hundred and thirty sacks, \$1005.93; and nine sacks at the rate of \$3,649.27 to the ton in silver. The percentage of lead is noted in the certificate, but we did not copy it. It was not assayed for gold, of which it all contains a small quantity.

In an obituary, the Prescott Courier stated:

Mr. Curtin was an Argonaut of the sturdiest type. He was the first man to ever uncover a valuable body of ore in the Bradshaw Mountains. He arrived there in the early 60's, when there was yet only one mineral prospect being developed. He discovered the Silver Prince and disposed of it at a handsome profit, later leaving for Downey, Cal., where he purchased a farm which he planted in walnuts and vines.

He added to his wealth later in Alaska, where he was the leader of a rescue party that dug out the bodies of a large number killed by a snowslide at Chillcoot Pass in the early '90s. He superintended and assisted in the recovery of the bodies and shipping them to their former homes in the United States and foreign countries.

Died at Prescott, A. T., December 13, 1909, aged 64, buried, Odd Fellows Cemetery, Prescott.

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Arizona Division of Vital Statistics - Death Certificate, 1909.  
 The Arizona Miner, Prescott, August 27, 3:2, October 22, 2:3, and December 24, 1875, 3:1.  
 The Prescott Courier, December 13, 1:3 and December 14, 1909, 1:5 (obituary and funeral. )  
 The Journal-Miner, Prescott, December 14, 4:4, and December 15, 1909, 4:2 (obituary and funeral).

#### ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- The Arizona Miner, Prescott, March 24, 3:1 and May 5, 1876, 3:2; November 1, 1878, 1:5; December 12, 1879, 3:1; June 4, 3:1 and October 15, 1880, 4:1.  
 The Arizona Democrat, Prescott, March 5, 5:1, March 12, 5:1, May 28, 6:2, June 4, 3:1 and 6:1, August 6, 5:3, and December 10, 1880, 5:1.

Curtin, Andrew  
Los Angeles News, 9/23/65, 2-3.

Ariz. Items from the Miner, 6th inst.-  
 The quartz mill of Mr. A. Curtin is now very  
 near Wickenburg, and will soon be put up.