

## William Henry Perry of Perry Mesa

By JJ and Mike Golio

Condensed from an essay written by his daughter, Maud, about growing up on Perry Mesa. Maud's essay is stored at Sharlot Hall Museum.

William Henry Perry and his wife Mary Agnes Clark had their first child, Henry Jones Perry, in Fitchburg, MA on May 30, 1874. They traveled to California where Perry became partners with George Helm. In the fall of 1875, they brought a herd of sheep to Arizona. Many sheep were lost trying to swim across the Colorado River. Perry built a house near Badger Springs in the spring of 1876. [It was probably near the Agua Fria River north of the Badger Springs Wash Trailhead.] He spent the winters in Badger Springs and drove his sheep to the San Francisco Peaks in the summers. Helm built his house at the confluence of the Agua Fria River and Copper Creek. [It was probably the Agua Fria River and Bishop Creek. Names changed over time and the Agua Fria River does not have a confluence with Copper Creek.] The Perrys had 9 children—Henry Jones (1874), Charlotte Elizabeth (1876), Mary Adeline (1878), Grace (1881), William Kittredge (1883), Mabel (1885), Maud (1887), Agnes (1889), and Eben Prescott (1892). The children were tutored by Walter Hastings in 1887 until they went to a district school in 1888.

In 1883, Perry and Helm sold their sheep to Scott Brothers in Flagstaff and started a cattle ranch the next year. Perry's brand was an uppercase A with a dot between its legs. His children's brand was a backwards uppercase L [for Lotte, Charlotte's nickname] connected to an uppercase P [for Perry] with a bar so it looked like an H [for Henry] in the middle. He also grew alfalfa, had flower gardens, and obtained numerous mining claims. In 1877 he began mining his Compromise Ledge Claim for gold. Half of the claim was sold to Helm for \$1 in 1882. Water from the Agua Fria River powered an arrastre to crush the ore [also called the mill site]. It was near the confluence of Badger Springs Wash and the Agua Fria River. Quicksilver (mercury) was then poured over the crushed ore to extract gold. The Compromise Ledge Mining claim, the mill site, and water rights were sold to Cooperative Mining and Milling Company in 1896 for \$8750. It was renamed Richinbar Mine for rich in gold bars. Perry bought a home in Tempe for his wife that same year.

Perry retired in 1901. He sold his cattle brand to LL Harmon and gave the ranch to his son, Henry Jones Perry. William Henry Perry then bought a farm near Phoenix and lived in Tempe with his wife until she died in 1915. Mary Agnes Clark Perry is buried in Double Butte Cemetery. In 1929, William Henry Perry died at his son's house in Peoria. As per his wishes, he was cremated and his ashes were scattered on Perry Mesa.

Henry Jones Perry bought a cattle brand that was a vertical rectangle with a bar over it. He ran the ranch on Perry Mesa until he died in 1948. Records do not show that he married or had children. Upon his death, the ranch was bought by Happy and Marie Balmes.