

## 06-01-1890 Gila Co AZ – Jerry Ryan – Attempted Rescue

### Jeremiah "Jerry" Ryan



## OFFICER DOWN MEMORIAL PAGE

REMEMBERING ALL OF LAW ENFORCEMENT'S HEROES

<http://www.odmp.org/officer/11663-sheriff-jeremiah-jerry-ryan>



**Sheriff**

### Jeremiah "Jerry" Ryan

Gila County Sheriff's Office, Arizona

End of Watch: Sunday, June 1, 1890

#### **Bio & Incident Details**

**Age:** 32

**Tour:** Not available

**Badge #** Not available

**Cause:** Drowned

Sheriff Jerry Ryan drowned while attempting to rescue a woman who had been thrown overboard when the rowboat she was riding in capsized.

Sheriff Ryan was attending a family picnic at the pond and was attempting to rescue the woman when he became physically exhausted and both he and the woman went under and drowned.

### Jerry Ryan

<http://genealogytrails.com/ariz/sheriff-deceased.htm>

**June 1, 1890—Gila County Sheriff Jerry Ryan drowned while trying to rescue a young woman who had fallen into Pasco Pond near Wheatfields.**

# Arizona weekly enterprise., June 14, 1890

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn94052364/1890-06-14/ed-1/seq-3/#date1=1889&index=15&rows=20&searchType=advanced&language=&sequence=0&words=Jerry+Ryan&proxistance=5&date2=1891&ortext=&proxtext=&phrasertext=jerry+ryan&andtext=&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>

## Arizona Enterprise.

FLORENCE, - - JUNE 14, 1890

### DROWNED.

Miss Mary Frush and Sheriff Ryan Lose  
Their Lives in Wheatfields Pond.

[Globe SilverBelt.]

No occurrence ever caused more universal and profound sorrow in Globe than the disaster which happened at Wheatfields on Sunday last resulting in the deaths of Jerry Ryan, Sheriff of Gila county, and Miss Mary E. Frush. Wheatfields, with its pleasant wooded grove and large fish pond, twelve miles north of Globe, has always been a popular resort for picnics, and on Sunday a large party of Globe people repaired there to spend the day. Boating was one of the amusements indulged in, but was considered unsafe by some, owing to the instability of the boat, and the quantity of moss which filled a portion of the pond.

Several of the party had been in the boat during the morning and toward noon Miss Frush went out with A. B. Simmons for a row. After rowing about for some time they reached a spot twenty or thirty feet from the western bank of the pond, near a dead tree which stood in the water thickly surrounded by moss. Several of the party on the eastern shore, forty or more feet from the boat, called repeatedly to Simmons to come in, to which for a time, it is alleged, he paid no heed. Finally he replied that he did not know whether he could get out or not, and it was seen that his oars were caught in the moss. Sim-

mons, in attempting to extricate one of them threw too much weight on one side of the boat and it capsized, leaving the occupants struggling in the water. (Simmons' version is that Miss Frush leaned over the side of the boat and caused it to upset.) There are other versions of how the accident happened, but the above appears to be the most credible.

Miss Frush, who was a good swimmer, succeeded in catching hold of the boat near the stern; Simmons, apparently, forgetful of everything but his own danger, struggled frantically to get hold of the boat, on the upturned bottom, which was slimy, and his hands kept slipping off. Finally he succeeded in getting one arm around the narrow bow, where he remained until rescued. Meanwhile, Jerry Ryan and Willis Middleton, from the eastern bank, had plunged into the water and reached the boat. Simmons' motions in the water kept the boat turning around. Whether from this cause or not, Miss Frush lost her hold, and was struggling to keep herself afloat when Ryan reached and grasped her. Both went down and when they reappeared were apart and, evidently, very much exhausted. Ryan tried to call out for assistance but could only make a gurgling sound, and in a few moments both he and Miss Frush disappeared beneath the water.

While this terrible scene was being enacted the people on the shore were frantically endeavoring to find some means of succor for their drowning companions, and seemingly were powerless to avert the calamity, although no one went into the water to attempt their rescue.

Willis Middleton, having struck his right arm (sore from a burn received at the smelter a few days previous) against the boat, and seeing he could be of no service to Simmons, struck

out for the nearest shore and reached it in an exhausted condition. A rope was procured and thrown to Simmons and, with the boat, he was drawn to the shore.

The bodies of the victims of the disaster were recovered after having been in the water about half an hour and efforts were made to resuscitate them, but of course that was hopeless. Considerable moss was found attached to both bodies, and their drowning is attributed by many to this cause. However, friends of Mr. Ryan believe that this does not sufficiently account for his drowning, and think he must have been taken with cramps.

The funerals of the deceased took place on Monday afternoon, that of Miss Frush at 1 o'clock, from the M. E. Church, and Sheriff Ryan's at 2 o'clock, from the residence of his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Conahan. Work at the mines and smelter and business in town was suspended, and the attendance at both funerals was very large. Rev. N. F. Norton delivered a feeling address at the church, and closed the service over Miss Frush's remains at the grave. The obsequies for Mr. Ryan consisted of the impressive service of the Catholic church, read by T. A. Louergan at the house, and the rites of the order of Odd Fellows, solemnized at the grave. By arrangement the funeral trains met on the road and formed one cortege to the cemetery, where was closed one of the saddest spectacles that we have ever witnessed. Great sympathy is expressed for the bereaved families, and only time, in its ceaseless roll, will soften the sorrow occasioned by this deplorable affair.



# Arizona republican., June 04, 1890

[http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84020558/1890-06-04/ed-1/seq-](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84020558/1890-06-04/ed-1/seq-4/#date1=1889&index=8&rows=20&searchType=advanced&language=&sequence=0&words=Jerry+Ryan&proxidistance=5&date2=1891&ortext=&proxtext=&phrase)

[4/#date1=1889&index=8&rows=20&searchType=advanced&language=&sequence=0&words=Jerry+Ryan&proxidistance=5&date2=1891&ortext=&proxtext=&phrase](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84020558/1890-06-04/ed-1/seq-4/#date1=1889&index=8&rows=20&searchType=advanced&language=&sequence=0&words=Jerry+Ryan&proxidistance=5&date2=1891&ortext=&proxtext=&phrase)  
[text=jerry+ryan&andtext=&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84020558/1890-06-04/ed-1/seq-4/#date1=1889&index=8&rows=20&searchType=advanced&language=&sequence=0&words=Jerry+Ryan&proxidistance=5&date2=1891&ortext=&proxtext=&phrase)

## LOCAL BRIEFS.

Recorder Schwartz yesterday dismissed the Killy vagrancy case.

There is a report that the works of the Walnut Grove Water Storage Company are to be rebuilt.

Enumerator Hammond has begun taking the census of Phoenix, and is making good progress.

Invitations have been issued by Company B., N. G. A., for a military ball at Phoenix Park on June 6th.

The fire boys had the engine out for practice last night and showed themselves well up to their work. They showed, also, that the Phoenix fire department should have some new hose.

Miss Mary Frush, who was drowned at Globe while out boating with Sheriff Jerry Ryan of Gila county, on Monday, was formerly a resident of Phoenix, and was well-known here.

The books of Recorder Schwartz show that during the past year 325 arrests were made, and that during the same time the Police Court paid to the city an average of \$100 per month. Of the arrests made, 289 were by Marshal Blankenship.

A novel feature of the military ball given by the militia boys on the evening of the 8th inst. will be an election, under the direction of Captain Andre, at which for the first time in history there will be woman suffrage exclusively. The ladies will be called upon to vote a name for the company, and no male influence or interference will be tolerated.

# Arizona silver belt., June 14, 1890

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84021913/1890-06-14/ed-1/seq-3.pdf>

GLOBE, Gila County, Arizona,  
June 9th, 1890.

A meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Gila County, Arizona, is hereby called, to be held at the office of the Clerk of the Board in Globe, on the 9th day of June 1890, for the purpose of settling the accounts of Jerry Ryan, deceased, late Sheriff of said Gila County, and to appoint a Sheriff to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Jerry Ryan, late Sheriff, and attending to such other business as be necessary in the premises, as also to appoint an Overseer for Globe Road District.

PATRICK SHANLEY,  
Member, Chairman.  
GEO. DANFORTH,  
Member.  
F. T. POWERS,  
Member.

Attest:--CHAS. T. MARTIN, Clerk.

GLOBE, Gila County, Arizona,  
June 9th, 1890.

Board met pursuant to above call. Present—Supervisors Shanley, Danforth and Powers; J. D. McCabe, District Attorney, and C. T. Martin, Clerk.

Petition of A. L. Walker and others, praying that J. H. Thompson be appointed to the office of Sheriff of Gila County, read, and on motion ordered filed.

Motion made by Supervisor Danforth that said J. H. Thompson be appointed to the office of Sheriff of Gila County, seconded by Supervisor Powers, all members voting "aye," Mr. J. H. Thompson was declared appointed to the office of Sheriff of Gila County, made vacant by the death of Jerry Ryan late Sheriff.

On motion the Clerk was directed to notify said Thompson of his appointment, and require him to file an approved bond within ten days from the receipt of such notice.

On motion A. Mauriel was appointed Overseer of Globe Road District, and his bonds fixed at one thousand dollars, and the Clerk directed to notify him of such appointment, and require him to file an approved bond within ten days from the receipt of his notice of appointment.

On motion the Board adjourned.

CHAS. T. MARTIN, Clerk.