

Timothy J Quirk

Timothy J Quirk was born about 1861 in Ireland. He worked as a laborer there until his older brothers, Michael and Bartholomew, sent for him in 1885. He sailed from Queenstown, Ireland, to Liverpool, England, to Boston, Massachusetts, on the ship "Pavonia".¹ He then joined his brothers, who operated the Pioneer Saloon, located on Main Street, in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory.²

Tim worked as the janitor in their saloon, and amused customers by his queer ways and rich Irish brogue. The saloon had a billiard hall and sold cigars.³ The saloon offered billiards, a pool table, liquors, cigars, and a fine club room in the rear.⁴ The Quirk brothers advertised that their choice cigars were "not rolled by Mongolian hands", meaning they were not manufactured by cheaper Chinese laborers.⁵

Tim was made a naturalized citizen on 18 September 1886 at Beaver, Beaver, Utah Territory.⁶ He was a "harmless, poor, half-witted being and always the butt of the wits in the camp". Getting it into his witless head that he could make boodles of money in Arizona, he started south over the desert and became lost for several days without water or food. When rescued he was more demented than even and since that time he has been living almost entirely upon the charity of others. He worked as a roustabout at the mill in Cerbat, Mohave, Arizona, and later went to Prescott, Arizona.⁷

In 1891, Tim was living near the Stockton Hill mine in Mohave, Arizona. He was the proud possessor of a black velvet suit of clothes with brass buttons. When he went "a-sparking these days, with the aforesaid stylish outfit, his rivals go out the back door as he comes in the front".⁸ On the 1900 census, Tim was a rock drilling laborer in Belmont Precinct, Coconino, Arizona Territory. That winter, he was "found dying in a saloon in Jerome, Yavapai, Arizona, and although receiving medical attention he soon passed away".⁹

At the inquest in December 1901, two witnesses swore that they found him lying on the side walk in front of the St Elmo Saloon, apparently drunk. They carried him in the hall between the St Elmo and Elite Saloons and sat him on a chair. They didn't think much about it since he was usually drunk. The jurors' finding was that Tim died from the use of liquor and exposure. He was buried in the Jerome Cemetery.¹⁰

¹ Massachusetts, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1820-1963.

² United States Census, 1880.

³ Utah State Division of State History, Digital Collections; Memories of Silver Reef, by Mark A. Pendleton, in Utah Historical Quarterly, 1930, p. 114.

⁴ *Silver Reef Miner*, 5 November 1881; 28 October 1882.

⁵ *Silver Reef Miner*, 10 June 1882, p. 3.

⁶ Utah, Naturalization and Citizenship Records, 1858-1959.

⁷ *Mohave County Miner*, 11 January 1902, p. 3.

⁸ *Mohave County Miner*, 19 September 1891, p. 3.

⁹ *Mohave County Miner*, 11 January 1902, p. 3.

¹⁰ Arizona, County Coroner and Death Records, 1881-1971.



Timothy J Quirk (image from University of Utah Special Collections)



(Images from *Silver Reef Miner*, 5 November 1881)



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