



## Charles Dickinson

*Drove a covered wagon from Missouri the summer of 1875. Charles Dickinson, one of the first stage drivers, drove the mail stage from Prescott to Beaver Head Station.*

Birth Aug 1853 Van Buren County, Iowa

Death 5 Dec 1926 (aged 73) Ocean Beach, San Diego County, California

Burial Cottonwood Cemetery Cottonwood, Arizona

### Parents

[Samuel Cotton Dickinson 1827–1907](#)

Adline (Green) Dickinson 1818–1851

**Spouse** [Martha Priscilla \(Burford\) Dickinson 1863–1931](#)

### Siblings

Leroy Dickinson 1850 - ?

[George Wesley Dickinson 1852 – 1901](#)

### Half Siblings

[Margie Ann Dickinson Back 1862–1926](#)

Sam C Dickinson 1864–1864

[Mariah May \(Dickinson\) Hawkins 1864–1889](#)

[Frank Lee Dickinson 1867–1925](#)

[William Green "Willy" Dickinson 1868–1931](#)

[Alfred "Alf" Dickinson 1870–1940](#)

[Edward Virgil Dickinson 1872–1958](#)

### Children

[Mary Rowena \(Dickinson\) VanDeren 1880–1974](#)

[Dovie May \(Dickinson\) Fisher 1882–1968](#)

[Leroy Archie "Roy" Dickinson 1887–1937](#)

[Winifred Adeline "Winnie" \(Dickinson\) VanDeren 1895–1969](#)

[George Arthur Dickinson 1897–1975](#)

Charles Dickinson was a member of the wagon train that departed Humansville, Polk County, Missouri, on 26 April 1875 and arrived at Wales Arnold's ranch near Montezuma Well in the Verde Valley on 23 August 1875. The journey lasted three months and twenty days, carrying the families westward through Kansas City, Emporia, and Dodge City, across Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico, and then along the Old Star Mail route through Winslow and Holbrook. From there, the train followed a rugged trail over the Mogollon Mountains by way of Pine Springs and Stoneman's Lake, then past Rattlesnake Tanks before finally descending into the Verde Valley.

An undated newspaper article later recorded the community's reaction to Charles's passing: *Cottonwood and the entire Verde district was shocked on Monday when a telegram was received stating that Charles Dickinson, 74, a pioneer of northern Arizona and one of the early settlers of Cottonwood, had died suddenly on Sunday morning at San Diego, California. He had gone to the coast about two months earlier with Mrs. Dickinson, intending to spend the winter in a more pleasant climate.*

[Submit and See Verde Valley Pioneer Biographies at VerdeValleyPioneers.com](#)

The article went on to note that Charles was widely known throughout the Verde district, having worked for several years as a carpenter for the United Verde Extension Mining Company. He was remembered as a man of high character—active in every effort to improve the district, a devoted husband and father, and an estimable citizen in every sense of the word.

He was survived by his wife, Martha Priscilla “Burford” Dickinson, two sons (Roy and George), and five daughters: Rowena Van Deren, Winifred Van Deren, Ruth Powell, Mrs. Terrell, and Irene Abbott.

Charles was born in August 1853 in Van Buren County, Iowa, the eldest son of Samuel Cotton Dickinson (1827–1916) and Adline (Green) Dickinson (1836–1907). In 1875, the Dickinsons and several other families made the long overland journey to Arizona’s Verde Valley by covered wagon. During the trip, a dispute between two families escalated into a shooting that left one man badly injured; his family left the train and continued on alone.

At one point, the wagon train ran dangerously low on food and supplies. Charles, along with his future father-in-law Preston Burford, rode ahead to Camp Verde with an extra pack horse to secure provisions for the group. The train reached the Wales Arnold ranch near Montezuma Well on 23 August 1875, marking the end of their difficult but successful migration.

The Dickinson family settled along Oak Creek, where they operated the first post office at Cornville. Charles later worked as a driver on the Old Star Mail Route between Prescott and Beaver Head Creek and spent several years as a carpenter for the United Verde Extension Mining Company.

In 1878, three years after arriving in the Verde Valley, Charles married Martha Priscilla Burford (1863–1931). He is buried beside his wife, parents, and other family members in Cottonwood Cemetery, Cottonwood, Arizona.

[Submit and See Verde Valley Pioneer Biographies at VerdeValleyPioneers.com](http://VerdeValleyPioneers.com)



[Submit and See Verde Valley Pioneer Biographies at VerdeValleyPioneers.com](http://VerdeValleyPioneers.com)