

## Sancho Mazique

Sancho Mazique was born a slave on June 10, 1849, in Columbia, South Carolina. He and his family were owned by "the Widow Green." Just prior to the Civil War, "the Widow Green" gave Sancho, his mother and six brothers and sisters to her nephew, Dr. Edward Fleming as a wedding present. Sancho Mazique and his family lived in Spartanburg, South Carolina until the war ended, when he returned to Columbia.

Sancho Mazique enlisted in the army on February 23, 1875, and was placed in the 10th Cavalry Regiment, Company E. He listed his previous occupation as a carpenter. Mazique was sent to Jefferson Barracks near St. Louis, Missouri to receive training before being transferred to Fort Concho. He arrived at this post in July of 1875, after a long march from Austin.

Upon his arrival, Mazique was assigned to the Quartermaster's carpentry shop. Because of his unique assignment, Mazique was not sent into the field for any duty. He also played in the 10th Cavalry band under the direction of bandmaster Lt. Robert Smither.

Mazique was on good terms with the post commander Colonel Benjamin Grierson. Sometimes, he would go hunting and give Mrs. Grierson whatever he killed that day. He was present when Edith Grierson lay dying and he remembered her singing, "Oh, happy day when Jesus washed my sins away." Mazique helped to construct the coffin for her burial, and today she rests near the center of Fairmont cemetery.

Sancho Mazique was honorably discharged from the Army on February 24, 1880, at Fort Concho. He remained in the area to work as a carpenter until the jobs ran out, moving from Texas to New Mexico to find work. Mazique eventually returned to San Angelo where he would remain until his death.

Mazique worked as a cook on several area ranches specializing in exotic foods. He married Alice Johnson and they adopted one son, Edward. Sancho retired as a cook at the Sugg Ranch in 1931, to take care of his sick wife, Alice, who died on October 15, 1948.

On April 20, 1951, Sancho Mazique died in a local hospital at the age of 101. Mazique had fallen and fractured his arm and while in the hospital he contracted pneumonia. The funeral services were conducted by Reverend L.C. Young of St. Paul's AME Church. Starks Funeral Home took care of all the arrangements for his funeral. Sancho Mazique had witnessed the transformation of San Angelo from a rough town of huts into a respectable city of over 60,00 people.