

DISCLAIMER

This biography is a rough draft and a work-in-progress.
The research has not been completed, so there may be errors and omissions.

This record also lacks 1950 federal census data.
Please return to Tuscania1918.org in the future to see if a revised and
finalized version is available.

Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

F: = Find A Grave (www.findagrave.org)

NOK = next-of-kin

TUSCANIA**WWI casualty****Juan, Mathew Bennett /****Rivers, Matthew Ben****1892 AZ – 1918 France**



Biography [edit]

Juan (birth name: **Matthew Bennett Juan**) was a **Pima Indian** from the **Gila River Indian Community**. Juan was born in San Tan, Pinal Co., Arizona April 22, 1892 to Joseph and Mary B. Juan. Matthew grew up in the small agricultural town of **Sacaton, Arizona** (also the capital of the Gila River Indian Community). He stayed there until he reached high school and left for the **Sherman Institute** (an **Indian boarding school**) in **Riverside, California**. Upon graduation, he joined a travelling circus.^[1]

In June 1917 Juan registered his **Selective Service Card** with the local draft board in **Wichita Falls, Texas**. Six months later he was **drafted**.^[2] He joined the 6th Co. 1st Infantry Training Regiment on December 11, 1917. He boarded the troopship **SS Tuscania** in January 1918, bound for **Le Havre, France**. The **Tuscania** was torpedoed by a German U-boat February 5, 1918 in the North Channel (U.K.), and 200 American Troops perished along with an additional 65 crew members of the **Tuscania**. Juan was rescued and taken to Ireland, and eventually made his way to the location of his regiment's encampment.^[1]

On May 21, 1918 Juan was transferred to the 1st Division, 2nd Infantry Brigade, **28th Infantry**, Company K. At 6:45 am Tuesday May 28, 1918, the 28th Infantry attacked the German occupied area near **Cantigny, France**. It was the first American offensive against German occupied territory in World War I. Juan was killed from enemy machine gun fire while advancing on the German stronghold.^[1]

His body was temporarily buried in France. In 1921 the U.S. Military exhumed the body and at the request of his mother, returned him home to Arizona. His remains were delivered to the Fisher Funeral Home in **Casa Grande, Arizona** where preparations were made for the final burial at the **C.H. Cook Memorial Church** yard in **Sacaton, Arizona**. He was buried with honors April 9, 1921. Juan was the first Arizonian to be killed in World War I.^{[3][1]}

Matthew B. Juan Monument [edit]

Michael Sullivan, a stonemason from Casa Grande, built a monument dedicated to Juan in the town of Sacaton. The monument, which is located in the Matthew B. Juan-Ira Hayes Veterans Memorial Park of Sacaton, is made of fieldstones.^[4]

Mathew B. Juan – 1st Arizonan to die in WWI – some of these statements are questionable - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_B._Juan

The below is from “The Sinking of the Tuscania” by Marilyn C. Gahm, available at www.tuscaniamemorial.org, pages 371-372:

Mathew [or Matthew] Ben or Benjamin or Bennett Juan (alias Matthew Rivers), a Pima Native American who survived the sinking, became the first Arizonian killed in World War I; he might also be the first Native American killed in the war. Juan was killed on May 28, 1918, in the Battle of Cantigny, France. The American Legion Post in Chandler, Arizona, is named the Mathew B. Juan Post No. 35. Aboard *Tuscania*, he was a private in Camp Travis Detachment No. 2.

Ironically, Native Americans were not considered citizens of the U.S., had no voting rights (only granted after World War II in Arizona) and were not required to register for the draft, when Juan was arrested in Wichita Falls, Texas, for not having a draft registration card. He had been traveling as an employee of the Ringling Brothers Circus since September 1917. Mathew ended up inducted into the Army on December 11, 1917, using the name Matthew Ben Rivers.

Form 1 <i>HOME</i> REGISTRATION CARD		No.
1	Name as full <i>Matthew Ben Rivers</i>	Age, in yrs. <i>25</i>
2	Name <i>Doctor, Grigors</i>	Address <i>apic 22 1892</i>
3	Date of birth <i>apic 22 1892</i>	
4	Are you (1) a natural born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? <i>Natural of Born</i>	
5	Where were you born? <i>Santon Arizona U.S.A.</i>	
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7	What is your present trade, occupation, or office? <i>Laborer</i>	
8	By whom employed? <i>not employed</i>	
9	Where employed? <i>no</i>	
10	Have you a father, mother, child under 18, or a sister or brother under 18, wholly dependent on you for support (specify which)? <i>no</i>	
11	Married or single (which)? <i>single</i> Race (specify which)? <i>Indians</i>	
12	What military service have you had? Rank <i>none</i> , branch <i>no</i>	
13	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? <i>no</i>	
I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.		
Signature of registrant: <i>Matthew Ben Rivers</i>		

42-4-104-A	
REGISTRAR'S REPORT	
1	Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? <i>Tall</i> Slender, medium, or stout (which)? <i>Slender</i>
2	Color of eyes? <i>Blue</i> Color of hair? <i>Black</i> Build? <i>200</i>
3	Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? <i>no</i>
I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:	
Signature of registrar: <i>M. M. Wecker</i>	
Precinct	<i>1</i>
County	<i>Wichita</i>
State	<i>Texas</i>
Date of registration	<i>Nov 26-17</i>

Mathew Juan's draft registration – in Wichita County, Texas – November 26, 1917 – as Matthew Ben Rivers



Mathew B. Juan Monument in the Matthew [sic] B. Juan – Ira H. Hayes Veterans Memorial Park, Sacaton, Arizona. Hundreds attended the unveiling of this plaque in 1928 by Mathew's brother, Antone B. Juan. Mathew was born a short distance from this monument. Hayes is the Pima Native American who was one of the soldiers who helped raise the flag at Iwo Jima in the legendary photograph, commemorated in the statue in Arlington Cemetery, near Washington D.C.



Above: Juan/Hayes Veterans Memorial Park (left) and Mathew Juan (right)

[end of Gahm excerpt]

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF WAR
O. Q. M. G. Form No. 623
Approved Aug. 12, 1918
Revised May 12, 1925

PLEASE MAKE UP AND RETURN IN DUPLICATE

ORIGINAL 12-11-17

ago verif filed under ("Rivers, Mathew-B")

APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE

NAME <i>alias - Mathew B. Rivers</i> JUAN, MATHEW B.			RANK <i>Pvt²</i>	COMPANY <i>K</i>	U. S. Regiment, State Organization, or Vessel <i>28th Inf</i>	DATE OF DEATH <i>KIA - OK</i> Cantigny (Battle of C) May 28, '18 ✓
If World War veteran—			NAME OF CEMETERY		Located in or near—	
Division	State	Emblem	CITY		STATE	
<i>end</i>	<i>Ariz</i>	Christian Hebrew Mormon	Presbyterian		Sacaton Indian Reservation Ariz	
TO BE SHIPPED TO <i>Mathew B. Juan Post, American Legion</i> (Name of consignee) at <i>Chandler, Maricopa County, Arizona</i> (Give town, county, and State)				PERMANENT ADDRESS <i>Chandler, Ariz</i>		
DATE <i>JUN 7 1932</i>				DATE <i>May 31 1932</i>		
DO NOT WRITE HERE				I hereby agree to accept the headstone at above destination, freight prepaid, and properly place same at decedent's grave. <i>Mathew B. Juan</i> <i>Post 55, American Legion, I. L. Gibson, adj. I. L. Gibson</i> , Consignee.		
Verified Ordered <i>PROCTOR, VT. JUL 1-1932</i>				Address <i>Chandler, Arizona</i> Date <i>May 31, 1932</i>		
From <i>9/29/32</i>				This application is for the UNMARKED* grave of a <i>soldier</i> . It is understood the stone will be furnished and delivered at the railroad station or steamboat landing above indicated, at Government expense, freight prepaid, and agreed it will be promptly removed and set up at private expense.		
Shipped				*State whether soldier, sailor, marine, Army nurse, etc. <i>Mathew B. Juan Post No. 35</i> <i>American Legion. I. L. Gibson, adj. I. L. Gibson</i> , Applicant.		

Veteran headstone application

First Arizonan Slain In War To Be Buried Today

The funeral of Matthew D. Rivers, the first soldier from Arizona who fell in the great war, will take place at Sacaton today. The body of Rivers, nearly three years after his death, was brought to Casa Grande yesterday morning and the interment will take place this afternoon with military honors.

Rivers was an Indian, the son of Mary B. Juan, who resides at Sacaton. He was killed in action at Cantigny, on May 28, 1918, just as the last German drive reached its apex and shortly before the beginning of the end, when a few miles below Cantigny a handful of American marines stemmed the tide which had set toward Paris.

Rivers was 25 years of age, born at Sacaton. He was inducted into the service on December 11, 1917, and was assigned to Company K of the 28th infantry.

Adjutant General Ingalls and Colonel Hanigan, inspector-instructor of the N. G. A., will go to Sacaton this morning representing Governor Campbell, who will be unable to be present at the funeral.

First Arizona Hero Buried With Military Honors

Local American Legion Post in Charge A Large Attendance at Funeral

Saturday, April 9th, 1921, will forever be a day of memory in the hearts and minds of Arizona Indians. It was on this day, with an impressive military funeral, that the remains of Private B. Rivers, a Pima Indian, was laid to their final resting place in the church yard of the Presbyterian Indian Mission.

From early morning Indians representing seventeen tribes, began gathering from all parts of the reservation, until by the time the funeral was held there were nearly 1,000 present to pay their last respects to their fallen hero.

The Rev. D. A. Lay, of the Presbyterian church, of which the deceased was a member, with six pall bearers and the Sacaton Indian band, drove out a distance on the road to Casa Grande to meet the American Legion of this post, who escorted the remains to Sacaton.

As a distinguished mark of honor, the burying spot in the church yard was tendered the family where only three other beloved figures among the Indians lie buried.

Following is Governor Campbell's message to the relatives and friends: Executive Office, State House, Phoenix, Arizona, Apr. 7, 1921.

To the Family and Relatives of Mathew B. Rivers, and the Pima Indians of Arizona:

It is a matter of deep regret to me that official duties prevent my being present at the ceremonial with which the body of this brave son is laid to rest in the soil of his native land. Not only is he one of those, our glorious dead, who tendered their lives so freely and bravely, yes, even gladly, that this nation might continue to live, but his sacrifice stands out more conspicuously by reason of the fact that he was a full-blooded Amer-

Headed by Dr. Lay and Sergt. W. G. Rosenberger, the procession then slowly took its way to the church, while the band played fitting music.

The body was placed before the pulpit by the Pima pall bearer friends where it laid in state until the funeral was held at 1:30 p. m. The church service was simple but impressive. Calvin Emerson, a Pima Indian, first read a passage from the bible, in Pima, then offered a prayer in the same language. This was followed by a short but touching address by Col. Hanigan, Inspector-Instructor of the National Guards. An Indian male quartette then sang, "We'll Never Say Goodbye in Heaven." Dr. Lay then delivered an address from the text, "O Death Where is thy Sting, O Grave Where is Thy Victory."

ican Indian of the Pima tribe, which has ever been noted for its friendly association with the white people, and he was the first native son of our fair state to be killed in action.

It is therefore eminently fitting that we accord him the highest honors we can bestow. Unselfishly, asking nothing in return, he gave his life that we and those who come after us may live, and may enjoy the blessings of liberty. Yet we cannot but feel that the tributes which we today pay his life and his heroic sacrifice are but the merest trifles when compared with his gift to us and his country. For he gave up all, he gave up his life, with all that made life rich and sweet, in order that Right should triumph, and Greed and Oppression be overthrown.

After this address Adj.-Gen. Ingalls who represented Governor Campbell, who found it impossible to be present, read a message from the governor, expressing his regret at being absent and conveying a message to the family and friends.

The quartette then sang, "Some Sweet Day," and the service was closed with the benediction.

The body was carried to the historic burying ground, headed by a firing squad commanded by Sgt.-Major Burt Jayne, composed of Lieut. Dan Peart, Lieut. Harry Peart, Sgt. Maurice Jayne, Sergt. B. V. Boyce, Corp. Forrest Rainey, Sgt. Rene Boch and Sgt. Joe Curry. After the last words were spoken at the grave the firing squad fired three volleys over their fallen comrade.

Private Rivers was from a family of the first Indians on the reserva-

There is universally planted in the human heart the belief in a future life, and especially among us of a Christian land there is faith for that those who have passed away the other world has dawned with its full day and unclouded brightness, a happy contrast to the light and dark shadows in which we live.

The sacred meaning of this hour for us all therefore lies not merely in our outward recognition of his supreme sacrifice. It is not enough that the mortal remains of our hero dead be laid to rest with appropriate words and ceremonies. There also devolve upon us who still enjoy the privileges of life, its equally sacred responsibilities. For one who has given all he had to give for society, and for the preservation of free government, there can only be rejoicing. "We feebly struggle, they in glory shine," yet the cause for which he died and

of the first Indians on the reservation, and was held high in the esteem of all who knew him. He was the first Indian to volunteer from the reservation, it being remembered that there were no drafted Indians in the war, and was the first of Arizona's sons to fall in battle, he being the victim of a machine gun bullet in the battle of Cantigney, on May 28, 1918. When the message came, bearing the word of his death, the Indians that were left on the reservation, despite their age and infirmities, were eager to go to the front to avenge the death of their son.

It was a touching and impressive occasion, coming direct from the hearts of those who had gathered to do the last sad rites over their hero who paid the supreme sacrifice.

yet the cause for which he died and the cause for which we are asked to live, are one and the same.

My message to you today therefore is not one of unmixed sorrow. Sorrow there is indeed for the living, for the mother and brothers, in whose lives there is a feeling of emptiness where once there was cheer and support. But for the dead, for him who has made the supreme sacrifice, let us have serene confidence that Divine Omnipotence has welcomed him to the greater life, in a sphere in which virtue and self-sacrifice have full reward. May his life speak to us today in the clear tones of another and better world, saying "Come up higher."

Yours sincerely,

THOMAS E. CAMPBELL,

Governor

American Legion Pays Tribute to Indian Hero

On Saturday morning, April 9th, the body of Math B. Rivers, after having laid in state in the undertaking parlors of Harry L. Fisher, in Casa Grande, was taken to Sacaton, by the American Legion for burial in the churchyard of the First Pima Presbyterian church.

It was a very solemn and impressive military ceremony when the remains were laid in their final resting place.

Private Rivers, a Pima Indian, and a member of the First Pima Presbyterian church, was the first Arizonan to be killed in action in France, where he fell a victim to machine gun fire on May 28, 1918. His remains were also the first of Arizona's heroic dead to be returned to their former home.

From eleven o'clock onward Indians began to gather from all parts of the reservation, until by the time the funeral service was held there was well on to a thousand present to witness the last honors being paid to their countryman. Rev. Dr. Lay, with six pallbearers and the Sacaton Indian band, all of whom were Indians, went about a mile toward Casa Casa Grande to meet the members of the American Legion and the remains. Headed by Dr. Lay and Sgt. W. G. Rosenberger the procession slowly took its way to the Presbyterian church, while the band played music fitting to the occasion. Arrived at the church, the Pima pallbearers then carried the casket in and placed it before the pulpit, where it lay in state until 1.30 p. m., when the funeral service was held.

The church service was very impressive. Calvin Emerson, a Pima Indian, first read a page from the Bible in Pima and offered up a prayer in the same language. This was followed by a very short address by Col. Hannigan, Inspector, N. G. A. An Indian male quartette then sang "We'll Never Say Goodbye in Heaven." Rev. Dr. Lay then delivered an address from the text: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" After Dr. Lay's address Adj. Gen. Ingalls representing Governor Campbell, who found it impossible to be present, read a letter from the Governor, expressing his regret in being absent. The quartette then sang "Some Sweet Day" and the service was closed with the benediction.

Then the 700 Indians who had gotten into the church, as well as many more who had been unable to gain admittance, stood reverently in the churchyard while the pall-bearers, headed by a firing squad of eight men from the American Legion under the command of Sgt Major Burt H. Jayne—Lt. Dan Peart, Lt. Harry Peart, Sgt. Maurice Jayne, Corp. Everett Bryant, Sgt. R V Boyce, Corp Forrest Rainey, Sgt. Rene Bloch, Sgt. Joe Curry—slowly carried the remains to the grave in the churchyard, which had been prepared the day previously by volunteer Indian workers. And after the last word at the grave-side had been spoken by the hero's minister, the firing squad fired three volleys over the grave of their fallen comrade, and a service unique in the annals of the Pima Reservation was brought to a close.

The widowed mother, Mary B. Juan, and two brothers, of Mathew B. Rivers express their gratitude to the American Legion, their superintendent W. P. Haygood, the quartette, Col. Hannigan, Adj. Gen. Ingalls and all who were so kind to help on this sad occasion. They also thank the donors of the beautiful flowers.

After the ceremonies the American Legion presented the large American flag which had covered the casket to the widowed mother

Executive Office, State House, Phoenix, Arizona. April 7, 1921

To the Family and Relatives of Mathew B. Rivers, and the Pima Indians of Arizona:

It is a matter of deep regret to me that official duties prevent my being present at the ceremonial with which the body of this brave son is laid to rest in the soil of his native land. Not only is he one of those, our glorious dead; who tendered their lives so freely and bravely, yes, even gladly, that this nation might continue to live, but his sacrifice stands out more conspicuously by reason of the fact that he was a full-blooded American Indian of the Pima tribe, which has ever been noted for its friendly association with the white people, and he was the first native son of our fair state to be killed in action.

It is therefore eminently fitting that we accord him the highest honors we can bestow. Unselfishly, asking nothing in return, he gave his life that we and those who come after us may live and may enjoy the blessings of liberty. Yet we cannot but feel that the tributes which we today pay his life and his heroic sacrifice are but the merest trifles when compared with his gift to us and his country. For he gave up all, he gave up his life, with all that made life rich and sweet, in order that Right should triumph, and Greed and Oppression be overthrown.

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My message to you today therefore is not one of unmixed sorrow. Sorrow there is indeed for the living, for the mother and brothers, in whose lives there is a feeling of emptiness where once there was cheer and support. But for the dead, for him who has made the supreme sacrifice, let us have serene confidence that Divine Omnipotence has welcomed him to the greater life, in a sphere in which virtue and self-sacrifice have full reward. May his life speak to us today in the clear tones of another and better world, saying "Come up higher."

Yours sincerely,

Thomas E. Campbell, Governor.

Transcription of AZ Governor Thomas E. Campbell's letter, read at the interment on 9 Apr 1921

<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%;">Trigram</td><td style="width: 50%;"></td></tr> <tr><td>Day Letter</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Night Message</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Night Letter</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="font-size: small;">Patrons should mark an X opposite the class of service desired. OTHERWISE THE MESSAGE WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS A FULL-RATE TELEGRAM</td></tr> </table>	CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED		Trigram		Day Letter		Night Message		Night Letter		Patrons should mark an X opposite the class of service desired. OTHERWISE THE MESSAGE WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS A FULL-RATE TELEGRAM		<h1 style="margin: 0;">WESTERN UNION</h1>  <h1 style="margin: 0;">TELEGRAM</h1> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT GEORGE W. E. ATONS, PRES. VICEPRESIDENT</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">Number's No.</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">Class</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">Rate Paid</td></tr> </table>	Number's No.	Class	Rate Paid
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Sacaton, Ariz., via Casa Grande, Ariz., April 28, 1924

Hon. Ralph H. Cameron, U. S. Senator
Hon. Frederick H. Gillett, Speaker, House of Representatives
Hon. Carl Hayden, Member Congress
Washington, D. C.

You now have before you Senate Bill nine sixty-six for the construction of the San Carlos dam in the Gila River in Arizona for the relief of the Pima Indians.

We, members of the Pima Tribe, and their representatives, most earnestly pray that you give this bill favorable consideration.

We and our forefathers have farmed and lived on the banks of the Gila for several hundred years.

Before the coming of the white people we had plenty of water, we had good farms, were contented and happy. Since the coming of the white people more and more water has been taken out on the upper part of the Gila River, thus diminishing our supply until now there is not sufficient water to raise a crop.

We always helped the early white settler, we escorted the covered wagon trains of the early white pioneers through hostile country, fed and protected them.

We have never shed a white man's blood.

During the World War we sent many of our best young men to the army, we oversubscribed every Liberty loan, in many cases our old folks doing the hardest kind of day labor to secure money to do so.

One of our tribe was the first Arizonan killed in Europe.

You have provided for the Indians who were enemies of the white people in the early days. Will you not now help us who have always been your friends?

We are good farmers; give us water and let us be self-supporting, let us make homes for our wives and children.

Do not deprive us of water and cause us to become ration Indians and beggars dependent on our government for support.

(Signed by)

JOB RUSSELL	ISAAC C. ANTON	CALVIN EMERSON
HUGH PATTON	MACK SCHURZ	JOHN LEWIS
JOSEPH JACKSON	EDGAR MYERS	ALFRED JACKSON
PANJO PRATT	ANTONIO B. JUAN	JOSE PADGLEY
GEORGE PRATT	PETER J. OSIF	WILLIAM STEVENS
JOHNSON AZULE	HIRAM TERRY	JOSEPH A. HILL
JUAN APACHOSE	CHARLES PORTER	VICTOR JACKSON
	CHARLES NATHAN	

COPY OF PETITION FORWARDED TO ARIZONA'S DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON BY PIMA INDIANS

This telegram of 28 Apr 1924 urging Congress to build the San Carlos Dam on the Gila River is signed by Mathew's brother Antonio B. Juan – and notes “One of our tribe was the first Arizonan killed in Europe” – “Arizona Republic” (Phoenix AZ) Wednesday 14 May 1924 p 9



CASA GRANDE, June 2.—Legionnaires from various parts of the state attended the Memorial Day exercises at Sacaton on Memorial Day where the monument to Matthew B. Juan was dedicated by the American Legion with fitting ceremonies which began at sundown.

This monument to Juan, who was the first Arizonian killed in the World War, was unveiled during the program by his elder brother, Antonio B. Juan who resides at Sacaton and was one of the outstanding Memorial Day events in Arizona.

Department Commander Paul Geary of Holbrook was the principal speaker of the day and during his remarks he paid high tribute to the Pima Indians and to the sacrifices made by the boys from their reservations in Arizona when the call came to take arms in the emergency leading to the World War.

Department Chaplain Victor R. Stoner of Tucson opened the ceremonies with the invocation placing on the memorial two palms of victory tied with the Legion colors.

Other Legion members at the dedication included District Commander H. H. Wrenn of Casa Grande who deserves much credit for the erection of this monument, Hub Moore, department finance officer of Florence, who also gave this movement much co-operation, District Commander Raymond Still of Tempe, state president of the Auxiliary, Mrs. Daisy Householder of Safford; Dan Sullivan of Superior; W. H. Llewellyn of Tucson accompanied by Mrs. Llewellyn, manager of the Arizona Hut; Monsignor William Hughs of Washington, D. C.; Forrest E. Doucette, director of the Legion News; W. G. Williams and Fred Kohn of Casa Grande who with H. H. Wrenn made up the committee who had charge of the ceremonies and Victor Manuel of the Arizona Printers of Phoenix.

Chandler Post Will Observe Memorial Day

CHANDLER—Mathew B. Juan post and auxiliary at Chandler will pay honor to the memory of Mathew B. Juan, full blooded Pima Indian, Memorial Day. Juan was the first Arizona soldier and first American Indian to be killed in action during the World war, and the Chandler organization changed its name from Sahuaro posts to Mathew B. Juan post in his honor, during the visit of Paul V. McNutt, past national commander, in 1929. Juan was a member of Co. K, 28th Infantry, and fell in action during the battle of Cantigny, May 28, 1918.

The following program will be given at Sacaton at 10:30 a. m. Memorial Day.

Parade to Mathew Juan's grave, headed by Pima Indian band.

Prayer by Chaplain the Rev. Dirk Lay. -

Vocal number, quartet.

American Legion Memorial Day ritual, Post Commander R. C. Muse.

Flowers deposited on grave by Charles Southard, sergeant-at-arms, and members of the auxiliary.

Recitation "In Flanders Fields," Mrs. Berta Festner.

Recitation, "In Flanders Fields, an Answer," Mrs. I. L. Gibson.

Vocal number, quartet.

Address, "The Indian in the World War," concluded by poem "Mathew Juan of Sacaton," Alfred Jackson, Pima tribe.

Salute to the Dead, Mathew Juan post firing squad.

Taps, legion bugler.

The following post members will comprise the firing squad, color bearers, and color guard: Commander R. C. Muse, Adjutant Walter Begley, vice commanders Wm. Urton and George Pyle, sergeant-at-arms Charles Southard, district vice-commander Dr. L. M. Tompkins of Gilbert, John Eddy, W. G. Vaughn, Sid Fisher, John Stall, Clayton Thornton, Albert Wolf, A. P. Slawson, George Applegate, C. O. Davis, J. R. Hall, and C. C. Wright. Julius Festner will sound taps.

Antonio B. Juan, brother of Mathew, has been invited to attend the ceremonies.

Legion Salutes Pima Soldier

A number of members of the Matthew B. Juan Post of the American Legion of Chandler, Ariz., and a number of Boy Scouts of a Chandler troop, led the ceremonies on Memorial Day in honor of Matthew B. Juan, first Arizona soldier to die in battle in the first World War. Matthew B. Juan, a Pima Indian, who gave his life for his country in the fight for democracy some twenty years ago has set an example which many of his tribesmen are willing to follow today.

The ceremonies began with a parade which started at the agency corner and proceeded to the Soldier's grave in the Presbyterian Church yard. The Pima Indian band paraded with the Legion members, the Scouts and friends. Mr. R. L. Mitchell of Chandler spoke briefly at the graveside. Miss Evelyn Johnson placed the wreath on the grave. The salute and taps were in charge of Legion members. Mr. Alfred Jackson was Master of Ceremonies.

Rev. Antonio B. Juan of Sacaton, a brother of Mathew B. Juan, is the only close relative who is still living.

"Casa Grande (AZ) Dispatch" Friday 5 Jun 1942 p 4

50th Anniversary of his Death

Memorial Day in Sacaton To Honor Mathew B. Juan

By ANGELIN WESTERMAN

SACATON -- Destiny marked him for a double place in history -- for Mathew B. Juan, killed on the battle field 50 years ago, was destined to be the first American Indian and the first Arizonan killed in action during World War I.

Mathew B. Juan, 23, Pima Indian, member of Co. K, 28th Infantry, was killed in France May 28, 1918, during the raging battle of Cantigny.

His body rests in an honored grave in the churchyard of the Presbyterian Church in Sacaton, halfway across the world from the battle field where he gave his life. To the west and within sight of his grave is an imposing stone monument dedicated to him.

Mathew, born at San Tan on the Gila River Indian Reservation; attended school in Sacaton and later attended Sherman Institute at Riverside, California, where he specialized in agriculture. Returning to the reservation, he worked at the experimental farm for about three years.

Quick, active and alert to everything and to everyone, he loved sports and at Sherman starred in baseball. He later set

a record in Sacaton as pitcher and first baseman against teams from Phoenix, Tucson and Florence.

But, according to an older brother, baseball was not Mathew's only pastime; he won tribal recognition as a good swimmer, and runner and jumper and usually carried away honors in competition.

But his greatest delight was to perform in the Sacaton rodeos, where he and his white horse were always given wide acclaim and where they almost always carried away prizes in the various events -- and always certainly carried away the honors in his specialty, calf roping, said his brother Antonio.

Working at the experimental farm, competing in sports, playing baseball, swimming in the Gila, when there was sufficient water, and on Sunday attending worship services -- for was not Brother Antonio the tribal preacher -- days were full and happy for Mathew, youngest of six brothers and one sister.

But destiny awaited. Came the day in 1916 when Mathew went to Phoenix to see the circus -- his first. The animals, the glitter and music and even

more the horsemanship of the performers, stirred the youth from the reservation. He went to the manager and asked for work with the circus. Broad shouldered, almost six feet tall, his pleasant face must have made an impression on the circus manager, and Mathew was taken along.

Mathew stayed with the circus traveling through the Southwest. Then the circus went to San Antonio, Texas, and Destiny took a hand. The United States had entered the war. Soldiers were everywhere. Troops were going to distant places -- on to adventure. Mathew could not resist. He enlisted.

Came a post card to his

parents, Joseph and Mary Juan, "I have joined the army."

In less than three months, Mathew's company was ordered to Rhode Island, and soon on to France. The ship was torpedoed in midocean, but the ocean was not to be his grave. Destiny had another rendezvous for the Arizona Indian, and Mathew along with some others was rescued.

On to France and disembarkation in a new world for the Americans and the American Indian. Followed a few weeks of intensive training and then on to -- the Front, to the great

Continued on page 8

MEMORIAL DAY . . .

Continued from page 1

battle of Cantigny to his last rendezvous.

Mathew was buried with full honors in one of the beautiful cemeteries of France. But when the government returned the bodies of those heroes whose relatives who wished them home, he was brought back to his native land to be interred in Sacaton within the shadow of the church he attended during most of his life. His is the last of five graves permitted in that hallowed ground.

A simple white headstone, such as is provided by the government for its soldiers and sailors, marks his grave.

Come Memorial Day, Thursday, there will be a flag and flowers on Mathew's grave, and at the foot of the monument to his honor, the Mathew B. Juan American Legion Post of Chandler will hold its annual Memorial Day Services -- in gratitude and homage to Mathew and the many others who gave their lives on the battle field that this nation might live.

Mathew was more forced to enlist than did it voluntarily, and the Tuscania was within sight of Scotland and Ireland when it was torpedoed, not in mid-ocean -- "Casa Grande (AZ) Dispatch" Monday 27 May 1968 page 1 & continued on p 8

TRAGEDY ENACTED NEAR CHANDLER ON PIMA RESERVATION

CHANDLER, August 22.—A tragedy was enacted on the Pima reservation last Friday when the seven-year-old son of Sibley Juan, head of the Indian police at Sacaton, shot himself through the right eye, death resulting several hours later. The father had returned home from Sacaton and placed his .22 caliber revolver in the trunk. The boy with some other children wanted to play at a neighbor's, and the mother told the lad to go to the trunk and get a clean shirt. He found the revolver and was evidently pointing the weapon at himself when the shot was fired, for the bullet entered his eye and passed clear through his head. He was rushed to the hospital and no doctor being available at Sacaton, the father came to Chandler on his motor cycle and secured Dr. F. C. Jordan. The boy was still living at one o'clock when the physician reached his side, but died several hours later.

Death of his 7-year-old nephew (son of his brother Sibley Juan) in accidental shooting, only 3 months after Mathew died in war – "Arizona Republic" (Phoenix AZ) Thursday 22 Aug 1918

Bodies Of Two Men Are Found In Tempe District; One Downed In Car Crash

TEMPE, Jan. 26.—The dead bodies of two men, one of them believed to have killed himself, were found near here Wednesday evening and this morning, according to reports made to City Marshal Ralph McDonald. The bodies were those of Charles J. Anthony, ex-service man, and Sibley B. Juan, Indian, from the Sacaton reservation. Juan was accidentally drowned.

The body of Anthony, whose home is believed to be in Buffalo, New York, was found Wednesday evening by two Mexican boys playing one-quarter mile north of the Tempe road, near the old cross-cut canal. It was slumped in the seat of a small roadster hidden in a clump of weeds. Apparently the man had been dead for about 10 days.

A can of powerful poison found of the floor of the machine caused investigating officers to believe that Anthony had committed suicide. Anthony was an ex-service man. He was registered at a Phoenix hotel for a short time about seven or eight months ago. His recent address had not been learned yesterday.

The body of Juan, pinned underneath his automobile, which had been driven off a canal bank and was lying bottom side up in the water, was found early yesterday morning by Jack Hennes. The accident occurred about three miles south of Tempe. Juan had been drowned. His body was extricated from beneath the car by Tempe officers and representatives from the office of County Attorney George T. Wilson.

An inquest, in which the investigation was conducted by county attorney's representatives, was held over each body before Coroner W. H. Mauer at Tempe yesterday. The jury found that Juan had met death by accidental drowning and that Anthony had committed suicide.

The bodies were removed to a Tempe undertaking parlor, where an effort to locate relatives of Anthony is being made.

His brother Sibley Juan drowned (not "downed") following a car accident - "Arizona Republic" (Phoenix AZ) Friday 27 Jan 1928 p 19

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING. THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully checked and EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in full so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

N. B.—WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK.—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully checked and EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in full so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1. PLACE OF DEATH
 County Pinal State Arizona State File No. 438-2
 District or Township _____ or Village San Juan Registered No. 19
 City _____ No. _____ St. _____ Ward _____
 (If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number).

2. FULL NAME Mary Juan
 (a) Residence No. San Juan St. _____ Ward _____
 (Usual place of abode) _____
 Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. moe. ds. How long in U. S. if of foreign birth? yrs. moe. ds.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS				
3. SEX <u>F</u>	4. COLOR or RACE <u>Indian</u>	5. SINGLE—MARRIED, WIDOWED— DIVORCED — (Write the word) <u>widowed</u>		
6. If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND of (or) WIFE of _____				
7. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day and year)				
7. AGE	Years <u>72</u>	Months	Days	IF LESS than 1 day or mth.
8. OCCUPATION OF DECEASED (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work _____ (b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer) _____ (c) Name of employer _____				
9. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) <u>San Juan</u> (State or country) <u>Arizona</u>				
10. NAME OF FATHER <u>Unknown</u>				
11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER _____ (State or country) <u>Arizona</u> (city or town)				
12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Unknown</u>				
13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER _____ (State or country) <u>Arizona</u> (city or town)				
14. Informant (Address) _____				
15. Filed <u>Mar 12</u> 19 <u>27</u> <u>A. Lomic White</u> Registrar.				

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
16. DATE OF DEATH <u>Jan 30</u> 19 <u>27</u> Month Day Year	17. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from _____ 19____ to _____ 19____ that I last saw h. _____ alive on _____ 19____ and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at _____ m. The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: <u>Unattended</u>
18. Where was disease contracted _____ If not at place of death? _____ Did an operation precede death? <u>no</u> Date of _____ Was there an autopsy? <u>no</u> What test confirmed diagnosis? <u>clinical</u> (Signed) <u>William Field</u> M. D. <u>Mar 12</u> 19 <u>27</u> (Address) <u>Dacaton</u> * State the Disease Causing Death, or its death from Violent Causes, state (1) Means and Nature of Injury, and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal. (See reverse side for additional space.)	
19. PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION OR REMOVAL— <u>San Juan</u>	DATE OF BURIAL <u>Jan 31</u> 19 <u>27</u>
20. UNDERTAKER <u>none</u>	ADDRESS _____

AZ death certificate of his mother, Mary Juan -

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8704/images/034_10340482-00466?treeid=167008318&personid=222168626821&usePUB=true&phsrc=hFB20885&phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pld=42236

BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

State File No. 26-304
Registered No. 96

1. PLACE OF DEATH
County Maverick State Arizona
District or Township _____ or Village Tempe
City _____ No. _____ St. _____ Ward _____
(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.)

2. FULL NAME Sibley Juan
(a) Residence No. San Juan St. _____ Ward _____
(Usual place of abode) (If non-resident, give city or town and State)
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. ds. How long in U. S. if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS				MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH			
3. SEX <u>M.</u>	4. COLOR or RACE <u>Indian</u>	5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, or DIVORCED. (Write the words) <u>married</u>		16. DATE OF DEATH <u>Jan 25</u> 19 <u>28</u> Month Day Year			
6a. If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND of _____ (or) WIFE of <u>Edith Juan</u>				17. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from _____ 19 <u>28</u> to _____ 19____ that I last saw him alive on _____ 19____ and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at _____ m. The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows: <u>Automobile accident</u>			
7. AGE Years <u>40</u> Months _____ Days _____ IF LESS than 1 day _____ hrs. or _____ min.				CONTRIBUTORY (Secondary) <u>None</u> (duration) _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.			
8. OCCUPATION OF DECEASED (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work <u>Farmer</u> (b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer). (c) Name of employer _____				18. Where was disease contracted (if not a place of death) _____ Did an operation precede death? <u>Yes</u> Date of _____ Was there an autopsy? <u>Yes</u> What test confirmed diagnosis? (Signed) <u>D. D. Gillespie</u> M. D. <u>Jan 26 1928</u> (Address)			
9. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) <u>Unknown</u> (State or country) <u>Arizona</u>				* State the Disease Causing Death, or in deaths from Violent Causes, state (1) Means and Nature of Injury, and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal. (See reverse side for additional space.)			
10. NAME OF FATHER <u>Unknown</u>				19. PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION OR REMOVAL <u>San Juan</u>		DATE OF BURIAL <u>Jan 27 1928</u>	
11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER <u>San Juan</u> (State or country) <u>Arizona</u>				20. UNDERTAKER <u>None</u>			
12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Mary B. Juan</u>				ADDRESS _____			
13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER <u>Unknown</u> (State or country) <u>Arizona</u>							
14. Informant <u>Who Dottie Antone</u> (Address) <u>Sacaton Arizona</u>							
15. Filed <u>Jan 26 1928</u> <u>A. Louis White</u> Registrar.							

MARRIAGE, WIDOWING, DIVORCE, AND SEPARATION RECORDS. Every record of information should be case-fully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

N. B.—WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK.—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every record of information should be case-fully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

AZ death certificate of his brother Sibley Juan -

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8704/images/036_10360880-00856?treeid=167008318&personid=222168626821&usePUB=true&_phsrc=hFB20887&_p_hstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pld=750047967

AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, that it may be properly classified. If any item can not be obtained insert word "unknown." In every report possible, secure this information. Incorrect certificates will be returned for correction.

PLACE OF DEATH		ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH	
County <u>Pinal</u>		BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS <u>653</u> State Index No. <u>411</u>	
District <u>Pinal Reservation</u>		ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
Town		County Registered No. _____	
Or City		Local Registrar's No. _____	
No. _____ St. _____ (If death occurred in a Hospital or Institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.)			
FULL NAME <u>Juliette Juan</u>			
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
SEX <u>Female</u>	Color or Race <u>Indian</u>	DATE OF DEATH <u>Nov 28</u> 191 <u>4</u>	
	White <input type="checkbox"/> Indian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(Month) (Day) (Year)	
	Black <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese <input type="checkbox"/>	I hereby certify, that I attended deceased from <u>July</u>	
	Mexican <input type="checkbox"/>	191 <u>4</u> to <u>Nov 28</u> 191 <u>4</u> ; that I last saw her alive	
DATE OF BIRTH _____	SINGLE <input type="checkbox"/> MARRIED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on <u>Nov 20</u> 191 <u>4</u> , and that death occurred on the date	
	WIDOWED <input type="checkbox"/> or DIVORCED <input type="checkbox"/>	stated above at _____ M. The DISEASE or INJURY causing	
AGE <u>1</u> yrs. <u>5</u> mos. _____ days	If less than 1 day _____ hrs. or _____ min.	Death was as follows: <u>Pulmonary Tuberculosis</u>	
OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work _____	(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed or (employer) _____	(Duration) _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ days	
BIRTHPLACE (State or country) <u>Arizona</u>		Was disease contracted in Arizona? <u>yes</u>	
NAME OF FATHER <u>James Juan</u>		If not, where? _____	
BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) <u>Arizona</u>		CONTRIBUTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Mary</u>		(Duration) _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ days	
BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) <u>Arizona</u>		(Signed) <u>Claude E. Lewis</u>	
THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE		<u>Dec 5</u> 191 <u>4</u> (Address) <u>Sacaton, Ariz.</u>	
(Informant) <u>Domingo Blackwater</u>		*In deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES state (1) MEANS OF INJURY and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL.	
(Address) <u>Sacaton, Ariz.</u>		LENGTH OF RESIDENCE	
PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL _____	DATE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL _____	At place of death _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds. In Arizona _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.	
UNDERTAKER _____	ADDRESS _____	Former or Usual Residence	
		Filed _____ 191 _____	
		Filed _____ 191 _____	
		Local Registrar	
		County Registrar	

Is this a sister? Juliette Juan – except her father is listed as James Juan – but note overlap in birthdates (not possible) with record below for Damian Juan - https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8704/images/006_10062774-02692?treeid=167008318&personid=222168626821&usePUB=true&_phsrc=hFB20888&_p_hstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pld=750020284

Write in blue or black ink. This is a permanent record.

N. B.—In case of more than one child at a birth, a SEPARATE RETURN must be made for each, and the number of each, in order of birth, stated. This certificate must be filed by the attending Physician or Midwife with each local Registrar within 5 days after birth.

PLACE OF BIRTH		ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH	
County of <u>Pima</u>	BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS	State Index No. <u>319</u>	
District of <u>San Xavier</u>	ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH	Co. Register No.	
Town of		Local Registrar's No.	
or			
City of	(No. St:	Ward)	
FULL NAME OF CHILD <u>Damian Juan</u>		Born	YES
If child is not named, make Supplemental Report on blank obtainable from local registrar.		Alive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sex of Child <u>M</u>	<u>Twin, triplet or other</u>	and	Number in order of birth
			Legitimate? <u>Yes</u>
			Date of Birth <u>July 9</u> 191 <u>4</u>
			(Month) (Day) (Yr.)
FATHER		MOTHER	
Full Name <u>Juan</u>	Full Maiden Name <u>Maria</u>		
Residence <u>San Xavier</u>	Residence <u>San Xavier</u>		
Color or Race <u>Indian</u>	Color or Race <u>Indian</u>	Age at last Birthday (Years)	
Birthplace <u>Arizona</u>	Birthplace <u>Arizona</u>		
Occupation <u>Farming</u>	Occupation <u>Housekeeping</u>		
Number of child of this mother	Number of children of this mother, now living	Were precautions taken against Ophthalmia neonatorum?	
CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE*			
I hereby certify that I attended the birth of above child; and that it occurred on <u>July 9</u> 191 <u>4</u> , at			
When there is no attending physician or midwife, then the householder should make this return.		(Signature)	(Attending physician, midwife, householder.)
Given or christian name added from a supplemental report		Address	
415-709-400		Filed <u>10/6</u> 191 <u>4</u>	<u>H. J. M. Gungis</u> LOCAL REGISTRAR
COUNTY REGISTRAR		Filed	COUNTY REGISTRAR

Is this a brother? Damian Juan – father’s first name not listed – but not overlap in dates with record above for Juliette Juan (not possible)

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8703/images/405_405-2450-02383?treeid=167008318&personid=222168626821&usePUB=true&_phsrc=hFB20892&_p_hstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pld=300063529

N. B. - In case of more than one child at a birth, a SEPARATE RETURN must be made for each, and the number of each, in order of birth, stated. This certificate must be filed by the attending Physician or Midwife with each local Registrar within 5 days after birth.

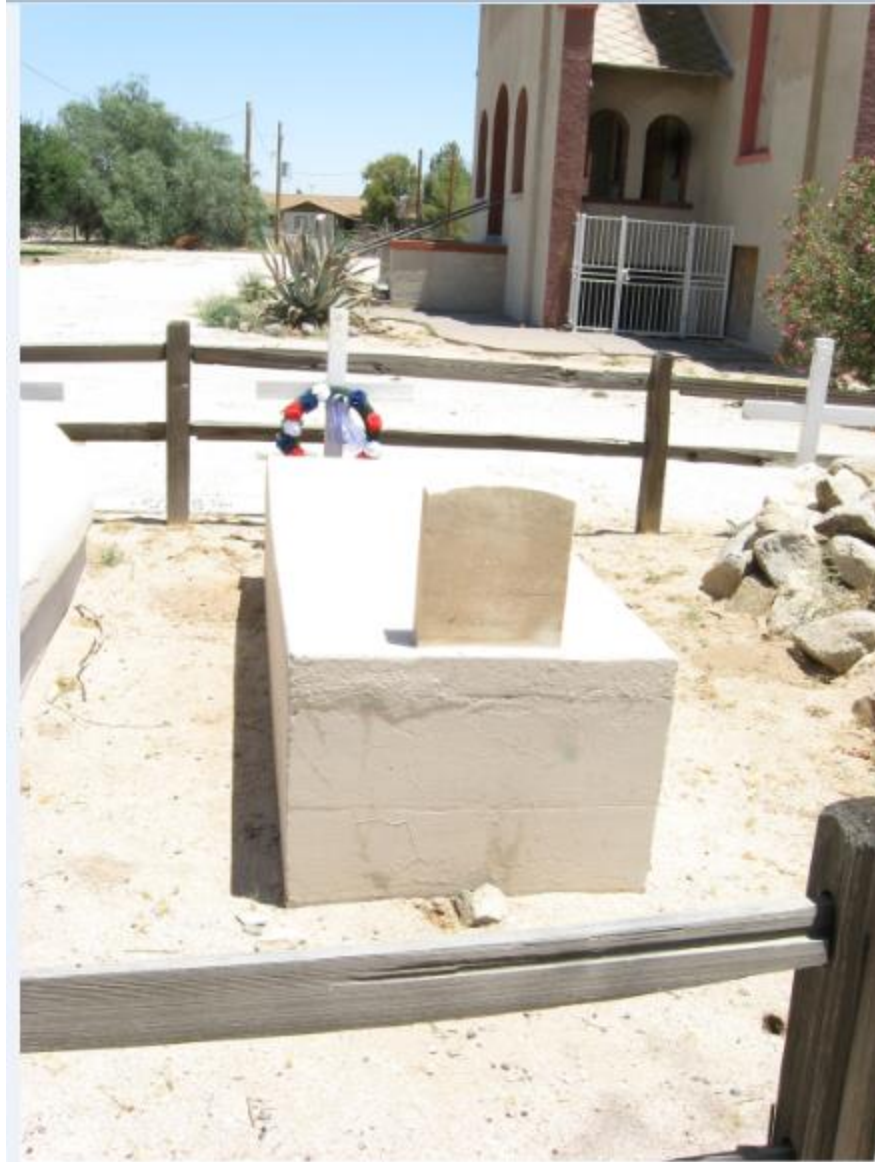
PLACE OF BIRTH		ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH	
County of <u>Pinal</u>		BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS.	State Index No. <u>199</u>
District of <u>Pinal, Red. Res.</u>		ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH.	Co. Register No. _____
Town of _____			Local Registrar's No. _____
or _____			
City of _____			
FULL NAME OF CHILD <u>Cana Juan</u>		(No. _____ St. _____ Ward _____)	
If child is not named, make Supplemental Report on blank obtainable from local registrar.		Born } YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alive } NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
Sex of Child <u>Female</u>	Twin, Triplet or other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	and } Number in order of birth _____	Legitimate? <u>Yes</u>
Full Name <u>FATHER</u>	Age at last Birthday _____ (Years)	Date of Birth <u>Nov. 12</u> 19 <u>12</u>	(Month) (Day) (yr.)
Residence <u>Sibly Juan</u>	Color or Race <u>Indian</u>	Birthplace <u>Indian</u>	Occupation <u>Indian Police</u>
Full Maiden Name <u>MOTHER</u>	Age at last Birthday _____ (Years)	Date of Birth _____	(Month) (Day) (yr.)
Residence <u>Sacaton, Ariz.</u>	Color or Race <u>Indian</u>	Birthplace <u>Indian</u>	Occupation <u>Housewife</u>
Number of child of this mother... <u>2</u>	Number of children, of this mother, now living... <u>3</u>	Were precautions taken against Orphanoid meningitis? _____	
CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE*			
I hereby certify that I attended the birth of above child; and that it occurred on <u>Nov 12 1913</u> , at <u>7 AM</u> .			
*When there is no attending physician or midwife, then the householder should make this return.		(Signature) <u>N. Austin Datcher, M.D.</u>	(Attending physician, midwife, householder.)
Given or christian name added from a		Address <u>Sacaton, Ariz.</u>	
supplemental report _____ 191__	Filed _____ 191__	LOCAL REGISTRAR.	
<u>515-112-515</u>	Filed _____ 191__	COUNTY REGISTRAR.	
COUNTY REGISTRAR.			

Birth of Edna [indexed as Cana] Juan to Sibly & Edith Juan -
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8703/images/405_405-2340-02273?usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true&pld=150063531



Contributed by Chuck Nugent

Monument dedicated in 1928 by the American Legion & Auxiliary Department of Arizona



Grave of Mathew Bennett Juan



The C. H. Cook Memorial Church, listed in the National Register of Historic Places

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sacaton,_Arizona

RIVERS MATHEW B		IC	22 030
Co K 28th Inf Pvt		K	
Sacaton Ariz		A	
Enl	5-28-18	T	545 309
Dis	4-22-92	R	
Ret		CL	
		I	150 18

U. S. VETERANS BUREAU
 MAIL AND RECORDS
 FORM 7200 - Rev. Sept., 1928

INDEX CARD

US Veterans Administration Master Index record -

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3MS-63LN-M?cc=2968245&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AWQFM-12ZM>

Page 3

ARIZONA WHITE::INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL ARMY OR ASSIGNED THERETO UPON ENLISTMENT

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SERIAL NO</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION AT TIME OF DEATH</u>	<u>DATE OF DEATH</u>
Rivers, Mathew B.	251,576	Pvt	Co K 28 Inf	May 28/18

US, American Expeditionary Forces Deaths, 1917-1919 – Arizona, page 3 – note Mathew B. Rivers is classified as “White” - <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3MW-K9FM-L?cc=2996059&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQPHW-PNVL>

S. Heyser,	Wichita Falls, Texas,	Oct. 17th, 1917. For Oct. 17th, 1917
IN RE: <u>MATHEW B. RIVER</u> <u>SLACKER</u>		
<p><u>Mathew B. River</u>, age 24, of the Pima Tribe of Indians, was arrested in Wichita Falls, Texas, by one of the local officers. I was called and interrogated <u>River</u>, and he stated that he knew about registration, and could read and write little. That on the day for registration he was working on a ranch 25 miles north of <u>Phoenix, Ariz.</u>, and did not have any way to get to town. That his boss <u>Mr. Etter</u> took some other Mexicans, and they worked all day, and he did not try to get to Phoenix to register. That he was born April 20th 1892.</p> <p>That he had been working for Wringling Bros. show for the past month. That he went over to <u>Phoenix</u> to see the show, and began work for the show.</p> <p>That the <u>Pima Tribe</u> was on Reservation near <u>Sacaton, Ariz.</u>, and he had been reared on this reservation. That he knew of other Indians registering, but no one had said any thing to him about registration ect.</p> <p>This Indian makes no denial of not registering; says that he had no way to get to town, knew about registration ect. He could not be called shrewd or very ignorant. He is an average Indian in intelligence, but seems unconcerned when asked if he would register.</p> <p>This matter will be held over until we hear from the United States Attorney. I believe that if he was registered and permitted to leave, that he would again have to be located and sent to the army. I am not familiar with the plans of the Government in handling the Indians, and what steps to take.</p> <p>Chief. E. Barnes U. S. Atty- Abilene, Texas. 1.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">28. 70615</p>		

The US Bureau of Investigation report by S. Heyser on 17 Oct 1917 (transcribed below)
<https://www.fold3.com/image/1060225>

American Casualties Now Past 10,000 Mark; Day's Lists Give 91 in Army, 50 in Marines

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, June 26.—The total casualties sustained by the American Expeditionary Force now exceed 10,000. Casualties given out by the War Department for the army aggregate 8,884, while those announced by General Barnett for the Marine Corps in France number 1,112, making a total of 9,996 officially announced. There are some casualties not yet announced, which will be fed into the daily announcements from time to time, and these bring the total over 10,000.

Ninety-one casualties were reported for the army today and 50 for the marine contingent. The daily army list contained the names of 47 killed in action, 7 died of wounds, 1 killed by airplane accident, 4 died from accident or other causes, 20 severely wounded, 2 wounded to a degree undetermined, 7 missing in action, and 3 died from disease. Six commissioned officers were included. Captain Arthur H. Sewing is missing in action; Lieutenants George A. Ball, Robert H. Flansburg, and James Bernard Scarr were killed in action. Lieutenant Herman J. Eckardt died from accident or other cause. Lieutenant Harold W. Herrick was severely wounded.

The marine casualties today included 46 killed in action, 2 died of wounds, and 2 wounded severely in action.

Among privates:

**RIVERS, MATHEW B.; Mrs. Mary B. Juan,
Sacaton, Ariz.**

"New York Times" 27 Jun 1918



Arizona Military Museum

5636 East McDowell Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85008-3495



<u>Rivers,</u> (Surname)	<u>Mathew B</u> (Christian name)	<u>251,576</u> (Army serial number)	<u>6</u> * White * Colored.
Residence: <u>none</u> (Street and house number)	<u>Sacaton</u> (Town or city)	<u>ARIZONA</u> (County)	<u>ARIZONA</u> (State)
* Enlisted * R. A. * N. G. * E. R. G. * Inducted at <u>Wichita Falls Texas</u> on <u>Dec 11, 1917</u>			
Place of birth: <u>Sacaton, Ariz</u>		Age or date of birth: <u>25 7/12 yrs</u>	
Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers: <u>6 Co 1st Inf Eng Regt</u> <u>May 20/18; Co 4 28th Inf to death</u>			
Grades, with date of appointment: <u>Lvt</u>			
Engagements: <u>Gantigny</u>			
Served overseas from † <u>Jan 24/18</u> to † <u>death</u> , from † _____ to † _____			
Killed in action <u>May 28</u> <u>1918</u>			
Other wounds or injuries received in action: <u>None</u>			
Person notified of death: <u>Mrs. Mary B. Juan</u> (Name)		(If none, so state) <u>Mother</u>	
<u>Sacaton</u> (No. and street or rural route)		<u>Ariz</u> (Degree of relationship) (State or country)	
Remarks: _____			
Form No. 734-G, A. G. O. * Strike out words not applicable. † Dates of departure from and arrival in the U. S. Nov. 22, 1919. *—7340			

AZ WWI military record, courtesy of Steven Schwartz of Renton WA

Ariz.

Rivers, Mathew
 SURNAME CHRISTIAN NAME AND SERIAL NUMBER
 MIDDLE INITIAL.

pvt *Co A 28th Inf.*
 RANK ORGANIZATION DIVISION.

INDIVIDUAL RECORD OF DECORATIONS
 AND CITATIONS

TO BE FILED WITH PERSONAL MILITARY RECORD.

6-23-25 *abh*
 DATE INITIALS OF CLERK
 AND REVIEWER.

The following is a statement showing decorations
 awarded in the case of the above named, together
 with the citations pertaining thereto, compiled
 from records on file in The Adjutant General's
 Office:

Cited in G. O. 1, 1st Division,
 dated January 1, 1920.

8	8	Juan Saplasy	Head	m	ind	25	m	3			Ariz
		Edith	wife	f	ind	24	m	3	2	1	Ariz
		Richard	son	m	ind	2	s				Ariz
8	9	Juan Antonio B.	Head	m	ind	38	m	15			Ariz
		Jennie	wife	f	ind	34	m	16	10	7	Ariz
		Alice	daugh	f	ind	15	s				Ariz
		Mathew Cyrus	son	m	ind	10	s				Ariz
		Emma	daugh	f	ind	7	s				Ariz
		Luke	son	m	ind	5	s				Ariz
		Alfred	son	m	ind	3	s				Ariz
		Effie	daugh	f	ind	2	s				Ariz
		Chester	son	m	ind	$\frac{3}{12}$	s				Ariz
8	10	Juan Joseph	Head	m	ind	60	m				Ariz
		Mary	wife	f	ind	50	m				Ariz
		Mathew	son	m	ind	19	s				Ariz

The 1910 census – his brother Sibley Juan & family, brother Antonio B. Juan & family, his parents Joseph & Mary Juan & himself (Mathew Juan) – Gila River Indian Reservation -
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7884/images/31111_4327232-00295?usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true&pld=131123018



Mathew B. Juan American Legion Post No. 35, Chandler AZ -
<https://www.hthproject.com/directory/American-Legion-Chandler-Post-35-listing-12693.aspx>

Chandler Post Changes Name

That it might honor one of its soldier dead and at the same time extend the scope of its work, The Chandler American Legion Post has changed its name from Sahuaro Post No. 35 to the Mathew Juan Post, No. 35.

Mathew Juan, a Pima Indian, from Sacaton reservation south of Chandler, was the first Arizona citizen to give his life in the World war. It was with the thought of honoring his heroism and memory that local post members voted for the change of name.

Heretofore the work of the local organization has been confined exclusively to Chandler and its immediate environs, but henceforth it will include many Indian world war veterans residing on the Sacaton reservation.

American Legion Post No. 35 in Chandler AZ changes its name in 1929 from Sahuaro Post to Mathew Juan Post – "Casa Grande (AZ) Dispatch" Friday 3 May 1929 p 5

Name: Mathew Bennett Juan

Name variations: alias on Tuscania & WWI draft registration & wartime records: Mathew B. Rivers. Middle name found as Ben, Benjamin, Bennett. First name often spelled Matthew.

Military:

On Tuscania: Camp Travis Det. 2, 1st Inf. Training Regt., 6th Co. - private

Serial number: 251,576

Entered service from: Sacaton, Pinal AZ

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Mathew B. Rivers

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": mother Mrs. Mary B. Juan, Sacaton AZ

Body returned from war on: "Somme" arriving Hoboken NJ 14 Mar 1921

Body listed on return ship as: Mathew B. Rivers

Unit & rank: pvt, Co. K, 28th Inf

World War I draft registration (1917): as Matthew Ben Rivers - b. 22 Apr 1892 Sacaton AZ; res:

Sacaton AZ. Single. Not employed. Answers he was a natural-born citizen. [Native

Americans are not considered citizens in 1917] but then states race is Indian.

Unemployed. Tall & slender. Registered 26 Nov 1917 in Wichita Co. TX.

https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=6482&h=16148098&tid=167008318&pid=222168626571&queryId=4e391d2a86fd432bd68ee38dde5a531d&usePUB=true&_phsrc=hFB20904&_phstart=successSource

Veterans Administration Military Index: as Mathew B. Rivers
 Enlistment & discharge dates not listed
 Born 22 Apr 1892
 Died 28 May 1918
 Address: Sacaton AZ
 Rank/unit: Co. K, 28th Infantry, private

AZ, WWI military record:

Mathew B. Rivers, serial 251576, race: White. Resident of Sacaton AZ. Inducted into Army at Wichita Falls TX on 11 Dec 1917 at age 25 years, 7 months. Born Sacaton AZ. In 6th Co., 1st Infantry Engineers Regiment 20 May 1918 – in Co. A, 28th Infantry to death. Rank: private. In engagement at Cantigny [sic/Cantigny]. Overseas 24 Jan 1918 to death. Killed in action 28 May 1928. Mother Mrs. Mary B. Juan of Sacaton AZ notified of death.

Birth & death:

Born: 22 Apr 1892 Sacaton, Pinal AZ
 Died: 28 May 1918 Cantigny, Departement de la Somme, Picardie, France (killed in action, by machine gun fire)
 Find A Grave record: 91859034, presence on Tuscania noted in text & flower
 Burial location: Sacaton, Pinal AZ
 Cemetery: C.H. Cook Memorial Church
 Tombstone: veteran tombstone: Arizona Pvt 28 Inf

Father: Joseph Juan, ca. 1850 AZ (1900 census), in Santan, Pinal AZ according to his son Sibley's AZ death certificate. Newspaper accounts of Mathew's re-interment in AZ in Apr 1921 describe his mother Mary as widowed.

Find A Grave:

Mother: Mary B. --- Juan, 1855 Santan, Pinal AZ – 30 Jan 1927 Santan, Pinal AZ. An erroneous report online claims she died in the same car accident as her son Sibley, but he died 25 Jan 1928. Her AZ death certificate (copied above) gives no cause of death at age 72; "unattended by physician." No birthdate is listed. She is a widow. Her parents' names are unknown; they were born in AZ. She was born, resided & died in San Tan, Pinal AZ. Buried in Upper Santan Cemetery, Sacaton, Pinal AZ.

Find A Grave: 91860693

Parents' marriage:

Spouse: apparently not married

Spouse Find A Grave:

Marriage:

Children: apparently none

Siblings: his brother Antonio states the family consisted of 1 girl and 6 boys

- Antonio B. Juan, 1870 – 23 Sep 1957 Sacaton Flats, Pinal AZ. A Presbyterian minister. His wife is listed as Jennie in the 1910 census & as his deceased wife Jennie D. Juan on his AZ death certificate. He was described as the “chief of the Pimas” in Jun 1925. Widowed at time of his death at age 87. Buried in Upper Santan Cemetery, Sacaton, Pinal AZ. Find A Grave: 91865981
- Sibley Bennett Juan, Dec 1886 Santan, Pinal AZ – 25 Jan 1928 Tempe, Maricopa AZ. He was the head of the Indian police at Sacaton in Aug 1918 when his 7-year-old son accidentally shot himself to death. – He registered for the WWI draft (not required of Native Americans] on 16 Sep 1918 in Sacaton AZ, nearest relative Edith Juan, employed by the Indian police, Pima Agency, Sacaton AZ. - Killed in an automobile accident; he was found underneath his overturned car which had gone into a canal. The coroner ruled his death a drowning. His wife was listed as Edith in the 1910 census, on his 1918 WWI draft card & on his AZ death certificate; she is the administratrix of his estate. “Casa Grande (AZ) Dispatch” Thursday 15 Aug 1929 p 6 – in Superior Court, Pinal Co. AZ, the estate of Sibley B. Juan, deceased, administratrix Edith Juan. Buried in Upper Santan Cemetery, Sacaton, Pinal AZ. Find A Grave: 91860226

Notes:

Mathew was the first Arizonan soldier killed in World War I. He was the first Pima Native American killed in World War I. There are also claims that he was the first Native American (of any tribe) killed in World War I.

Pre-war:

Some dispute the birthdate of 22 Apr 1892. He claimed to be age 25 when he registered for the draft on 26 Nov 1917. Some speculate he was underage (less than 18 years old); others wonder how he could pass for age 25 if 17 or younger. In the 1910 census, Mathew Juan lists an age of 19. This census was conducted 11 May 1910, and he would have been age 18 if the 22 Apr 1892 date was accurate.

When Mathew was born in Arizona, it was a territory, and the civil registration of births was not required. Arizona became a state on 14 Feb 1912.

Mathew attended the Sherman Institute in Riverside CA where he studied agriculture. This was a boarding school operated by the federal government for Native Americans. It is not known if he graduated from Sherman.

He then returned to the Pima reservation in Sacaton AZ and worked at the experimental farm for 3 years. He loved sports, excelling at baseball, but also enjoyed swimming, running and jumping. He also participated in rodeo, where he won many prizes; his specialty was calf roping.

On 17 Sep 1917, the Ringling Brothers circus came to Phoenix AZ for a show. After seeing the performance, Mathew asked the manager for a job and began traveling with the circus.

Wartime:

There are a variety of speculations about how Mathew ended up in the Army, which he entered using the name Matthew B. Rivers. Some claim he was underage and the information he provided about his birthdate and unemployment status when he registered for the draft on 26 Nov 1917 in Wichita County TX was deliberate on his part.

But as a non-citizen, Mathew did not have to register for the draft nor serve in the military. Native Americans were not considered citizens until the US Congress enacted the Indian Citizenship Act on 2 Jun 1924.

Agent S. Heyser of the U.S. Bureau of Investigation (later to be named the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the FBI) issued a report "In Re: Mathew B. River / Slacker" on 17 Oct 1917 in Wichita Falls TX. A slacker was the WWI term for draft evader (draft dodger). He had not registered on the national registration day of 5 Jun 1917, when he was living in Sacaton AZ, before he left with the circus. This report, using the surname "River" throughout, is copied verbatim:

Mathew B. River, age 24, of the Pima Tribe of Indians, was arrested in Wichita Falls, Texas, by one of the local officers. I was called and interrogated River, and he stated that he knew about registration, and could read and write little. That on the day for registration he was working on a ranch 25 miles north of Phoenix, Ariz., and did not have any way to get to town. That his boss Mr. Etter took some other mexicans, and they worked all day, and he did not try to get to Phoenix to register. That he was born April 26th 1892.

That he had been working for Wringling [sic/Ringling] Bros. show for the pat [sic/past] month. That he went over to Phoenix to see the show, and began work for the show.

That the Pima Tribe was on reservation near Sacaton, Ariz., and he had been reared on this reservation. That he knew of other Indians registering, but no one said any thing to him about registration ect. [sic/etc.]

This Indian makes no denial of not registering; says that he had no way to get to town, knew about registration ect. [sic] He could not be called shrewd or very ignorant. He is an average Indian in intelligence, but seems unconcerned when asked if he would register.

This matter will be held over until we hear from the United States Attorney. I believe that if he was registered and permitted to leave, that he would again have to be located and sent to the army. I am not familiar with the plans of the Government in handling the Indians, and what steps to take.

It is speculated that, due to the fear that Mathew would not register and would depart, he might have been kept in custody in the time between this report on 11 Oct 1917 until he registered on 26 Nov 1917, and perhaps until he was inducted on 11 Dec 1917.

According to his Arizona WWI service record, Mathew Rivers entered the Army at Wichita Falls, Wichita Co. TX on 11 Dec 1917. This is 15 days after he registered for the draft. Various online stories (like the Wikipedia article) place his induction in San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX (about 400 miles away). His AZ service card reports he was age 25 years, 7 months old at the time of his induction.

He sent a postcard home to his parents that said, "I have joined the army." After training at Camp Travis TX, he sailed to war aboard "Tuscania" on 25 Jan 1918 from NYC.

After surviving the sinking of the “Tuscania” on 5 Feb 1918, he was assigned to the 28th Infantry of the US Army’s 1st Division, “The Big Red One.” This regiment later became known as the “Black Lions” or the “Lions of Cantigny.”

On 28 May 1918, the US fought the first sustained offensive battle of WWI at Cantigny, France. That day, Mathew was killed by machine gun fire. His body was buried in France.

Post-war:

In 1921, his family requested that his body be disinterred in France and returned to the US.

“El Paso (TX) Herald” Monday 4 Apr 1921 p 9 – bodies are beginning to arrive from overseas, among them that of Pvt. Mathew B. Rivers, Co. K, 28th Infantry. His nearest relative is Mrs. Mary Juan of Sacaton AZ.

On 9 Apr 1921, over 1,000 people attended his reburial in the C.H. Crook Church cemetery in Sacaton AZ. This was the church Mathew had attended. The governor of AZ, Thomas Edward Campbell, who was unable to attend, provided a speech. Newspaper accounts call him Mathew B. Rivers. This usage shifts to the surname Juan as time progresses. At the time of his reinterment, his mother & 2 brothers are listed as survivors.

In 1927, the American Legion, Department of AZ, voted at its annual meeting to erect a memorial monument to Mathew B. Juan in Sacaton. On Memorial Day 1928, that monument was dedicated in what is now Veterans Memorial Park. There were large ceremonies conducted at this monument during WWII and on the 50th anniversary (1968) of Mathew’s death (during the Vietnam War).

Namesake of American Legion Post No. 35, in Chandler, Maricopa AZ. It was renamed in Apr/May 1929; its original name was the Sahuaro Post.

“Casa Grande (AZ) Dispatch” Friday 29 Aug 1941 p 2 – Rev. Antonio B. Juan, retired Pima minister of the Presbyterian Church, conducted the Sunday morning church services at Gila Crossing & the Sunday evening services at Stotonic.

Obituary:

Censuses:

The 1910 census entries are all on the same page (copied above)

1910 Gila River Indian Reservation, Pinal Co. AZ – conducted 11 May 1910

Joseph Juan, 60 AZ, Indian, parents b. AZ, in 1st marriage, dependent NG

Mary, 50 AZ, Indian, parents b. AZ, in 1st marriage

Mathew, 19 AZ, Indian

[As part of the special census questions asked about Indians, all are Pima. Their parents were Pima. They live in a “civilized” dwelling, designated by the abbreviation Civ. This means they live in a house – either log, frame, brick or stone - as opposed to an “Aboriginal” dwelling (tent, tepee, etc.)

1910 Gila River Indian Reservation, Pinal Co. AZ – for his brother Antonio
Antonio B. Juan, 29 AZ, Indian, parents b. AZ, born 1871, night watchman
Jennie, 24 AZ, Indian, parents b. AZ, born 1876
Alice, 2 AZ, Indian, parents b. AZ, born 1898

[All family members are Pima, their parents were Pima, they live in a “Civilized” dwelling]

1910 Gila River Indian Reservation, Pinal Co. AZ – for his brother Sibley
Saplay Juan, 25 AZ, parents b. AZ, in 1st marriage, married 3 years, farming
Edith, 24 AZ, parents b. AZ, in 1st marriage, gave birth to 2 children, 1 is living
Richard, 2 AZ, parents b. AZ

[All family members are Pima, their parents were Pima, they live in a “Civilized” dwelling]

1920 Gila River Indian Reservation, Pinal Co. AZ – for his brother Sibley & mother Mary
Sibley Juan, 35 AZ, parents b. AZ, farmer, general farm [head of household]
Edith, 33 AZ, parents b. AZ
Rose, 4 AZ
Edna, 1 AZ

Next entry is for:

Mary Juan, 75 AZ, widowed [no occupation listed] [head of household]