ALEXANDER, WILLIAM H., born in Indiana about 1831. Listed,
Territorial Census, April, 1864, 3d District (Yavapai County), age 33,
single, resident in Arizona 5 months, occupation, Laborer, property valued
at $60; this reference to his death on March 22, 1865, about two miles
west of Prescott, was written by John H. Marion, editor of the Prescott
Courier, and published in that newspaper on March 23, 1888:

Twenty-three years ago Thursday night was an awful night in
Prescott. Lightning flashed, thunder crashed, snow, sleet and hail
came down in great volumes; wind was high. The late John P. Bourke,
who was at one time Sheriff of this county, and himself sat up all
night with the body of Alexander, who had just been murdered by
Indians near Thumb Butte, a few miles west of Prescott, while he was
there searching for animals which had strayed away or been stolen.
His breast was punctured with bullets and arrows.

The body was in the little log house in Alex Harris’ field.
During the night, Granite creek became an immense stream. Great
pine trees came down its riverlike body. Communication with
Prescott proper was cut off and it was not until next day that citi-
sens could cross the stream and perform the last sad rites for
Alexander.

There was only one Alexander listed in the 3d District 1864 Census
so that Judge Edmund Wells, while mistaken in his given name, was undoubtedly
referring to him when he wrote the following which is extracted from

Argonaut Tales:

Tom Alexander owned a small log cabin on the southwest edge of
Prescott Village. Returning from a prospecting trip Alex turned the
riding and pack horses out to grass. Late in the afternoon he went
for them, got on their tracks which led him directly west from the
cabin a mile or more to a low round mountain on the top of which
there was the wall of an old ruin laid up of loose stones. A short
distance down the slope the two horses stood in full view and he ad-
vanced up the mountain to recover them.

When near the animals a bunch of Apaches bounded over the wall
of stones and rushed upon him. The evidence showed that he fled
down the mountain pursued by the pack of Indians. In the race for
life he reached within a thousand yards of the Executive Mansion,
where his naked dead body, pierced with arrows, was found the fol-
lowing morning. The mountain thereafter was pointed out to strangers
as “Alex’s Decoy” but modernly called Indian Hill.
ALEXANDER, WILLIAM E.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Weekly Arizona Miner, Prescott, October 14, 1871, p. 1, Col. 1.
The Prescott Courier, March 23, 1888, p. 4, Col. 3.