The hostile actions of the Apaches were greatly aggravated by bad management. The most notable of these errors was that of the attempted capture of Cochise and some others. In 1860, a party of Pinal Apaches had engaged in trade with a party of Mexicans close to the mail station at Apache Pass. There was both trade and war with the Castileon (sic), and the great trouble was; what was stolen from one Mexican found ready sale to another. The party of Indians in question had been indulging in mescal to quite an extent, and had stolen or led away with them a little boy, the child of a Mexican woman and an Irishman by descent. The name of this child was Mickey Free. The Mexicans demanded that the boy should be returned. A settler named John Ward, who was stepfather to the boy and had driven him away in one of his

3-. Mickey Free was born in 1855, on the Sonota near the Mexican line. His father was an Irishman named Hughes and his mother was a Mexican woman. Both his parents were killed by Indians and Mickey and his sister carried off into captivity. Mickey had red hair and one blue eye, the other having been hooked out by a wounded deer when he was twelve years old. He later became a noted scout and interpreter under
BASCOM, GEORGE NICHOLAS

General Crook. After the Indian troubles ceased he went to Fort Apache where he has lived with the Indians being more of an Indian than an Indian himself.

4- John Ward came to Tubac from California in 1857. He soon formed a partnership with a Mexican woman (the mother of Mickey Free) he got a hay contract from the government, while in this labor he got on one of his usual sprees drove the boy off and lost his cattle.

drunken debauches, had lost some stock (it was found afterwards that they were not stolen but had strayed away) on the Santa Cruz and went to the military authorities and made complaint (to Major Steen [sic]). Lieutenant Bascome [sic] a young West Point graduate, without any experience or knowledge in Indian affairs, was sent to Apache Pass to recover the live stock and demand the return of the child. At the Pass, Bascome [sic] met Cochise, the chief of the tribe, and stated the object of his mission. Cochise, was then at peace with the Americans, but was still continuing his raids into Sonora and was just returning from one of them when Bascom (sic) came to the Pass. He replied that his tribe had not taken the property but he would try to find and return it. The Indians stated that they knew nothing of the boy, but thought he had been taken by some of the White Mountain Apaches, and the light of years has proven that they told the truth. Next day, Bascome [sic] invited Cochise, his brother, and two nephews, and one or two others, to a "big talk" and they came at the appointed time. On going into the tent the
Lieutenant gave them something to eat, and then went out, ordering his men to go in and arrest them; intending to hold them as hostages for the return of the stock and boy. On the soldiers going in a desperate struggle ensued. Cochise seized a knife, slit the canvas and escaped carrying with him three bullets and a bayonet wound in the side. One chief was knocked down and spitted on a bayonet while attempting to follow. The other four were bound. There was present a man named Wallace, who appears to have been station keeper at the place and who had for a considerable time lived on good terms with the Indians, and he now proposed to visit the Apache camp and endeavor to arrange the difficulty. On his arrival among the Apaches he could obtain no intelligence of the Mexican lad; and he sent word to Bascom (sic) that as far as he could judge, the Indians were innocent of the charge made against them, adding that he himself was retained as a hostage for the safe return of the six warriors who had been captured. Cochise appeared at camp and demanded an assurance from Bascom (sic) that the prisoners had not been killed. This the Lieutenant refused to give, and Cochise rode off to his people. He found a rancher by the name of Lyons whom he took with Wallace and offered to surrender in exchange for the prisoners. Bascom (sic), however, refused to make any terms with the Apaches notwithstanding the appeals of the two men, nor would he believe Wallaces statement. He threatened to hang the six Indians that night if the boy was not instantly set free; and Cochise led his victims back.
to the torture. Next day another effort was made to exchange and still Bascome (sic) refused. The two captured Americans plead their suffering without avail, and at last urged the Lieutenant to order him to shoot them, so that they might be spared further sufferings. This, also he refused to do, sheltering himself and men behind the palisades of the station. At a favorable moment Lyons who was a powerful man, tore himself loose from the two Indians that held him and succeeded in scaling the outer wall or picketing of the station, when he was shot by the soldiers, who, in their confusion, mistook him for an Apache. Cochise, finding that peaceful measures would not prevail, and for the purpose of striking terror into the hearts of his adversaries, threw a loop around the neck of Wallace the remaining captive and dragged him to death in plain view of his countrymen. There was a train or wagons near by which Cochise said he would attack if his warriors were not released. He then went, and captured the five men in charge tied them to the wheels and burnt them. Their cries were plainly heard by the Bascome (sic) party and at the station. Signal fires were raised and next morning a thousand warriors surrounded the station and would have annihilated the small force, but for the timely aid of some reinforcements from Forts Buchanan and Breckenridge. The captive Indians were taken to a point near the west end of the pass and there hung from the limbs of an oak tree where their bodies were still hanging when the California Volunteers visited the place some two years later. Cochise and his band then
took an oath before their gods to devote their lives to vengeance, and the sad history of this country for the next ten years tells how well they kept it. This was the beginning of the first drama of blood and rapine which devastated Southern Arizona. Bascom (sic) said, just before his death that this act was one in his life which he regretted; he never got over it. He was killed at the battle of Val Verde in New Mexico, in less than a year after the tragedy at Apache Pass.

5. The story of the attempted capture of Cochise, has been written up by many different authors with but little variation, as to the principal points. Pumpelly, Across America and Asia, p. 16. Hilzinger, Treasure Land, p. 36. Dunn, Massacre of the Mountains, p. 380. Hinton, Arizona As It Is, p. 108. Bourke, On the Border with Crook, p. 119. Barrett, Geronimo's Story of His Life, p. 117, says, "After a few days' skirmishing we attacked a freight train that was coming in with supplies for the Fort. We killed some of the men and captured the others. These prisoners our chief offered to trade for the Indians whom the soldiers had captured at the massacre in the tent. This the officers refused so we killed our prisoners, disbanded, and went into hiding in the mountains."

Cochise, in the Apache dialect, means "Wood."
Bascom, George N. was unmarried. His father died January 21, 1844.

Bascom was killed February 21, 1862 in the battle of Valverde, New Mexico, and his mother made application for a pension.

In 1885 his mother, Mary W. Bascom was reported in a lunatic asylum in Kentucky, and her claim for a pension was abandoned.

Mother's original 83003.

BASCOM, GEORGE NICHOLAS (LT.)

See file of Manuel Gandara.


One of the officers at Fort Buchanan.

Pascow, George C. (Lieut.

Sandy Parrett's MS.

Massacre of Lieut. Pascow of troop P, 1st Dragoons and his troop. Parrett was one of the first to reach the scene.