

MCINTIRE, ROBERT

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McINTIRE, ROBERT, born in St. Lawrence County, New York, October 22, 1835; son of Simeon and Isabella McIntire; joined the Mormon Church and went to Utah; employed at St. George, Utah Territory, by Dr. J. M. Whitmore as herder on his range near Pipe Springs, Tavapai County, A.T., 1865; left Pipe Springs with Whitmore on the morning of January 8, 1866, to look after the cattle, when they were attacked and killed by a marauding band of Navajo Indians; 16 arrow wounds were found in his body; after the Navajos had driven off the livestock some Kaibab Indians, who lived in that region, stripped the bodies and McIntire's coat was later found on one of them.

The following is copied from a letter written from St. George, U.T., on January 26, 1866, by James G. Bleak to Apostle George A. Smith:

The bodies of James M. Whitmore and Robert McIntire were found by our brethren at about 10 o'clock a.m. on Saturday, January 20th, about four miles southeast of the Pipe Spring Herd House... . A Piede (Kaibab) Indian prisoner was acting as guide when this took place... . Another prisoner was out with a detachment of the brethren at the time of the discovery of the bodies, acting as guide to an Indian encampment about 12 miles away.

This camp was surprised in a narrow gulch; it consisted of six Indians, three squaws and a couple of children. The brethren proceeded to search the camp. One Indian, who was sitting, would not move from his position when requested to do so, whereupon one of the brethren (Chas. Lytle) attempted to make him do so. This caused him to draw an arrow with the apparent intention of shooting. On seeing this, Capt. James Andrus shot him. On removing him, it was discovered that some of Bre. Whitmore's clothes were under him. The Indians were now called upon to deliver their arms. One, after doing so, made three attempts to wrest a gun from some of the boys; his desperation increased to such a degree that it was necessary to kill him. The four remaining Indians and the guide were then marched off as prisoners... .

It so happened that in marching towards Pipe Springs with the prisoners, they had to pass by the scene of the murder at which place they arrived at the time the bodies were being lifted into the wagon which had been sent for them. The boys on seeing the bodies of their dead brethren, lost their patience; they turned the four Indian prisoners and the guide loose and then shot them. This makes in all seven Indians killed; the other is still a prisoner and is used as a guide.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- McClintock, J.H. - Mormon Settlement in Arizona, Phoenix, 1921, pp. 72, 291.
Whitney, O. F. - History of Utah, S.L. 1893, Vol. 2, pp. 191-192.
U.S. Court of Claims - Indian Depredation Docket No. 8528, testimony of
Samuel McIntire.
L.D.S. Journal History, Salt Lake City, Utah.