

REIDT, CHARLES

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REIDT, CHARLES, born in Wurttemberg, Germany about 1825.

Married Delia A. _____ at _____ on _____, 18__.

Children _____.

Enlisted age 20, in the Regular Army at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 7, 1848, to serve 5 years as Private and was assigned to the General Service; honorably discharged at Fort Columbus, New York, November 7, 1853.

Commissioned by Governor Goodwin as 2d Lieutenant, Company B, 1st Battalion, Arizona Volunteer Infantry, August 17; when commissioned he stated that he was a watchmaker by trade, age 40; mustered into service with the Company (the enlisted men of which were Maricopa Indians) at Maricopa Wells, Pima County, Arizona, September 2, 1865; stationed at Fort McDowell (Yavapai County), A.T., from January 15 to June 30, 1866, where he assisted in "rendering the country good service by killing and capturing a large number of Apaches;" honorably discharged from the service at Sacaton, Pima County, A.T., September 17, 1866.

Killed at the Mission Camp stage station, Yuma County, A.T., December 24, 1870; buried at Arizona City (Yuma) A.T.; the following is taken from the Tucson, Arizona Citizen of December 31, 1870:

The Mission Camp murderers prefaced their bloody deeds by opening the door and in the usual way asking for horse feed and its price, closing the door and returning in a few moments with a Spencer carbine. Mr. and Mrs. Reidt were sitting by the stove discussing what they should have next day for a Christmas dinner, James Lytle was standing by all happy apprehending no danger and anticipating their Christmas festivities, when the door again opened and instantly a ball from the Spencer pierced Mr. Reidt's head.

Next Lytle fell, then Oliver. Mrs. Reidt was knocked down, but the entreaties of a Mexican herder spared her life. She was dragged about by the hair, and violently thrown down upon the body of her husband. The murderers then sacked the house of \$250 in money, flour...This occurred near 6 P.M.

The down stage arrived there at 9:30, driven by John Markle...With much persuasion, Mrs. Reidt was induced to go to Arizona City by stage, where she is well cared for and will soon recover. The body of her husband was taken down there and buried Tuesday at 10 a.m., and James Lytle and Thos. Oliver's remains were interred at the camp, by a party who went up for the purpose on Sunday.

Another account of what occurred was printed in the Prescott

Arizona Miner of January 7, 1871:

The Los Angeles papers, of the 30th ult., publish the following which was telegraphed to them from San Diego, under date of December 29;

"On Christmas Eve, Charles Reed, (Reidt), station keeper, Mrs. Reed (Reidt), James Lytel, a stage driver, and old Tommy, the cook, were seated at supper at Mission Camp stage station, on the road to Tucson, about 35 miles east of Arizona City, and while they were eating, three Mexicans rode up to the Station, one of them opened the door, and presenting a pistol, shot Mr. Reed. As the driver turned to reach his pistol, he was shot through the heart, killing him instantly.

All three of the Mexicans then rushed into the house. Mr. Reed was still living, and they cut his throat. Old Tommy, the cook, was seized, and his head entirely severed from his body. Mrs. Reed was fired upon and hit in the thigh; she too would have been killed had not a dog attacked the Mexican who fired, causing him to miss his aim.

The Mexicans then plundered the premises, appropriating the four stage horses to carry off their booty. The stage from Tucson discovered the body of a man lying in the road this side of Mission Camp and near by stood a team of oxen which he had been driving. It is supposed that the Mexicans had murdered the teamster, and then proceeded to attack the station. No attempt at pursuit was made, as the murderers had two days start to get into the Mexican State of Sonora.

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On December 29, 1870, Governor Safford offered a reward of \$1,000 for the Mexican outlaws who committed these murders but they were never captured.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Report of William H. Garvin, Adjutant General of Arizona, in the Journals, 3d Legislative Assembly, Territory of Arizona, 1867, pp. 252-253.

Adjutant General of the Army - Military Service Records.

Barney, J. M. - Political Activities of the Territorial Governors, Manuscript, pp. 13, 30.

Probate Court of Yuma County - Docket No. 22 but all the papers in the case except the index appear to be lost.

The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, December 31, 1870, 2:1-2, February 4, 1871, 3:5

The Arizona Miner, Prescott, January 7, 2:1 and January 14, 1871, 2:5