

ADAMS, Wm. V.

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ADAMS, WILLIAM V. and BRIDGES, GEORGE P.; typewritten notes made by Sharlot M. Hall, Arizona Historian, indicate that they were pioneers who came to Arizona in 1863; Miss Hall states:

They were cutting and sawing ash timber, hard wood, hauling to Prescott. Had had horses stolen and had secured assistance of party of dozen men at lower Agua Fria, at old Townsend ranch, including Wm. L. Osborn, now of Phoenix, who tells the story and who helped bury the victims. The two left the party to return to Townsend ranch, after going about five miles. One of them had been taken sick.

On return they ran into a band of Tonto Apaches. At their second stand, in a clump of granite rocks, Bridges was shot through the head with a bullet. Apparently Adams exhausted all his ammunition and then tried to run for his life. 300 yards away he was brought down by an arrow that went through the back of his neck, mercifully killing him. The line of his flight was clearly marked by scores of arrows that had missed him.

The theft of the horses was a decoy measure, to draw off the white men on the horse trail while the same Indians who later killed the two raided the valley and drove off about fifty head of cattle. Cattle and horses never were run down and the Indians escaped without punishment.

Killed near the mouth of Sycamore Creek, on the Agua Fria River, June 1, 1867; buried there by the ranchers; the Prescott Arizona Miner of July 27, 1867, published the following resolutions which had been previously adopted by Aztlán Lodge No. 177, F.&A.M. as attested by Hylor Ott, the Secretary:

Whereas, our late Brethren, George P. Bridges, and Wm. V. Adams, have been laid low in death by the merciless hands of the Apaches, and from their association with this Lodge, we are called upon to pay a tribute of respect to their memory, therefore, be it

Resolved, That in our intimate association

with Brothers George P . Bridges and Wm. V. Adams, their genial hearts and kind dispositions had endeared them to all of us, and that we deeply deplore their untimely fate, cut off in the flower of life, and inhumanly butchered by the ruthless savages, without one friend near to cheer them in the hour of death, or to bear a last affectionate remembrance to the ones they leave in sorrow.

The estate of George P. Bridges was appraised at \$120.50 itemized as follows:

1 frying pan, \$1.50; 1 hatchet, \$1; 1 looking glass, \$1; 1 overcoat, \$4; 1 copy Burns' poetry, \$2; 1 vol. Shakespear's plays, \$1; 1 Henry rifle, \$45; shingles, \$40; U.S. vouchers, \$25.

The following account of reinterment of their remains in Prescott appeared in the Arizona Miner of November 5, 1870:

Sunday last, a goodly number of Masons, of this town, followed the mortal remains of two departed brothers--Adams and Bridges--to the Masonic Cemetery, and there deposited them in their houses of clay. The ceremony at the grave was very impressive. The deceased brothers, were murdered by the Indians, near the lower Agua Fria, 3 years ago, and their bones remained there, in rude graves, until recently taken up by members of Aztlan Lodge.

While upon this sad subject, we cannot help relating a circumstance that happened sometime in 1867; Mr. Adams, ourself and several others, had been out from Prescott nearly a month, prospecting, and, one day, encamped upon New River, when Mr. Adams went out alone to hunt. He had not gone far from camp, when he perceived three Indians, walking slowly ahead of him. He raised his rifle, and would have shot one of them had it not been that a flock of quail flew out of the brush, and alarmed the savages, who fell upon the ground, tumbled and ran so that Adams was unable to get a sight upon any of them. Shortly after this occurrence, our party re-crossed the Agua Fria, proceeded to Black Canyon, where a few of us went to placer mining.

ADAMS, WILLIAM V.
BRIDGES, GEORGE P.

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We hadn't been long on the creek, when Indians--Apache-Mohaves and Apache-Yumas--came in, professing to be friendly. Among them were those with whom Adams had the adventure. Poor Adams came to us, and in the gravest manner possible, informed us that he had watched their actions and countenances, and had arrived at the conclusion that they would one day murder him. This he firmly believed, and we now believe that it was the same trio of desperadoes that killed him and Bridges. Adams was not a coward, yet the feeling that he was to be killed by these savages was uppermost in his mind ever after.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Probate Court of Yavapai County - Docket No. 19.
The Arizona Miner, Prescott, July 27, 1867, 1:6; November 5,
1870, 2:1.