

ALEXANDER, WILLIAM H.

V¹

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 \$50; 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, 1866;

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 ourself 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 citizens 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 graze. 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 advanced 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 following morning. The mountain thereafter was pointed out to strangers as "Alex's Decoy" but modernly called Indian Hill.

✓ 20

ALEXANDER, WILLIAM H.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Farish, T.E. - History *of* Arizona, Vol. 8, p. 128.
Wells. E.W. - Argonaut Tales, N.Y., 1927, pp. 370, 371.
The Weekly Arizona Miner, Prescott, October 14, 1871, p. 1, Col. 1.
The Prescott Courier, March 23, 1888, p. 4, Col. 3.