

EWING, Thomas R.

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EWING, THOMAS R., born in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, about 1832; probably a son of William and Susan Ewing who were residents of that county in 1850; the maiden name of his wife was Paulina, a native of Kentucky, and their son, Thomas R., Jr., was born in Arizona In 1868.

Listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, at Pima Village, A.T., single, age 32, occupation - Teamster, resident in Arizona 6 months, authorised by Governor J. N. Goodwin to raise a company of Maricopa Indians by letter dated at Maricopa Wells, May 31, 1865; Company B, 1st Battalion, Arizona Infantry, consisting of 96 Maricopas with Juan Chiverah as Captain, himself as 1st Lieutenant and Charles Riedt as 2nd Lieutenant, was mustered In at Maricopa Wells, September 2, 1865; the Company was stationed at Fort McDowell and was engaged in constant scouting for hostile Indians, participating in a number of engagements with Apaches; honorably discharged at Maricopa Wells, A.T., September 11, 1866.

Employed as Scout at \$75 for one month and acted as Guide for Captain George B. Sanford, Company E, 1st U. S. Cavalry, on an expedition which left Fort McDowell on November 14, 1866, and attacked an Apache rancheria in the Sierra Ancha mountains on November 17; six Indians were killed and five taken prisoner ; Captain Sanford said in his report:

"Mr. Ewing displayed his usual gallantry and energy. His knowledge of the country and of the habits of the Apaches is very extensive and his services are exceedingly valuable."

Named by the Board of Supervisors of Pima County as one of three Commissioners to lay out a road from Florence to Fort McDowell, February 22, 1869; appointed as the first Postmaster at Florence, Pima County, A. T., when that office was established on August 19, 1869, and served until his successor was appointed on January 16, 1871; listed, U.S. Census, July 30, 1870, at Florence, age 38, property valued at \$7,700;

the Tucson _____ of January 28, 1871, published this item from Florence:

"Thomas R. Ewing and party, consisting of our most active citizens and a train of thirteen wagons loaded with commissary stores, started from M. L. Stiles' farm on the Gila early on the morning of the 13th and arrived at Silva Station (Ewings') on the 14th, a distance of 28 miles, making an excellent highway as they advanced. On the 15th Mr. Ewing led 70 pack mules over the trail to Infantry Camp, 12 miles, making the trip in five hours"

He was shot and instantly killed by James Thorp at Florence, A. T., on June 25, 1871; the following comments were made by the Arizona Citizen in issues printed shortly after his death:

"The affair is a good deal mixed and we shall let the Courts ascertain the circumstances before we give them publicity Ewing was evidently an abusive, bullying sort of a fellow when drunk. It seems that everyone understood him pretty well and let him bully out his sprees - having respect for him at other times Mr. Ewing announced himself "Deputy Christ" a few weeks ago and we have ever since believed that he would not be permitted to enjoy the office a great while.

"James Thorp is about 18 years old; left eye gone; otherwise good looking and not an evil visaged person in any way. He worked hard all along but seemed to be tainted with the idea of shooting Ewing sooner or later Thorp was examined before Justice Charles A. Paige and held on bail for action of the Grand Jury in the sum of \$500. (Thorp was acquitted of murder on November 2, 1871, after a trial in the District Court at Tucson)."

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Farish, T. E. - History of Arizona. 1918, Vol. 5, pp.197-202; Vol.6, p. 58.
- McClintock, J. H. - Arizona, The Youngest State, p. 194.
- Journals 3d Legislative Assembly, Territory of Arizona 1866, pp. 252, 253.
- Board of Supervisors of Pima County - Minutes, February 22, 1869.
- U.S. District Court for Pima County - Universal Docket, 1871, Territory of Arizona vs. James Thorpe.
- The Adjutant General of the Army - Military service records.
- The Quartermaster General's Office - Archives and Claims.
- U.S. Post Office Department - Appointment records.
- The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, January 28, July 1 and 8, and November 4, 1871.