

KILLBRIDE, JOHN

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KILLBRIDE, JOHN, born in England about 1824.

Married, Guadalupe _____, probably at Sonoita, Sonora, about 1855, who was born in Sonora about 1830.

Sons, John, born in Arizona about 1857, Albert, about 1860 and Miguel, about 1862.

Thomas Childs, Jr. stated in 1946 that his father told him that John Killbride came to Arizona with him from California in 1854 in a party headed by Edward E. Dunbar and that they went together to the Planchas de Plata in Sonora; the following entries were made in a diary kept by L. J. F. Jaeger who then operated a ferry across the Colorado River near Fort Yuma:

1855

December 12, 1855 - - Westron sent down \$100 dollars on the old account and \$20 on the new account for beef with John Killbright.

1856

January 1 - - Manass gave fine ball. John Killbright got on a hell of a spree.

January 2 - - Had to leave John in town on account of him so drunk.

March 27 - - John Killbride arrived from Sonoita also brought back his wagon and mule.

April 3 - - We killed beef for the fort and John Killbride took it up.

April 4 - - John Killbride commenced working in the blacksmith shop, in the afternoon making some bolts for block.

April 7 - - John Killbride left for Sonoita.

April 27 - - John Killbride arrived from Sonoita.

May 31 - - John Killbright and Heather and Slaton got back from Sonora and John did not bring Guadalupe along with him.

July 11 (at Sonoyta) - - Stopped at John Killbride's and John shoeing the mules. John put on 29 mule shoes.

September 3 - - John cut 4 wagon tires for the surveying party and killed a beef.

September 15 (At Tinajas Altas) - - I and Jones hard at work passing down water and Slaton and John got in at 10 o'clock and had a hard time to water the mules.

September 20 - - John got in in the night and he left the wagon at the playa and mules very tired and 2 of the mules died at the Tinajas Altas - I think they ate some of the poison weed.

1857

June 7 - - John Killbride arrived with the mining company wagons from the mines.

June 10 - - I and Doctor and Slater went across to Brady's and John Killbride and they got on a bust and cut up the very divil. And at the supper table John Killbride and Slaton got nearly fight together about some words but got them apart and John Killbride left in the evening.

June 11 - - Slaton and John Killbride crossed the river to Hamon's and left in the afternoon and John got all right again.

In a letter written at Guaymas, Sonora, on August 27, 1857, Edward E. Dunbar, stated that when he learned that four Americans named Long, Bunker, Harrison and Parker who were members of the Crabb filibustering expedition and had been left behind at Sonoyta because of illness when Crabb passed through there enroute to Caborca, he had them taken to his house located in the United States about two miles north of Sonoyta. Dunbar left there on April 17, 1857 and that night Mexican soldiers came across the international boundary and killed them; the letter states:

John Killbride, an American blacksmith, who also resides at Sonoyta, stated that he passed from my house about 8 o'clock the next morning, on his way down from the Mina del Ajo, whether he had been with a load of provisions. He states that he found the four dead bodies of the Americans some distance apart, down a steep bank, west of the house.

From the tracks on the bank, the feeble men appeared to have slid and rolled down the bank and all scattered to different points, and thus shot. Thus their bodies lay with gun-shot wounds. Some Papago Indians, sent by the said Killbride, soon came up and buried the bodies near the well.

The said Killbride also states that my store, which had a strong mesquite door, and was locked, had been broken open and everything of value taken therefrom; books, papers, etc., scattered in confusion.

Listed, U. S. Census, 1860, at Copper Mines (Ajo) age 36, occupation - Blacksmith, property valued at \$1,000; he was probably employed there by Frank P. Clymer who at that time had possession of the Ajo Mine; Padre Pablo Figueroa of Yuma states that John Killbride built the stage station at Mission Camp and sold it to Charles Reidt, who was murdered there by a bad gang of thieves, and that he then built a station at Antelope Peak which he sold to Andrew Shene and John Costello; Killbride is listed in the 1870 Census as a Station-keeper in Yuma County, age 45 with property valued at \$2,500; in his recollections written in 1938, John F. Crampton says:

Mohawk Station on the over land stage road between Yuma and Tucson about 75 miles N.E. of Yuma was kept by a man by the name of John Killbride. The old man John Killbride committed suicide at Mohawk. Took a dose of poison and jumped into the well. Next day the stage driver let the stage coach run away and the leaders ran into the well. That was all O.K. We had to dig another well.

The Tucson Arizona Citizen of January 28 1871, stated that a report had reached Tucson that John Killbride of Mohawk station died recently from the effect of poison supposed to have been administered by a cook; the Citizen of March 25, 1871, published a notice, signed by F. P. Clymer, Administrator, to all persons having claims against the estate of John Killbride to present the same to him at Kenyon Station on the Gila Wagon road.

Died at Mohawk Station, Yuma County, A. T., _____
18____, buried _____.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Diary of a Yuma Ferryman, published by the Historical Society of Southern California, vol. 14.
House Executive Document 64, 35th Congress, 1st session, 1858, p.60.
Crampton and Figueroa papers - A.P.H.S., Tucson.
Probate Court of Yuma County - Docket No. 25 (files missing)
The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, January 28, 3:2 and March 25, 1871, 2:4.

WANTED

Newspaper obituaries and any other references to him. *nothing*