

LASSITER, JAMES B.

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LASSITER, JAMES B (or R)

Born in North Carolina, _____, 18__ (about 1818).

Son of _____ and _____.

Married, Sarah _____ at _____ on _____, 18__.

Children, James, Martha (Mrs. _____) and other children.

Listed, U. S. Census, 1860, in San Diego, County, California, age 44, with wife and two children, occupation - Farmer, property valued at \$8,000; Listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, 3d. District (Yavapai County), age 48, married, occupation - Trader, resident in Arizona 3 months, property valued at \$2,000; the San Francisco Alta California of February 20, 1865, published the following communication from San Diego, California:

Editor Alta. Some time last month a prominent citizen of San Diego County, named J. R. Lassiter, was murdered and robbed of several thousand dollars, on the road from Prescott to La Paz, Arizona Territory. Mr. Lassiter went from here to Arizona, two years or so ago with a load of goods. On arriving there he established a profitable business made money, and was on his return home when this lamentable affair occurred. It is reported that he was killed by some murderous villains who were traveling with him as friends and company for his money, which they knew he had before leaving Prescott. He leaves a wife and several small children.

The San Francisco Bulletin of March 23, 1865, reprinted the following from the Arizona Union (Miner) of January 18th:

Murdered.--About the 1st day of January, two men named Lassiter and Gardner, were murdered at Texas Hill, about 24 miles below Agua Caliente, by parties unknown. The bodies were left uncovered by the murderers, and when found nothing but a few bones were seen, the coyotes having picked them clean of flesh. The bodies were identified by the clothing and letters found near them.

The name of Francis Gardner, age 25, a native of New York, resident in Arizona 5 months, appears in the 1864 Territorial Census; he gave his occupation as "whatever will pay best" and may have been the man who was with Lassiter when they were both murdered; the following is quoted from an article written by Charles D. Poston which was printed in the Phoenix Herald of April 25, 1891:

I remember a man at Wickenburg named Lassiter, from San Diego County. I had stopped at his house on the mountains back of San Diego years before. He had a wife and several children. He had packed up his earnings and come to Wickenburg to sell his bacon, flour, groceries, whiskey, etc., and as times were flush in the gold washings he had accumulated about \$6,000 in gold dust and coin, but was afraid to venture home without an escort. So four of the Woolsey expedition volunteered to escort him home to his family.

Lassiter had a wagon and four mules but the escort gave him a dose of lead pills at Texas Hill and went on by Sonora to Mexico with the outfit and the \$6,000.

Died at Texas Hill, Yuma County, A.T., February 1, 1865; aged 48.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Alta California, San Francisco, February 20, 1865, 1:4.
The San Francisco Bulletin, March 23, 1865, 1:2.
The Phoenix Herald, April 25, 1891, 3:3.
The Desert Magazine, March, 1942, p. 25.
California Historical Quarterly, December, 1946, p. 307.