

POSTON, JOHN G.

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POSTON, JOHN G _____

Born at _____ Kentucky _____, 18__.

Son of Temple and Judith (Debrille) Poston.

Came to the Gadsden Purchase to assist his brother, Charles D. Poston in mining operations.

Listed, U. S. Census, September 5, 1860, at Sierra (Cerro) Colorado Mines, age 30, born in Kentucky, occupation, Merchant, property valued at \$1,500; was Superintendent of the Heintzelman Mine at Cerro Colorado when he and two German employees, probably named Haberman and Schmidt, were murdered by Mexicans, July, __ 1861; the following account of the killing was written by Raphael

Pumpelly:

"We found the bodies of Mr. John Poston and the two German employees, while the absence of the Mexicans showed plainly who were the murderers. I heard the history of the affair afterward in Sonora. A party of seven Mexicans had come from Sonora for the purpose of inciting the peons at Arivacca and the mine to kill the Americans and rob the two places. They reached Arivacca the same day that Poston and I arrived, and, finding the white force there too strong, had gone on to the mine. Here they found no difficulty in gaining over the entire Mexican force, including a favorite servant of Mr. Poston. This boy, acting as a spy, gave notice to the Mexicans when the white men were taking their siestas. Without giving their victims a chance to resist they murdered them in cold blood, robbed the place, and left for Sonora.

"They had stabbed Poston's brother and one of the Germans as they were sleeping in different rooms.

"The other German, who had been our cook at the Santa Rita, and had stood bravely by us to the end, lay rolled up in blankets for protection from bullets fired through the window.

"Laying the bodies in-a wagon just arrived from Arivacca, we returned to that place. That evening we had another burial, the saddest of all, for we committed to the earth of that accursed country the remains not only of a friend but of the brother of one of our party."

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Pumpelly, Raphael - My Reminiscences, N. Y., 1918, pp. 208, 214, 215, 243.

JOHN L. POSTON

RECORD BOOK "A" 1860 (In Pima County Recorder's Office) P. 217

Arivaca
6 November, 1860

As Superintendent and legal Agent of Sonora Exploring and Mining Co, I have this day delivered to Charles D. Posten the property named in the within lease.

Witnesses

Andrew Talcott

John Walker

Agent

Palatine Robinson

John L. Posten