

SIMMONS, JOHN F., born in England about 1840; listed, Territorial Census, April 1864, age 24, single, occupation - Miner, resident in Arizona 5 months; the Journal of the Walker Mining District shows that on July 5, 1864, William Bannels McCormick, a California Volunteer, sold him 200 feet on the "Accidental" lode for \$40; this claim was located in the Walker Quartz Mining District "about a mile south easterly of Walker Gulch" and he sold 110 feet of it to Emmet A. Bentley on August 30.

On August 24, 1864, he paid E. A. Tobey \$100 for 200 feet on the "Groom" lode situated "on Groom Creek between Granite Creek and Walker's" and on that same day at Fort Whipple he bought an additional 150 feet on the "Groom" lode from Charles J. Nickerson for \$70.

The Arizona Miner presented the following account of his death at Date Creek on September 7, 1866:

John F. Simmons, better known as Jack Simmons, or Burro Jack, was killed at Date Creek on the 7th instant, by a pistol in the hands of George Willard alias Lane. Willard had accused Jack of turning in poor hay, and Jack pronounced the report a lie, when Willard shot him. Willard's act is not justified by those familiar with the facts, and he is held by Sheriff Bourke for trial on charge of murder.

Jack was a well known character in this part of Arizona. He joined Governor Goodwin and party at Santa Fe in 1863 and has since been engaged in mining and ranching. He was an Englishman by birth, rough in his way and not generally liked, although all who knew him intimately testify that he was possessed of a good heart and exceedingly enterprising and industrious. We are glad to say that the report that he broke up the election at Date Creek on the 5th instant, is untrue.

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

W.P.A. - Journal of the Pioneer and Walker Mining Districts, 1863-65, Phoenix, 1941, pp. 139, 142, 144, 145.  
The Arizona Miner - Prescott, September 12, 1866, 3:2 (obituary)