

TURNER, T. M.

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TURNER, T _____ M _____

Born at _____, _____ County, Ohio, _____, 18__

Son of _____ and _____

Listed U. S. Census, September, 1860, at Tubac, in the Gadsden Purchase, Arizona County, New Mexico, age 27, born in Ohio, occupation - Lawyer, property valued at \$6,000.00; he and a printer from New York named Charles L. Strong were editors and publishers of the Arizonian in Tucson in February, 1861.

The following communication to the Editor of the St. Louis Missouri Democrat dated at Barclay's Fort, New Mexico, July 14, 1861, was published in that newspaper on August 2:

"Mr. T. M. Turner, late correspondent of the Missouri Republican, from Arizona, was barbarously murdered last Tuesday morning, within half a mile of a little village called Lomo Pardo, and about four miles from Fort Union. He was on his way to Pike's Peak, and appearances seem to indicate that as he was leading his horse along the road, through a narrow, rocky ravine, he was attacked by three men, armed with rocks, who sprang on him from their concealment, by the wayside, and succeeded in knocking him down before he could use his pistol, and continued to repeat their blows until life was extinct. Plunder appears to have been the sole object of the murderers, as his pockets were turned inside out, and his pistol, horse, and the light pack on him, were all taken.

" A journal found in an inside pocket, stated that he apprehended danger from a certain person therein mentioned, and it was at first thought this fact would furnish a clue to the murderers, but it was afterwards ascertained that the person alluded to was far on his way to the States before this occurred. Suspicion now rests on three Pike's Peakers, who left Fort Union about the time the murder was committed, and whose antecedents seem to justify it. It was a daring act, to murder a man in broad dayling, on a public road, and in the immediate vicinity of a town, and it could hardly have been ventured on by any but old offenders. It is to be hoped they will not escape the punishment they so richly merit."

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Another account of his death was printed in the Sacramento,
California Union of September 9, 1861:

"A military express arrived in Santa Fe on the night of July 14th bringing information that T. M. Turner, late of Arizona, was found brutally murdered near Las Vegas, New Mexico. It is thought the man who committed the crime was one Watrous, who was his traveling companion. Turner had been a resident of Arizona for some three years. He resided some time at Tubac, but more recently at Tucson where he edited the Arizonian newspaper. He was the Arizona correspondent of the St. Louis Republican. He was an occasional correspondent of several other prominent newspapers. He formerly edited a paper at Terre Haute, Indiana, and a magazine at Cincinnati, Ohio..... a lawyer and type and was on his way to Colorado..... a native of Ohio."

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Arizona Weekly Star, Tucson, March 31, 1881, reprint from the Tucson Arizonian of February 9, 1861.