

WEST, IRA ENNIS

Born at _____, Missouri, November 19, 1825.

Son of _____ and _____.

Married (1) Rita _____ at _____ on _____

18____, who was born in Sonora about 1838.

Married (2) _____ at _____ on _____ 18____.

Children, Francisco, born 1858, Agnes (Mrs. _____)

born, 1879, and Eliza (Mrs. _____) born 1882.

Listed, U. S. Census, 1860, at Colorado Township (Fort Yuma), California, age 35, occupation - Teamster; the following references to him were printed in the Yuma Arizona Sentinel:

May 1, 1875 - - Ira E. West, Esq., arrived in Yuma from Chimahueva valley, coming the whole distance on horseback.

August 3, 1878 - - Considerable gold has been received from the new placers above Aubrey and reports that come in are very favorable. Francisco Sierras, who worked so many years for I. E. West, went over there and is said to have made as high as \$12 per day.

April 3, 1880 - - We learn with regret, that a very serious affair has occurred at the Blythe tract, on the Colorado, above Ehrenberg, in California, and nearly opposite the Indian reserve, resulting in the death of Capt. J. P. Calloway Supt., the wounding of Porter an employee, and an Indian being killed.

The circumstances in brief are; that for some time past the Chimahueva tribe have been asserting their right to a portion, if not all of this tract occupied by them, in former times as their planting grounds. Some of these Indians went to Ehrenberg, procured whiskey, and returned drunk. One of them approached Capt. Calloway in a threatening manner with a pistol, and was told to go away, and come back when sober.

Calloway then spoke to Mr. West, who was present, to get his team ready at once, and he left to do so, but had only gone a short distance, when he heard a shot. He returned and found Calloway dead from a knife thrust, and an Indian dead from a pistol shot. The Indian subsequently shot at West and Porter, and burnt Calloway's house. The Reserve Indians came over and carried off the wounded man, Porter to the Reserve.

April 17, 1880 - - Mr. West left Thursday for Ehrenberg, he informed us that the late difficulty on the Blythe ranch will not restrain the improvements from being made. A joint stock company is being formed for the purpose of completing the ditch, and then, the whole tract will be planted to sugar cane.

The Prescott Arizona Miner of April 9, 1880, gave another account of what happened on the Blythe tract on March 28:

Mr. P. M. Fisher, of Prescott, is in receipt of a letter from Ehrenberg of date March 30th, which states that two days before the Chemehuevas Indians had attacked three white men on the California side of the Colorado, a short distance above the town of Ehrenberg, killing C. P. Calloway on the ground and wounding Porter Laird in two places, so that recovery was beyond a possibility; also, wounding I. E. West, who went into the brush and tule grass, and up to the time the letter was written, two days after, had not been found.

Just what the difficulty arose from is hard to say, as the party writing to Mr. Fisher did not state, but we apprehend that it was a question in regard to land along the river, which an Eastern Company are appropriating by digging a large canal around the same, and Mr. Calloway was the Superintendent in charge of the work. The Chemehuevas have long cultivated land all along the river bottom on the California side, and more than likely the wholesale appropriating of their little farms so exasperated them that they started in on an extermination of the white race.

Mr. Laird has been living on the Colorado River for a long time, as has Mr. West, who was formerly a partner with Captain Polhamus in the cattle business.

Additional mention of him found in the files of the Arizona

Sentinel are as follows:

February 12, 1881 - - Mr. I. E. West, one of the pioneers of the Blythe ranch opposite Ehrenberg, returned from that place last Saturday. He reports that everything is prosperous on the ranch and work is being prosecuted with vigor. Their ditch is in a fair way to completion, and when done will open up this large tract of land to improvement.

July 8, 1882 - - Messrs. James Macy and Ira West were elected to represent Ehrenberg, and Gus Crawford and Jas. P. Lee, Silver district, at the Democratic convention which meets today.

July 15, 1882 - - The fight made by Judge H. N. Alexander, against the admission of the proxies of Messrs. Macy and West, from Ehrenberg, to the County Convention, was as uncalled for as it was unjust and untruthful in foundation. The opposition was based upon the assertion that the delegates named were not residents of the County, and that Mr. Halleck, who made out the certificates, was not a resident of the county. These premises were radically false, as all of these men are and have been for a long time, residents of the County and Territory.

His name appears on the Great Register of Yuma County as a resident of Ehrenberg from 1880 to 1886 and in 1890 at Parker; a communication from Parker printed in the Sentinel of July 5, 1890, stated that "Ira E. West and family have left for Signal, where he is engaged in a mail contract"; he could not have remained long in Mohave County since the Phoenix Arizona Gazette of October 16, 1890 reported that "Ira West came in yesterday from the

Harqua Hala mines after a load of merchandise for the company"; shortly after his death the following obituary was printed in the Yuma Arizona Sentinel:

Mr. West was the oldest white pioneer in Southwestern Arizona having lived in this vicinity for more than forty years. He was connected with the Colorado river steamers for many years, in the early times and later on engaged in mining and stock raising. He was always a hard and earnest worker for the advancement of the best interests of Yuma and its surrounding country.

He died full of years, life's work well and faithfully done, beloved by his friends and respected by all. He left a will which has been in the possession of Capt. I. Polhamus for 20 years or more, and which he will turn over to Probate Judge Ewing.

Died at Harqua Hala, Yuma County, A.T., January 10, 1893, aged 68; buried _____ Cemetery.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Probate Court of Yuma County - Docket No. 127.
 The Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, May 1, 1875, 3:2; August 3, 1878, 2:3; April 3, 3:3, April 17, 1890, 3:2; July 8, 3:1, July 15, 1882, 2:1; July 5, 1890, 3:2; January 21, 1893, 3:5 (obituary).
 The Arizona Miner, Prescott, April 9, 2:1 and April 16, 1890, 3:3.
 The Arizona Gazette, Phoenix, October 16, 1890, 3:1.