

Information on James:

There is a James Rafferty buried on the Lone Mountain ranch, west side of the Huachuca Mountains. He was murdered there in October 1884. See list of cemetery's on mycochise.com (Cochise Message Board)

Lone Mountain Cemetery

R 19 E, T 24 S, Sec 12 At the old Hands homestead. Five of these people were murdered. Four on the same day. There are two different grave sites on the Lone Mountain Ranch. Peter Hand is at one and the other five people are at another.

Transcribed by Vynette Sage
from FHC microfilm #0928504 filmed in 1959

Duncan, David 1855 1-25-1890 From Nova Scotia
Fritz, Mary A. 1856 1884 Born in Pennsylvania
Fritz, Winfield Scott 1847 1884 Born in Pennsylvania
Hand, Peter 1849 1917 Born in New York
Rafferty, James 1850 1884 Cattleman
Raymond, Joseph B. 1835 1884 Born in Canada-Miner

(www.mycochise.com)

Family legend is that James was killed by cattle rustlers in Tombstone Arizona....(source, Gladys Rafferty)

There is a book, So Said The Coroner
How They Died In Old Cochise
by Grace McCool 1968
Published by The Tombstone Epitaph

There is an account of James Rafferty's death in the book. Because it is under copyright I cannot copy the information on an email for you. There is this however: (from the book)

Volume I, Cochise County Supervisor's Minutes:

"On motion, it was resolved that the sheriff be and he is hereby authorized to offer a reward of \$500 each for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons engaged in the murder of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Fritz, James Rafferty and Joseph Raymond in the Huachuca Mountains about October 3, 1884. Signed, John Montgomery, Thomas F. White, and L. W. Blinn, Cochise County Supervisors.

This would be information in the public domain, I would think, and could possibly be obtained from Cochise County Courthouse.

If you think it would be possibly be okay concerning the copyright I could photocopy the pages and mail them to you. Let me know what you think about this.

Joan

The killings took place in Bear Canyon in the Huachucas, and the reward was never collected. James Rafferty lived with the Fritzes.

FROM GOOGLE SEARCH:
SO SAID THE CORONER
How They Died IN oLD cOCHISE
by Grace Mc Cool
Published by THE TOMBSTONE EPITAPH

The soldier had buried the remains only a foot deep,Slaughter ordered a proper grave,well-covered with rocks to ward off predators,and a headboard inscribed, "Name Unknown,died May 1888" to mark the spot.The headboard has weathered away and the Dutch oven mystery has never been solved.

A small amount of placer gold has been found in the little canyon near the grave.The murder victim must have had a saddle horse and at least one pack horse,perhaps more.What did he expect to put in the gunny sacks?Was it gold?The much-talked-about buried treasure of the Huachacas?Or did the murder take something of value out of the gunnysacks?And wht happened to his victim`s wallet?

THE RAFFERTY CASE

The Rafferty Case is listed as unsolved in Cochise County,although every oldtimer in the Huachuca Mountain was sure that he knew who had hired Rafferty and his friends,JOSEPH RAYMOND,WINFIELD SCOTT,MARY A.FRITZ,and later,DAVID DUNCAN killed.They will even tell you that these merciless night-riders rode unshod horses,just like Apaches,dressed like Apaches and had terrorized other homesteaders in the western foothills of the Huachacas.Associated with the RAFFERTY case is the alleged hanging of the Mexican youth,Antonio Quivernes.

This entry appears in Volume I of the cochise County Supervisor` minutes;On motion,it was resolved that the sheriff be and he is hereby authorized to offer a reward of \$500 each for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons engaged in the murder of Mr,and Mrs W.S FRITZ,JAMES RAFFERTY and JOSEPH RAYMOND in the Huachacas Mountains about October 3, 1884,signed John Montgomery,Thomas F.White and L.W.Blinn,Cochise County Supervisors.

It states in the book that there was a two-day inquest held at the Fritz house and later, many hearings were held in the Tombstone Court-house.

On several occasions, mom told me that Grandpa Rafferty had an uncle who was killed by Cattle

rustlers in Tombstone, Arizona..and one killed in a train robbery by the Jesse James gang near Adair, Iowa.

So, when I found the will for Dennis Rafferty's father, James, in Clinton Iowa written in September 1879, I was not surprised to see another brother named James (among others in the family).

Recently, I have found that there is no James Rafferty in Boothill Cemetery in Tombstone, but there is one at the Lone Mountain Ranch there and a book that chronicles the killing: That Wicked Little Gringo, by Ben T. Traywick....

I will be looking for additional evidence that this is our James—possible newspaper articles in Clinton (where his sister was living), homestead filing in Arizona, etc.....In the meantime, after you read the following passages from the book, you can decide for yourself!

On the morning of January 26, 1890, a man named Sid Thomas, notified Sheriff Slaughter that a murder had been committed on the Duncan brothers' ranch in the west Huachuca (WA-CHEW-CA) Mountains.

The three Duncan brothers had a ranch that was near the Mexican boundary line. One of them, the one named David, had been paralyzed for about four years and totally unable to do any work. He had also been suffering from La Grippe and was confined to his bed on Saturday (25th). The other two brothers had left for their place of work that day, which was about three miles from the house.

When they returned that night they were met with a horrible sight. Lying on his back, in a pool of his own blood, their brother, David, was dead. It was evident that the entire house had been ransacked, and all their valuables were missing. Since everything of value had been taken from the house, it appeared that robbery had been the objective of the perpetrators. Rifles, pistols, a watch, and money had been among the items taken.

The unfortunate brother had been stabbed through the heart with a long knife, the blade passing entirely through his body. There was no evidence of a struggle and it appeared that he had been killed while he was asleep.

Sheriff Slaughter, City Coroner Hawke, and George W. Swain, left tombstone and went to the scene of the butchery to hold an inquest immediately after receiving the news. The inquest revealed that David's body had a bullet wound in the lower part of the neck and two stab wounds in the breast.

Sheriff Slaughter put on of his most trusted deputies and a Mexican tracker on the trail which had been made by two horses. The tracks were very distinct and were made by one shod and one unshod animal.

This deputy and tracker returned to Tombstone after a fruitless quest. They followed the trail for four days, then lost it and could not find it again. They came upon the dead carcass of a cow that had been killed and partially skinned. The killers had cut a few ribs from the choicest part of the animal and cooked them, then moved on. The cow was of the Snake brand.

A local paper said of the crime: "Since the Apaches ceased their devilment there has not been a more cold-blooded, heartless murder than this."

Local feeling was that those who had committed the horrible crime would never be apprehended, as they had not been identified and were, by then, safely in Mexico.

The body of David Duncan was buried near the ranch house. A strange number of incidents and

possibly three more murders were involved in the murder of David Duncan.

Ten years before, in 1880, two Cameron brothers purchased the San Raphael Land Grant west of the Huachuca Mountains. The grant ran all the way to the Mexican border. The brothers' family was politically powerful even in the federal government. The Camerons hired Julius Cundy as their ranch foreman and he hired a hard bitten crew of hands.

Since they had invested a great deal of money, the Camerons tried to dominate large portions of public domain and use it for free grazing. What they seemed to be unable to accept was that when land is filed upon by homesteaders, it is no longer open range.

The Camerons or their hired hands had already tried to run George McLane off his ranch which was located at Babocomari Creek, and tried the same with David de la Ossa at Lochiel.

Winfield Scott and Mary Fritz had a quarter section homestead in Bear Canyon on the west side of the Huachucas. James Rafferty lived with them, but he also had a quarter section of land. Joseph Raymond and Joseph McFarland lived together and they both held homestead papers. David Duncan and Charles Stewart held land that was about a mile from Bear Canyon. William and Thomas Duncan lived further on, but held homestead land. What these ten people had in common was that all of them had filed claim on land that the Camerons had intended for their use only.

Gossip in the hills said that Rafferty had been involved in the murder of a young Mexican boy, who delivered mescal to Bear Canyon customers.

Mary Fritz appeared to be a young woman living in fear. On one occasion she confided to Mr. John Hart that Rafferty had had nothing to do with the murder but that a Scotch man had. Her knowledge caused her death.

David Duncan was a county registrar, and as such, he traveled all over the county registering voters. He appeared at the Fritz house one night and while he was there he registered Winfield Fritz, J. E. McFarland, Merritt Sherman, James Rafferty, and Joseph Raymond. Duncan also stayed to eat dinner.

The next day three people from the house were found murdered. James Rafferty was found about a mile from the house, a bullet through the back of his head. Winfield Fritz had been shot down in his own doorway, apparently by someone he knew. Mary Fritz had been killed in her kitchen, shot thru her ear by a gun that was held so close that her hair was burned.

An inquest that lasted for two days was held at the Fritz home. Later several hearings were conducted in the courthouse in Tombstone. The Bear Canyon inquest was attended by about thirty people, among them Colin Cameron. Numerous questions were asked about the lynching of the Mexican boy, Antonio Quiverness. It was strange, but not one person present could verify that there had even been a lynching.

Cochise County Deputy John Franklin Jeffords arrested William Duncan and Charles Stewart at the scene of the crime. Likely, his reason for this was because they lived close by, but claimed that they had not heard any shots. They were held a short while then released.

William Duncan and John McFarland were then arrested and charged with murder on November 17, 1884. They were held without bail in the county jail. Lack of evidence against them caused the case to be dropped on May 18, 1885.

Charles Stewart, Thomas Duncan, and David Duncan were then arrested and jailed. They were held for six months, then released. While they were in jail, David came down with rheumatism. He was crippled for the rest of his life.

It now seemed that everyone but the killer or killers had been arrested. When David was killed on January 25, 1890, the other brothers knew quite well who the man was who laid the plans and paid to have the deed done. All the people attending the Bear Canyon inquest had known who the killer of Rafferty and the Fritzes were. The killer had sat there among them...and they knew who had had David Duncan killed too. But knowing who the killer was, and having sufficient evidence to prove it, were two different things.

In February, 1890, Sheriff Slaughter brought Chinaman Sam Hing Ching into district court where testimony was heard, both for the defense and the prosecution. The defendant, who had pled guilty to murder, was sentenced to the Territorial Prison at Yuma for the rest of his natural life.

(I don't know if the last paragraph was related to the Duncan/Rafferty/Fritz killings or was some unrelated situation—the book itself is about Sheriff John Slaughter's reign.)

[Maureen Sorensen]