

The Murder of Samuel S. Shull

Part II

By Robert Hutchison

By May 1887, I doubt whether surveys had been done in this part of Yavapai/Coconino County, Arizona Territory (A.T.). Teams using transits, chains, rods and pins did eventually arrive at Shull's gravesite (location of T16N. R91/2E. Sec. 15). The reactors must remove "the shadow of doubt" to totally solve this mystery.

The same scenario of the wrongfully accused "William Hampton Blevins" is located at T8N.R 14 1/2 E. Sec.21 of Yavapai/Gila County A.T. We have the corpus delicti locations of all seven of our subjects so far. GYMOAZ.com/history.

We will now give credit where it is rightfully due. Mr. Jinx Pyle, famed author of many wonderful books, including "Pleasant Valley War," solved this murder in 1960; at least we are 99% sure he did. You can read for yourself in his books and see reasons Jinx did not run his essay term paper to his sophomore English teacher that year. Later, in his senior year, his same chosen subject matter, "Pleasant Valley War," was again withheld until a later date as it would have placed certain people in an awkward light. So, he waited for 46 years before he penned his findings and writings of the mainly oral history which had been passed to him by his elders. His teachers had all passed on by 2006 so Pyle would finally be able to historically solve the murder mystery of the un-named Mexican sheepherder (Daggs Brothers - Flagstaff). Pyle alludes to the possibility that this murder caused the beginning of the "Pleasant Valley War" in early February 1887. Pyle is 99% sure he has identified the shooter (21 years old) and accomplice (18) and I am 99% sure he is right. Using "modus operandi," I am 99% sure the same two youthful men murdered Samuel S. Shull (sheepherder for Daggs Brothers) three months later at Shull's cabin in May 1887. If you are not confused, wait a minute!

After the murder of Pyles's unknown sheepherder, two brothers, George (22) and Howard (20) Martin were hired by the Tewksburys (partners with Daggs Brothers) to care for the sheep. According to Pyle: "No sheep appears on the tax rolls for 1887, assessed to either Tewksbury or Daggs Brothers." After herding these sheep for nearly a year, the Martin brothers drove the sheep from the Sierra Ancha Mountains, north to "Sheep Springs" atop the Mogollon Rim, in mid-1888 and the sheep disappeared forever. This location was two miles away from the future "hanging tree" that was used to murder Stott, Scott and Wilson on August 11, 1888 and five miles away from Al Fulton's future skeletal site of September 1888. Fulton's herd of sheep (Woods Brothers - Flagstaff) would disappear from that site forever as well. Sheep Springs is literally located in the back yards of both Apache County A.T. Deputy Sheriffs James D. Houck and Hugo A. Larson; both of whom were sheep-men. This would be like placing a flock of chickens between two coyote dens. Houck did not register a sheep brand in Apache County A.T. until September 25, 1888 at 3:00 p.m. Houck came into possession of thousands of sheep with no proof of purchase. I firmly believe these sheep were a pre-payment for the executions of Stott, Scott and Wilson and Fulton's sheep were a bonus after his murder.

Both homicides and a man wrongfully accused from 130 years ago would have never been solved if not for a 15-year-old school kid in 1960 in Payson, Arizona. I am very proud to have met Jinx Pyle 56 years later. The above photo has a 99% probability factor of being the murderer of Shull and also Pyle's unknown sheepherder.

For more stories about the mystery murders and the Stott, Scott and Wilson hanging, go to www.GetYourMountainOnAZ.com/history.