

The Arizona Republican, Thursday, February 21, 1907

SLAUGHTER AT HARQUA HALA

The Murder of Deputy Sheriff Kiser

Attacked While He Slept by Two Mexicans Who Are Under Arrest.

Salome, Ariz., Feb. 20.—(Special.)—Fred Kiser, a deputy sheriff, was shot in the breast with his own revolver by two Mexicans in a bunk house at the Harqua Hala camp last night, receiving a wound from the effects of which he died early this morning after the best medical assistance in the country had failed to save his life. Justice of the Peace Hall impaneled a coroner's jury whose verdict was that he came to his death at the hands of the two Mexicans who had been arrested and are held over to the grand jury.

The prisoners gave the names of Nicholas Chavez and Rafael Romero and are now in the custody of Deputy



Sheriff Graham. They both deny that they had anything to do with the shooting and an eye witness of it could not be found. Kiser did not identify them before he died but in his last statement he called them by name and described them.

He was lying on his bed in the bunk house about 7:30 p. m., when the two Mexicans entered and immediately attacked him. One seized him by the throat and attempted to throttle him, while the other secured his gun. In the scuffle which followed one of the Mexicans got the gun close up to Kiser's chest and fired. They then fled, and Kiser staggered to the door and called as loudly as he could for help, which came very quickly, the shooting having been heard all over the camp, but it did not arrive however, quick enough to catch the alleged murderers who had made good their escape. The deceased was about 30 years old and had been a resident of this section about two years. His relatives have been communicated with and the body will be shipped east tomorrow to Leavenworth, Kansas, where his parents live. Sheriff Livingston will arrive from Yuma to take the prisoners in charge tomorrow.

The first news of the killing was a telegram received yesterday afternoon by Hon. John T. Martin, who was informed of the murder at his mining property and was asked to send a coffin for the murdered man.

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