

From find-a-grave

Jarvis is ME#996

Massacred - By a letter published in the Phelps Citizen of Friday last, it appears that **Judge Jarvis Hubbell, brother of George Hubbell**, Esq., of Phelps, was murdered by the Indians in January last, whilst riding in a stage on the plains between El Paso and Fort Davis, Texas. He was 52 years of age." (From the Geneva Gazette of New York on 23 April 1869)

"Victorio's Apaches attacked a stagecoach near Quitman at the beginning of 1869. The driver was killed, but no trace of the passenger Judge Jarvis Hubbell was ever found." (From Apaches, buffalo soldiers and Fort Quitman by J. Mike LaVerde)

The information below is from an unknown author.

January 6, 1869; Van Horn, Texas: Several different mail contractors operated the southern mail lines across Texas after the Civil War. By the fall of 1867 Frederick A. Sawyer and Benjamin F. Ficklin, combining their talents and resources, had their turn. Over the next several months, Indian attacks seemed to get bolder on the lower road, along the Rio Grande and Devil's River, so in the spring of 1868, Ficklin shifted the line to the upper road, which passed through Fredericksburg and went up the San Saba and Middle Concho Rivers. On either route, however, coaches had to take the dangerous road through west Texas.

On 5 January the eastbound stage left El Paso with James Bass driving and Jarvis Hubbell, ex-postmaster of El Paso, the sole passenger. The stage company should have known better, and the two men should have known better. It was practically suicide to attempt such a trip with only two men. Making matters worse, Hubbell was struggling at the time with a badly injured foot, on which he wore a woven slipper.

A capable frontiersman, Hubbell was chagrined at having to be helped up onto the coach. The stage rolled east easily on hard roads carpeted with a veil of snow. The two men passed Fort Quitman and turned northeast into Quitman Canyon then swung southeast. Snow and ice had gathered in the trail ruts along the draw between the Quit man Mountains and Devil's Ridge. The bad weather, the men assumed, meant that the Apaches were probably all huddled up around a warm campfire. The stage made it to Eagle Springs Station, on the slope of the Eagle Mountains. The workers at the station were the last ones to see Bass and Hubbell alive.

Two days later, line agent Henry Morrell left El Paso with a driver and one passenger. The three had passed Eagle Springs Station and were approaching a pass through the Van Horn Mountains, about nine miles from Van Horn's Well, when they spotted something in the road. The mules shied away and the driver halted them. Morrell inspected the object; it was the battered head of James Bass. The driver hurried the coach on. A short distance later the travelers found a severed arm, and beyond that, a torso. They saw the wrecked stage about half a mile from the road. Arrows pierced the sides like a pin cushion, and bloodstains speckled the

interior. On the ground was Hubbell's slipper, but his body was nowhere to be found. Morrell wanted to search the area, but when Apaches appeared in the distance, the travelers sped off for Fort Davis.

At the fort, agent Jim Spears quickly organized an expedition to search the site, but the small cavalry escort he secured turned back after thirty miles, claiming fatigued horses. Spears and the coach driver continued on their own. They buried what was left of James Bass, but they never found any trace of Hubbell. From then on, the pass was called Bass Canyon."

Family Members

Parents

Photo

Walter Hubbell

1795–1848

Eliza Maria Phelps Hubbell

1798–1839

Siblings

George Ramsay Hubbell

1822–1839

Photo

Walter Seymour Hubbell

1823–1909

Photo

Henry P. Hubbell

1827–1892