

Nancy Ann "Annie" (Narron) See

Annie, and two older sisters, were born to Angelina J. (Adams) and John Calvin Narron while they lived in Missouri. Later, the family began a westward trek, and a brother and two more sisters were born in Kansas. Finally, the family arrived in Arizona and settled near the junction of Slate Creek and Tonto Creek, just north of Globe, Arizona. On January 9, 1887, Annie's older sister, Martha, married William Thomas Gann and moved to the Gann Ranch on Spring Creek.

In the meantime, John Shelby See and his wife Louisa (Costley) See, also left Missouri on a westward expedition. Their son John Morgan See, and most of his siblings were born in California before they, too, moved on to Arizona and ended up in the area of the Tonto Basin, near Globe where they owned a small hay ranch. In some unknown way, John Morgan See and Annie Narron met and on March 2, 1889, they applied for a marriage license in Globe. He was 22 years old and she was 18 at the time.

They moved to a small place in either Grapevine or Livingstone, both in the Tonto Basin and both now under the waters of Lake Roosevelt. A son, Charles Frank See, was born in Livingstone on May 17, 1890. Problems developed in the marriage and by May of 1892 Annie and her son were living with her sister on the Gann Ranch.

The May 21, 1892 edition of the Arizona Silver Belt newspaper reported that "Mrs. See had separated from her husband some time before, owing to his profligate habits, his association with various characters and for abusive treatment and failure to provide for her and her child. Her refusal to live with him longer is supposed to have been the motive that prompted him to commit the cowardly and brutal murder. He had followed his wife from place to place, importuning her to live with him, and failing to regain her favor, he determined to kill her." The article went on to say, "All the circumstances connected with the dreadful crime show conclusively that it was premeditated. For several days he had been hanging around the Gann place, where Mrs. See was staying with her sister. On Wednesday evening when the supper hour arrived he was asked to join the family at the table, but declined and remained outside near the corral, evidently having decided upon the milking hour as the most favorable time for the perpetuation of his fiendish crime. He had secreted his pistol in the corral, and when Mr. Gann, Mrs. Gann and his unsuspecting victim came out to milk he proffered his assistance. They had milked two or three cows when, unobserved, See secured the pistol and approached his wife. No word was spoken by either party, so far as we have learned. Mrs. Gann looked up from her milking when See was on the point of firing his first shot. He was only a few feet from his victim and

his aim was unerring. The bullet entered the left side in the region of the heart, passed through the body and broke the right arm. The shot was instantly fatal, as Mrs. See sank to the ground without uttering a sound, but to make his diabolical purpose doubly sure, the fiend fired a second time, the ball taking effect in the abdomen."

Noted Gila County sheriff John Henry Thompson mounted a massive manhunt for the killer, complete with Indian trackers and the offer of a substantial reward. With the aid of his family, and accompanied by a brother, the killer, recently released from jail on charges of shooting and breaking up a country dance, headed into the rugged mountain country known as Four Peaks. Rain obliterated the trail and the search had to be called off. John See spoke fluent Spanish and fled to Mexico where he changed his name to Juan Moreno, married and had two more children.

Annie was buried among the flowers on a mesa a short distance from where she was so brutally murdered. It has been reported that some years later her son placed the cement on her grave and a headstone with the inscription "Mother - Annie Narron See - 1869-1892. That head stone was later vandalized and disappeared. It is not known by the author who placed the current headstone. It is reported that the Forest Service place the metal rails around the grave. The grave is in a remote site that is not difficult to find, nor is easily seen without searching for it. Just east of the Roosevelt, AZ post office on Highway 188 you will find a dirt road to the south. Approximately 1.3 miles down the dirt road you can see the corner of a fence. There is a path leading to the right of the fence and the grave is about 20 yards from the road. The GPS coordinates are N33.58744 W111.01553.

