

Andrew “Andy” Hall

Andy Hall was born in Roxburghshire, Scotland, in 1854, and historians differ as to whether the family emigrated to America at age two or four, but it was after his father died. Too young to join his brother in the Civil War, at the age of 14 or 15 he headed west on a wagon train. He led the life of a true frontiersman. He was an Indian fighter, bullwhacker, hunter and trapper until May 24, 1869, when his life got really exciting for a while.

On that date, John Wesley Powell, one of the great 19th century explorers, set off with Hall and seven other men in four boats to traverse the Colorado River all the way through the Grand Canyon, waters that no white man had previously traveled. In June, they lost one of the boats to the rapids, but none of the men.

By noon on August 27th, they were virtually out of supplies except for a little flour, dried apples and some tobacco. And they faced the worst rapids they had encountered to that point. Three members of the group, Oramel Howland, his younger brother Seneca and William Dunn, informed Powell they were going to leave the group and take a chance on climbing out of the canyon. It turned out to be a bad choice. The rest of the men continued through the rapids in two boats and the next day broke out of the canyon. The following day they reached the mouth of the Virgin River and completed their mission.

On September 1st, the party was paid and split up; Hall received \$60. John Powell and his brother decided to travel overland to Salt Lake City. He gave the two boats to Hall and the other three remaining crewmembers. They continued down the Colorado River to Fort Mojave. From there Hall and a fellow named Jack Sumner continued down the river to the Gulf of California and became the first men to ever travel the length of the Colorado River.

As for the three men who left them, they have never been heard of again. However, a couple of different theories and claims have been made as to their fate. On September 8, the Deseret News, the newspaper of the Church of Latter-day Saints broke the story that three men had been found and fed by the Shivwits band of the Paiute tribe. The men then departed on their way and ran into an Indian girl who they killed. The paper reported that three Shivwit men trailed the three men and killed them. Later rumors even added rape to the charge. This was supposedly the three men that left Powell’s party. Powell was a total disbeliever in the truth of this tale. The men who left his party were not killers and the Shivwits were not revengeful people. The other theory, based on some Mormon letters discovered years later, was that the three men were killed by Mormons, in particular John Doyle Lee’s nephew, who suspected the three were federal agents looking to arrest John Doyle Lee for the Mountain Meadows incident.

In the meantime, Hall and Sumner rigged up a sail to their boat and sailed back upriver to Fort Yuma where they became professional hunters. When Sumner killed two Apaches they fled the area. Hall remained in Arizona and again became a bullwhacker. He tried Indian fighting and did a term as a constable in Tucson.

By the spring of 1876 he was in Florence, Arizona with a Mexican woman who already had two children. The 1880 census shows them still together, but she disappears after that.

On March 18, 1879, Hall was in Globe, Arizona, eating dinner in a Chinese restaurant. He left out the back door of the restaurant where a dog was waiting for scraps. The dog growled and snapped at Hall who pulled his pistol and shot the dog three times. He went on down to the post office where a crowd had gathered. Suddenly Gee Fan from the restaurant had appeared and seemed to be pulling a gun. Someone yelled, "Lookout, Andy." Hall whirled around and told Fan, "Don't do that." But Fan appeared intent on pulling a weapon and Hall pulled his pistol and shot him in the head.



The only known photo of Andy

The killing was ruled justifiable on the following day because a gun was found next to Fan's body. Pinal County officials decided to take a look at the case and a grand jury indicted Hall on April 27. However, the district attorney was not keen on bringing him to trial and he remained out on bail. In March of 1881, the Arizona Territorial legislature moved Globe into Gila County and that district attorney was also hesitant to go to trial.

By 1882, the railroads had extended into Arizona, but Globe was still remote and depended entirely on stage coaches and pack trains. Hall was still under indictment for the Fan killing, but was free on bail and working as a shotgun messenger for the Wells Fargo Company.

A fellow by the name of Cicero Grimes had opened a photography studio in Globe. On the night of August 19, 1882, a meeting was held in the studio to plot the robbery of a \$5,000 payroll shipment for the Mack Morris Silver Mine. The robber gang consisted of Grimes, his very diminutive brother Lafayette, and a woodcutter by the name of Curtis B. Hawley. Lafayette worked in the mines and was aware that the gold shipment would arrive the next morning.

As dawn broke the next morning, Hall and Frank Porter loaded the gold from the stage coach onto their pack mule and headed up a steep mountain trail to the mine. Cicero Grimes watched them load the gold onto a roan mule. He then returned to the ambush site where the other two were lying in wait. After relaying the information that the gold was on the roan mule and that the roan was the lead mule, he rode back to town. When the roan came into site of Lafayette and Hawley they commenced firing and whooping, hoping to make it sound like an Indian attack. The roan went down immediately, and the other mules turned in a panic and unseated Hall from his horse. Porter raced for Globe to get help.

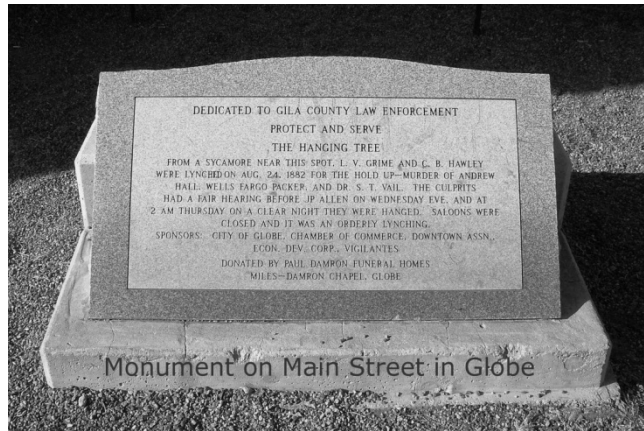
Lafayette Grimes and Hawley managed to open the strong box and place the gold in canvas bags, whereupon they fled the scene on foot. Not far from the scene they stumbled upon Dr. W. F. Vail who was headed for his mining claims. They soon realized they needed to kill Dr. Vail to keep their identity secret. They shot him three times and when the sheriff from Globe found him he was able to give a description of one tall man and one very small man who were from Globe, but he could not recall the name.

In the meantime, Hall had started to follow the tracks of the robbers. When he came to a spring and stopped for a drink, the robbers spotted him and soon he too was dead.

Because of the description from Dr. Vail and the size five footprints at the scene, it was not long before the three robbers turned-murderers were identified and arrested. They soon confessed. On August 23rd, an orderly crowd of Globe citizens took the three prisoners from the sheriff and proceeded to have a trial that lasted well into the night. Hoping for leniency, Hawley and Lafayette led a party to where they had hidden the gold. An eloquent plea on the behalf of Dr. Vail's widow spared the life of Cicero because he was a family man with children. Lafayette and Hawley were hung from a sycamore tree in the middle of Main Street at 1:30 in the morning of the 24th. Cicero was sentenced to 23 years in Yuma. While in the Territorial Prison he was declared insane and on July 8, 1883, he was transferred to the Pacific Asylum in Stockton, California. Two months later he walked away and was never heard of again.

On June 9, 1894, a fire swept through downtown Globe and took the life right out of Globe's most notorious land mark. The old Sycamore tree that stood in the center of Broad Street was left standing, but lifeless and its carcass was removed.





The above monument and “new sycamore hanging tree” are located near the old hanging tree. The author has no idea why the good doctor is incorrectly named as S. T. Vail and suspects that the new hanging tree will never be used

Source: *Boots and Bullets* by Jess G. Hayes. *Wild West Magazine*, August 2009 Articles: *Frontiersman Andy Hall Served Major Powell and Wells Fargo* by Chris Penn; and *Here be Dragons* by Will Bagley.