

Arizona History
AZT Passage 10-Redington Pass
by Preston Sands

Redington Pass, which this passage is named for, is the broad gap between the Rincon Mountains to the south and the Santa Catalina Mountains to the north. It is here that the Arizona Trail crosses the historic Redington Road. Having served as both a military road and a stage coach route during the late 19th century, Redington Road takes its name from the little settlement of Redington on the San Pedro River, a few miles north of the pass.

Redington was settled by two brothers, Henry and Leonard "Lem" Redfield in 1875. The Redfield brothers started ranches along the river, and soon requested a post office. The U.S. Postal Service denied their request for the name of Redfield, and instead gave it the name of Redington. The isolated Redington region, and specifically the Redfield Ranch, became a haven for outlaws under the Redfield brothers' watch. When the Kinnear & Co. stage was robbed just outside of Tombstone one evening in March of 1881, resulting in the death of two aboard, Wyatt Earp led a posse in pursuit of the perpetrators. The trail led to the Redfield Ranch, where an accomplice was arrested. The rest of the robbery gang escaped, possibly aided by Henry Redfield. Doc Holliday was suspected by some at the time of being involved in the robbery, but charges were never brought against him.

On an August night in 1883, a stagecoach bound for Globe from Florence was attacked in a flurry of gunfire, and ground to a halt near Riverside Station on the Gila River. The stagecoach guard had been killed in the gunfire, and the robbers made off with gold and silver from the strongbox. The next day, a Sheriff's posse aided by witnesses along the way, made their way up the San Pedro River to the Redfield Ranch. The posse found Lem Redfield and Joe Tuttle at the ranch, and both proclaimed their innocence. Evidence found at the ranch seemed to implicate Redfield and Tuttle, and they were arrested. Talk of vigilante justice being wrought upon his brother brought Henry Redfield and a U.S. Marshall to the Florence jail to escort the accused to a safer location. Florence law enforcement challenged the U.S. Marshall's authority there, and the delay unknowingly gave the local vigilante mob the opportunity to see Lem Redfield and Joe Tuttle hanged.

Several historic ranches, connected by a network of trails, were located in the rolling hill country of Redington Pass during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Today, the Arizona Trail roughly follows the route of one of these trails between Redington Pass and Molino Basin in the Santa Catalina Mountains.

The Santa Catalina Mountains, which loom above the northern end of this passage, are one of Arizona's best known and most heavily visited "sky island" mountain ranges. Known to the Spanish and Mexican pioneers of this area as "Santa Catarina" in honor of Saint Catherine, this massive mountain range gradually became known as the "Santa Catalina" Mountains.

References

Barnes, W. C. (1988). *Arizona place names*. Tucson, AZ: The University of Arizona Press.

Bell, B. B. (2005, April 1). I Hold for No One! Road Agents Attempt to Rob Kinnear's Stage Near Contention. *True West Magazine*, 53. Retrieved from:
<http://www.truewestmagazine.com/i-hold-for-no-one-road-agents-attempt-to-rob-kinnears-stage-near-contention/>

Hernandez, J. (2012, January 27). Tales and Places of the Copper Corridor: The Riverside Stage Hold-Up. *Copper Area News Publishers*. Retrieved from:
<http://www.copperarea.com/pages/tales-and-places-of-the-copper-corridor-the-riverside-stage-hold-up/>

Lauer, C. (2005). *The arizona trail in history*. Unpublished manuscript.

Massey, P., Wilson, J., & Titus, A. (2008). *Backcountry adventures arizona*. Castle Rock, CO: Adler Publishing Company, Inc.

United States Geological Survey. (1904). *Arizona tucson quadrangle*. Retrieved from:
<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/topo/arizona/pclmaps-topo-az-tuscon-1904.jpg>