

12 January 2009

My sincerest thanks to the curator and staff of The Arizona Historical Society, and to the librarians of The Arizona History Museum, of Tucson, Arizona, for their written permission to offer here a look at a portion of a document in their collections, the signature block of William Carr's 1850 Los Angeles deposition on the Yuma ferry massacre.

Based on motive, the UTP *Notes* footnote 23 (25), argues against Butterfield's 1954 (299) conjecture of Chamberlain-in-disguise as one of this Carr deposition signers.

Continuing that note's argument that Marcus L. Webster, because an historical figure in his own right, is not Chamberlain, this block's Joseph A. Anderson's signature, based on his claim to a middle initial, and based on such a proudly smooth flourish, I imagine Anderson is hardly a Chamberlain-in-hiding.

Then, what of a possibility that "William Carr" is Chamberlain?

I argue against that likelihood in this manner:

Given the deposition's "rectangularity": the transcriptionist's sentences, Stearns's, Websters's, Anderson's signatures, as they all exist as if on line-ruled paper, see that the signed name "William Carr" is at odds with this pattern: it exists as if based on two arcs.

For the fun of it: visualize the transcriptionist seated at a table, the witnesses Webster and Anderson seated behind a table, and Carr to the outside of those tables as he gives his deposition.

Of course, the transcriptionist sits. The witnesses sit. That Stearns sits, or not, is immaterial. The focus is on the arcs as "Carr" signs his deposition. The transcriptionist turns the page to face the outside of his table. Carr, standing, plants the heel of his right hand on the table and writes "William," then re-plants his hand to write "Carr."

Chamberlain, the memoirist, the painter, Chamberlain would not plant the heel of his hand for such a signature, but could and would make his hand regular, in-line, square-to-the-page. Look at the exactness of his hand, his sentences, reproduced in each of the several *My Confession* editions.

John Sepich.

the public authorities with this view. Deponent has made affidavit substantially of the massacre on the Gila, before an Alcalde at San Diego, and applied to the commanding officer of the U. S. troops at that place for assistance, but none has been sent. There are forty U. S. soldiers, infantry, at said town of San Diego.

William Carr

Abel Stearns

We the undersigned, ~~two~~ of the persons named in the foregoing statement of William Carr, have heard said statement read, and fully concur in all the facts therein stated, believing the same to be true in all respects.

Signed before me - Joseph A. Anderson  
Abel Stearns }  
1st Alcalde de los } Marcus L. Webster  
Ariz. }

Said town of San  
William Carr