In the Headless Mormon War of 1857 and 1858, pioneer and leader of the Mormon settlers, Tom Nance became a killer. He was a leader of the company that rode into Texas from Utah in 1856. Nance was one of four men who murdered an Indian trader, John Thompson, and two women, Mary and Hester Clark, in 1856.

Nance was tried and convicted on May 3, 1857. He was sentenced to death by hanging and was hanged on May 6, 1857. The hanging was witnessed by thousands of spectators who came to see the execution. Nance was a tall, gaunt man with a beard and mustache. He wore a plain white shirt and black trousers. He was blindfolded and gagged before being hanged.

Tom Nance lived his life as a lawman and a cattleman in the Arizona Territory. He was a major figure in the history of the state, and his story is still remembered today.

The hanging of Tom Nance marked the end of the Mormon War and the beginning of peace in Arizona. It was a turning point in the history of the state and the nation.