

# JONES, RICHMOND JR.

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JONES, RICHMOND JR., born at Dighton, Bristol County, Massachusetts, May 7, 1833; son of Richmond and Nancy (Wardell) Jones; graduated in 1853 from Lawrence Scientific School, Harvard University, with the degree of Bachelor of Science, summa cum laude; civil engineer and draughtsman at Providence, Rhode Island, 1855-59.

Came to the Gadsden Purchase and was Manager and Engineer for the Arizona Land and Mining Company, a Rhode Island Corporation, which on June 2, 1860, bought, for \$25,000, a Mexican land grant known as El Sopor consisting of nearly 28 square leagues; the purchase was made from Sylvester Mowry, a native of Rhode Island, as attorney in fact for the heirs of Don Joaquin Astiazaran, of La Labor, near Horcasitas, Sonora, who was said to have acquired the land on July 5, 1838, by a deed from the Treasurer-General of Sonora; on December 3, 1881, John Wasson, the U.S. Surveyor General for Arizona, decided that the title papers were forged and fraudulent; as a witness for the Company Peter Kitchen testified before the Surveyor General on July 3, 1880, as follows:

Q. Did you know Richmond Jones, Jr., the Superintendent of the Sopor Land and Mining Co.? - A. Yes, sir; I was well acquainted with him, and worked with him and assisted him in running the lines of the Sopor ranch.

Q. During what years was Richmond Jones, Jr., in possession of said ranch and property? - A. He must have been in possession of it in years 1859 and 1860, and the early part of 1861.

Q. How many assistants or employees had the said Superintendent on said ranch? - A. Not less than four or five, and perhaps six. He brought with him two or three young men, and afterwards from time to time employed others. I was at one time an employee, and the young men assisted him about the surveying, and the Mexican employees helped him about the cattle.

Q. How did Mr. Jones' possession of the property terminate? - A. By his death, in 1861, at the hands of the Apache Indians. In about 1861 six hundred Indians made a raid through the valley and depopulated it, and on his return from Tucson Mr. Jones was killed by them just east of where Maish and Driscoll's present ranch houses now stand, and it is believed they killed him with a pitch-fork. I saw the body after death. I lost many cattle and much property by the Indians in the same raid. At the same time the same Indians raided the Sopor ranch, and drove off and killed all the stock in it, amounting to about 300 head.

Q. When you came to that part of the country in 1854, was it populated? - A. No, sir. No one was in possession of the ranch at that time. The whole country was then depopulated from Tucson to Sonora, on account of the hostilities of the Apache Indians.

Q. After that time, who first occupied the Sopori ranch? - A. James W. Douglass and his executor, C. C. Dodson, and they sold the cattle and fixtures there to the Sopori Land and Mining Co.

In his Reminiscences Raphael Pumpelly tells of finding the bodies of three men murdered by Apaches at La Canoa and says:

"We had just finished the burial when a party of Americans, escorting two wagons, rode in sight. They were on their way to Fort Buchanan, where they hoped to discover the caches in which commissary stores had been hidden on the abandonment of the country. Happening to ask them whether Mr. Richmond Jones, superintendent of the Sopori Company's property, was still in Tucson, I was told that he had left that town for the Sopori early on the previous day.

"It seemed that Jones might have reached the Canoa in time to be in danger from the Indians, so we began a search for his body in the neighborhood, and before long a call from one of our number brought us to the spot where it lay. A bullet entering the breast, two large lances piercing the body from side to side, and a pitchfork driven as far as the very forking of the prongs into the back, told the manner of his death. Wrapping the body in a blanket, we laid it in one of the wagons and turned toward Tubac.

"At Tubac we buried Jones. His home had been in Providence, R. I. Like Grosvenor, a true friend of the Indians, he fell by them a victim to vengeance for the treachery of the white man. The cry of Sopori, raised when the Indians left Rhodes, was now explained. They knew that in Jones they had killed the superintendent of that ranch, and they were impatient to reach the place and drive off its large drove of horses and cattle before the arrival of any force large enough to resist them. This they effected by killing the herdsmen."

Charles D. Poston, who was with Pumpelly at the time, afterwards stated that Jones was killed on the second Sunday in June, 1861; the Sacramento, California Union of September 9 reported the following from the Mesilla, New Mexico, Times, of August 10, 1861:

On the 15th of July a band of sixty Apache Indians attacked a party of men at the abandoned rancho called the "Canda" (La Canoa), thirty-six miles above Tucson, and killed Richard (Richmond) Jones, Superintendent of the Sopori Mining Company, Eldred (Edwin) Tarbox, McCall, two Mexicans, and an Indian boy. They stripped William H. Rhodes (Roods) after having wounded him and allowed him to escape.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Vital Records, Town of Dighton, Massachusetts.  
Providence City Directory, 1856-1859.  
Harvard University Quinquennial Catalogue, Cambridge, 1930, p. 607.  
"The Richmond Family, 1594-1896," by Joshua Bailey Richmond, p. 83 and 184.  
Pumpelly, Raphael - Across America and Asia, N.Y., 1870, p. 48.  
Pumpelly, Raphael - My Reminiscences, N.Y., 1918, Vol. 1, pp. 241-242.  
Pumpelly, Raphael - Travels and Adventures of N.Y., 1920, pp. 168-169.  
48th Congress, 1st Session, Senate Executive Document No. 93. -  
Transcript of proceedings before the U.S. Surveyor General, p. 48.  
The Sacramento, California, Union, September 9, 1861, p. 4, c. 1.  
The Providence Daily Journal, September 24, 1861, p. 4, c. 2 (death notice).

The following is a section of a petition in the Sopori Land Grant case:

VIII. In or about the years 1858 and 1859 the petitioner (Sopori Land and Mining Co.) and the Arizona Land and Mining Co. took possession of the said land and stocked it with cattle and placed in charge of the same an agent and engineer, with a party of assistants, and remained in possession until the summer of 1861. Upon the withdrawal by the United States of its troops from the neighborhood, the Apache Indians drove the agent, engineer and assistants from the property, and killed Richmond Jones, Junior, the said agent and engineer . . .