

JONES, WILLIAM H.

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JONES, WILLIAM H., born in London, England, 1826; enlisted, age 23, as Private, Company B, 2d U.S. Artillery, at Newport, Kentucky, December 12, 1849; was one of 30 soldiers commanded by Brevet Major H.L. Kendrick who escorted an exploring party under Captain Lorenzo Sitgreaves which left Zuni, N.M., on September 24, 1851, and marched across northern Arizona to the Colorado River near where Fort Mohave was afterwards located and thence proceeded down the east bank of that stream.

When the party stopped in the river bottom for the usual noon rest on November 17 they were attacked by Yuma Indians who approached under the cover of a thicket; Dr. S.W. Woodhouse, the Surgeon of the expedition, thus describes what happened:

One of the soldiers, by the name of Jones, was brought into camp in a dying condition, having received an arrow wound in the elbow-joint, which I suppose sickened him; the Yumas Indians then rushing upon him, and using their clubs freely about his head, left him for dead.

When brought into camp, he was insensible. I examined his wounds, but could not detect a fracture or depression of the skull. The scalp was torn loose in every direction, the face greatly swollen; breathing stertorous, almost pulseless.

After reaction had taken place, I bled him. His pulse rose, and breathing became more easy. He, however, remained insensible until the time of his death, which took place on the following morning about 8 o'clock.

Died at a camp near the present site of Parker, Yuma County, Arizona, November 18, 1851, aged 25.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Senate Executive Document No. 59, 32d Congress, 2d Session, 1853, p. 184.
The Sitgreaves Expedition,
Adjutant General of the Army - Military service records.