

SNIVELY, JACOB

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SNIVELY, JACOB, born in Greencastle, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, about 1809; a descendant of John Schnively who came from Germany to Hagerstown, Maryland, in 1780; never married.

Moved at an early age to Hamilton County, Ohio, and went to Texas about 1835; the military service records of the Republic of Texas show that he was appointed 1st. Lieutenant, 1st. Texas Infantry at \$30 per month on March 26, 1836, and promoted to Captain at \$40 a month on August 27; appointed Colonel and Paymaster General of the Militia of Texas, March 3, 1837; acting Assistant Inspector General, June 8, 1842, and Adjutant and Inspector General, November 1, 1842, at the rate of \$850 per annum; a voucher for his pay for November was endorsed "Let this be paid out of the appropriation for frontier protection. Sam Houston":

He made application on January 28, 1843, to the Texas War Department to organize an "expedition for the purpose of intercepting and capturing the property of Mexican traders through the territory of the Republic, to and from Santa Fe"; obtained permission on February 16, and not long afterwards left Austin with 56 men; at Georgetown, Texas, his force was increased to 185; left there on April 25, and arrived on May 27 near crossing of the Arkansas River by the Santa Fe wagon route; on June 20, he led an attack on the advance guard of troops commanded by Colonel Ventura Lobato, coming from Santa Fe to meet the wagon trains of Manuel Armijo, Governor of New Mexico, then on a return trip from Independence, Missouri; in the fight, 17 New Mexicans were killed and 80 captured, 18 of whom were wounded.

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About 70 of his men having left for their homes in Texas, he released his prisoners on June 29, and moved his camp to the South bank of the Arkansas River; on June 30, Armijo's wagon train arrived at the crossing escorted by 196 U.S. Dragoons with two pieces of artillery under command of Captain Philip St. George Cooke who trained his cannon on the Texas camp and demanded that they surrender most of their arms, which was done.

A number of his men left for Missouri on July 2 with Captain Cooke's troops; after trailing Armijo's caravan for some days he began the return journey on July 14 with 63 men, less than half of whom were armed; they were attacked by double their number of Comanche Indians at Owl Creek and again at Antelope Creek on July 20, but suffered no casualties except a few wounded; arrived at Bird's Fort on the Trinity River, August 6, 1843.

In 1849 he went from Texas via Mazatlan, Mexico, to California where he no doubt engaged in mining; came to Arizona early in 1858 and that year discovered gold about 24 miles above the mouth of the Gila River; a large number of miners soon came to Gila City and it is estimated that within two years, over \$1,000,000 in gold was recovered when the placer ground was worked out; he went from there to Pinos Altos, New Mexico, with a party of California miners where they discovered gold in May, 1860; repeated attacks by the Apache Indians in 1861-62 caused the miners to abandon that region and he returned to Arizona.

He acted as Chairman of a meeting held at La Paz on December 8, 1862, to adopt laws and fix the boundaries of the Castle Dome Mining District; elected on May 26, 1863, Secretary and Recorder

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of that District which office he held until December 26, 1864; listed, Territorial Census, 1864, at Castle Dome, A.T., age 55, single, resident in Arizona 6 years, occupation - Recorder; served as Judge at the first Territorial election at La Paz, July 18, 1864;

The old mining records in the County Recorder's Office at Yuma show that between May 15, 1863, and March 18, 1866, he located 76 mining claims in the La Paz, Castle Dome and Silver Mining Districts and that during that period he sold an interest in 10 different claims for a total of \$2,580; the largest sum being \$1,000 which he received from B. Phelps of New York City for an undivided 300 feet of the "Grand Turk" silver lode in the Castle Dome District.

He went back to Texas in 1866 and in December of that year left Camp Colorado with William C. Dalrymple and small party to locate a lost gold mine in the mountains near the Rio Grande; attackd by Indians at mouth of Kiowa Creek near the head of the Concho River, where they lost all of their horses; they were compelled to abandon the venture and the party broke up at Eagle Springs.

Returned to Yuma County, A.T., where, on February 15, 1867, he located the "Star Light", "Limeric" and "Red Banner" mining claims; he was in the Salt River Valley in 1869 and went from there as a member of a prospecting expedition headed by C. E. Cooley which joined a similar party from Prescott under Calvin Jackson in eastern Arizona at the junction of Canyon Creek and

Salt River on September 26; the consolidated parties explored the headwaters of Salt River during the month of October but found no gold and the Cooley party returned ^{to} the Phoenix settlement; his name appears in the U.S. Census taken at Wickenburg in August 1870, occupation - Surveyor; the following report of his death was printed in the Prescott Arizona Miner:

On Monday, March 27, 1871, Col. J. Snively, Andrew Starr, Henry Reed, P. Morgan and Geo. Roe, were attacked by about 180 Indians, near the White Picacho, and at the first fire, Col. Snively fell, wounded, and was left to the mercy of the savages by his comrades, who became panic stricken, and ran away. Col. Snively was one of the oldest living Arizonans, and his death is regretted by all.

The Arizona Miner subsequently published a letter signed "Cosmopolitan" written at Mill City, Maricopa County, April 4, 1871, which stated:

The expedition which went out to bury the remains of Col. J. Snively, who was wounded by Apaches in the White Picacho range, has returned. The writer, who accompanied the expedition, thinking it would be of interest to your readers, concludes to give a brief account thereof. On the morning of the 29th ult., 20 of us, under the leadership of Thos. Barnum, left for the scene of the murder, distant about 65 miles, and reached there the following morning. We found the body in a dry, sandy arroyo, a few yards from the spot where he fell. The coyotes had eaten nearly one half the body, and it has reached such a stage of decomposition as to make it impracticable to bring to the settlement. A few yards from the spot where he was killed, we buried all that was mortal of another of Arizona's pioneers.

The letter gives an account of the life of Colonel Snively based upon statements made by "his friend and companion, Jack W. Swilling, who first met him at the Gila River mines and formed a friendship which has remained cemented like brothers", and concludes:

Colonel Snively made considerable money at various times in this Territory, but his generous nature could not retain it, always dealing it out with a lavish hand to those in need. Last fall he accompanied an expedition to the Pinal mountains, where he had once been, several years before. Since then his home has been with his old friend, J. W. Swilling.

His sad fate has cast a gloom over our settlement. [He never made an enemy, but always friends. He was the Prince of gentlemen and the pink of chivalry.] Alas, he has fallen, with the already too long list, of victims to Government neglect, and sleeps in his lonely mountain grave, with naught save the eternal fires of heaven, to maintain for this martyred Pioneer a perpetual guard. "How long, Oh Lord, how long," are we doomed to see our bravest and best, falling at the will of the relentless Apache.

From Black Canyon, A.T., on April 25, 1878, L. G. Taylor addressed a letter to the editor of the Arizona Miner which reads:

A few days since, Jack Swilling, Thomas Barnum, George Monroe, and Andy Kirby went out to the White Peak mountain for the purpose of bringing the remains of the lamented Col. Jacob Snively, who was murdered by the Apaches at that mountain, in March, 1871, while prospecting with others, for a rich silver lead said to exist in that section.

Here permit me to state that this makes 16 of the "old-timers" that Mr. Monroe has assisted in burying in Christian grave yards, and 7 for Mr. Swilling.

They arrived here today, and the remains were interred in the Swilling family cemetery. As there was no minister present, Judge Handy, of Gillett, read the usual Protestant funeral services, in a solemn, earnest manner.

The day before the Colonel was killed, Hanna's train was attacked, near Agua Fria, and every man killed except one. The Colonel was killed as he rode out of camp. The party which he was with consisted of five men, all of whom lost their horses.

On an examination of the skeleton, it was found

that both of the Colonel's arms were broken, and an Indian arrow point was found in the skull. It has penetrated near the left ear, and had evidently passed almost through the head. Jack Swilling has the arrow point in his possession.

The Colonel's friends had long since concluded to remove his remains to a graveyard, but circumstances have somehow prevented them from doing so until now. His grave will be neatly pailed in and a headboard erected, etc. His grave is near the Prescott and Phoenix road, 5 miles from Gillett.

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