

GIBSON, JESSE J.

1

GIBSON, JESSE J., born in Alabama about 1824; came to Arizona, 1863; listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, 3d District (Yavapai County) age 40, single, resident in Arizona, 9 months, occupation "Whatever will pay best"; he was a member of the second Woolsey Expedition against the Apache Indians, March 29 to April 17, 1864.

The following extracts from the Prescott, Arizona Miner, give a clear indication of the deadly perils which surrounded the early settlers of Yavapai County prior to the subjugation of the Apaches by soldiers of the Regular Army. This particular account begins on October 24, 1868:

From John Timmons, who rode to town from Lerty's ranch, on Lynx Creek, yesterday afternoon, we learn that, as Messrs. Joseph Melvin and J. J. Gibson were on their way from Prescott to the Rio Verde, yesterday morning, they were attacked by a party of Apache-Mohave Indians, at a point near Ash Creek, when Mr. Gibson was severely, if not fatally wounded, and Mr. Melvin was shot in the leg. The wounded men are now at Lerty's ranch, Gibson was shot in the body, and his recovery is doubtful.

The following week the editor, in detailed comment on a number of recent Indian outrages, wrote:

While riding along the road near Ash Creek they were waylaid and fired upon by a large band of Indians, when Mr. Gibson received four bullets in his arm, and two in his right breast. The bullet passed through Mr. Melvin's boot leg, and he having so miraculously escaped unhurt, held his friend Gibson on the saddle while they retreated toward the Agua Fria, pursued by the murderers.

When shot at, Gibson tried to take his shot gun out of the gun leather on the pommel of his saddle, but a rope by which he was leading a pack mule was fastened to the pommel, and in order to facilitate matters he pulled his knife and cut the rope, when, unfortunately, the gun dropped to the ground, and both it and the mule fell into the hands of the

Indians.

Upon reaching Willow Springs, Gibson, from loss of blood became too faint to ride further, and Melvin was forced to leave him and ride to the ranches for assistance. He procured a wagon and hauled the wounded man to his home. This is the second time within the past two years that Gibson has been attacked by Indians.

Two weeks later Gibson is mentioned along with a number of other wounded men:

The wounded in the recent Indian attacks are receiving all the care and attention possible to give them. J. J. Gibson, Wm. King and Thomas Bennett are out at Fort Whipple Hospital. A Mexican, who was wounded by an Indian, at the Toll-Gate, on the Hardy ville road, recently was brought to town by Nick Thede a day or two ago, and is being attended to by Dr. George D. Kendall, who has succeeded in extracting a bullet from under the left false rib. This bullet the Doctor thinks, was fired out of a rifle. This man is now doing well.

J. J. Gibson, we are told, bears the Pangs of his numerous wounds without a grumble and does not expect to die soon, although we fear his fate will soon be sealed. Mr. King is getting along well. So is Mr. Bonnett, the man who was wounded by the Coyotero Apaches, on his way here from New Mexico. Gus. Begole rode into town the other day, from his ranch, and appeared to carry the arrowheads and bullets recently drove into him by Mr. Low, with ease and grace. We have not heard anything from the wounded mail rider, and do not know how he is getting along.

Gibson was wounded on Friday, October 23, and lived a little over two weeks until he passed away on Saturday evening, November 7, which was after the Miner had gone to press for that week, but in the issue of November 14, 1868, his death was announced:

J. J. Gibson, who was wounded by Indians some four weeks since, died at Fort Whipple Hospital on the evening of the 7th inst., and was buried next day (Sunday last). Deceased came to this part of

3

the Territory at an early day, and was one of our most useful and daring pioneers. He was, we believe, a native of Kentucky, aged about 52 years.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Farish, T.E. - History of Arizona, Vol. 5, pp. 308-309, Vol. 8, p. 131.

Probate Court of Yavapai County - Docket No. 33.

The Arizona Miner, Prescott, April 6, 1864, 3:3; October 24, 3:1; October 31, November 7, 2:3-4, and November 14, 1868, 3:1.

Ask Mrs. [unclear] about this

*All in 1868
Chas. S. Dyer*

McLaughlin, Capt.
Mahon, Alexander
Robertson, J.O.
Gibson, J.J.

4

Los Angeles News, 8/12/65, 3-1.
From the Arizona Miner, July 26.

MAHON
OR
1868
As Capt. *MAHON* McLaughlin, Alex Mahon, J.O. Robertson and J.J. Gibson were returning from Prescott to Agua Fria, on the 20th inst., they were attacked by a band of about 100 Indians. They had to run a gauntlet of a mile, with the howling devils at their heels and on either side, but escaped slightly wounded.

GIBSON, J. J., who was wounded by Indians some four weeks since, died at Fort Whipple Hospital on the evening of the 7th inst., and was buried next day (Sunday last). Deceased came to this part of the territory at an early day, and was one of the most useful and daring pioneers. He was, we believe, a native of Kentucky, aged about 52 years.