

# JEFFORDS, THOMAS JEFFERSON A-1 I

JEFFORDS, Thomas Jefferson, born in Chautauqua County, New York, January 1, 1832; son of Eben Rockwood and Elmira Jeffords; never married; left home when but a lad and became a riverman on the Ohio; was called "Captain" because of his service on steamboats on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers; helped to lay out the road from Leavenworth, Kansas, to Denver, Colorado, 1858; came to Taos, New Mexico, late in 1859 and the following spring went prospecting in the San Juan Mountains; became a military messenger in New Mexico and said to have participated in the battles of Valverde and Glorieta; sent by General E. R. S. Canby with dispatches from Fort Thorn which he delivered to Colonel J. H. Carlton at Tucson in the summer of 1862; returned to the Rio Grande as guide to the advance companies of the California Column-

After the Civil War he began trading with the Apaches in New Mexico; he then became a stage driver and later Superintendent of the mail line between Fort Bowie and Tucson; while thus engaged was wounded by arrows shot from ambush by Apaches; during 16 months 14 of the men under him were killed by Indians and, having learned to speak Apache, he determined to have a talk with Cochise, Chief of the Chiricahuas; went alone to the camp of Cochise who, in admiration of his courage, after a visit of some days agreed that the Apaches would never again disturb him; engaged in prospecting, trading and occasionally as an Army Guide until September 16, 1872, when he was retained by General O. O. Howard at \$1500 per annum "for special work of gathering the nomadic Indians upon the Cochise reservation]" went from Fort Bayard, New Mexico, with the General and Captain J. A. Slayden and met Cochise at his Stronghold in the Dragoon Mountains, Arizona Territory, October 2 and remained there until October 12, 1872; it was agreed between General Howard and Cochise that an area in the adjacent mountains and valleys would be reserved for the use of his band and that Jeffords should be their Agent; by Executive Order of December 14, 1872, President Grant set aside the lands recommended by General Howard.

Served as guide and courier for General Nelson A. Miles in Apache Campaign, 1886; Charter Member, Society of Arizona Pioneers, Tucson, 1884; Jeffords Point on the west wall of the Grand Canyon named for him; Guide at Fort Selden, New Mexico for 6 days, August 3-8, 1872; Guide at Fort Tularosa, New Mexico, from August 21-September 18, 1872; Interpreter and Guide at Camp Thomas and Camp Lowell, A.T., at \$150 per month from September 1 to November 31, 1881; Died at Owls Head, Pinal County, Arizona on February 19, 1914 at age 82; buried at Evergreen Cemetery, Tucson, Arizona. (His funeral was under the auspices of the Arizona Historical Society.)

Source: Probate Court, Pinal County, Docket No. 320

Farish, T.E., History of Arizona, Vol. 2, pp. 227-240; Vol. 5, p. 330; Vol. 7, p. 25; Vol. 8, p. 15.

Barnes, W.C., Arizona Place Names, p. 224.

McClintock, J.H., Arizona the Youngest State, pp. 216-17, 228.

Arizona Daily Citizen, Tucson, February 21-22, 1914, and January 11, 1873.

Source (Cont 'd.)

Arizona Daily Star, Tucson, February 20, 1914.

Quartermaster General, Old Files, Fort Myer, Virginia.

Lockwood, F.C., Pioneer Days in Arizona, New York, 1932, pp. 163-64,  
166-67, 170, 171-72.

Clum, W., Apache Agent, New York, 1936, pp. 90-92, 170, 180,  
230, 232.

Lockwood, F.C., The Apache Indians, New York, 1938, pp. 110-130,  
214, 218, 243.

U. S. Court of Claims, Indian Depredation Docket No. 9695.