

JONES, WILLIAM P.

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JONES, WILLIAM P., born in Kentucky about 1839; listed Territorial Census, April, 1864, 3d District, afterwards Yavapai County, Arizona Territory, age 25, single, resident in Arizona 3 months, occupation, Miner, property valued at \$100; the following letter, written by his friend John M. Boggs, and printed in the Prescott Arizona Miner of June 22, 1864, tells of how he was ambushed and killed:

Lynx Creek, Arizona
June 6, 1864

Editor of Miner:--It becomes my sad duty to inscribe these lines, announcing the death of one of our esteemed fellow-citizens. W.P. Jones, Esq., lately from California, and formerly of Mount Vernon, Jasper County, Missouri.

On Wednesday, June 2d, Mr. Jones left our camp on Big Bug Creek, about 9 a.m. for Col. King S. Woolsey's ranch, for the purpose of getting his letters which had been left there for him. On his return from Col. Woolsey's, when about three miles out, on the Big Bug Trail, he was waylaid and most brutally murdered by the cowardly, thieving Apaches. His body was found in a horribly mangled condition and was deposited in close proximity to where he was killed.

Mr. Jones was just entering the prime of manhood and was endowed with every quality that constitutes a gentleman; and possessed of every trait of character that nobles one in the estimation of an enlightened and intelligent people. His immediate associates, your humble servant among the number, are sadly distressed at his untimely end.

He was taken from life when every prospect around him imparted cheering hopes to his young and generous heart. He encountered the hateful and despised foe in ambush; his mule was shot dead from under him and from every indication he fought bravely, but being overpowered by numbers, his physical energies became exhausted; his body was stripped of every vestige of clothing, and left exposed to the elements, a prey to the wild beasts of the mountains. Mr. Jones was about twenty-seven years old. I remain yours truly,

J. M. Boggs

JONES, WILLIAM P.

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John M. Boggs, the writer of this letter, was a native of Missouri, born about 1832, who came to Arizona late in 1863 and was elected from Prescott as a member of the lower house of the 1st Territorial Legislative Assembly, on July 18, 1864.

In an address delivered on October 20, 1907, at the laying of the cornerstone of the New Masonic Temple at Prescott, Judge Edward W. Wells stated:

On January 26, 1867, a resolution was passed whereby "the body of Bro. Wm. P. Jones, a Master Mason who was killed by the Indians and buried near Woolsey ranch was taken up and brought to Prescott and buried with Masonic honors."

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Farish, T.E. - History of Arizona, Phoenix, 1917, Vol. 8, p. 127.
The Arizona Miner, Prescott, June 22, 1864, 3:1.
The Prescott Courier, October 31, 1907, 3:1.