

MELLON, JOHN ALEXANDER

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Born at Digby, Digby County, Nova Scotia, Canada, February 24, 1842.

Son of _____ and _____.

(His parents were descendants of Puritan Colonists of Massachusetts who returned there shortly after his birth but later removed to Concord, New Hampshire).

Married, (1) Jesus Maria Ariza at Arizona City, A. T., June 11, 1868.

Children, Deborah (Mrs. Wilbur C. Rice) and four other children who died in infancy; (2) Grace Thorpe of Detroit, Michigan, at Santa Cruz, California, June 22, 1886, who was a teacher in the Indian School at Barker, A. T.

Ran away to sea as a cabin boy on a full rigged ship bound for Australia when he was 9½ years old; made two voyages around Cape Horn on the Silver Star of Boston and was with that vessel when shipwrecked on Jarvis Island; was Second Mate of the bark Comet, sailing out of San Francisco to Honolulu in 1860 and saw many whaling ships in that harbor; sailed from San Francisco in 1864 for the mouth of the Colorado River on the Victoria Runyon, a four-master built there, which went up the river on the bore but grounded on the ebb tide and, the bottom washing out under bow and stern, broke in two.

Employed by the Colorado Steam Navigation Company and became Master of the river boat Cocopah in 1869; became one of the famous Steamboat Captains on the Colorado River.

Listed, U.S. Census, August, 1870, at Arizona City, Yuma County, A.T., age 28, occupation - Steamboat Pilot, property valued at \$1,500; left Yuma for San Diego, California about 1906.

Died at Coronado, California, December 18, 1924, aged 82. Buried Elks Rest, Greenwood Memorial Park, San Diego, California.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Probate Court of San Diego County, California, Docket No. 12,639.
Ingersoll - Century Annals of San Bernardino County, 1769-1904,
pp. 775-776.
McClintock, J.H. - Arizona, The Youngest State, Chicago, 1916,
pp. 305-306.
Tuttle, E.D. - "The River Colorado", Arizona Historical Review,
Phoenix, July, 1928, pp. 56, 64.
Lockwood, F.D. - Pioneer Days in Arizona, N.Y., 1932, pp. 316-317.
Barnes, W.C. - Arizona Place Names, Tucson, 1935, p. 271.
Summerhayes, Martha - Vanished Arizona, Salem, 1911, pp. 48, 52-53.
San Diego Historical Society - J.T. Gay's Scrapbook, pp. 20, 23.
(Two undated newspaper articles probably printed about 1914).
Undated clipping from newspaper probably published at Watts,
California, shortly after his death (portrait).
The San Diego Union, December 19 and 20, 1924 (obituary).