



Sharlot Hall Museum Library and Archives
415 West Gurley Street
Prescott, AZ 86301
www.sharlot.org

Title: William P. Jones Letters

Creator: William P. Jones

Dates: 1860-1867 (Overarching Dates)

Quantity: .25 linear feet (1 ½ size box)

System of Arrangement:

Series 1: Letters

Series 2: Personal Information

Abstract: William P. Jones (1837) traveled to Virginia, California, Nevada Territory and Arizona Territory. This collection consists of letters from 1860-1867. His letters detail his travels, work and existence. The letters to his family stop in 1864 and the remaining letters are communications between family members and others as they discover he was killed in a conflict with the local Native Americans.

Identification: SHM MS - 15

Language and Scripts of the Materials: English

Biographical History

William P. Jones was born to Porter Jones and Elizabeth Jenkins Pendleton in 1837. As a young man, Jones traveled first to Virginia, California, then to Aurora (Nevada Territory) and finally to Hassayampa (Arizona Territory) where he worked in the mining industry. He went west to “seek his fortune” and possibly avoid fighting in the War between the states.

His penmanship and use of words indicates he was well educated. He had become a 32nd degree Freemason, as was his father. His letters are a self portrait as well as evidence of the cost of food and equipment as he describes his mining activities.

He was listed in the Arizona census of 1864. However, Jones passed away at the age of 27 and is buried in plot 56 at the Masonic Cemetery in Prescott. His family strives to determine his whereabouts because they don't hear for some time from him. He is killed in a conflict with the local Native Americans.



Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of photographs, obituary, newspaper articles and biographical information. The bulk of the collection, however, is letters. Some are from William P. Jones and others are from his family who was trying to determine his whereabouts. It also includes responses to their inquiries.

Restrictions

None

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

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Related Archival Materials & Subjects

Personal Names:

Alsap, Dr. J. T.

[Boggs, Lillburn W., 1792-1860](#)

Jones, Emma J.

Jones, Porter

Jones, William P.

Duval, Kate

Lennon, Joseph P.

Geographic Names:

[Arizona Territory](#)

[California Territory](#)

Subjects:

Old West Travel



Administrative Information

Accession Number – 2010.052

Custodial History

The letters were donated to Sharlot Hall Museum by Joyce Sackett, a descendant of William Porter Jones. They were given to Joyce by her sister, Jean. Jean and Joyce copied and preserved these letters before donating them to Sharlot Hall Museum.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Description Control

This collection was processed by Libby Coyner using *Describing Archives: a Content Standard (DACs)* in 2010.



Container List

Title: William P. Jones Letters – SHM MS-15

Dates: 1860-1867

Series Scope & Content: Six letters written by William Porter Jones as a young man while traveling on horseback through the rugged west. They are posted from California, Nevada and Arizona Territories. Three letters addressed to Will's parents from fellow Masons in response to inquiries into Will's whereabouts.

| Series 1: Letters | | |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Box/Folder | File/Item Description | Date(s) |
| 1/1 | William P. Jones to brother, Sam. Virginia, California. | Circa 1860 |
| 1/2 | William P. Jones to his parents, Virginia, California | 18 March 1860 |
| 1/3 | William P. Jones to his parents. Virginia, California | 11 February 1861 |
| 1/4 | William P. Jones to brother, Sam. Virginia, California | 1 April 1861 |
| 1/5 | William P. Jones to father Porter Jones. Aurora, Nevada Territory. | 27 September 1863 |
| 1/6 | William P. Jones. Hassayampa, Arizona. | 24 January 1864 |
| 1/7 | J.T. Alsap to Porter Jones, news of William P. Jones' death. Prescott, Arizona Territory. | 5 November 1866 |
| 1/8 | Joseph P. Lennon to Porter Jones. White Mountains, Arizona Territory. | 15 January 1867 |
| 1/9 | J.T. Alsap to Porter Jones. Prescott, Arizona Territory. | 20 May 1867 |
| 1/10 | Postal Covers | Undated |
| 1/11 | Masonic Notice of Death [Porter Jones] Mt. Vernon, MO. | 1884 |
| 1/12 | Porter Jones to Sheriff, Reply from Sheriff, Land Sale | 1887 |



Title: William P. Jones Letters – SHM MS-15

Dates: 1800's - 1980

Series Scope & Content: Family photographs, obituary and general information.

| Series 2: Personal Information | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Box/Folder | File/Item Description | Date(s) |
| 1/13 | Family Photographs of Jones family members, William P. Jones gravesite | 1800s - 1980 |
| 1/14 | Obituary of Emma J. Jones and general information | 1867, undated |
| 1/15 | Introduction to Great Uncle Will Letters and newspaper articles regarding Mr. Jones. | Undated, various |