

COL. JOHN FINKLE STONE AND THE APACHE PASS MINING COMPANY

The Arizonan, July 3, 1869—Mining—The Apache Pass Mining Co. has entered into a contract with parties from Pinos Altos by which the latter are to take one thousand tons of ore from the "Harris Lode." They are to commence work immediately. Col. J. F. Stone, one of the proprietors of the mine, will leave for the Pass in a few days, accompanied by an experienced engineer and workman to put the mill in readiness. It is expected that the mill will be crushing rock by the end of the present month. Mr. Anderson will remain at the Pass until the business shall be fairly under way. The Company wishes to enter into contract for hauling of quartz and wood to the mill.

The Arizonan, July 3, 1869—[Part of article missing] . . . ult., about 5 o'clock A.M., the Apaches relieved Mr. Anderson, post trader, of a fine American horse. The horse, with three others, was well secured by rope near the mill and within ten feet of two men who slept there for the purpose of the security of the animals. But the Indians came so quietly as to cut one horse loose and get him started before being discovered. They were engaged in cutting the rope of another of the horses when the contents of a double barreled shot gun (loaded with five shot) embarrassed their operations and they cleared out. About 7 o'clock of the same morning, three Indians fired upon and killed the horse of the mail rider coming in from Tucson, when within about two miles of the post. The rider escaped with no other injury than a bruised ankle caused by the horse falling upon it. The horse was shot through the heart and was killed so dead as to hold secure the right foot of the rider, who was not long in extricating his foot leaving his boot under the horse. No time was left for him to secure any portion of the

mail and all of it, with saddle, blankets, etc., fell into the hands of the Indians. On the following night the storehouse of Mr. Anderson, containing a large amount of grain and machinery, and acids for mining, belting, etc., etc., was broken into by the Indians and considerable damage done by breaking bottles of valuable acids, cutting belting, etc., etc., and carrying away some 800 pounds of grain. The storehouse is about 600 yards from the mill, and up to that time unguarded. The Indians, it is supposed, were in search of powder which, fortunately, was deposited elsewhere.

Col. Barnard, in command of the post, has been untiring in his efforts to get hold of the prowling Indians that have been committing depredations around Camp Bowie the past week.

The Arizonan, July 10, 1869—Our Mining Interests— . . . to Messrs. Anderson, Stone and Lyon, the proprietors of the Apache Pass Mine, we are indebted for its resuscitation. This mine, during a portion of 1867 and the whole of 1868 was nominally in the hands of the Apache Pass Mining Company—a party without capital or organization. This mining company, or, more properly, mining mob, was disbanded in the Spring of '69, and upon its ruins the present enterprising company started up, and already are about commencing work on a large scale. The great richness of this mine as shown by recent assays, bids fair to give an impetus to mining enterprise in Southern Arizona. That the various mines in this vicinity have long been neglected while their richness was manifest to all, is well known, and perhaps equally well is it understood whence originated this indifference: the majority of anti-miners contend that it is utter madness to invest money in mining speculation while the Apaches remain unsubdued; that capital so expended is sent adrift upon a gloomy uncertainty from which a return may never be obtained, or, if ever, only after a length of time and with a profit insufficient to compensate for the outlay during the term. . . . it is quite evident that before many months have passed away, the work commenced, or revived, by Messrs. Anderson, Stone, & Co., will find favor in the eyes of the many who, only a couple of months ago declared

that these gentlemen, by investing capital in the Apache Pass mine, were on the straight road to ruin. . . .

The Arizonan, July 17, 1869—Another Indian Depredation—The adventure on Tuesday last near Sulphur Spring adds another incident to the record of successful attacks made by Indians in Arizona. A wagon sent by Mr. Stone to convey a party of miners, with mining tools, provisions, etc., to his mine at Apache Pass, was attacked by about 40 Indians between Sulphur Spring and San Pedro Crossing. The Indians were discovered at a distance before sun-set and remained in view until dusk, when the whole band rushed upon the wagons. The miners, three in number, sought safety in flight, under cover of the gathering darkness. Two of the party reached the Pass in safety, but the third died of fatigue and thirst after having traveled some 30 miles. The Indians, after doing all they could toward destroying the wagons, carried off the mules, provisions and mining tools. The loss sustained by the company amounts to over \$1,000.

The Arizonan, July 24, 1869—Local Items—Col. J. F. Stone left for his mine at Apache Pass on Monday. We are pleased to find that the loss sustained by the company, in the late raid made by the Apaches upon the wagons conveying tools, provisions, etc., is not likely to retard its operations. Mr. Stone took with him provisions, tools, etc., to replace those taken and destroyed by the Indians. He will set the thing in motion before returning to Tucson.

The Arizonan, Oct. 9, 1869—Local Matters—Just as we go to press tidings are received regarding the Eastern mail which terribly realize the fears we have elsewhere expressed. The mail was captured by Indians on Tuesday (Oct. 3, 1869) about 25 miles from Apache Pass and the whole party consisting of Col. J. F. Stone, president of the Apache Pass mine, Mr. Kaler, driver, and four soldiers whose names we have not learned, were massacred. The Indians then attacked a herd of 200 cattle only a few miles distance from the scene of this murder, killed one of the men in charge and ran off the entire herd. The other men, five in number escaped; they report having seen three white men among

the Indians—not as prisoners but taking an active part with the Indians. But we have neither time nor space for comment. These are the facts terrible, though not altogether unexpected. They are such as we have been taught to expect from the characteristic non-protective spirit of an infamous compact in Washington, which dares to impose itself upon us as a government which will protect its citizens.

Prof. R. H. Forbes,
Riverside, Calif.

San Francisco, Calif.
Nov. 11 - 1915

My dear sir:

Your letter of the 6th inst. to hand. I am pleased to know that my letter was of some interest to you. I note what you say concerning location where Col. Stone's body was found with reference to Dragoon Springs. I feel quite sure that I could recognize the place if I saw it again.

I will undertake to describe conditions as I remember them. I am under the impression that Dragoon Springs [is] East or South East about three miles from place where Col. Stone was killed.

I took a special interest in the signs indicating the method of ambush which were so plain that they told the story almost as well as an Eyewitness could.

At the point where the Killing took place there was a small gully or arroyo paralleling the road only a few feet away.

The Indians evidently laid down flat in this place and were covered up by Confederates with grass and soap weed completely concealing them from view of those in stage.

When the stage got opposite them then they fired a volley into it. The grass and soap weed with which they were covered was scattered over considerable space.

Right at this point the stage turned from the road at a very abrupt angle and stopped in a very short distance. I would say inside of 200 feet. The stage was still there when I came along.

The other Indians were behind a small hill not over 250 or 300 yards East of the road from which they charged down upon the stage and helped to finish the Killing.

I traced their horses tracks quite a distance, the tracks showed very plainly that they were made on the run when they charged down upon the stage.

There was quite a hole in the back of the stage. Evidently made by a spear. We found a spear head near there about 15 inches long highly polished made out of some kind of hard wood. We thought it was Mesquite.

Yours very sincerely,
Wm. Sullivan.

The Arizonan, Oct. 16, 1869—In Memoriam—John Finkle Stone who was killed by Indians on the 5th inst., near Dragoon Springs, was born at Griffin's Corners, Delaware County, New York, in 1836: at the time of his death being 33 years of age. Little is known of his early life, until in 1859 he went to Utah Territory with the command of General Johnson, where he remained until 1862, when he went to Colorado, where he resided at Denver for a short time, removing to New Mexico in 1863. Shortly after arriving in New Mexico he was appointed deputy U. S. Marshall, which position he filled until April 1867, when he was appointed deputy collector of Customs for the district of Passo del Norte, and removed to Tucson, where he resided until his death.

In 1868 he assisted in organizing the Apache Pass Mining Company, of which he was made President and Superintendent: and in order to effectually and fully perform the duties entrusted to him, he, some months since, went to the Pass to personally superintend the erection of the mill belonging to the company and the opening and development of the Harris Lode. It was while on his way from the Pass to Tucson, on business connected with his mine, that he met with his death. He leaves a mother, two sisters, and two brothers to mourn his loss.

Seldom has an event occurred in any community which has caused sorrow so deep and universal as the death of Col. Stone. He was well and favorably known throughout Arizona, New Mexico, and portions of Colorado and Utah. No man had warmer personal friends; while he had few, if any enemies. His disposition was eminently sociable and he seemed to consider everyone, but more especially one needing assistance, as his friend. He was always found equal to any emergency in which he was placed, and was known to possess an energy and strength of character that must insure success.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE! Many a good and gallant man has fallen by the hand of the Apache but none who will be longer or more sincerely lamented than John F. Stone.

Pursuant to the announcement of his death the citizens of

Tucson assembled at the court house, on Monday the 11th inst., to pay that tribute to his memory which follows:

The meeting was called to order by Hon. Coles Bashford, and on motion Governor A. P. K. Safford was elected president of the meeting and J. E. McCaffry secretary.

The president stated the object of the meeting to be, to pay the last sad tribute of respect to the memory of John F. Stone, who had been recently murdered by Apaches; and briefly but feelingly alluded to the many instances, fresh in the minds of all present, of the kindhearted generosity, the high sense of honor, and genial disposition of Col. Stone and to the many services he had rendered to the people of Arizona, both in public and private life, even to the last sad closing scene when, having largely invested his means and given his personal attention to an enterprise having in view the speedy development of the mineral wealth of Southern Arizona, and having demonstrated that success was reasonably certain to attend his efforts, he was stricken down while in the performance of the duties assigned him as president and director of the Apache Pass Mining Company.

. . . . [The following resolutions were adopted.] Whereas, Col. John F. Stone, for many years a resident of Tucson, was barbariously murdered by Apache Indians, near Dragoon Springs in this Territory, on the 5th of this month, thus adding one more to the long list of victims to the fiendish ferocity of our savage foes; and

Whereas, During his residence in this Territory, and in that of New Mexico, Col. Stone has filled several responsible public positions with honor to himself and satisfaction to all—has ever been recognized as a good citizen, a true friend, and a noble-hearted, high-minded gentleman: and both here and in our sister Territory has proved himself an energetic and enterprising pioneer: therefore be it

Resolved, That we deem it a duty to our late friend and fellow citizen, to express in suitable terms the high regard in which he was held by those who knew him best—

Resolved, That we deeply mourn the untimely fate of our esteemed friend, thus ruthlessly torn from our midst, in the prime of life, when full of hope and vigor, and we ten-

der our heart-felt sympathy with his bereaved family, in their deep affliction. . . .

J. E. McCaffry.

The Tucson Post prints the following information concerning John F. Stone:

Stone Avenue was named for John F. Stone. Just how or why he came to the country no one now living seems to know. He was a man of considerable means and of magnificent physique. Of powerful build and wearing a heavy black beard he stood distinguished among his fellow men. A rich gold vein had been discovered in Apache Pass, about 1500 yards east of the old stage station. The driver of the stage, two soldiers and two other civilians were killed at the same time. Sometime in the early sixties, he built the first house on Stone Avenue. It was situated on the southwest corner of Stone Avenue and McCormick street and is still standing.¹

The Arizonan, Jan. 29, 1870—Local Matter—Mr. Hopkins of Tubac has bought a one third interest in the Harris Lode and takes the place of J. F. Stone as superintendent of the mine.

The Arizonan, Feb. 5, 1870—Another Victory—Wednesday's mail from Apache Pass has brought us an account of another brilliant victory achieved over the savages of Cochise by that already famous Indian-fighter, Colonel Bernard

The bar of gold taken from the Apache Pass Mine, and in the possession of Col. J. F. Stone when murdered, was found upon the person of one of the dead Indians. A large amount of stolen property was recovered

The Arizonan, Feb. 12, 1870—On Exhibition—The scalp of the Indian killed by Col. Bernard, upon whom was found Col. Stone's gold bar is on exhibition at Charlie Brown's Saloon. The hair is glossy and beautiful and the ears are decorated by pendant brass buttons.

The Arizonan, Mar. 5, 1870—The Apache Pass Mine—We have been informed that Mr. Arnold from California has made arrangements for its purchase. The sum agreed upon is \$125,000 and the bargain will be closed without delay if company is satisfied

¹ Farish, *History of Arizona*, Vol. II, pp. 206-207.