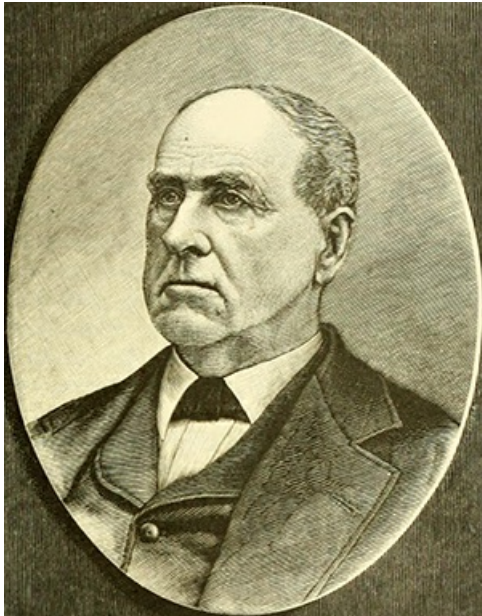


Jones, Aquilla ^[1]

Jones, Aquilla

by [William S. Powell](#) ^[2], 1988

8 July 1811–12 July 1891



An engraving of Aquilla Jones published in 1884. Image from [Archive.org](#).

^[3]Aquilla Jones, businessman and public official, was born near Salem in Stokes (now [Forsyth](#) ^[4]) County, the son of Benjamin and Mary Jones of [Welsh](#) ^[5] descent. In 1831 the family moved to Columbus, Ind., where another son, Elisha P., had been established for several years as a merchant. Aquilla became a clerk in the store and remained until August 1836, when he moved to Missouri for a year. Returning to Columbus, Aquilla operated a hotel briefly when, at the death of his brother, he acquired the store which he continued until 1856. He also succeeded his brother as postmaster and soon became a member of the first Columbus school board. As a large stockholder in 1849, he became president of the Columbus Bridge Co. and superintended the construction of a bridge across the White River.

Jones's political service included census taker and legislator (1842–43); he declined a presidential appointment as Indian agent for the Washington Territory as well as for New Mexico. In 1844 he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, and during the period 1850–52 he published the *Columbus Democrat*. He was elected state treasurer in 1856 but chose not to stand for reelection because he disagreed with the [Democratic party](#) ^[6]'s stand on slavery. On election to state office, he moved to Indianapolis and there became treasurer and afterwards president of the Indianapolis Rolling-Mill; he also served as treasurer of the Gatling Gun Co., president of the municipal waterworks, and postmaster.

As a young man Jones rose to the rank of major in the Indiana militia and during the [Civil War](#) ^[7] served for less than two weeks with the 107th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, in 1863.

In 1836 Jones married Sarah Ann Arnold, who died a year later. He married Harriet Cox in 1840, and they were the parents of ten children: Elisha P., John W., Emma, Benjamin F., Charles, [Aquilla Q.](#) ^[8], Edwin S., William M. Frederick, Harriet, and Mary. A member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Jones died at his home in Indianapolis.

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