

Pioneering Petroleum...

JACOB J. VANDERGRIFT

Jacob Vandergrift, a river-boat captain from Pittsburgh, arrived at the mouth of Oil Creek in Fall, 1861 with two barges carrying 4,000 empty barrels. He contracted for 5,000 barrels of crude oil to be delivered the following Spring. For the next 25 years, Vandergrift was a giant in the transportation of crude oil by water, rail and pipeline. Residing in Oil City, he built the Region's largest refinery, the Imperial, and was among the largest oil producers. President of the United Pipe Lines, he was elected a Standard Oil director in 1875.



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