

# BELKNAP, THOMAS

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BELKNAP, THOMAS, born in St. Lawrence County, New York, about 1827, son of James C. and Elvira Belknap, both of whom were natives of Connecticut; moved with his parents to Grand Rapids, Michigan; never married.

Went to California and engaged in mining in Tuolumne County; enlisted, age 35, at San Francisco, September 9, 1861, to serve 3 years as Private, Captain Emil Fritz's Company B, 1st California Cavalry, occupation when enlisted - Blacksmith; promoted to Farrier, November 1; went with the Company to Southern California and was stationed at Tucson from October, 1862 to January, 1863; the remainder of his military service was in New Mexico; re-enlisted as a veteran volunteer at Fort Union, N.M., December 1, 1863; honorably discharged at San Francisco, California, December 1, 1866.

Returned to Arizona in the 70ties and listed, U.S. Census, 1880, at Tucson, age 52, occupation - Blacksmith; the following account of how he came to his death was printed in the Tucson Star:

About 1 o'clock yesterday morning Dr. J.C. Handy, of this place received a telegram from Pantano, summoning him to the bedside of Thomas Belknap, a gentleman well known in this city. Mr. Belknap on Saturday paid off the men working on his mine at Greaterville, and they proceeded to get on a drunk. Sunday night, being well filled up with liquor, and having exhausted other sources of amusement, the workmen (Mexican) commenced discharging their firearms.

Mr. Belknap hearing the shooting and thinking there was a row, hastened to the scene: While on the way he was struck by a stray shot, the ball passing through his bowels and the base of the bladder and coming out near the spine. The unfortunate man was brought to this place on a freight train last night and taken to the Congress Street lodging house. Dr. Handy whom our reporter met about 9 o'clock last night said that Mr. Belknap was as low as a man could be and yet live, and that no possible hope of his recovery could be held out to his friends. When our readers peruse this article, Thomas Belknap's earthly career will probably be closed forever.

Died at Tucson, Pima County, A. T., May 22, 1883; buried \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery; he left an estate appraised at \$30,200. which was equally divided between his sisters, Elvira Belknap Sadler of Kent County, Michigan, and Matilda Belknap Harding of La Bette County, Kansas.

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## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Orton, R.H. - Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion,  
 Sacramento, 1890, p. 100.  
 Probate Court of Pima County, Docket No. 313.  
 By-Laws of Negley Post No. 1, G.A.R., Tucson, 1892, p. 17.  
 The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, November 23, 1878.  
 The Arizona Star, Tucson, May 22, 1883.

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Information from Great Registers.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Nativity</u>
1876	Pima County		
1878	" "		
1880	Not Listed		
1882	Pima County, Precinct 1, 54, U. S.		
	Died May 22, 1883.		