

# BUTCHER, JOHN H.

0001

BUTCHER, JOHN H \_\_\_\_\_

Born at \_\_\_\_\_ Tennessee , \_\_\_\_\_ , 18\_\_ (about 1836 ) .

Son of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ .

Married, Maria T. Young at \_\_\_\_\_, Missouri, on August 25,

1853; children, Andrew Jefferson, John C. and Mary Matilda (Mrs.

\_\_\_\_\_); his wife, having heard that he was dead,

married, William Jackson in Camden County, Missouri, in 1864.

Enlisted in Dallas County, Missouri, January 24, 1862, to serve during the war as Sergeant, Captain Richards Company A, 14th Missouri Cavalry; reduced to Private, March 24, and transferred to Company L., 4th Missouri Militia Cavalry; discharged to accept promotion May 25, 1863; mustered in at St. Louis, July 25, as Captain, Company H., 11th Missouri Cavalry.

On September 25, 1863, he left Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, with the Company, as a part of the escort of Governor Goodwin and other Arizona Territorial officials, the remainder of the escort consisting of Lieutenant Peter F. Clark's Company A, 11th Missouri Cavalry, and Captain Daniel Rice's Company I, 4th Missouri Militia Cavalry, all commanded by Major James A. Philips, of Kansas; at Fort Union, N.M., the other two cavalry companies returned to Kansas under Major Philips but he went on with the Governor's Party to Los Pinos where he received the following letter from Brigadier General J. H. Carleton, written at Santa Fe, on November 23, 1863:

CAPTAIN: From the impossibility of transporting forage for your whole company in its journey as escort to Governor Goodwin to Fort Whipple, Arizona, you are hereby ordered to

dismount all of the rank and file of your company, except twenty-five, and transfer the horses and horse equipments of all you thus dismount to the acting assistant quartermaster at Los Pinos, where they will be retained until you return. The men who are dismounted will proceed with you as part of the escort of Governor Goodwin.

I take this occasion to remind you of the necessity of the most thorough discipline among your men, and the greatest care of your horses. You will be sure that your horses are not ridden over one-third of the time by the watch, in order to keep them in strength ready for fighting.

You are admonished that you are to perform a most responsible duty through a country infested with hostile Indians from the moment you pass the Rio Grande; that constant vigilance, night and day, alone can save you from the great disaster of having the animals run off which belong to your company, as well as those which belong to the train and to the governor and suite. Your beef cattle driven along upon the hoof you must guard with anxious care, or the Indians will get them, and with them your food. Your sentinels must be always on the alert--your men ready at all times to fall in at a moment's notice by night or day, to fight and defend your stock.

You must inspect your men's arms the last thing at night and the last thing in the morning before the march is commenced. The men must sleep in their clothes with their arms by their side. You must have a few men in advance to see that there are no ambushes laid for your command to run into. You must have three or four men off on each flank to see that no enemy watches your movements. You must have a good rear-guard to bring up everything. Before you approach water, have a wide circuit made by yourself or trusty men, to see that no party lies in wait to pounce upon your stock when it is drinking. You and your company will be forever disgraced, if, after these instructions, you lose a hoof of stock.

All these rules must go into force the moment you cross the river, and must hold good until your return to Los Pinos. You yourself must never relax one moment in your vigilance. If this duty is

performed well you will all have earned a high reputation; if ill, you are all sure to be disgraced, as I have said before.

Recollect that you and your men petitioned to be put upon this duty. Now let us all see the metal you are made of.

The escort was augmented at Albuquerque by 30 men of Company E, 1st. New Mexico Cavalry under Captain Rafael Chacon and the command taken over by Lieutenant Colonel J. Francisco Chaves; at Fort Wingate 9 men of Company G, 1st California Infantry joined the escort and all were present when the government of Arizona Territory was inaugurated at Navajo Springs on December 29, 1863; in describing that important event at a statehood convention held in Phoenix on October 26, 1901, Colonel Chaves said:

Among the speeches that were made, after the "lemonade" had been passed around a number of times, by men who knew more about patriotism and great aspirations than they did about the use of words was one by Captain Butcher of the military escort who said that he was "Born in the mountains of east Tennessee, reared in the wilds of Missouri and rocked in the cradle of poverty", here he faltered and, to make it still stronger, said, "and may I also say, of infamy."

He arrived with his Company at what is now Del Rio in the Little Chino Valley on January 27, 1864, where Fort Whipple was first established; listed there in the 1864 Territorial Census, age 27, married, family in Missouri, resident in Arizona 3 months, occupation - Soldier; the Fort Whipple Arizona Miner of March 9, stated that "Captain Chacon has returned to Fort Wingate with his men. Captain Butcher remains here with such of his Company as did not accompany the expedition to the San Francisco (Verde) and the

BUTCHER, JOHN H.

- 4 -

Salinas (Salt River).

He went back to New Mexico and was honorably discharged on tender of his resignation at Santa Fe, October 31, 1864, by Special Order No. 39, Department of New Mexico; he remained there for sometime but later returned to Rolla, Phelps County, Missouri, where he died on September 27, 1866, aged 30.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

*Rebelion Records - Series 1, Vol 8, 34, 41*  
 Report on Condition of Indian Tribes, 1867, pp. 145-146.  
 Parish, T.E. - History of Arizona, Vol. 3, p. 68.  
 1st. Arizona Territorial Legislature - Journals, 1864, p. 12.  
 The Adjutant General of the Army - Military Service records.  
 U. S. Veterans Administration - Pension records, S.C., 63,188.  
 Probate Court of Phelps County, Missouri - Docket Books B and C.  
 The Arizona Miner, March 9, 1864, 3:4.

## WANTED

Any mention of him or of Company H,  
 11th Missouri Cavalry, in the Arizona Miner  
 which indicate his movements in Arizona and  
 when he returned to New Mexico.

2-10005

BUTCHER, John H.

Company "H," 11th Missouri Cavalry, Captain Butcher, commanding and Lieut. Robinson, Quartermaster, is the escort of the Arizona officials. This command has been encamped on our mesa since Friday, and the men have won the good will of our citizens by their quiet and orderly conduct.

----Rio Abajo Weekly Press (Albuquerque) November 24, 1863, 2:3

The Arizona officials have been detained here waiting for additional wagons for food for their escort and animals. They will cross the river today, accompanied by Col. Chaves and Capt. Chacon, with thirty men of the 1st New Mexican Regiment. The Missouri Cavalry, commanded by Capt. Butcher, will leave Peralta, where they have been encamped, at the same time, and the parties hope to meet in a day or two and to proceed at once to Fort Wingate, Zuni and the gold fields.

----Rio Abajo Weekly Press (Albuquerque) Dec. 8, 1863, 2:2