

COUES, ELLIOTT

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COUES, ELLIOTT, born in Portsmouth, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, September 9, 1842; son of Samuel Elliott and Charlotte Haven (Ladd) Coues; married (1) Sara A. Richardson, from whom he was divorced on October 24, 1864, by an Act of the 1st. Arizona Territorial Legislature; (2) Jane Augusta McKenney on May 3, 1867, and (3) Mrs. Mary Emily Bates, October 25, 1887; daughter, Edith, who married Nelson O'Shaughnessy, Charge de Affaires in Mexico, 1913-14.

After attending Gonzaga Seminary he entered Columbian College (now George Washington University), Washington, D.C., and received an A.B. degree in 1861; appointed Medical Cadet, May 8, 1862, while a student, and served until May 8, 1863, when he received an M.D. degree; appointed, age 21, 1st. Lieutenant, Assistant Surgeon, U.S. Army, April 14, 1864, and ordered to Fort Whipple, A.T., where he served as Post Surgeon from July, 1864 to October, 1865.

Brevet Captain, March 13, 1865, for faithful and meritorious service during the war and promoted to Captain, Assistant Surgeon, March 20, 1867; stationed at Fort Macon, North Carolina, 1869-70; was with the Survey West of the 100th Meridian under Lieutenant George M. Wheeler in 1871 and wrote chapter 5 of the report of that Expedition entitled "Reptiles and Bactrachians of Arizona"; served as Surgeon and Naturalist, U.S. Northern Boundary Commission, 1875-76; Secretary and Naturalist, U.S. Geological and Geographic Survey of the Territories under Francis V. Hayden, 1876-80; his "Birds of the Colorado Valley" was published in 1878 containing some of the finest bird biographies that have ever appeared as well as some

beautiful examples of English prose writing."

Returned to Arizona and was stationed at Whipple Barracks, from December, 1880, to February, 1881; at Fort Mohave from February 25 to March 19, and at Fort Verde until May 30; in the field scouting with Lieutenant Colonel William Redwood Price's expedition to June 30; at Whipple Barracks to July 13, and again in the field with Colonel Price; at Camp Hualapai and Camp Garfield to August 22, returned to Washington, D.C., where he resigned from the Army November 17, 1881.

Beginning about 1890 he wrote a series of 15 volumes on early travel in the West the last of which was "On the Trail of a Spanish Pioneer - The" Diary of Francisco Garces"; his health gave away while in Arizona in a search for material for this work which was not published until after his death.

Died at Baltimore, Maryland, December 25, 1899, aged 57; buried _____ Cemetery.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Acts of the 1st. Arizona Territorial Legislature, 1864, p. 20.
 Farish, T.E. - History of Arizona, Vol. 3, pp. 37, 131.
 McClintock, J.H. - Arizona, The Youngest State, 1916, p. 73.
 Who's Who in America, 1899-1900.
 Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. 4, pp. 465-466.

WANTED

1. Mention of him or his divorce in the Arizona Miner, 1864.
2. Newspaper references to him when he was in Arizona in 1870, 1880-81.
3. Since he was in northern Arizona in 1898 or 1899, there may be obituaries in the Prescott or Mohave County newspapers.

*Please copy in full a letter from Coues to the editor of Prescott Courier published in February 8, 1892, 2:1
 - 1897 Prescott Courier at State Library*