

DAVIS, ALONZO EDWARD

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DAVIS, ALONZO EDWARD, born in Livingston County, New York, June 30, 1839; son of Thomas and Sarah (Randall) Davis; married Emily Webster Mathew (1851-1930), (daughter of Francis M. and Nancy Mathew) at Los Angeles, California, February 10, 1868; children, Frank E., Charlotte E. (Mrs. J. W. McKellar), N. Louise (Mrs. Rae G. Van Cleve) and Jesse D. (Mrs. J. Strothard White).

Stated that he "graduated in the common schools of New York but received my education principally in the world;" emigrated to California in 1857 and engaged in farming and mining; enlisted at Oroville, Butte County, California, October 9, 1862, to serve three years as Private in Company I, 4th California Infantry; joined the Company at Benicia Barracks where he was promoted Corporal March 12, 1863; went with the Company to Southern California and was at Fort Mohave, A.T., from May 25, 1863, until March, 1865; listed, Territorial Census, April 1864, as Corporal, promoted Sergeant November 1, 1864; while at Fort Mohave he acted as Correspondent for the San Francisco Alta California; went to California with the *Company* and was honorably discharged at Drum Barracks, October 9, 1865.

Returned to Mohave City, A.T., and was admitted to practice law by the Territorial Supreme Court on October 23, 1866; Member from Mohave County, House of Representatives, 3d Territorial Legislature at Prescott, October 3 to November 6, 1866; as correspondent for the Prescott Arizona Miner he wrote an article printed in that newspaper on February 5, 1870, which began:

Dear Miner.--I would like to write you a lengthy correspondence, made up of important facts regarding the prosperity of Mohave County, but, alack! Like the Dutchman's horse at the foot of the hill, we "ish dare," and there is no use trying to make believe we ain't.

The progress of Mohave County, the past two years, would be hard to discover. The why of this is probably owing greatly to the fact that she possesses no fertile valleys, for homes for the emigrant, and her climate, in summer is just the thing to make every one that can get up and git, for your cool retreat, where corn and potato patches can be had for the claiming. But, then, he is responsible for a great deal that has not been done as well as for much that has been done.

But for his successful efforts to keep every miner out of the Sacramento District, and to do which they have killed half the number that have undertaken to work these mines, Mohave County would make a fair showing with any County in the Territory. For that there are rich ores in that District is a proved fact. And, again, we have been robbed of a portion of our territory that bids fair to become, very speedily, rich and populous,--I refer to the portion of Mohave given to Nevada.

He was appointed by Governor Safford as District Attorney of Mohave County on June 10, 1870; listed, U. S. Census, July, 1870, at Mohave City, occupation - Lawyer, property valued at \$4,000; in 1871-72 he was in partnership with Noah C. Shekels, a comrade of Company I, at the mining town of Bradshaw in Yavapai County of which mention was made in the Arizona Miner:

April 15, 1871 - - Messrs. A. E. Davis & N. C. Shekels have a good stock of goods in Bradshaw, consisting of provisions, liquors, clothing, etc.

May 20, 1871 - - Mr. Davis, who in company with Mr. Shekels, has a store and hotel at Bradshaw, is thinking, seriously, of running an express and saddle train between the mines and Prescott, the doing of which would help, and be a great convenience to the people of both places.

In 1874, he moved to Mineral *Park* where he practiced law and also engaged in mining and mercantile pursuits ; served as Councilman from Mohave County, 8th Territorial Legislature at Tucson, January 4, to February 12, 1875, where he championed the public school system in a speech in which he said:

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"Mr. President, perhaps most of you have been more fortunate, but I have to thank our public schools for what education I possess. It is the proudest period of my life that I am this day privileged to stand before you and offer up this just tribute to an institution that is today doing the same thing for millions of my young countrymen. Next to my mother, the school system has been my best friend and it would be as ungrateful in me to turn against my mother as to give it an unfriendly blow, or fail to defend it when one is struck."

Again served as District Attorney of Mohave County, 1877-80; listed, U.S. Census, 1880, at Mineral Park, with his wife and 4 children, occupation - Attorney; in reporting his nomination by the Republican Territorial Convention for Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Yuma Arizona Sentinel of September 2, 1882, stated;

Hon. A. E. Davis, the nominee for Superintendent of public schools is a popular man in his own County, as also wherever he is known. He has represented Mohave County in an able manner in the legislature, and he may be said to be the father of our present school law.

At the time of his death, the Los Angeles Times said of him:

"He enlisted in the Union army and saw active service as an Indian fighter in Arizona. Being an industrious man, while "on the long trail" seeking Indians, Mr. Davis whiled away many an hour studying law. At night, in the barracks and even while waiting in the field with his comrades for the attack, or while planning to take the aggressive, if a spare moment arose he took advantage of it by applying himself to his Blackstone. As a result, when he was mustered out of the service in 1865, it was as an attorney.

"After removing to Los Angeles in 1882 he entered actively into the public life of this County, serving two terms on the Board of Supervisors. He was always energetic in promoting the welfare and progress of his County and State. He was past commander of Stanton Post, G.A.R., and a member of the Pioneer Society and I.O.O.F. His well-known charities and wonderfully genial character endeared him to all who knew him."

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Died at Pasadena, Los Angeles County, California, January 19, 1915, aged 75; buried in Rosedale Cemetery.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Orton, R.H. - Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion, Sacramento, 1890, p. 657.
 Barney, J. M. - Political Activities of the Territorial Governors, manuscript, 1942, p. 27.
 Barney, J. M. - Alonzo E. Davis, Arizona Pioneer, Manuscript 1943.
 Farish, T. E. - History of Arizona, vol. 4, p. 165.
 Kelly, G. H. - Legislative History, Arizona, 1926, pp. 24, 66.
 The Adjutant General of the Army - Military service records.
 U.S. Veterans Administration - Pension records, W. C. 794, 743.
 The Los Angeles Times, January 20, 1915, pt. 2, p. 6, col. 7, (obituary).
 The Arizona Miner, Prescott, October 18, 1866, 1:3; September 3, 1870, 3:3; April 15, 3:1 and May 20, 1871, 3:1; March 12, 1875, 3:2; May 26, 1883, 2:2.
 The Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, October 19, 1872, 2:1; August 26, 3:2 and September 2, 1882, 2:2.

WANTED

1. Obituaries or other mention of him in Arizona newspapers.
2. The full text of the reference to him in the Arizona Miner of October 24, 1866, 2:1. *I have Arizona Miner of that date N.O.*
 His communions to the Miner from Mohave County were signed A.E.D.