

DEEGAN, THOMAS

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DEEGAN, THOMAS (Adebe Tom) born in County of Kilkenny, Limerick, Ireland, _____, 1830, son of Patrick and Ellen (Audley) Deegan; married Mrs. Concepcion (Tora) Orduno, widow of Francisco Orduno, by Padre Antonio Jevencan, at Tucson, A.T. January 21, 1875; son, Thomas, born in 1879.

He came to America in 1849, landing in New York City, and thence to Washington, D. C., where he saw a tall monument being built; went on to Norfolk, Virginia, and later to Brownsville, Texas, ^{and here} where he enlisted, age 22, on November 16, 1852, to serve 5 years in the Regular Army; assigned to Company K, 4th U.S. Artillery, and went with the Battery to Florida where he engaged in scouting for Seminole Indians during the war with that tribe, 1855-56; honorably discharged November 16, 1857, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Was working as a stone mason at Fort Quitman, Texas, on the Rio Grande river, at the outbreak of the Civil War and went from there via Tucson to California; returned Tucson about 1873; member, Arizona Pioneers Historical Society, died at Tucson, Pima County, Arizona, April 24, 1918, aged 88; buried _____ cemetery; and obituary in the Tucson Citizen stated:

"DOBIE TOM DEEGAN PIONEER BUILDER; DIES AT 93 YEARS

The old "Dobies" of Tucson are crumbling away and with them goes "Dobie Tom," whose hands built many of them. Old Tom was a veteran of the Seminole Indian wars and not long ago received a pension of \$1975, being arrears for many years. He had lived for the past six years with a Mexican family at 932 Osborne Avenue, his wife having died years ago and his son having moved away, whereabouts now unknown.

The Mexican woman had been kind to him and as he had nothing, he was under obligations of a few hundred dollars. From his pension

money he more than doubled the amount of debt, paying her a thousand dollars. A small residue of the pension remains. It sufficed for old Tom.

The builder of adobias was a stone mason by trade, but there was not much building in that line when he arrived in the frontier town, so he turned his hand to the building method of the country.

Source: The Tucson Citizen,
April 25, 1918, p. 4, c. 2.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Arizona Pioneers Historical Society - Membership Book
 Superior Court of Pima County, Probate Docket No. 2489.
 The Adjutant General of the Army - Military service records.
 U.S. Veterans Administration - Pension records, Indian Wars, 6450.
 W.P.A. - Pima County Writers Project - 1 page manuscript.
 Pima County marriage Records - Book. 1.
 The Tucson Citizen, April 25, 1918, p. 4, c. 2 (Obituary)

WANTED

Obituary in the Tucson Star of April 26, 1918, and any references to him in the newspaper indexes.

nothing in indexes