

DODSON, CHRISTOPHER C.

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Born at _____ Georgia, _____ 18__ (about 1828)

SON _____ AND _____ never married.

Went to Texas as a youth and was enrolled, age 21, at La Grange, May 10, and mustered in May 24, 1847, at Austin, Texas, to serve 12 months as private, Captain Jacob Roberts' Company F, Colonel John C. Hays' 1st Texas Mounted Volunteers; participated in the battle of Matamoros, February 10, 1847; promoted, 2d Lieutenant, February 10, 1848; mustered out with the Company near Vera Cruz, Mexico, April 30, 1848, enrolled, age 23, at Gonzales, October 20, and mustered in at San Antonio, Texas, to serve 12 months as 2d Lieutenant, Captain Roberts' Company, Colonel Hays' 2d Texas Mounted Volunteers; honorably discharged with the Company at San Antonio, December 15, 1848.

Went from Texas to California in 1849, and came from there to the Gadsden Purchase in 1850. With Colonel J. W. Douglas and W. D. Woods, preempted the Sopori Rancho, 1856; attended a meeting at Lubbock, February 27, 1850, when he signed a petition to Congress relative to conditions in the Gadsden Purchase; listed, U. S. Census, 1850, at Sopori Settlement, age 30, born in Georgia, occupation=farmer, property valued at \$7,500; a communication from Lubbock printed in the San Francisco Alta California of May 28, 1859 reported:

ABOUT TEN days ago some five or six peons ran away from the Reventon ranch accused of being in debt, and having appropriated articles that were not theirs. The owners of the ranch, Messrs. Mercer and Douson, pursued and overtook them, whipped some of them, shaved others, and it is said that from somebody's head even particles of hair were shaved off with the hair.

Joined the Confederate Army and served as Captain in Colonel Philemin Herberts' Arizona Regiment in Texas and Louisiana from 1861 until the close of the Civil War; left San Antonio, Texas, June 20, 1865, and returned to Arizona via Mexico in a party headed by Granville H. Oury; took the oath of allegiance to the United States at Fort Mason, A. T., October 8, 1865; at Tucson on January 21, 1866, Milton B. Duffield, U. S. Marshal for Arizona Territory, wrote the following letter to the Attorney General in Washington, D. C.:

"I have the honor to inform you that I received a letter on the 26th day of December last, dated La Mesilla, New Mexico, November 25th, 1865, and signed J. Houghton, Associate Justice, Supreme Court, New Mexico, in which he stated that 'at the June term of the United States District Court for the 3d Judicial District of New Mexico, Dona Ana County, an indictment was found against Christopher Dodson, and others for the murder of Chrittenden Marshall,' and further, that Dodson was supposed to be in the vicinity of Tucson, and requested me to arrest and safely keep him until a requisition could be made to the Governor of Arizona for him.

"I arrested said Dodson in fifteen minutes after receiving the letter, and put him in prison there being no other Civil Official in this part of the Territory nor have not been for near two years, and the state of affairs very bad, no law whatever. But the newly appointed Judge for this, the 1st Judicial District (Backus) and the Attorney General for the Territory (Bashford) arrived on the 14th inst. (January) and on the 18th the Attorney General and the Honorable Judge got out a writ of Habeas Corpus for the release of the prisoner.

"Believing from plain evidence there was foul play, and that they were determined to release, and set him at liberty, and the crime being so enormous, (Chrittenden Marshall being a Kentuckian, and a true loyal man, was hung by Rebels for his devotion to the Union, and because he would not shout for Jeff Davis) and Dodson a notorious rebel, who had been in the Confederate Army during the whole of the war, who before leaving here for Texas (where he was formerly from) to join the Rebel Army, done all the harm he could to the Government by destroying property, assassinating and murdering Union men.

"I could not feel that I was doing my duty to see such a man set at liberty until an honest investigation- and when the Writ was served on me, I declined delivering the body of the prisoner before the Court on the grounds that the Attorney General was exceeding his duties and that there was no evidence here that the Writ of Habeas Corpus had been restored to Arizona. If not law, justice demanded such a course, and I still have the prisoner in keeping, and which I most respectfully submit for your honors consideration, and would be pleased to know your opinion in the matter."

Died The Attorney General evidently directed Duffield to release Dodson, because there is no record that he was ever tried in New Mexico; in her diary on October 9, 1881, Mrs. Granville Oury stated that he:

"wandered all over Mexico, spent a few years in Texas, lost his health entirely, learning which fact, Mr. Oury sent for him and for the past two years he has been a much esteemed and honored member of our household."

Died at Tucson, A. T., March 12, 1882, aged 54; buried

_____ Cemetery; shortly after his death the Tucson

Citizen printed the following written by Colonel C. D. Posten:

"No pioneer of Arizona was more favorably known nor more universally respected than Chris. Dodson. In the dark days of Arizona's first settlement, when the ruthless Apache 'spread havoc and death o'er his pitiless path.' he was ever first in the saddle to pursue and the last to give up the chase.

"At the commencement of the civil war Dodson joined his kindred in the strife for the lost cause and remained until its hopes were buried in the soil of its birth, when like many other homeless Southerners, he returned to Mexico and thence to Arizona. He resided sometime in Florence with his life-long friend and companion, the Hon. Granville H. Oury, now Delegate to Congress from Arizona.

"He was brave, honest and truly a warm and generous friend. He earned his subsistence from the resources of nature and owned not any man."

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"About ten days ago some five or six peons ran away from the Reventon Ranch, accused of being in debt, and having appropriated articles that were not theirs. The owners of the ranch, Messrs. Mercer and Dodson, pursued and overtook them; whipped some of them, shaved others, and it is said that from somebody's head even particles of skin came off with the hair."

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SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Wheat, M. (Cincinnatus) - Travels on the Western Slope of the Mexican Cordillera, S. F., 1857, p. 345.
Barter, G. W. - Directory of the City of Tucson, S. F., 1881, p. 2.
Lockwood, F. C. - "Pioneers: 1854 to 1864" in Arizona Historical Review, April, 1932, p. 60.
Gardner, C. K. - Dictionary of the U. S. Army, 1860, p. 542.
The Adjutant General of the Army - Military Service Records.
The Arizona Historical Review, October 1931 to January, 1935, -
Diary of Mrs. Granville H. Oury.

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Christopher C. Dodson.

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Christopher C. Dodson served in Texas from 1862 and is described as captain in colonel Phil Herbert's Arizona Regiment, Taylor's Division. The records of that regiment, however, do not bear his name as they are very incomplete.

In May, 1864 he was reported present as captain of Guides and Couriers on a Return of Expeditionary Forces, C.S.A. stationed at Ringgold Barracks, Texas.

On October 8, 1865 at Fort Mason, age 39, he took the oath of allegiance to the United States, as residing in Tucson, Arizona Territory. His signature appears to be genuine, and the oath is countersigned by W. H. H. Fellows, 2 Lieut., 7 California Infantry, Provost Marshal South Sub-district, Arizona.

No further record of his Confederate service found.