

HAND, George O., born at Yorkville, Oneida County, New York, March 7, 1830; son of Ira W. (1799-1867) and Sible Hand (1810-54); never married; listed, U. S. Census, 1850, with his parents at Whitestown, Oneida County, New York; age 20; occupation, Mechanic; of his early life he wrote in his diary:

~~I lived nearly all of my boyhood days and my youth in this state.~~ Being opposed to study, my father put me to a trade under his immediate supervision. While a boy I became a good workman and my father bought me a valuable set of drafting instruments, intending to make something of me. But the California fever was raging at the time, and as I had not been vaccinated against it I took it and left for the land of gold with the blessings of Father, Mother, Brothers and Sisters.

Arrived in San Francisco early. Met a few friends there, but left for the mines, where I voted to admit California as a Free State. The most of my time in California was spent in mining. I made some other speculations, but lost and returned to mining. I lived in the counties of Nevada, Placer and El Dorado, - the most of my time being spent in El Dorado County.

By strict attention to business I had obtained possession of a very valuable piece of land for mineral purposes; no one could put a valuation on it. There was a million in it, as Joe Gardner told me. He said "George, do you intend to leave what you have been years accumulating? Next year I will put water on that mountain and then no one can count your gold." But as I had never before served my Country, I thought it my duty to do so now, and, suiting the action to the words, I sold out for a trifle and left for the seat of war (or as near as I could get to it). I left very valuable friends who all wished me God-speed.

At Nevada City we drilled and elected officers. But being anxious to get to the seat of war, I left for San Francisco where I waited for an order for the raising of troops to be promulgated. I had a good time while waiting and when the news came that five regiments were to be raised I was in my glory. Bill Handy and I were the first to be examined. We passed and were soldiers of the United States.

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Enrolled at Nevada City, Nevada County, Cal., August 10
and mustered in at the Presidio of San Francisco, August 19,
1861, to serve 3 years as Private, Captain H. A. Green's Company
G, 1st California Infantry; occupation when enlisted, machinist;
stationed for a time at Camp Downey in Oakland and then went by
sea to Southern California; promoted to sergeant, September 1,
1862, and to 1st Sergeant, November 30, 1862; ~~left~~ ^{left} Fort Yuma
for Tucson, ~~July 20,~~ ^{July 20,} 1862, ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~left~~ ^{left} ~~Tucson~~ ^{Tucson} for Mesilla, New Mexico,
~~on~~ the Rio Grande, December 2, 1862; stationed at Mesilla in
January and February, Las Cruces in March, Franklin (El Paso),
Texas, in April and May, 1863; at Fort McRae, New Mexico, from
July, 1863 to May, 1864; ~~left~~ ~~the~~ ~~post~~ in June ~~and~~ went with
the Company to Antelope Springs, ~~and~~ ~~left~~ ~~there~~ ^{and left there} on July 4th
~~to~~ pursue a course toward the San Francisco River in Arizona;
the Company had an engagement with Apache Indians near ~~the~~ ^{that} River,
killing 3, taking 6 prisoners, and also 19 head of beef cattle;
distance traveled on the campaign was 225 miles; honorably dis-
charged at Fort Craig, New Mexico, on August 31, 1864. ~~Upon~~ ^{leaving} ~~the~~
~~Army~~ he joined with Thomas Wallace, a comrade
of the 1st California Infantry, in contracting to supply beef to
the troops at Fort McRae, N. M.; they later had a ^{two thirds} ~~2/3~~ interest
in the mail contract between Tucson, A. T., and Mesilla, N.M.;
came to Fort Bowie, A. T., October 3, 1866, where he was in the

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Sutler's store for nearly two years; served as Postmaster at Apache Pass (Fort Bowie), A. T., from December 11, 1866, to June 5, 1868, when he was succeeded by William Dempsey. ~~He~~ ^{FF} Came to Tucson from Apache Pass and went into the saloon business with George F. Foster; listed, U. S. Census, June, 1870, at Tucson, ~~occupation~~, occupation, Saloon Keeper; the "Tucson Citizen" for May 23, 1874, stated that he had "moved Foster's Saloon from Main Street to the corner of Meyer and Mesilla Streets. George is a good man and says he means to make the boys behave themselves in their bibitory experiments." ^F On the back of ^{one of} his photographs he wrote:

Came to Arizona and arrived in the Ancient and Honorable Pueblo of Tucson, Aug. 8th, 1862. Was a charter member of Negley Post No. 35, G. A. R. Was elected its first Chaplain and served the Post in that Capacity until elected Senior Vice Commander of the same Post, December 1865.

Original member, Society of Arizona Pioneers, February 9, 1884; was employed from _____, 18__ until his death as Janitor of the ^{Pima} County Court House; extracts from his diary have been published with his portrait each day, 56 years later, by the Tucson Arizona Daily Star; died at Tucson, Pima County, A. T., May 4, 1887, aged 57; buried Grand Army Cemetery, Tucson, War Department headstone.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

(on a separate sheet)

Orton, R. H. - Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion, Sacramento, 1890, p. 363.

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Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society - Membership Book, Old, Vol. 2

p. 34.

By-Laws of Negley Post No. 1, G. A. R., Tucson, 1892, p. 17.

The Weekly Citizen, Tucson, May 23, 1874, October 18, 1884 and
May 7, 1887.

Arizona Daily Star, Tucson, May 5, 1887, and December 25, 1924.