## HUTTON, OSCAR

HUTTON, OSCAR, born in Western Virginia about 1830; married Carmen Muscovia at Aravaipa, near Camp Grant, Pima County, A. T., about 1868; son, Heraclio, who in 1897 was 1st Lieutenant of Company F, National Guard of Arizona at Tucson.

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Captain John G. Bourke of the 3rd U. S. Cavalry, who first met him at Camp Grant in March, 1870, wrote this about him:

Hutton had had a wonderful experience in the meanest parts of our great country - and he it known that Uncle Sam can hold his own with any prince or potentate on God's footstool in the matter of mean desert land. All over the great interior basin west of the Rockies Hutton had wandered in the employ of Government surveying parties. Now he was at the mouth of the Virgin, where there is a salt mine with slabs two and three feet thick; next he was a wanderer in the dreaded "Death Valley" below the sea level, where there is no sign of animal life save the quickly darting lizard, or the vagrant duck whose flesh is bitter from the water of "soda" lakes. At that time I only knew of these dismal places from the relation of Hutton to which I listened open-mouthed.

Was in California in 1850 and came to Arizona in 1863; listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, at Mowry Mine, A. T., age 34, single, born in Virginia, resident in Arizona, 1 year; occupation - Mining Superintendent.

Enrolled as 1st Sergeant at Tubac, Pima County, A. T., August 1, and mustered in at Calabasas to serve one year as 2d Lieutenant, Company F, 1st Battalion, Arizona Volunteer Infantry, November 3, 1865; he was the only Officer and the Company consisted of 33 men who were natives of Arizona or Mexicans.

He recruited 53 additional men but was not permitted to muster them in; left Calabasas December 5 with his men lacking shoes and clothing and marched to Camp Date Creek, Yavapai County, A. T., arriving December 25, 1865; took post at Skull Valley, February 21, 1866, where Company F did efficient duty during the greater portion HUTTON, OSCAR

of its term of service in escorting wagon trains and scouting for hostile Apaches.

His reports show that a Corporal and 5 men on escort duty toward Prescott were attacked by Apaches February 24, 1866, and after an action of 3 hours duration the Indians were driven off; Privates Anselma and Escalante were killed in this fight; he was in command of 18 of his own men and 18 soldiers from Fort Whipple on a scout of 300 miles north north-east from Skull Valley, July 12 to August 2, 1866, during which 2 Indians were killed and 2 children captured.

He also reported that with 14 of his men and 12 citizens he pursued 70 Apaches who had attacked a wagon train; surprised and killed 23 of them at Grapevine Springs August 13, 1866, with the loss of Private Espinosa, who was killed, and one man wounded; about 17 years afterwards Patrick Hamilton wrote an account of the Indian troubles in Yavapai County which referred to this same fight:

A small detachment of soldiers was stationed at the lower end of Skull Valley in 1866, to escort the United States mails and protect the road and settlers. Several freight teams loaded with merchandise for Prescott were attacked by a large band of Apache-Yumas and Apache-Mohaves, at a point a couple of miles above the station. The Indians pretended to be friendly and had been in the teamsters' camp two nights before the fight. Their actions, however, were suspicious, and that morning the teamsters sent word to Lieut. Hutton, in command at the station, that trouble was brewing and asking assistance.

The Indians numbered about 70, and had several squaws with them, pretending they were out on a big hunt, but during the fight the latter took an active part loading the guns and encouraging the warriors from the hillsides with frightful yells. The teamsters, their escorts (every big freight team in those days had an armed man

or two as escort) and night herders were 13 in number. When the issue of the battles seemed doubtful about a dozen soldiers came up and took the Indians in the flank just as they were making a second charge on the wagons. The savages were thrown into confusion and fled in all directions.

He was honorably discharged at Fort Whipple, A.T., November 3, 1866 but neither he nor any of his men were ever paid as soldiers and received nothing except rations during over a year of arduous and bravely rendered military service.

Employed by the Acting Quartermaster at Tubac, A.T., as Packer at \$35 per month, June 10 to November 30, 1867; Interpreter at Tucson, A. T., under Captain C. C. Smith at \$100 per month from December 1, 1867 to February 29, 1868; employed at Tucson as extra Guide at \$100 per month from March 29 to May 15, 1868; Guide at Camp Grant, A. T., at \$75 per month from November 1, 1868 to November 30, 1871; the Tucson <u>Arizonian</u> on May 8, 1869, reported that:

"On Sunday last, Mr. Hutton, guide at Camp Grant, while on the way to Tucson, was attacked by a party of Indians about 8 miles from this place. The discharge of two rifles and the whistling of the bullets, as they passed his head, first apprised him of the presence of Indians.

He immediately pulled his revolver and fired among them, when the whole party ran. The party with whom Mr. Hutton had been in company and who were at this time some distance behind now came up and the trio proceeded to town, without further adventure."

Listed, U. S. Census, August 18, 1870, at Camp Grant, Pima County, A. T., occupation - Post Guide; he was commended by Major General G. J. Stoneman in General Orders issued August 2, 1870, for service rendered as Guide for Lieutenant H. B. Cushing, 3d U. S. Cavalry, in pursuit of a band of Indians who had attacked a wagon train and

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killed some citizens near Canyon del Oro; the Apaches were trailed to their rancheria, attacked at daylight on May 5,1870 and many killed.

He was away from Camp Grant on a scouting party at the time of the "massacre" on April 30, 1871, but on September 19 testified that, as one who had perhaps seen as much active service against Indians as any man living in Arizona, it was his deliberate judgment that no raiding party was ever made up from the Indians fed at that Post; Vincent Colyer, Secretary of the Board of Indian Commissioners, 1871, described him as "an old pioneer, who has the reputation of having personally killed more Indians than any man in Arizona"; the following warning was printed in the Tucson <u>Arizona Citizen</u> on October 28, 1871:

Be Cautious. The public should be very cautious in their travels. Indian depredations are very liable to be more frequent than heretofore. Note the letters of Capt. H. M. Smith and Hon. S. R. DeLong. The reports from Grant are to the effect that very few Indians appeared for rations on Thursday, the last ration day. Charles Franklin says that Oscar Hutton, guide at Grant, remarked a few days ago, that somebody would be killed soon. It is also reported that Es-ke-van-zin (Eskiminzin), who has left the reservation, declared before leaving that he did not intend to come back, and returned the papers which the good Colyer gave him, The embraces of Agent Piper with Cochise seem to have at once so disgusted his braves that they preferred war to such "Lallygagging".

Appointed Mounted Inspector, U.S. Customs Service, between Tucson and Arizona City (Yuma) August 1, 1873, and served until the time of his death; the following references to him were printed in the Tucson <u>Arizona Citizen</u>:

September 6, 1873; - Deputy Collector Hopkins and his inspectors, W. F. Scott and Oscar Hutton, have made it disagreeable for smuglers during the past week. Our advertising columns show what property has been seized and the jail records will show that Francis La Madrid has been imprisoned on a charge of smuggling.

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September 20, 1873 - - On the 13th of September, Oscar Hutton, mounted Inspector of Customs seized from one Manuel Alviso, eight gallons of mescal, which he was engaged in selling to the Indians.

Died of typhoid fever at Tucson, Pima County, A. T., November 3, 1873, aged about 45; buried, Tucson Cemetery; Hutton Peak, elevation 5608 feet, about 12 miles southwest of Globe, Gila County, Arizona, and Hutton Butte, 5 miles southeast of Point Imperial in the Grand Canyon National Park, named for him.

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