

TAYLOR, EDWARD GRIFFITH

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TAYLOR, EDWARD GRIFFITH (Griff)

Born at Leesburg, Loudoun County, Virginia, December 23, 1828. Son of Thomas and Penelope Taylor, never married. His brother, Charles F. Taylor, resided in Montfort, Grant County, Wisconsin in 1901 and his nephew, George W. Taylor, at Beaver City, Nebraska.

Attended the public schools in Ohio and Iowa where he probably went with his parents; was living in Wisconsin before he went to California in 1852; enrolled, age 33, at San Francisco, August 16 and mastered in at Camp Downey, near Oakland, September 16, 1861, to serve three years as 2nd Lieutenant, Captain Henry M. Benson's Company F, 1st California Infantry; went with the Company to Southern California and arrived at Fort Yuma in December; left Fort Yuma January 10, 1862, with John Costello as guide, and traveled about 60 miles north for two days via the Hoffman route to the site of old Fort Gaston on a gravelly bluff near the Colorado River; returned to Fort Yuma January 15 and reported upon available grass, wood and water.

Went to Gonzales Ferry, below Fort Yuma, January 17, and destroyed a boat hidden there with capacity of 20 men and wrecked another boat about half that size found 12 miles further down the Colorado River; sent with a detachment to mission camp on the Gila River in March, 1862, to cut and stack a supply of native hay; marched up the Gila with the Company in May and arrived at Fort Barrett on the last day of that month; left there June 23 and arrived at Tucson June 27, 1862.

Left Tucson July 23, and was at Apache Pass, July 30 and arrived at Mesilla, N. M. August 15, 1862; promoted 1st Lieutenant at Fort Craig, N. M., August 24, 1862 and stationed there until October, 1863; marched via Los Pinos to Fort Wingate, N. M. and left there on November 7 in the escort of John A. Clark, Surveyor General of New Mexico, for the new gold fields in northern Arizona; went via the Little Colorado Valley and the San Francisco mountains to Little Chino Valley, where Camp Clark (later named Fort Whipple) was established on December 23, 1863; sent back in January to Snively Water Hole to bring

up supplies left there on the march and on his return made peace with a band of Apaches at Rattlesnake Canyon; stationed at Fort Whipple, A. T. until August, 1864; honorably discharged at Los Pinos, N. M. August 31, 1864.

Returned to Arizona shortly after his discharge and became a well known resident of Yavapai County; listed U. S. Census, 1870, at Prescott, occupation - Miner; comrade, Barrett Post No. 62(3) G.A.R. at Prescott; admitted from Prescott to U. S. Soldiers Home, Santee, California, June 4, 1901; was on leave at Beaver City, Furnas County, Kansas, when he died on September 17, 1908, aged 79, and was buried there.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Rebellion Records, Series 1, vol. 50, part 1, pp 687, 810, 819, 820, 821-22, 939-943.
Orton, R. H. - Records of California men in the War of the Rebellion, p. 359.
Farish, T. E. - History of Arizona, vol. 3, pp 44-45.
The Adjutant General of the Army - Military service records.
U. S. Veterans Administration - Pension and Soldiers Home Records, c. 2, 543, 447.

The following reference to him was printed in the Prescott Courier on August 4, 1883:

Courier, Prescott, 8/4/83, 3:1

Griff Taylor, old pioneer who has not been 20 miles from Prescott since 1863 has got rid of the first sickness that has visited him in this section.