

TOZER, CHARLES W.

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TOZER, CHARLES W _____, born in Cayuga County, New York,
February 10, 1831; son of _____ and _____;
married Mary E. Seaton at Drytown, Amador County, California, 1864;
children, Charles M., Roy S., and Georgia R. (Mrs. _____).

Moved to Michigan and from there went to California in 1850 to
engage in mining; was an intimate friend of Henry A. Grabb and joined
with him in the expedition to Sonora which arrived at Fort Yuma on
February 27, 1857; the expedition crossed the Colorado River on March
12 and proceeded up the Gila River about 45 miles to what was afterwards
known as Filibuster Camp; Grabb directed him and "Major" Robert Wood to
go to the Santa Cruz Valley to secure additional recruits as is shown
by the following extracts from two articles reprinted in the San
Francisco Daily Alta Californian of May 28, 1857:

At the river Messrs. Wood and Tozer were detailed to proceed to
the Gadsden Purchase and raise a Company. They succeeded in enrolling
26 men who elected Grant Grey (Granville H. Gury) their Captain, he
being acquainted with the country and the people..... The Tucson
Valley Company, composed of 26 men, was organized the 1st of April...
at 4 p.m. of the 4th day (of April) they arrived at a point midway
between Gaberca and the town of Pitiquite where they were met by from
300 to 500 Mexicans and Indians, in a dense forest of mesquite trees
under command of Captain Merena of Altar. ... The fight continued
until nightfall, when finding their position perilous, they charged
through the enemy and effected their escape. They proceeded down
the river (Rio de Altar) to the suburbs of Gaberca which they found
occupied by a large Mexican force and in consequence could not enter.
In the morning they heard firing within the town, which from subse-
quent information they supposed to have been the execution of Grabb's
party (Grabb and 58 of his surviving men did not surrender until the
next day and on the morning of April 7 they were all killed except
a youth of 15 named Charles Edward Evans).

Grey's command then began a retreat for the Purchase. They were
pursued by a force of over 100 men and in addition to the natural dif-
ficulties of the road had to fight their way back, against an enemy
excited by blood and conquest, they themselves being without food and
water; on feet having lost their animals, baggage and everything but
what they stood in. In this deplorable condition they made their way

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over this inhospitable region and finally crossed the American line, having sustained the loss of only four killed and three wounded. Names of the killed: John Hughes, Joseph Thomas (Thomas), William Weed, Chambers (a carpenter). (John G. Capron said that in addition to himself the other wounded men were named Forbes and Slater).

He returned to northern California and in 1859-60 engaged in transporting merchandise over the Sierra Nevada mountains by pack trains which he sold in Carson City and Virginia City, Nevada; in the spring of 1860 the Piute Indians attacked his camp at the sink of the Carson River and drove off 27 horses, 43 mules and 24 fat beef cattle; they destroyed 75 tons of hay and 10,000 pounds of barley and also burned the tents and camp equipage; they also looted 28 cargoes of flour, pork, butter, beans, rice and dried fruit and got away with 60 pairs of blankets and 28 apparatuses.

Member from Gold Hill, Storey County, Nevada Constitutional Convention at Carson City and served from July 4 to July 20, 1864, when he was granted an indefinite leave of absence; elected from Storey County to the 1st Nevada State Legislature and was unanimously chosen as Speaker, serving from December 12, 1864 to March 11, 1865.

For a number of years he engaged in mining enterprises and became widely known as an expert on the value of gold and silver mining properties; returned to southern Arizona in 1877 with Col. John D. Graham, W.J. Boyle, Alexander Wildin, Dr. H. R. Allen, John K. Wallace and a dozen other eastern capitalists who were interested in the Astec Mining Syndicate; the arrival of the party was reported in the Tuna Arizona Sentinel of December 8, 1877, and refers to him as "Col. Charles Tozer, an old Arizonian who has made one of his periodical "big raises", who knows the Santa Ritas and wants some;" Richard Josiah Hinton who wrote the

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Handbook to Arizona in 1877 and Emoch Genklin, author of Picturesque Arizona, 1878, were also members of the party; he returned to California and Nevada but came back to Tucson in January, 1878, as Superintendent of the mines of the Astee Syndicate in the Santa Rita mountains.

He remained in Arizona for over a year and the Tucson Arizona Weekly Star of October 3, 1878, indicates that he had extended his operations by the purchase of a mine in the Patagonia District and that he with H.A. Corbin and Governor A.P.K. Safford had purchased a one-fourth interest in the Gird Mines at Tombstone for \$80,000; in that same issue there is a statement that he had made a profit of \$40,000 on the rise of mining stocks in the San Francisco market; the Tucson Citizen of March 14, 1879, announced that he was "to deliver the eloquent lecture on the 'Sources of Solomon's gold' which he has crated to select private audiences."

He was residing on a farm near Tulare, California, in 1893 but later resumed his mining activities and was in Arizona in 1903 when he became a member of the Arizona Pioneers Historical Society at Tucson; died at San Francisco, California, February 6, 1908, aged 74; buried there in the Odd Fellows Cemetery; not long after his death Sidney R. De Long of Tucson wrote a tribute to him from which the following is extracted;

Charles W. Tozer was a man of action during his whole life and the writer has known him long and well, first making his acquaintance in 1855 in the mines above Drytown, Amador County, and better in San Francisco during the turbulent times of 1856 when the Vigilance Committee held sway. For a time he acted as sheriff of the vigilantes and thoroughly did he carry out the mandates of its Court.

He has lived mostly in San Francisco—at least his family did, where he went when business called—having become a judge of mines whose opinion was sought by great mining operators the world over. As was said of him a number of years ago by a San Francisco news reporter "Some day he will die upon the trail"—this he literally did, as he had been but a few days at his home from a trip into Western Arizona to examine properties when he took pneumonia and died.

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