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ATCHISSON, CHARLES, born in Jefferson County, Illinois , _____, 1824, son of Joseph T. and Margaret W. (Hopper) Atchisson; his father, who served in the War of 1812, was born in Port Tobacco, Charles County, Maryland, in 1789; his mother, born in 1798, was a native of North Carolina.

Enrolled, September 19 at Nevada City, Nevada County, and mustered in, age 37, at Camp Sigel, near Auburn, Placer County, California, November 18, 1861, to serve 3 years as Captain, Company I, 4th California Infantry; the Company consisted of 66 men whom he had enlisted in Nevada County; marched with the Company to Camp Union (Sacramento) in February, 1862, and stationed there until June; at Benicia Barracks until March, 1863, when he went by sea with the Company to Drum Barracks in Southern California; he and Lieutenant R. P. Nason were among the officers who were commended in General Orders No. 15 issued at Camp Drum on May 3, 1863, for "activity and zeal displayed by them" when the steamer Ada Hancock exploded in New San Pedro Bay (Wilmington) on April 27 with the loss of many lives; marched with the Company to Fort Mohave where he was stationed from May 25, 1863, until early in March, 1865. Listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, with his Company of 74 enlisted men, at Fort Mohave, A.T., age 40, resident in Arizona 10 months, occupation - Soldier; an order dated San Francisco, April 9, 1864, was sent to him:

The General Commanding directs that you will proceed as soon after the receipt of this letter as practicable to lay off three reservations each of one mile square. The first to commence at the mouth of the ravine at the ferry landing, running back in a straight line in the direction

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of the hills, parallel with the river one mile; thence south (or down the river) one mile, and thence to the river. The second reserve will be laid out adjoining the first on the south. The third will be laid out on the flat opposite the fort, taking the ferry landing on the west bank of the river as its center.

You will have the boundaries clearly and permanently marked at the corners and where the lines terminate on the river, after which plats of each reserve will be made and forwarded to this office. While persons will be permitted to pass through the reserves traveling from points below to points above and vice versa, under no circumstances will settlements be permitted thereon; nor will the destruction or use of the timber or grazing be permitted to any person except for Government use, and to supply the wants of Indians who are permitted to camp on the reserve for the present.

Brigadier General George Wright, commanding the Department of the Pacific, in a letter dated April 21, 1864, directed to the Commander of District of Southern California, stated:

It has been reported to this office that certain persons (whites) residing near Fort Mojave have on several occasions interfered with Captain Atchison in his desire to give entire protection to the settlers. You will instruct the Captain that any person or persons interfering with him in the legitimate discharge of his duties or attempting to create trouble with the Indians will be arrested and confined, subject to the orders of the general commanding. This discretionary power is given the Captain because of the high appreciation of the General has of him both as a soldier and citizen.

The following is a report of his inspection of conditions at Fort Mohave made by Colonel James F. Curtis, in command of the 4th California Infantry, in February, 1865:

On the 22d reached Fort Mojave, Arizona, Ter. On the 23d inspected the post and its garrison, which consisted of Company I, (Atchison's), Fourth California Infantry. The

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discipline of the troops appeared well maintained; their knowledge of drill and of the manual was imperfect. The Captain stated that many of the men were recruits. The arms, clothing, equipments, and accouterments were sufficiently supplied and in good order. There are 21,000 rounds of ball cartridges on hand.

There are barracks and officers' quarters for two companies of infantry, a hospital, guard-house, store-houses, cellar for storing subsistence supplies, a bake-house, stables and blacksmith shop, all built of logs and mud, with thatched roofs, wide verandas, and mud floors. The buildings are in good order, and in style and material the best adapted for the climate. The post and company fund has been properly attended to; the books and papers of the company and of the post have been neatly and properly kept.

Captain Atchison was performing the duties of acting assistant quartermaster and acting commissary of subsistence, having during the month relieved his Lieutenant (Nason), whose three-years' term of service had expired, and who is mustered out of the service. The original three-years' term of service of Captain Atchison had expired. He is retained and authorized to present himself for muster.

Three civilians were employed, as shown by the return of the post, herewith transmitted. I directed the discharge of these men, and that enlisted men be detailed to perform the services. The fire-wood used is cut upon the reservation, and costs \$5 per cord for cutting. I directed that expenditure be avoided by a detail of enlisted men as wood choppers.

The condition of the quartermaster's property was good and the supply ample for present purposes. Three six-mule teams complete and five riding horses embrace the means of transportation. The post is supplied with subsistence until the 1st of June next for the present garrison, and it is all in good order and of good quality, excepting the pork, and that is in issuable condition.

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Captain West 's company (c), Fourth California Infantry, is en route to relieve Atchison 's company, and has double the numerical strength. It is therefore important that additional supplies of subsistence be forwarded without delay. River navigation is open.

Fresh beef costs 30 cents per pound, and is bought in open market. I directed that proposals for furnishing fresh beef be invited by advertisement. Three different military reservations have been secured and surveyed, each one mile square. Plots have been heretofore transmitted to your headquarters. There were no sick in hospital and no prisoners. On the 24th of February at noon recrossed the Colorado at Hardy's Ferry, eight miles above the post, and reached Drum Barracks yesterday noon, five days' time.

He returned to California with the Company and was honorably discharged at the Presidio of San Francisco, June 12, 1865; came back to Mohave County, A.T. to engage in mining; appointed Postmaster at Mohave City, June 12, 1867, and served until _____, 18__; he was a member of the Board of Supervisors of Mohave County in 1868.

Listed, U. S. Census, July 1870, at Williamson Valley, Yavapai County, A.T., age 46, occupation - Merchant; the following references to him were printed in the Prescott Arizona Miner:

September 3, 1870-- Charles Atchisson has opened a store in Williamson Valley, and is selling goods cheap for cash. Mr. A. and A. E. Davis, of Mohave City, own equal interests in the business. If we are not mistaken, Mr. Atchisson was a Captain in the California Volunteers, and, at one time, commanded Camp Mohave.

April 6, 1872 -- our County has lost and Mohave County has gained a good man and citizen, in the person of Capt. Chas. Atchisson, who has sold his store etc., at Williamson Valley, and removed to the Wallapai Mining District.

June 1, 1877 -- Capt. Chas. Atchisson, Probate Judge of Mohave County is in town. The Captain formerly resided at Williamson Valley, where he was engaged in the mercantile business.

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Listed in Disturnell's Arizona Gazetteer, 1881, at Mineral park as Probate Judge of Mohave County; he left there and returned to Illinois about 1886; applied for a pension on July 28, 1890, but it was not granted prior to his death at the home of his brother, Hierom Atchisson in Knight's prairie Township, Hamilton County, Illinois, on July 19, 1891, aged 67.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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 U. S. Post Office Department - Appointment records.
 The Adjutant General of the Army - Military service records.
 U. S. Veterans Administration - Pension records, SO, 908, 120.
 Disturnell, W. C. - Arizona Gazetteer, S. F., 1881, pp. 86, 146.
 The Prescott Courier, May 26, 1883, 2:2.
 The Arizona Miner, Prescott, October 24, 1868, 2:3; September 3, 1870, 3:3; April 6, 3:1 and May 18, 1872, 3:1.