

BUCKALEW, OSCAR

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(1843-1910)

BUCKALEW, OSCAR, born in Fishing Creek Township, Columbia County, Pennsylvania, July 22, 1843; son of William and Elisabeth Buckalew; married, Adria Alverson Stevens at Wilkesbarre, Pa. in 1877 who divorced him in 1900; son, Oscar Russell, born March 4, 1889.

Enrolled, age 18, at Wilkesbarre, Pa., June 13, and mustered in at Washington, D.C., July 27, 1861, to serve 3 years as Private, Company F (7th), 36th Pennsylvania Infantry; occupation when enlisted - Mechanic; honorably discharged on Surgeon's certificate of disability at Fort McHenry, Maryland, October 18, 1862; when General Lee invaded Pennsylvania he again enlisted as Private at Bloomsburg, Pa., June 17th to serve in Company C, 28th Pennsylvania Emergency Militia but after the Confederate defeat at Gettysburg he was honorably mustered out on July 28, 1863.

Came to Arizona from New Mexico in 1864 and was employed by Tully and Ochoa at their store in Tubac for over two years; member from Calabasas, Pima County, H. of R., 3d Territorial Legislature at Prescott, October 3 to November 6, 1866; that year the Apaches drove off two yoke oxen belonging to him, worth \$40 each, and a saddle horse worth \$80; early in 1867 the same Indians stole two of his race horses which he valued at \$150 each; he was engaged in carrying the U.S. mail each week between Tubac and the Mowry Mine near Patagonia when on March 1, 1867, he was waylaid by Apaches under Cochise who shot him through the leg and mortally wounded his horse: the horse had life enough in him to reach the gate of the adobe corral at the mine; the Indians kept up a constant fire but Thomas Yerkes, the Superintendent, and Thomas Gardner succeeded in lifting him from under the horse and carrying him into the corral;

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these on at the mine fought off the Apaches all day during which Edward Morrissey was killed and Richard Dorce was wounded in the head; Buckalew was later taken to Camp Crittenden where, to save his life, his leg was amputated above the knee by an Army Surgeon.

After his recovery he was appointed Clerk of the District Court in Tucson; appointed by President Andrew Johnson as Receiver, U.S. Land Office at Prescott July 28, 1868 and qualified on November 3, 1868, by taking the oath and making bond; his commission was mailed from Washington on March 11, 1869; the record does not show whether he actually took office but George Lount became the Receiver at Prescott on August 10, 1870; Buckalew served as County Recorder and ex-officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of Pima County, 1871-72, and as Treasurer of Pima County, 1873-74.

About 1873 he formed a partnership with Nathan B. Appel in the freighting business; constructed an adobe building on Alameda Street and Court House square in Tucson at a cost of \$20,000 known as the Buckalew Block; was a member of the Committee to welcome the arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad in Tucson, 1880; and the year before had established a forwarding and commission business at the end of the railroad as construction proceeded; listed, Barbers Tucson City Directory, 1881, as Capitalist; in 1899 he was operating a stage line between Tucson and Helvita; established a stock ranch at Helvetia in connection with which he had a store; charter member, Society of Arizona Pioneers and Comrades, Negley Post No. 1, G.A.R., in Tucson.

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Came from his store to his home at Helvitia on the evening of April 18, 1910, and was seated near a table with a lighted lamp when he was shot in the head with a rifle bullet fired through the glass door; his body was discovered the next morning and apparently he died instantly; buried G.A.R. Cemetery, Tucson, Arizona; aged 66; the assassin was never captured.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

U.S. Census, Columbia County, Pennsylvania, 1850.
 Arizona Pioneers Historical Society, Tucson, Membership book.
 Farish, T.E. - History of Arizona, Vol. 4, p. 165; Vol. 5, p. 318.
 Kelly, G.H. - Legislative History of Arizona, p. 24.
 Journals, 3d Legislative Assembly, Territory of Arizona, 1866.
 U.S. General Land Office - old records.
 Barter, G.W. - Directory of the City of Tucson, 1861, pp. 21, 57.
 The Adjutant General of the Army - Military service records.
 The Adjutant General of Pennsylvania - Military service records.
 U.S. Veterans Administration - Pension records, S.C. 933, 623.
 U.S. Court of Claims - Indian Depredation Dockets No. 8770.
 Probate Court of Pima County - Docket No. 1824.
 The Weekly Arizonian, Tucson, January 24, 1869.
 The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, May 22, 1875; May 2, 1879; and April 18-19, 1910.