

ENOS, HERBERT MERTON

001

ENOS, HERBERT MERTON, born at Johnston, Fulton County, New York, March 10, 1835; son of Elihu and Dotha (Johnson) Enos; both of his grandfathers served with Connecticut troops during the American Revolution; he was never married.

After finishing his common school and academic studies he taught school in Fulton County; Cadet, U. S. Military Academy, 1852-56; served for 6 months as Brevet 2d. Lieutenant at the Cavalry School for Practice at Carlisle, Pennsylvania; commissioned 2d. Lieutenant, U. S. Mounted Riflemen, January 26, 1857; crossed the plains to Santa Fe in the escort of Abraham Rencher who had been appointed Governor of New Mexico, and joined the Regiment at Cantorment Burgwin, near Taos; during 1858 he was stationed at Fort Massachusetts (later called Fort Garland), Colorado, at Fort Union, N.M., and participated in the Navajo campaign of that year under Major Electus Backus; in command of the escort to Captain Alexander S. Masonb's topographical expedition, 1859-60, on its return to Fort Leavenworth.

Went back to New Mexico in command of an escort for the U. S. mail and was on staff duty at Fort Union when he joined in reporting disloyalty to the Union as stated in an obituary printed in 1913 by the Association of Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy:

Among the Army officers on the frontier there was diversity of sentiment respecting the Rebellion of the Southern States, most of the superior officers being not only in sympathy with the South, but actually plotting against the Government. Under this state of affairs Lieutenant Enos knew but one line of duty, viz: to report the situation to the authorities at Washington. A succinct statement was prepared, setting forth the facts as they existed at Fort Union and in the military department

ENOS, HERBERT MERTON

- 2 -

of New Mexico, signed by Lieutenant Enos, Doctor Barthelow, the post surgeon, and William R. Shoemaker, and dispatched by a special messenger who was a brother-in-law of General F. P. Blair -- Lieutenant Enos paying expenses of the messenger to Washington. As a result most of the superior officers, among them the commander of Lieutenant Enos' regiment, speedily deserted the post and went South.

Promoted to 1st. Lieutenant, 3rd. U. S. Cavalry, May 14, 1861, and to Captain, Assistant Quartermaster, on August 3, that year; was Chief Quartermaster of Colonel John P. Slough's Expedition against the Confederate forces in New Mexico and participated in their defeat at the battle of Pigeon's Ranch (Glorietta) on March 28, 1862; was Depot Quartermaster at Los Lunas for supplying posts on the lower Rio Grande from May, 1862, to January, 1863; served as Chief Quartermaster, District of Arizona, with headquarters at Mesilla from January to October, 1863; pursuant to any order issued by Brigadier General J. H. Carleton he accompanied an expedition to the new gold discoveries in northern Arizona commanded by Major Edward B. Willis which left Fort Wingate on November 7, 1863; a paragraph of the order directed that:

When Fort Whipple has been established, Capt. Herbert M. Enos, U.S. Army, will examine the country westwardly from that post with a view to finding a practicable wagon route to the nearest and most convenient landing upon the Colorado River, if possible, below Fort Mojave, and he will report in detail upon such road as to its distance and character, and as to wood, water, and grass; and he will gather such information with regard to the cost of getting supplies to Fort Whipple, whether from Los Angeles, overland, by the way of Fort Mojave, or by sea and river navigation to the landing alluded to, as may be necessary to the War Department when determining the question how

troops may be the most economically supplied, who may be serving at that or other posts which may hereafter be established in the District of Northern Arizona. Captain Enos will then report in person at department headquarters.

Captain Enos left Fort Whipple on December 22, 1863, and went down the Santa Maria and the Bill Williams Fork to the Colorado River, but evidently did not find a satisfactory route for a wagon road since Fort Mohave became the original supply point for Fort Whipple; he returned to Santa Fe on February 24, 1864, where he prepared maps and a report of explorations in northern Arizona; from May to November, 1864, he was engaged in constructing a new army post at Fort Union; became Chief Quartermaster of the Department of New Mexico and was brevetted Major, Lieutenant Colonel and Colonel for faithful and meritorious service during the rebellion; appointed Colonel, U.S. Volunteers, June 3, 1865; at Fort Sumner, N. M. on June 26, 1865, he gave the following testimony before a Congressional Committee appointed to investigate the condition of the Indian tribes:

I have been in New Mexico since November, 1856; am Captain in the Regular Army; I was an officer of the line until 1861, but am now in the Quartermaster's Department; I have been acting in this Department almost all the time I have been in the Territory. The principal military operations, indeed all of them except when invaded by the Texans in 1861 and 1862, have been connected with Indian affairs, and mainly with the Navajoes, since I have been in the Department.

Upon an average, from 2 to 3 regiments of troops have been constantly required, since I have been in the Territory, to carry on military operations against the Navajoes or to protect the inhabitants against their depredations. From earliest history they have been at war with the Mexicans. I have conversed with people 80 years of age, who state that when they were boys they had been at war with the Navajoes; and since our acquisition of the Territory

ENOS, HERBERT MERTON

- 4 -

from Mexico, that same state of hostilities, in the main, has continued between them and the people of New Mexico.

The estimates of the Navajoes are from 5 to 10 thousand, and some as high as 15 thousand. From my best information there are 8 or 9 thousand, judging from those surrendered and estimates of those who remain in their country. On 31st of December, 1864, there were on the reservation at the Bosque Redondo, 8,354; this is based on the census made by General Carleton. From my best information I think not over 500 remain in their old country. There are but two of the chiefs or headmen who have not surrendered or come in yet.

The grounds upon which the military authorities have thought fit to remove the Navajoes and place them on a reservation upon the Pecos are;

- 1st. There is not in their own country a sufficient body of land situate together to make a sufficient reservation for them and to produce grain for their subsistence.

- 2d. It is less expensive to feed them than to fight them.

- 3d. That by removing them to their present reservation they are brought nearer the grain-producing districts of New Mexico and the States, and can be supported cheaper than on any reservation in their own country.

- 4th. That one of the most favorable routes to Arizona leads through the heart of the Navajo country.

- 5th. Where they now are they are on the extreme frontier settlements of New Mexico, and removed from any thoroughfare or travelled route through the country.

- 6th. By their removal a large grazing country is thrown open to settlement.

I think 600 to 800 men would be sufficient to guard them on the reservation--half cavalry and half infantry. In a few years the number could be greatly reduced. With the Navajoes in their own country, two or three regiments of troops could not prevent them from committing depredations.

Owing to impairment of his health, he left New Mexico in November, 1867; early in 1868 he was assigned to duty in the Office of the Quartermaster General in Washington, D. C., but soon left on

sick leave; returned to duty on January 1, 1869, and was subsequently stationed at Philadelphia, Chicago and Boston; promoted to Major, June 6, 1872, and was retired on May 29, 1876, on account of disability contracted in line of duty; located at Waukesha, Wisconsin, where he served as Mayor of the City; became a companion, Wisconsin Commandery, Military Order of the Loyal Legion and was Department Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic of Wisconsin, 1882.

Died at Waukesha, Wisconsin, August 9, 1912, aged 79; buried at Watertown, Wisconsin.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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ENOS, Herbert M.

S2

006

Capt. H. M. Enos, A. Q. M., and Capt. J. E. Jemen belonging to his department, have been in town for a week, and expect to leave for Mesilla. The people of that part of the valley cannot have a more fair-dealing purchaser than the captain.

----Rio Abajo Weekly Press (Albuquerque) January 27, 1863, 2:3