

MOWRY, CHARLES EDWARD

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MOWRY, CHARLES EDWARD, born in Providence, Rhode Island, August 5, 1826; son of Charles Cook and Celia (Aldrich) Mowry; married, Harriet Claflin of Providence, R.I., December 15, 1854; children, Edward, Hattie Aldrich and Alice.

Came to the Gadsden Purchase in 1859 to assist his brother, Sylvester, at the Patagonia Silver Mines; listed there in the 1860 Census, age 33, occupation - Master Mariner, property valued at \$17,000; he was away when the Mowry Mine was siezed on June 13, 1862, by order of Colonel James H. Carleton commanding the Union troops at Tucson; returned to Arizona with his brother in attempt to reopen the Mowry Mine which was unsuccessful; appointed on May 7, 1866, as the first Postmaster at Patagonia, A.T., and served until December 19, of that year when he was succeeded by Richard M. Doss.

The Tucson Arizonian of November 6, 1869, reprinted the following from a Washington, D.C. newspaper:

"The late Secretary Rawlins, a few weeks before his death, directed that the army stores from California for the use of the troops in Arizona should be sent via Guaymas and Sonora, Mexico, instead of the old route via the Colerado and Gila rivers. The saving to the government is nearly \$100 in gold per ton, in time more than half, and in depreciation of the rations, caused by the intense heat of the desert, immense. The adoption of this route through Sonora was recommended last year by Gen. Grant, at the suggestion of Hon. Sylvester Mowry, of Arizona, who prepared a careful memoir on the subject.

"The contract of transportation of army stores for Arizona via Sonora, has been assigned to Capt. Charles E. Mowry, who was the lowest bidder, beating Ben Holladay, and all the old contractors. He has dispatched his first ship-load of stores, and as he had ample experience

on this route, for years past, in transporting stores for the mines, it is fair to believe that his contract will be faithfully executed, to the benefit of the troops, the government and himself."

On December 25, 1869, the Arizonian stated:

The first cargo of quartermaster's stores to Guaymas arrived at that port a few weeks since, and are now being conveyed over the route to Tucson by a train of 200 wagons. Captain Chas. E. Mowry, who has the contract for the shipping of these stores, arrived in town on Wednesday.

The following articles appeared in the Tucson Arizona

Citizen:

November 5, 1870 -- Captain Charles Mowry arrived early in the week from Guaymas, the place chosen by him for a residence, and where his family now resides. He precedes 130 wagons loaded with over 600 tons government freight. The captain has a large government freight contract, and is a wide awake, thorough business worker. We admire his pluck and wish him prosperity, but will ever fight the sending of freight via Guaymas. If these 130 teams were now on the Gila route, the station keepers and traders would be daily benefitted. Our motto is, to first help Arizona people, then our neighbors without our borders.

November 12, 1870 -- We understand from our friend Captain Charles Mowry, that the government freight, via Guaymas, is arriving in excellent order and condition. About 36 wagons have unloaded within the last seven days. The road from Guaymas to Tucson is better than it has been for some time past, nor has it rained since the teams started. But what is of more importance in freighting so long a distance is, that the wagons only average about six thousand pounds of freight each, thus preventing the lower portion of the load being crushed by the top weight, as is frequently the case when larger wagons are employed.

December 17, 1870 -- Started for Guaymas on Thursday last--Capt. C. E. Mowry, Dr. Edward Phelps, and Peter Kitchen, in private conveyance. Capt. M. expected they would be back here in forty

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days. The balance of his train for government is en route from Guaymas here.

March 18, 1871 -- On the 3d instant, Congress passed the "Texas Pacific" railway bill. This result was most anxiously awaited by every person--save the Indians--from San Diego to Marshall, Texas, and by all for many miles on either side of the projected line, as well as by the nation at large... .

We presume, from the above, that many people who delight in cursing Congress half their waking hours, omitted their mental luxury for one night. Congress for "one night only"--as the show bills say--was exempt from revilings.

In Tucson, the rejoicings were not intensified by any drunks. Capt. Mowry resolved himself into a committee of one on ways and means, and on the receipt of the news on Tuesday, proceeded to collect funds to procure powder for firing 100 guns. By favor of Col. Dunn, commanding Camp Lowell, a cannon was obtained and fired 100 times. The steam whistle of the flouring mill bawled and screeched for nearly an hour, and all in all ample evidence of gratification was exhibited.

March 23, 1871 -- A week ago yesterday, we had the satisfaction of examining an Arizona mine that has been worked on the staid plan in vogue among Mexicans. Capt. C. E. Mowry had occasion to make a trip in an ambulance to the Lee & Scott ledge, and wishing company, we accepted an invitation and went with him. The road there at present is 'round the horn,' as it were, but the Captain succeeded in 'doubling the cape' (polite term for 'horn') as majestically as he ever made it with a clipper. The grand secret of navigation of any kind is keeping the 'main brace' (whatever that is) frequently and well 'spliced.' In a direct line westward from town, the mine is probably 8 miles distant. By the road it is at least 18.

April 8, 1871 -- This is to notify all whom it may concern, that no person in Arizona is in anywise authorized to incur or contract debts in my name, or for which I will be responsible from and after this date. Tucson, April 6, 1871. CHAS. E. MOWRY.

May 27, 1871 -- Capt. Chas. E. Mowry, wife, two children and servant, were passengers on The Montana, on her last trip from Guaymas to San Francisco .

November 23, 1878 -- SAN FRANCISCO, November 9. Yesterday morning a notice like this appeared in the Alta: "Died in San Francisco, November 7, 1878, Charles E. Mowry, a native of Rhode Island, aged fifty years and three months." Cause was not stated. The deceased was well known to many Tucson and Sonora people.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Mowry, W.A. - The Descendants of Nathaniel Mowry, Providence, R.I., 1878, pp. 231, 292-296.
- Farish, T.E. - History of Arizona, 1915, vol. 2, p. 69.
- Barnes, W.C. - Arizona Place Names, 1935, p. 320.
- Mowry, Sylvester - Arizona and Sonora, N.Y., 1864, p. 77.
- The Weekly Arizonian, Tucson, November 6, 2:1 and December 25, 1869, 3:1; January 28, 3:1 and February 11, 1871, 3:2.
- The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, October 29, 1:2, November 5, 3:2, November 12, 3:1 and December 17, 1870, 3:2; February 4, 3:3, February 11, 3:2, February 18, 3:2; March 18, 2:1, March 25, 3:2-4, April 1, 3:2, April 8, 2:2 and May 27, 1871, 2:2; November 23, 1878, 1:4 (death notice).
- The Alta California, San Francisco, November 8, 1878, 4:3 (death notice).
- The Evening Bulletin, San Francisco, November 7, 1878, 3:4 (death notice).
- The Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, November 11, 1878, 3:2 (death notice).