

# MOWRY, SYLVESTER

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MOWRY, SYLVESTER, born at Providence, Rhode Island, January 17, 1832, son of Charles Cook and Celia (Aldrich) Mowry; Cadet, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N. Y., 1848-52; Brevet 2d Lieutenant July 1, 1852; with 3d Artillery at San Francisco, California, December 19, 1852 to June 7, 1853; promoted, 2d Lieutenant, September 6, 1853; on detached service with Pacific Railroad Exploration near the Columbia River to April 21, 1854; promoted, 1st Lieutenant, March 3, 1855; commanding detachment of Dragoons in Utah, May 26, 1854 to April 24, 1855; in charge of Subsistence Depot, Benecia, California, August and September, 1855.

In command, Battery I, 3d Artillery, Fort Yuma, California, to May 15, 1857; reported to the Adjutant General the arrival at Fort Yuma of ✓ Henry G. Crabb and about 150 men on filibustering expedition to Sonora, March 3, 1857; made report to Commissioner of Indian Affairs on Indian Tribes of the Gadsden Purchase, November 10, 1857; on leave until July 31, 1858, when his resignation was accepted.

Elected Delegate to Congress from the proposed Territory of Arizona in September, 1857, and again in September, 1859, but not seated; published MEMOIR OF THE PROPOSED TERRITORY OF ARIZONA 1857; addressed the American Geographical Society in New York City, February 3, 1859 on THE HISTORY AND MINERAL RESOURCES OF ARIZONA AND SONORA, which was published by the Society; in a duel with Edward E. Cross, editor of THE WEEKLY ARIZONIAN at Tubac, July 8, 1859; four shots were exchanged without effect and on last fire his rifle did not discharge; the seconds decided he was entitled to his shot but he refused it by firing into the air; they became good friends and Cross supported him for Congress.

As Special Agent of the Indian Bureau distributed to the Pima Indians agricultural implements, seed, cloth for women, etc., valued at \$10,000, November 1859; appointed by President Buchanan Commissioner to run and mark the boundary between California and the Territories, 1860-61; purchased the Patagonia silver mine in Southern Arizona in 1860 for \$25,000 and expended over \$100,000 on its development; listed, U. S. Census, September 3, 1860, at Patagonia Silver Mines, Arizona County, New Mexico, retired U.S. Army officer, property valued at \$75,000.

Arrested by order of Colonel J. H. Carleton, U. S. Army, on charge of "giving aid and comfort to the enemy" June 8, 1862; confined at Fort Yuma, California, from July 2 to November 4, 1862, when he was unconditionally released, "there being no evidence either oral or documentary against him"; his mining property, then producing about \$4500 per week in refined silver, was seized by the military authorities and leased at \$100 per month until restored to him over two years later; filed complaint in Fourth Judicial District of California against General Carleton and officers under him alleging illegal seizure of property, December 12, 1863.

Returned to Arizona but was soon again expelled from the Territory by order of General Carleton, August 24, 1864; First Arizona Legislature adopted concurrent resolution, October 31, 1864, that "The presence of said Mowry in this Territory is not dangerous to the Peace thereof and that the General be requested to revoke said order"; author of ARIZONA AND SONORA, a classic among the books on that region, in the 3d edition of which (Harpers, N.Y., 1864) is an account of his unwarranted arrest and imprisonment.

Went to England in the fall of 1871 to obtain medical advice on Bright's disease from which he was suffering; died at Fenton's Hotel,

St. James Street, London, October 17, 1871; Charles D. Poston, former Delegate to Congress from Arizona, was with him at the time of his death.

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