

# OAKS, GEORGE WASHINGTON

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OAKS, GEORGE WASHINGTON, born in Tippecanoe, Miami County, Ohio, July 30, 1840; son of Samuel and Mary (Scheider) Oaks; never married.

Enrolled, age 20, at Marysville, Yuba County, August 17, and mustered in at the Presidio of San Francisco, August 26, 1861, to serve 3 years as Private, Company I, 1st California Infantry; occupation when enlisted - Farmer; went with the Company to Southern California and arrived at Fort Yuma in December; left there on March 22, 1862 and arrived at the Pima Villages April 12; after the skirmish at Picacho Pass, April 15, 1862, his Company remained at Fort Barrett on the Pima Reservation until May 14 and then went to Tucson, arriving May 22, 1862; left Tucson for Fort Bowie, July 23, 1862; the remainder of his service was in New Mexico; promoted Corporal at Fort Craig, N.M., April 16, 1863; reduced to Private, June, 1863; honorably discharged at Fort Union, New Mexico, August 31, 1864.

Employed by Major Henry Inman at Fort Harker, Kansas, as Teamster at \$25 per month April 1 to August 25, 1868; left Fort Harker, August 28, as Scout at \$50 per month, with 49 men on an expedition under Colonel Go A. Forsyth; participated in the siege and battle with about 1,000 Cheyenne, Arapahoe and Sioux Indians under the Cheyenne Chief Roman Nose on Beecher's Island in the Arickaree Fork of the Republican River, Kansas, September 17 to 25, 1868; returned to Fort Harker, October 1, and went to Fort Hayes as Teamster; was Foreman of laborers at Fort Hayes at \$65 per month from November 1, 1868 to March 1, 1869, when his designation was

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changed to Wagonmaster; was in charge of wagon trains to Fort McPherson, Nebraska, and in June, his pay was increased to \$75 per month; discharged at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming, November 16, 1869.

He returned to Arizona in 1878 and his name appears on the Great Register of Cochise County as a Teamster at Tombstone, in 1882, and at Fairbank in 1884; he was registered as Chief of Police at Tombstone, in 1888, as a Miner in 1890 and as a Millman in 1892; comrade, Burnside Post No. 2, G.A.R., at Tombstone, 1893-97; transferred to Negley Post No. 1, G.A.R., at Tucson, 1904; member Arizona Pioneers Historical Society, Tucson.

Moved from Tombstone to Tucson about 1898; the Tucson Arizona Star of December 19, 1899, reported that he had been appointed night watchman at the Southern Pacific Railroad Depot; at the time of his death the Tucson Arizona Star stated that he had accumulated a small fortune in the mining business which with his pension, enabled him to spend his last years in comfort residing at a local hotel.

Died at the Orndorf Hotel, Tucson, Arizona, February 5, 1917, aged 76; buried, G.A.R. Cemetery, Tucson; War Department headstone; the following is from an obituary in the Tucson Citizen:

George W. Oakes, who rode with Buffalo Bill, in the brave days of the west, who plodded through the purple sage when Arizona was a savage filled desert, died yesterday, his mind at rest.

He had packed his kit for the journey with the thoroughness of the days of danger half a century ago and he waited since December 14 for the call. For it was on December 14 he called at the Riley chapel and arranged for his funeral, selected his coffin and paid the bill. His kit was packed. He was ready for the long trail over the divide. The call came yesterday.

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## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Orton, R.H. - Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion, Sacramento, 1890, p. 375.  
 The Adjutant General of the Army - Military service records.  
 U.S. Veterans Administration - Pension records.  
 Office of the Quartermaster General - Archives and Claims.  
 Cochise County Great Register, 1882-1892.  
 Arizona Division of Vital Statistics, 1917 - Death Certificate.  
 Superior Court of Pima County - Probate Docket No. 2344.  
 The Tucson Citizen, February 6, 1917, 4:2-3 (obituary).  
 The Arizona Star, Tucson, December 19, 1899, 4:3; February 7, 2:3 and February 8, 1917, 6:2 (obituary and funeral); Sunday May 26, 1929 (story of the fight at Beecher's Island).

## ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Tombstone Epitaph, September 14, 2:4 and September 16, 1886, 3:1 and December 17, 1887, 3:3; January 12, 1895, 4:3.  
 The Tombstone Prospector, March 8, 1:1, March 10, 3:1, May 5, 3:1, May 12, 3:1, May 16, 3:2 and October 7, 1887, 3:2; January 17, 3:2 and June 14, 1888, 3:2.