

# OWEN, JOHN WREN

001

OWEN, JOHN WREN

Born at \_\_\_\_\_, Illinois, \_\_\_\_\_, 18\_\_ (about 1823)

Son of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

He raised a Company of 85 volunteers in San Francisco and was mustered in to the service of the United States at the Presidio on December 15, 1864, to serve 3 years as Captain, Company F, 7th California Infantry; remained at the Presidio until June, 1865, when he went with the Company by sea to San Pedro, California; marched to Fort Yuma and stationed there from July to September, 1865; was at Maricopa Wells on October 1 en route to Fort McDowell where his Company remained until March, 1866; returned to California and was honorably discharged with the Company at the Presidio of San Francisco on April 13, 1866.

Elected from Tubac to represent Pima County in the 5th Territorial Legislature which was in session at Tucson from November 10 to December 16, 1868; listed, U.S. Census, 1870, at Camp Crittenden, Pima County, A. T., age 46, where he was clerk in the Sutler's store operated by William J. Osborn; served as Sergeant at Arms, 6th Territorial Council at Tucson, 1871; in reporting a stage robbery that occurred about 15 miles east of Gila Bend, the Tucson Arizona Citizen of March 11, 1871, stated:

Western mail arrived at 10 a.m. today. The armed party who went to the scene of the attack upon the stage as described elsewhere, returned with two bags of mail. A number of letters were covered with blood and marked - "picked up by J.W. Owen."

Appointed Deputy Collector and Inspector, U.S. Customs Service, at Cababi, Pima County, A.T., May 1, 1872, and served in southern Arizona until December 31, 1874; twice elected Treasurer of Maricopa County serving from January 1, 1875, until his death; granted leave of absence from the Territory as County Treasurer for two months at any time that year by Act of the 8th

OWEN, JOHN WREN

-2-

Territorial Legislature, approved February 15, 1875; the following obituary written by Martin H. Calderwood was printed in the Prescott Arizona Miner of November 9, 1877:

Captain Owens was born in Illinois, came to California in 1852, and settled near Suisun City, Solano County. He came to this Territory in command of Company "F", Seventh Infantry, California Volunteers, and was stationed at Camp McDowell; he returned to California and was mustered out of the service with his regiment in 1866;

Returning here he engaged in farming on the Santa Cruz River, in Pima County; he was elected to the Territorial Legislature in 1868; he was afterwards appointed Deputy Collector of Customs and first stationed at Maricopa Wells, subsequently at Phoenix; he was elected Treasurer of Maricopa County in 1874, and re-elected in 1876, holding the office at the time of his death. A man with few faults and many virtues.

He was a member of Suisun Lodge No. 55, F. and A.M. at Suisun, Solano County, California; J.W. Owens Post No. 83(3) Grand Army of the Republic, organized at Phoenix on September 24, 1886, was named for him; died at Phoenix, A.T., November 4, 1877, aged 54; buried, Old City (Pioneers) Cemetery, in Phoenix, War Department headstone.

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- California Grand Lodge, F. and A.M. = Proceedings, 1874, p. 690.  
 Orton, R.H. = Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion, Sacramento, 1890, p. 781.  
 Kelly, G.H. = Legislative History, Arizona, Phoenix, 1926, p. 41.  
 The Adjutant General of the Army = Military Service records.  
 Journals, 5th, 6th and 8th Arizona Legislative Assemblies, Tucson, 1868, 1871 and 1875.  
 Acts of the 6th Territorial Legislature, 1871, p. 51.  
 U.S. Treasury Department = Secretary's Files.  
 McClintock, J.H. = Arizona, The Youngest State, Chicago, 1916, pp. 167, 168.  
 Probate Court of Maricopa County, = Docket No. 13.  
 Great Register of Maricopa County, A. T., 1876.  
 W.P.A. = Inventory of Maricopa County Archives, 1940, p. 358.  
 The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, March 11, 1871, 2:3.  
 The Arizona Miner, Prescott, November 9, 1877, 3:3.