

SANDERS, ADAM

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SANDERS, ADAM, born in Wytheville, Wythe County, Virginia, August 10, 1844; son of Leander Adams and Charlotte Theresa (Hector) Sanders; in infancy went with his parents to Texas; enrolled at Seguin, October 19, age 17, and mustered in October 30, 1861, at Camp Henry McGulloch to serve for the war as Private in Captain John P. White's Company E, 6th Texas Volunteer Infantry, Confederate States Army; promoted to Corporal, October 1, 1862; was captured at Fort Hindman, Arkansas, on January 11, 1863, and sent as a prisoner of war to Camp Butler, near Springfield, Illinois, arriving on January 31; paroled for exchange of prisoners April 15, 1863, and returned to duty with the Company; was severely wounded at the battle of Chicamauga, September 20, 1863; was hospitalized for some months and then went to Virginia on sick leave; finally returned to the Company and surrendered with it to General W. T. Sherman at Augusta, Georgia, May 18, 1865; the following quotation from a Guadalupe County, Texas, newspaper explains how he came to Arizona in 1865:

Upon his return from the war to Seguin, he found that his sister, Mrs. Granville H. Gury, with her husband had just left for Arizona. The next morning he followed on horseback (to bid them goodbye), overtaking them at Leon Springs, where they had camped.

From their persuasions his horse, which was a pet of his sister (Mrs. Gordon), was brought back to Seguin by Mr. Fritz Suchart, and he made the trip to Arizona with them, where he spent nearly thirty years of his life in Tucson.

In the diary kept by his sister, Mrs. Malvina Sanders Gury, is the following entry for June 20, 1865:

We left San Antonio about 4 P.M. Camped nine miles from town, two miles west of the Leon. About this time a stranger rode into camp and introduced himself as Adams Sanders - my brother whom I had not seen for more than three years. He had ridden to San Antonio in the hope of seeing me before I started, but finding that we had just started that afternoon, concluded to overtake us. No small undertaking, for he had already come nearly fifty miles, and as he

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belonged to an infantry company during the war, had not been on a horse before for nearly four years.

I will not attempt to give any idea of my great joy at seeing my brother - I had buried all hope of ever seeing him again - indeed, had begun to fear that he had been murdered with the slain on the battlefield of Franklin.

Mr. Oury advised him to proceed with us to Sonora, Guaymas is our point of destination, believing it to be the best move for him under existing circumstances. He was anxious to go, but regretted to leave without remaining longer at home (had spent but one night with them), but as this was likely to be his only opportunity and having the offer of assistance much needed, his better judgment prompted him to smother all tender emotions and consult only his future welfare and interest.

Supper over and the point settled, I hastily scribbled a few lines to my father, apprising him of my brother's determination, which I trust he will approve, though I well know what a severe trial it will be to him.

Later in her diary Mrs. Oury wrote;

Had to cut the pockets out of one pair of pants to patch another pair with. Mr. Oury had only started with the "road clothes" he supposed would be sufficient for himself, but had to divide every garment with Addy, so the supply will be short.

Was in the general merchandise business in Tucson, under the firm name of Goodwin and Sanders before 1869; disposed of their stock of goods early in 1870; listed, U.S. Census, July, 1870, at Tucson, Pima County, A. T., occupation, Retired merchant; afterwards engaged in supplying the residents of Tucson with water from a water wagon; original member, Society of Arizona Pioneers, 1884, occupation, Waterman; was with his sister when Mr. Oury died in Tucson on January 12, 1891, and assisted at the funeral in Florence; in 1894 he returned to Seguin to make his home with another sister, Mrs. John F. Gordon; in his later years he was cared for by his nieces, Misses Lizzie and Edna Gordon; died at Seguin, Guadalupe County, Texas, February 23, 1931, aged 86; buried, Riverside Cemetery at Seguin.

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SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Arizona Pioneers Historical Society, Tucson - Membership Book, 1884.
- Arizona Historical Review, Phoenix, October, 1931, p. 53.
- The Adjutant General of the Army - Confederate service records.
- The Weekly Arizonian, Tucson, January 24, 1869; January 8, 1870.
- The Arizona Enterprise, Florence, January 17, 1891.
- Clipping from a Guadalupe County, Texas, newspaper, March, 1931.