

TEVIS, JAMES HENRY

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TEVIS, JAMES HENRY, born at Wheeling, West Virginia, July 11, 1836; son of John D. and Elizabeth (McNamee) Tevis; married, Emma Boston at St. Louis, Missouri, December 24, 1866; children, Albert Lyle, Granville Oury, Louis Daily, Josephine (Mrs. James Boyers and after his death Mrs. Charles H. Jasper), Belle Walker (Mrs. Gustavus A. Thurman), Mary Maverick (Mrs. James Wood Walker and after his death Mrs. William Thomas Williams), Minnie Ella (Mrs. Tom Davenport) and Lettie Ann (Mrs. William W. Edwards).

Came to the Gadsden Purchase with the Overland Mail Company in 1857; helped to construct and was placed in charge of the stage station at Apache Pass; in 1899 he wrote:

When I made my advent into Arizona there were only 24 white residents in the whole territory, to wit: 14 at La Mesilla, 8 in Tucson, Col. C. D. Poston in Tubac and a gentleman by the name of (Ammi) White at the Pima Villages. At that time the Rio Grande ran east of the town of Mesilla and all the country between the Rio Grande and the Rio Colorado was called Arizona.

The Mesilla correspondent of the Weekly Arizonian made the following favorable comment about him which was published in the issue of that newspaper at Tucson on April 24, 1860:

The Governor (L. S. Owings) has authorized Mr. James H. Tevis, of this place, to raise a Ranging company, and has also appointed some three or four others for the same purpose, as provided for in the Constitution of the Provisional Government (of the proposed Territory of Arizona). Mr. Tevis has commenced recruiting, and will rendezvous at this place on the 20th of May.

I think the Governor has made a very good appointment, and it gives general satisfaction in this vicinity, as Mr. Tevis lived at Apache Pass, as Agent of the Overland Mail Company, and is well acquainted with the habits of the thieving Apaches. He also held a commission under General Walker in Nicaragua, and proved himself a good officer.

Went to Pinos Altos, New Mexico, immediately after the discovery of gold by Jacob Snively in May, 1860, and built the first house there; served in the Arizona Guards under Captain Thomas J. Mastin in engagements with the Indians in the vicinity of Pinos Altos; participated in the fight with Apache Indians on the Membros River, when Mastin was killed on October 8, 1861; mustered in by Colonel J. H. Baylor at Dona Aria, New Mexico, January 25, 1862, as a 2nd Lieutenant, Captain Sherod Hunter's Company, Herbert's Arizona Battalion, Confederate States Army; promoted 1st Lieutenant, October 3, 1862; his name is last borne on an Arizona Battalion record dated June 1, 1863; a Return for February, 1864, names him as Captain, Company E., Saufley's Scouting Battalion Major's Texas Cavalry; served in the Trans-Mississippi Department and participated in battles and skirmishes in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

The following statements that he made about his military service are from letters that he wrote the first of which was addressed to His Excellency, C. M. Zulick, the then Governor of Arizona, on January 8, 1886:

Now, Governor, I am no tenderfoot (excuse the slang): I resided at Apache Gap (Now Ft. Bowie) years before the Civil War when Cochise made it his headquarters. The warriors then numbered 1500 under Chief Cochise, Old Jack & Gonelia. I had a trading post there at the time and with the exception of a few people at the Santa Rita Del Cobre on the head-waters of the Rio Mimbres, there were no settlements between the Rio Grande and Tucson and none north of Tucson.

I afterwards commanded the Rangers against the Apaches, the first Rangers ever organized in the Territory. I disbanded them at the breaking out of the Civil War and we all took a hand in a four years' term of a little civilized fighting which was easier.

At the breaking out of the rebellion, I was the only white man in Arizona, who spoke the Apache language and understood the signals, hence my success in my engagements with them.

Previously, on May 27, 1885, he wrote as follows to William S. Oury of Tucson:

After Capt. (Sherod) Hunter's command returned to the Rio Grande from Tucson a small detail of Confederates were ordered on a scout towards Tucson--but was never heard of after leaving Cow Springs--at least they never reported and I ought to know as I had the honor of commanding the last body of Confederates in Mesilla and Fort Fillmore. I commanded Col. Steel's Rear Guard when he evacuated Arizona.

After the close of the Civil War he went to St. Louis, Missouri and resided there from 1866 until about 1877 when he went to Kansas; returned to Arizona about 1880 and located 19 mining claims late that year in the Chiricahua Mountains and the Dos Cabezas Mining District, Cochise County, A.T. his real estate, merchandise and personal property at Tombstone, A.T., assessed at \$3,875, in 1882 and at \$6,075, in 1883; moved to Tres Cebollas (Bowie Station) on the Southern Pacific railway in 1884 where he later had charge of the S. P. hotel; filed application for a homestead of 160 acres in Section 9, Township 13 South, Range 28 East, Cochise County, A.T., on March 23, 1887, claiming settlement in 1880 for which he received a patent on November 13, 1890 covering the townsite of Teviston.

Member from Cochise County, H. of R., 16th Territorial Legislature, 1891; assumed charge of the San Xavier Hotel in Tucson, May 22, 1897; appointed Postmaster at Teviston, Cochise County, A.T., August 5, 1903, and was serving as such at the time of his death; the name of the Post Office was changed to Bowie on March 18, 1911; died at Tucson,

Pima County, A. T., August 29, 1905, aged 69; buried in the family plot at Teviston (Bowie) Arizona.

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