

TROJEL, WILLIAM

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TROJEL, WILLIAM, born at Jutland, Denmark, on September 27, 1820; married, Teodora Barela at Tubac in the Gadsden Purchase on February 14, 1858; adopted children, Jacob Joseph and Albertina Angelma (Mrs. _____).

Enlisted at New York City, September 13, 1845, to serve 5 years in the Regular Army and assigned to the 6th U.S. Infantry, serving in Companies I and K; occupation when enlisted, Clerk; went by sea from Governor's Island, New York to New Orleans and marched from there to the Indian Territory and stationed at Fort Towson, Fort Washita, Fort Gibson and thence to Fort Leavenworth and Fort Kearney on the Oregon route;

honorably discharged as Corporal at Fort Scott, Missouri, ^{September 13, 1850} ~~on May 18, 1852~~,
Reenlisted at St. Louis Missouri, May 18, 1852
and assigned to Company C, 6th U.S. Infantry; transferred to Company B,

1st U.S. Dragoons and went with the Company to New Mexico; was at Fort Union, N.M. in July, 1856, and marched from there via the Gila Valley to Camp Moore (Calabasas) on the Santa Cruz River, arriving in December; engaged with the Company in scouting and exploring in the Gadsden Purchase until honorably discharged on May 18, 1857.

He had reenlisted at Dona Ana, N.M. on May 1, and was assigned to Company D, 1st U.S. Dragoons then stationed at Camp Moore; the name of the Post was changed to Fort Buchanan and he was stationed there with the Company until March 1, 1859, when he was transferred to Company G of the same Regiment; that company was stationed at Fort Buchanan until December, when it marched via Tucson to Fort Breckenridge where it remained until May 1861; the designation of the Regiment was changed to the 1st U.S. Cavalry and Troop G, along with all other Federal forces in Arizona was ordered to abandon the Gadsden Purchase and march to the Rio Grande because of the Civil War; he arrived with the Troop at Fort Craig, N.M. in August, where it participated in action against the Confederates on

February 18, 1862, and in the battle of Valverde two days later; honorably discharged by expiration of enlistment, May 1, 1862; L. V. Briggs of the Boston Transcript who visited San Xavier on April 23, 1882, said of him;

We were greeted near the church by an interesting old Dane, the only white man on the Reservation, who gave us a great deal of information about the church, the Indians and the surrounding country. This man, William Trefel, first went to San Xavier in 1856, under the command of Major Hugh Steen, who was sent, with the four companies, B, D, G, and K, of the United States Dragoon, to protect the few people who were then there against the Indians.

From San Xavier, Major Steen's command moved, in the summer of 1857, to Fort Buchanan, located near the hot springs on the southeast side of the Santa Rita Mountains. Here they remained until the fall of 1860, when they went to Arivaca, and in July, '61 were ordered to Ft. Craig, New Mexico. Here Mr. Trefel got his discharge.

He lived in the northern part of Mexico until 1878 when he returned, on account of his health, and tried to reclaim his land, but failed, and he was made interpreter of the Indian and Spanish languages for the sub-agencies. He married an Indian (Mexican) of unusual refinement, and is a man who has great influence among the Indians.

Died at Tucson, Pima County, A.T., March 8, 1906, aged 85; buried
 Cemetery, Tucson.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Briggs, L.V. - Arizona and New Mexico, 1882, Boston, 1932, pp. 22-23, 28, 28.
 The Adjutant General of the Army - Military service records
 U.S. Veterans Administration - Pension records, Mex. S. 4241
 The Tucson Citizen, March 9, 1906, p. 5, Col. 5-6 (obituary)