

# WASHBURN, HIRAM STORRS

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WASHBURN, HIRAM STORRS, born at Randolph, Orange County, Vermont, February 7, 1820; son of Virgil and Catherine (Storrs) Washburn; said to have been "a graduate of one of the eastern colleges, a linguist and a fine Spanish scholar"; married Mrs. Charlotte Regina (Minnix) Stone (1830-1913) of Alexandria, Virginia, at Grace Church, Washington, D.C., October 24, 1869; daughter, Minnie L. (Mrs. Tolson).

Went to Texas and Mexico as a young man; was made a Mason in Alamo Lodge No. 44, F. & A. M., at San Antonio, Texas, 1850; left there in 1851 and engaged in the survey of public lands on the frontiers of California and Washington Territory; with another man and 3 mules he crossed the Colorado near Fort Yuma on July 2, 1857, and traveled up the Gila past the bleaching bones of the Oatman family, killed by the Apaches in 1851, to the Maricopa and Pima Villages; he was well treated for two days and then went via the Picacho Peak toward Tucson and says;

Hence it is fifteen miles to the town, before arriving at which, I met a party of fifteen Americans endeavoring to intercept a band of Apaches en route for their homes, with una Cabalyada of stolen horses from Sonora. The expedition proved successful; one hundred and eighty head of horses and mules were captured from the Indians. The victors and their booty were received by the citizens with manifestations of joy. As it is the custom in this country on such occurrences, the animals were declared a legal prize.

After indulging in a general tumult of rejoicings, and receiving the congratulations of many a fair Senorita, an effort was made to divide the spoils among those who had taken a hand in the expedition. In this they could not agree, so every man concluded to pitch in and help himself. The result was some got as many as fifteen while others got none.

The town of Tucson has a population of near one thousand souls, mostly Sonorians. It is built of adobes and is in the usual dilapidated condition of other Mexican towns. Previous to the Purchase it was a military station or fort, and was the only point, except San Xavier, in the northern part of Sonora and not on the Rio Grande, that the Mexican army was able to hold against the attacks of Apaches. All other places, as Soperi, Arrivaca, Tubac, Calabowas, Babacomeri, Tumacacari, Los Alamos, and many other haciendas have been long since deserted.

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San Xavier was next visited which he thus describes:

The Mission building, or Cathedral, is built entirely of brick and appears of the usual style and size as those in California, at Santa Barbara, San Gabriel and San Louis Rey. In the interior of the Mission the images and paintings are, as well as the whole building, in a wonderful state of preservation, but the outside buildings have very much fallen into decay. There was only one family (Senor Castro's) living at this place. They were in constant fear from the Apaches; every day expecting that that one would be their last.

From San Xavier to Soperi it is thirty miles. It was on this road, about two weeks previous, that the Apaches surprised four men and murdered them for bleed alone, as they were found without even a garment being taken from their bodies.

At Soperi he met, Col. James W. Douglas, William B. Roods and Christopher C. Dodson, Americans, who had pre-empted that rancho there and were working a nearby silver mine with sanguine anticipations of it ultimately yielding them a fortune; from there he went by the deserted Arivaca Rancho to Tubutama in Sonora and on to Altar; after being very hospitably entertained for two days he went on to Sonio, arriving August 2; from there he traveled via Sonoita and the Tinaja Alta to Fort Yuma.

In 1859 he returned to the Gadesden Purchase to engage in trading with the Indians and the Mexicans in Sonora; listed, U.S. Census, 1860, at Pima Village, occupation, Surveyor, property valued at \$5600; probably assisted A.B. Gray, who at that time made a survey to locate the boundaries of the Pima Indian Reservation along the Gila River.

In February, 1862, Ammi White and O. Charles Hayward of Tucson both reported rumors that he accompanied Palatine Robinson from Tucson to the Cerro Colorado mine where notices of confiscation were posted, either in the name of the Confederate Government or on their own account, but that they subsequently abandoned the property and were then at the Patagonia mine with

Sylvester Mowry; such rumors were probably baseless because he was not at Patagonia when Mowry and Robinson were arrested by officers of the California Column; his loyalty must have been unquestioned or he would not later have been given command of troops; what was said, however, may have been why he stated in 1867 that he had lost his papers "with everything else that I had during the political troubles in Arizona in 1862".

Appointed 2d Lieutenant by Governor Goodwin at Tubac, A.T., June 15, 1865, and authorized to raise a Company of Infantry in 90 days; expended over \$500 of his personal funds in recruiting for which he was never reimbursed; commissioned by the Governor as Captain, August 15, 1865, and immediately assigned by Colonel C.W. Lewis to command the Company he had raised which was designated as Company E, 1st Arizona Infantry, the enlisted men of which were native Mexicans; moved with the Company to Fort Mason, August 23 where he and 97 of his men were mustered in to serve one year against Indians on November 3, 1865; one of his enlisted men, Private Felipe Cordova, age 27, died there of disease on November 18.

Left Fort Mason December 5 and marched to Tucson where two of his men were refused admission to the post hospital; one of them, Private Vicente Brucamentes, age 42, was too sick to go on and died in the town on December 17; the other, Private Santiago Gutierrez, was a younger man and went with the Company as far as Point of Mountain where he died, age 21, on December 10; the march was continued via Maricopa Wells and Date Creek and he arrived at Fort Whipple with his men on December 29, 1865, all of whom suffered from cold because of lack of clothing when snow was encountered between Skull Valley and Prescott.

Left Fort Whipple January 5, arrived at Camp Lincoln on the Verde River January 16, and assumed command there on February 1, 1866, with 88 men of his Company E and 35 additional men of Company B; on February 26, Private Roque Ramirez, age 33, of Company E was killed by Apaches about a mile below the Post; Captain Washburn was compelled to spend much of his time procuring supplies from Fort Whipple and while on one trip on March 11, 1866, with 27 men he surprised an Apache rancheria, killing 6 Indians and taking one prisoner.

By letter of June 25, 1866, he and his command were thanked by Colonel H.D. Wallen, Commanding the District of Arizona, for "valuable services to the Territory in several successful scouts against hostile Apaches"; the soldiers under his command who were never properly clothed and received no pay whatever from the Federal Government or the Territory of Arizona were mustered out at Camp Lincoln on August 29; he was honorably discharged at Fort Whipple, A.T., November 7, 1866, after "a year and four months of unremitting toil and care".

On February 12, 1869, he filed suit in the Court of Claims for \$440.50 for pay as Captain, from August 15, the date of his commission and assignment to duty, to November 3, 1865, the date of his muster out; in a message to the 4th Arizona Legislature on October 1, 1867, Governor McCormick recommended that a memorial to Congress be passed, urging that he be compensated for his services, but nothing was done and his claim was never paid.

Came to Washington, D.C., in 1867 and was employed as Post Office Clerk; from October 19, 1869 to June 30, 1874, he was a Clerk in the Office of the 6th Auditor at \$1400 per annum; the City Directory indicates that he was

a Clerk in the Office of the Auditor for the District of Columbia from 1877 to 1879; employed in the Government Printing Office at 25 cents per hour from October 8, 1880 to September 17, 1887.

He and James A. Garfield were two of the 59 men who petitioned for the organization of a new Masonic Lodge in Washington, D.C., which was chartered on May 4, 1869, as Pentalpha Lodge No. 23, of which he remained a member until his death; also member of Mount Vernon Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, and Columbia Commandery No. 2, Knights Templar.

Died at his residence, 1228 Sixth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., February 16, 1889, aged 69; buried in the Congressional Cemetery at Washington.

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