

Granville H. Oury



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Granville Henderson Oury was one of the first pioneers to arrive in the State of Arizona, arriving in 1856 whereas he was claimed to be the 3rd Anglo pioneer to settle Arizona. In 1861 Granville H. Oury was elected to the Provisional Congress of the Confederate States representing the Territory of Arizona. During this time he was an active soldier and in August of 1861 led 25 Confederate men to lift the siege on the city of Tubac by Apache Warriors. The Confederates led by Oury attacked the 200 Apaches and lifted the siege on Tubac saving the women and children from slaughter and further starvation. The Confederate flag was raised over the city and the women and children of Tubac were led back to the Confederate Capital in Arizona “Tucson”.

With the war becoming more serious in Arizona and his dedication to the territory in which he lived in strong, Oury resigned his seat in the Confederate Congress to serve as a Captain in Herbert's Battalion Arizona Cavalry. He also served as a Colonel on the staff of General Henry Hopkins Sibley in Texas and Louisiana from 1862 to 1864.

With the end of the Civil War, Granville H. Oury strongly believed in a unified America that needed to heal. He traveled to Ft. Mason, Arizona and asked to sign the oath of allegiance in which the fort had none. Not deterred, Oury then hand wrote his own oath of allegiance and signed it on October 8, 1865.

Oury was then elected to the 3rd Arizona Territorial Legislature in 1866 and appointed Arizona Territory Attorney General in 1869. As well as District Attorney for Maricopa County in 1871 to 1873. And then in the Arizona Territorial Legislature in 1873 and 1875. He then moved to Florence as an early pioneer in the 1870's and was elected District Attorney for Pinal County in 1879. He then later served in the United States House of Representatives from 1881 to 1885, in which Oury was said to be the only member of the Confederate Congress to serve in the United States House of Representatives as the law banning Confederate Congress members from taking office in the House of Representatives did not apply to Oury as he represented a territory and not a state in the Confederate Government, thus allowing him to participate through such loophole. Oury then returned to Florence, Arizona in 1885 to become Pinal County District Attorney again from 1889 to 1890.

Granville H. Oury passed on Jan 11, 1891 from cancer and was interred into the Adamsville Cemetery in Florence. While death took him early, Mr. Oury still had the intention of holding more political offices in Arizona to better the territory he loved.