

TOOLE, JAMES HENRY

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TOOLE, JAMES HENRY, born at New Rochelle, Westchester County, New York, October 22, 1824; son of Thomas and Mary Toole and the youngest of their 13 children; married, Louisa M. Dexter, (1852-1923), daughter of John and Jenny Dexter, at Tucson, A.T., April 22, 1873, by Padre Francisco Jovenceau; children, James H., Robert L., Richard C., Anna Belle (Mrs. _____ Daly) and Catherine L. (Mrs. _____).

Went with his father, a business man of New Rochelle, to New Orleans, Louisiana, where they both carried on an extensive mercantile business; served for a time as private in an artillery company of the Louisiana State Militia; went to California in 1849 and engaged in mining in Placer County; enrolled, October 14, at Placerville, El Dorado County, and mustered in at Camp Union, near Sacramento, November 26, 1861, as 2d Lieutenant, Company G, 5th California Infantry; went with the Company to Southern California in February, 1862, and arrived at Tucson in April; served as Acting Assistant Quartermaster and Commissary at Tucson from May 30, 1862 to January 9, 1863; promoted 1st Lieutenant and transferred to Field and Staff as Regimental Quartermaster at Tucson, January 10, 1863; transferred to Company D at Tucson, May 19, 1863, where he was stationed until October, 1864; transferred to Company C, 1st California Veteran Infantry at Las Cruces, N.M., November 28, 1864; honorably discharged at Franklin (El Paso) Texas, April 5, 1865.

Returned to Tucson after his discharge from the Army and became one of the most influential business men in southern Arizona; appointed Adjutant General of the Territory of Arizona with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel September 7, 1868, but resigned on December 15 of that year; listed, U.S. Census, 1870, at Tucson, occupation, Retail Merchant; property valued at \$22,500; there is evidence that he was a real estate dealer and an

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auctioneer; on October 3, 1870, he was appointed by the Governor as a member of the Board of Supervisors of Pima County to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of E. N. Fish; mayor of the Village of Tucson, 1873-75. That he was prospering is indicated by an article in the Tucson Citizen of April 10, 1875;

Toole, James H. has commenced the erection of a large building on the northeast corner of the postoffice block. It will have a frontage of eighty feet on Meyer Street and thirty-five on Congress. The inside will be twenty--three feet wide and fifteen from floor to ceiling. The wing on Congress Street will have a fine archway for an entrance into the main part, which may be closed and thereby make two buildings. Whendoneitwill be one of the finest and most showy corners in town. Mr. Toole says he has had a number of offers for the use of the building when done but it is not certain yet who will be the lucky renter.

Elected Mayor of Tucson in January, 1878, and at the end of his term in 1879 the City was free of debt for which he was tendered the thanks of the City Council; in 1881 he became Vice President of the Arizona Telephone Company and on December 12 of that year he was elected as the first Commander of Negley Post No. 35 (1), Grand Army of the Republic, at Tucson; Charter Member of the Society of Arizona Pioneers, 1884, and was its Treasurer.

With Governor A.P.K. Safford and Charles Hudson established a private bank in Tucson early in 1879 with a paid up capital of \$50,000; in 1880 a branch was opened in Tombstone; Governor Safford disposed of his interest in the bank in 1882 and, under the name of Hudson & Co., the capital and surplus was increased to \$100,000; the bank failed on May 10, 1884, with total assets and liabilities of \$345,564., the deposits in Tucson being \$145,420. and in Tombstone \$133,206; as a private banking institution the property of each member of the firm was liable to the

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depositors so that he lost all that he owned; the Tucson Citizen stated that;

It was at the request of his closest friends that he should give up the thoughts of his business troubles and stay away for a while from the scenes of his misfortunes. The Colonel left here on Tuesday afternoon for Wisconsin where his wife and children now are. It was remarked by many of his friends before he left that he had probably lost his balance but they were chary of expressing their thoughts because of the high standing of the Colonel.

Stepped from the railroad train to the platform at Trinidad, Las Animas County, Colorado, and shot himself through the heart, dying instantly, on October 15, 1884, aged 60; his remains were embalmed and forwarded to Beaver Dam, Dodge County, Wisconsin and there interred in the Oakwood Cemetery. Upon advice of his death the Tucson Arizona Star stated;

His business qualifications, while perhaps equalled, were never surpassed. Before the lamentable failure, which by many is believed to have been caused by no fault of his other than that of reposing too much confidence in the integrity of others, his opinions were sought and had weighty consideration upon nearly every question of import that enterprise or circumstances brought before the people. After the failure some hard feelings were entertained against him, but in the light of developments he was exonerated from complicity in the bank calamity and causes leading thereto; but the failure preyed upon his mind and reason for the moment fled her throne.

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