

SHEROD HUNTER

Sherod Hunter was born around 1824, it is unknown exactly when, and was probably born around Robertson County, Tennessee.

On October 10, 1841 Hunter applied for a marriage license to a woman named Lydia Hunter (probably a cousin) but it is unknown if they ever actually got married.

Shortly before 1857 Hunter moved to Mesilla, New Mexico and a few years later he settled on the Mimbres River, about 25 miles outside Deming, New Mexico. He began a career as a farmer in the area. Hunter became a soldier for the Confederate Army when Governor Baylor of the newly created Arizona Territory requested soldiers. He enlisted as a private in Captain George Frazer's Company of Arizona Rangers.

By August 1, 1861 he had been promoted to First Lieutenant. Baylor later commissioned Lt. Hunter to the Regiment of Arizona Rangers, where he was again promoted to captain and placed in charge of recruitment.

On February 10, 1862 Hunter and his men were ordered to go to Tucson to establish a military post for observation of Union forces that were coming from California. Hunter's job in Tucson was also to deal with the Indian situation that had erupted in the area. Captain Hunter's "Arizona Campaign," as it was called, lasted until May 14, 1862. Hunter used a hit and run attack plan to free the Arizona Territory from the Union forces that occupied it and was able to take control of the area all the way to the Colorado River. Hunter's track record was excellent. He was able to delay the invasion by the California Column for over a month and also won the two most western conflicts with Union forces, Stanwix Station (March 30, 1862) and Picacho Pass (April 15, 1862).

On May 14, 1862, Hunter's small army was finally forced to evacuate Tucson, and again evacuate Mesilla when the Confederate forces chose to pull out of there. After arriving in San Antonio in late July of 1862, Hunter resigned his position of Captain of the Arizona

Rangers. Hunter was later promoted to the position of Major in Baylor's Regiment of Texas-Arizona Cavalry on October 3, 1862. He played a prominent role in the battles against Union forces under General Nathaniel P. Banks in the Louisiana area in 1863 and 1864. His most famous accomplishment was the capture of Brashear City, LA. After his successes in Louisiana, Hunter became the centerpiece to a plan to retrieve the Arizona Territory for the Confederacy.

On January 25, 1865 Sherod Hunter was detached from his regiment to return to Arizona to raise a force that might serve the Confederacy in New Mexico and Arizona. Not much is known about Hunter's time in Arizona. It seems that he took the title of Colonel. He was able to establish a post at Eagle Pass and raised a regiment of 300 men.

It is likely that he went to Mexico to recruit, because many Confederate supporters fled there from California and the New Mexico and Arizona Territories by the Union. Little is known of Sherod Hunter after the war ended, except that he was known to have made stops in Mexico and Tennessee until settling down in Arkansas where he died.

NOTES

- 1) Gilbert, Thomas D. "Confederate Arizona." May 5, 2002.
<http://www.civilwarhome.com/confederatearizona.html>
- 2) Perkins, Robert. Confederate Arizona and Arizona Confederates. Updated April 7 2002. <http://members.tripod.com/~azrebel/page5.html>
- 3) Perkins, Robert. Confederate Arizona and Arizona Confederates. Updated April 7 2002. <http://members.tripod.com/~azrebel/page5.html>