

Granville Henderson Oury

Oury, the son of Augustus Oury was born in Abingdon, Virginia, on March 25, 1825. He was a younger brother of William Sanders Oury. Oury migrated with his family to Pike County, Missouri, in 1843 where he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1848. The following year he moved to Los Angeles, California, where he practiced law until 1856 when he moved to Tucson, Arizona, where he joined up with his brother William. In addition to establishing a law practice he also owned and operated several mines in southern Arizona. He served as chief justice in a provisional government and was active in efforts to obtain territorial status for Arizona.

In 1857, a group of Americans known as filibusterers led by Henry Alexander Crabb, a California state senator, entered the Mexican state of Sonora in an attempt to help the state secure independence from Mexico. After a six day siege, Crabb surrendered his men believing they would be returned to safety across the border. Oury gathered up a group of men and headed to Sonora in an effort to rescue Crabb and his men. It was too late, all 59 survivors had been executed and Oury's group had to fight its way back to the border, losing four men.

After Lieutenant Colonel John R. Baylor invaded the New Mexico Territory in 1861 and defeated the only Union forces in the southern half of the territory, he declared Arizona to be a Confederate Territory and made himself governor. On August 6, 1861, Governor Baylor appointed Oury as Arizona's delegate to the Confederate Congress.

In 1862, Oury enlisted in the Confederate Army serving in Captain George Frazier's Arizona Rangers, also known as Company B, Herbert's Battalion, Arizona Cavalry. When Frazier was promoted to Battalion Major, Oury was elected as Captain. By July of 1862, the Confederate Forces had moved out of Arizona and New Mexico and Oury's unit was serving under Brigadier General Henry Hopkins Sibley in Texas and Louisiana. After taking part in the Bayou Teche Campaign against Union Major General Nathaniel Banks in the spring of 1863, Oury asked to resign his commission. Upon receiving permission from Sibley to resign he went to San Antonio, Texas, where he married his cousin Mina Sanders.

After the war was over Oury fled to Mexico with his wife. After wandering around the state of Chihuahua for a couple of months they returned to Arizona and at Fort Mason did what he had sworn to never do. He took the oath of allegiance to the United States on October 8, 1865. He was elected to the Arizona Territorial legislature in 1866, 1873 and 1875. In 1869 he was appointed to the post of Attorney General of the Arizona Territory. At some point he moved to Florence, Arizona and while living there he was twice elected as Arizona's delegate to the United States House of Representatives. He has the unique distinction of being the only man to serve as a territorial delegate to both the Confederate Congress and the United States Congress. He also served as a delegate from the Arizona Territory to the Democratic National Convention in 1884. After his tour in Congress he returned to Florence and practiced law until he died of throat cancer on January 11, 1891. He is buried in the old Adamsville Cemetery in Florence which served Florence and the extinct community of Adamsville. He is also the namesake of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 1708 of which the author is a proud member.



Memorial plaque at Granville's grave



Granville Oury's Confederate Tombstone

Source: *William Sanders Oury*, by Cornelius C Smith, Jr.