

Tucson's Anglo American Pioneers

Tucson's Anglo American Heritage

Before the Gadsden Purchase, approved by the U.S Congress in 1854, that brought Tucson into American territory, the only Anglo Americans in Tucson were transients: beaver trappers (beginning in the 1820s), military personnel from the Mormon Battalion (1846), Argonauts on their way to the California Gold Rush (1849, 1850), and government surveyors exploring future transcontinental wagon and railroad routes (1840s/1850s).

In the mid-1850s Americans from the East and the West Coast came to Arizona to mine silver in the mountains just north of the new border with Mexico. These miners and people traveling on transcontinental stagecoaches through Tucson (starting in 1857) began to put Tucson on the American map. Soon a growing colony of Anglos had settled in Tucson – attracted by mining prospects, ranching possibilities, and business opportunities.

Business was good – especially the freighting business and the mercantile stores that sold what the freighters brought to Tucson. Tucson's business inventory included butcher shops, blacksmith shops, and saloons. Anglos worked with Mexicans in harmony and often in partnership.

The number of Anglos was increasing, but as anthropologist Thomas E. Sheridan wrote, "Underlying everything ... was the pervasiveness of Mexican culture. ... The strongest representatives of Mexican culture in this fragile bicultural society were the Mexican woman who married Anglo men."

The 1860 Tucson census counted 623 people (5% Anglo) including newcomers from all sections of the U.S. and 12 foreign countries. Tucson was just beginning the decades-long transition from a Mexican village to an American town.

The U.S. Civil War (1861-1865) was a difficult time for Tucson because of the divided loyalties of its population. The Confederate States of America claimed that southern Arizona and New Mexico were part of Confederate territory in mid-1861 and Confederate troops actually "captured" Tucson in early 1862, before withdrawing from Arizona in mid-1862.

Also during the Civil War, Apache raids on nearby ranches increased due to the withdrawal of U.S. troops to fight in New Mexico and back east. The debilitating wars with the Apache would continue into the mid-1880s.

Tucson was incorporated in 1871. The 1870s saw Tucson's first public schools, the first public library, and two English-language newspapers. Census records show the growth of Tucson (and the proportion of Anglos) from 3,224 (15% Anglo) in 1870 to 7,007 (25% Anglo) in 1880.

The southern route of the transcontinental railroad reached Tucson in 1880. Tucson was on the "main line" and was in good position to support expanded mining and ranching efforts in southern Arizona. Anglo settlers were now able to reach Tucson in large numbers – effectively ending the southern

Arizona frontier and precipitating a change in Tucson from a Mexican agricultural economy to an Anglo urban center.

An economic depression began in Arizona in the late 1880s and lasted for ten years. All major industries were affected, including mining and cattle ranching. Tucson historian C. L. Sonnichsen described the difficult times, "Business was so bad in Arizona that the population of Tucson, its largest city, declined in 1890 to a little over 5,000 ... Tucson was actually for the moment, shrinking."

Tucson's slow population growth resumed in the 1890s, but the mix of Mexicans and Anglos was changing rapidly. By 1900 Tucson's population had recovered to just over 7,500; the Anglo population had grown to equal the Mexican population (about 45% each) and continued to increase proportionally.

Tucson's political situation had also been evolving. The Arizona Territory was separated from New Mexico in 1863. The capital of Arizona was moved to Tucson for a decade in 1867. Beginning in the Arizona Territorial Assembly in 1891, continuing through Constitutional Conventions, and introduction of numerous bills in the U.S. Congress, officials pushed long term efforts that eventually succeeded with Arizona statehood in 1912.

Influential Anglo American Pioneers

Solomon Warner (1811-1899) was born in Warnerville, New York. He worked on a Mississippi river boat, joined the California Gold Rush in 1849, worked in Nicaragua, and then San Francisco in 1853, before his work as a mason took him to Fort Yuma in 1855. He changed careers again to become a merchant, leading at 13-mule train loaded with merchandise to Tucson, arriving in 1856 just about the time Mexican troops permanently withdrew from the area. Warner partnered with Mark Aldrich from Illinois, later to become Tucson's first American mayor, to open a store, becoming the first merchants to sell goods made in the United States. Warner prospered as a shopkeeper until the Civil War, when he refused to take a loyalty oath to the Confederacy during the southern troop's brief occupation of Tucson, and fled to Santa Cruz, Sonora, where he met and married a wealthy widow. After the War Solomon returned to Tucson and using his wife's money, expanded his business ventures to include farming and cattle ranching. During a journey from Santa Cruz to Tucson in 1870, he was wounded by Apache and permanently crippled. In 1874/1875 Warner built a flour mill, and a small dam to power it, along the Santa Cruz River. The mill proved to be unprofitable and he shut it down in 1881. Oddly, Warner spent his final years attempting to build a perpetual motion machine.

William Oury (1817-1887) was born in Virginia, moved with his father to Texas, at the age of 19 escaped the Alamo (under siege by Mexicans) as a courier, fought with Sam Houston against General Santa Anna, became a Texas Ranger, and fought in the Mexican War with the Texas Volunteers. After the War, Oury married a Mexican woman, moved to San Francisco, then headed south and east to arrive in Tucson in 1856. Oury acquired a small cattle ranch on the Santa Cruz River, worked as the agent for the Butterfield Overland Stagecoach until operations stopped at the start of the Civil War, and was a respected citizen and community leader. Oury was an ardent secessionist but did not take up arms during the War. However, he did take up arms in two duels, killing his opponent in both instances. With Sylvester Mowry - soldier, miner, and tireless worker for an independent Arizona - he bought Arizona's

first newspaper, the *Tubac Arizonan*, and moved it to Tucson. Oury participated in several expeditions against the Apache and in 1871 led the force from Tucson in the Camp Grant Massacre. Oury's political career included being appointed as the first mayor of the village of Tucson in 1864, member of the school board in 1867, appointment as Alderman when Tucson was incorporated in 1871, member of the Tucson City Council in 1872/1873, and Pima County Sheriff from 1873-1876. He was also the first president of the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society in 1887.

Hiram Stevens (1832-1893) was born in Vermont, where he worked briefly as a farmer, then in 1851 enlisted in the army, fought against the Apache in the New Mexico Territory, and after his discharge, settled in Tucson in 1856. Stevens operated a ranch near Sentinel Peak and in 1858 began a series of business partnerships with Samuel Hughes. Stevens married Petra Santa Cruz, whose father and grandfather had been born inside the old presidio. From 1866-1872 Stevens supplied Fort Buchanan, and later Fort Crittenden, (near Sierra Vista) with trading goods. In 1876 Stevens and Hughes formed the Hughes, Stevens & Company that was active in cattle, mercantile, and mining interests. Stevens became one of the richest men in the Arizona Territory. Stevens also excelled in politics, serving as Tucson city treasurer, Pima County tax assessor, and was a member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors on numerous occasions. He was also the second president of the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society. The respected politician served two terms in the Territorial Legislature and twice as Territorial Arizona's Delegate to the U.S. Congress. Stevens and his wife frequently entertained Washington officials and other prominent guests in their beautifully furnished Tucson home. Suffering a downturn in his business interests, and under "severe mental distress," Stevens died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Samuel Hughes (1829-1917) was born in Wales, immigrated to Pennsylvania with his parents in 1837, and from there went to California during the Gold Rush and became a merchant. Hughes contracted tuberculosis and while traveling east seeking a drier climate, made an unscheduled stop in Tucson in 1858, where he recovered his health and began a retail butchering business. When Confederate Forces occupied Tucson during the Civil War, he moved back to California, leaving his business interests in the hands of his partner Hiram Stevens; he later returned to Tucson with Union troops. Hughes and Hiram Stevens became brothers-in-law when Hughes married Atanacia Santa Cruz, Petra Santa Cruz's younger sister. This self-educated man became one of Tucson's leading and most influential citizens. In the early 1870s, Hughes helped to incorporate Tucson and became an Alderman on the first Tucson City Council. In 1871 he helped early territorial governor A.P.K. Safford establish public education in the Arizona Territory. Also in 1871 he helped plan (but did not participate in) what was later called the Camp Grant Massacre. Hughes served several terms on the Tucson School District No. 1 board during the 1880s and at other times was Pima County treasurer and held important positions in the territorial government. He was an organizer of the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society in 1884, serving as president and director. In his later years, Hughes was active in mining, real estate, and civic works.

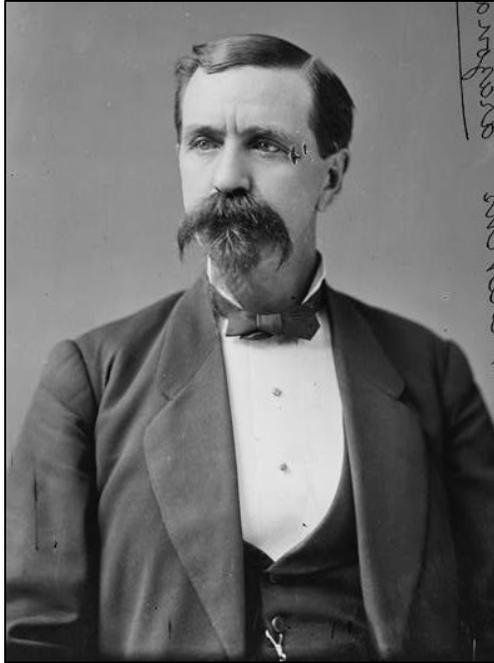
Pinckney Randolph Tully (1824-1903) was born in Mississippi, moved with his family - first to Arkansas, then to Missouri, drove a herd of sheep to California in 1849, before returning to the Santa Fe Trail and partnering with Estévan Ochoa in a wagon freighting business with headquarters in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He brought a wagon train to Tucson in 1858 and sold everything to Solomon Warner within a

few hours. In 1866 Tully opened a store in Tucson and by 1868 had joined Ochoa and settled permanently in the old pueblo, helping Ochoa run their increasingly profitable Tully & Ochoa freighting business. Tully also served his community, twice as mayor of Tucson, four years as Territorial Treasurer, Tucson City Treasurer, Tucson City Councilman, and a member of the Tucson Board of Health. He supported many public causes, particularly education and activities of the Catholic Church. In 1877 Tully founded two newspapers in Tucson – the *Daily Bulletin*, partnering with Louis C. Hughes, and the Spanish-language *Las Dos Repúblicas*. In 1879 Tully sold his interest in the *Bulletin* to Hughes. The *Repúblicas* only lasted two years, but confirmed that there was a market for a Spanish-language newspaper in Tucson. (Mexican immigrant Carlos Valasco started his long-lasting Spanish-language newspaper the next year in 1878.) In 1881 Tully helped propose a streetcar line for Tucson, but the project died and Tucson had to wait until 1898 for mule-drawn streetcars. In his later years Tully concentrated his support to education, aiding in the establishment of a parochial school.

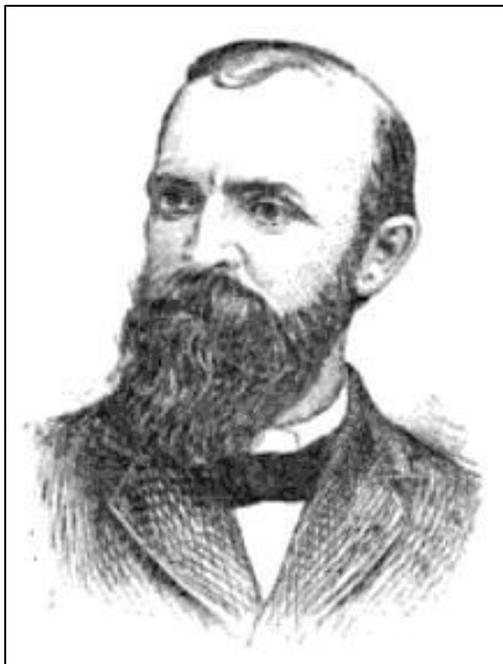
Robert Leatherwood (1844-1920) was born in North Carolina, fought in the Confederate army, and came to Tucson in 1869, where he opened a stable in the downtown area that became known throughout the southwest. His impressive public service record included city councilman, several-time member of the state legislature, 12 years as Pima County Sheriff, county treasurer, and captain of the Arizona Rangers who went out after Geronimo in 1876. Leatherwood was mayor of Tucson in 1880 when the transcontinental railroad reached Tucson. He worked hard to prepare Tucson for the railroad, including helping to sell \$10,000 of bonds to pay for the depot and yards demanded by Southern Pacific. From 1886-1892 Leatherwood was a member of the Tucson Volunteer Fire Department. He was later in charge of building a gravity water system for the city of Tucson. Leatherwood was short and thin, but “the little giant” was a feisty resident of Tucson and in his later years, a colorful pioneer representative of the town - both at home and in travels around the U.S. At his request, he was buried in his Confederate uniform.

Louis C. Hughes (1842-1915), younger brother of Samuel Hughes, was born in Philadelphia, orphaned in 1845, indentured to a “Calvinist farmer” at age 10, gained his release at age 16, briefly served in the Union army toward the end of the Civil War, then worked as a machinist, and studied law. Hughes married Josephine Brawley in 1868, and because of health concerns, moved to Tucson in 1871 where he opened a law practice. In 1872 he was selected as a member of the Tucson City Council, then appointed a probate judge, and elected Pima County Attorney. In 1873 Hughes was appointed by Territorial Governor Safford as Attorney General for the Arizona Territory. In 1877 he stopped practicing law full time, and began publishing a newspaper, the *Daily Bulletin*, with partner Pickney Randolph Tully. In 1879 Hughes took over full ownership of the paper and renamed it the *Arizona Daily Star*. As a liberal Democrat, Hughes and his influential wife pushed for the deportation of indigenous Apaches to Florida, and opposed liquor and gambling, while championing higher education and the women’s suffrage movement. Hughes was Governor of the Arizona Territory from 1893-1896, while his wife ran the newspaper in his absence. In 1897 Hughes returned to Tucson from Phoenix (where the capital had been since 1889) and resumed publishing the *Star*. He favored joint statehood with New Mexico, but lived to see New Mexico and Arizona become independent states in 1912.

Sources: *Arizona – A Cavalcade of History* (Marshall Trimble, 1989); *Arizona – A History* (Thomas E. Sheridan, 2012); *Tucson Citizen*; *Tucson – The Life and Times of an American City* (C. L. Sonnichsen, 1987); Tucson Territorial Pioneer Project (2008); Wikipedia.



Hiram Stevens was a respected Tucson politician and businessman, becoming one of the richest men in Arizona Territory. (Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons)



Louis Hughes founded the Arizona Daily Star and served as Governor of the Arizona Territory. (Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons)