

## FIRST LIEUTENANT CHARLES B. GATEWOOD US Army (Deceased)



Charles B. Gatewood was born in Woodstock, Virginia, on 6 April 1853. He graduated from the Military Academy in 1877 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Sixth Cavalry. He was promoted to First Lieutenant on 3 January 1885. His first nine years of service were spent in Arizona and New Mexico during which time he commanded a unit of Indian Scouts. In addition, for several years he was in charge of the White Mountain Apache Indians with whom he developed a reputation for integrity and justice.

1LT Gatewood was with GEN Crook during the 1883 campaign in the Sierra Madre Mountains, Mexico, which resulted in the surrender of all the renegade Apaches under Geronimo. Gatewood was mentioned in General Orders Number 39, April 1891,

“as having distinguished himself by specially meritorious acts, in service during 1886, while commanding Indian Scouts; for bravery in boldly and alone riding into Geronimo’s camp of hostile Apache Indians and demanding their surrender, August 24, 1886.” The Apaches did surrender, with Gatewood remaining with them throughout the surrender process.

He was mentioned again in General Order Number 44, 30 April 1891, “as having distinguished himself by specially meritorious acts during the year 1883; for courage, ability, and devotion to duty , in a laborious march, followed by the surprise of a camp of hostile Apache Indians, under Chato and Bonito, the defeat of the Indians, the destruction of their camp, the rescue of five captives, and the recovery of a large amount of stolen property; this near the head waters of the Babispe River in the Sierra Madre Mountains, Sonora, Mexico, May 15, 1883.”

1LT Gatewood served as Aide-de-Camp to GEN Nelson Miles, Commander of the Department of Arizona from 1886 to 1890. On 18 May 1892, while serving with his troop at Fort McKinney, Wyoming, Gatewood was seriously injured. While setting dynamite in an effort to blow up a burning building to save adjacent buildings, the dynamite exploded prematurely. Gatewood passed away in 1896 at Fort Monroe, Virginia from injuries suffered in Wyoming.

1LT Gatewood was inducted into the MI Hall of Fame in 1988.

Gatewood's reminiscences, *Lt. Charles Gatewood and His Apache Wars Memoir*, were edited and published by Louis Kraft in 2005.



**1LT Charles B. Gatewood and company of Apache Scouts at Fort Apache in 1880, at the end of the Victorio campaign. Sam Bowman, civilian scout, stands behind Gatewood. (Photo: Arizona Pioneer's Historical Society)**