

OCCGS Civil War Veterans Project

Veteran's Information

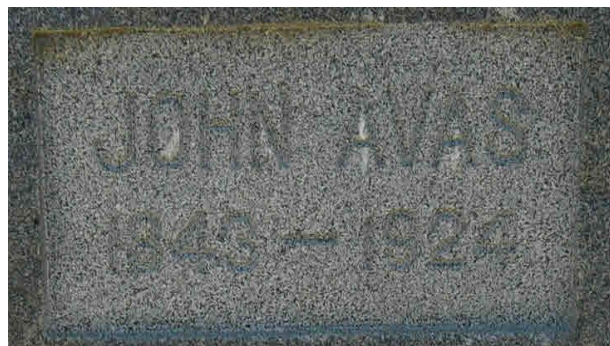
Veteran's Name: John AVAS

Birth Date: 27 April 1843

Location: Ostfriesland, Germany

Year of Immigration: 1845

Naturalized: April 15, 1878, Woodford County, Illinois



Death Date: 12 June 1924

Location: Santa Ana, California

Buried at: Santa Ana Cemetery

Plot Location: O-8-2-8

GPS Coordinates: N33° 46' 05.84449" W117° 50' 22.09056"

(DMS) Datum: NAD83. Coordinates are +/- 1.00 feet of the grave location

Side Served - Union

Rank: Private

Company: B

Unit: 47th Infantry Regiment

State: Illinois

Occupation: Hotel Proprietor

Family Information

Parents –

Father: Gaet Avas

Birth Date/Location: Germany

Death Date/Location: 1851, Peoria County, Illinois

Mother: Anna Rabel

Birth Date/Location: Abt 1824, Germany

Death Date/Location: unknown

Married Frederic Denicus

Spouse: Ruth Brown

Birth Date / Location: Abt. 1838, Illinois

Death Date/Location: 4 October 1880, Woodford County, Illinois

Marriage Date / Location: 9 November 1864, Peoria County, Illinois

Spouse: Lucy Elizabeth Moesser (aka Lizzie)

Birth Date / Location: 10 November 1858, Utah

Death Date/Location: 2 March 1945, Orange County, California

Marriage Date / Location: October 2, 1881, Los Angeles County, California

Children –

Name: Winnie Avas

Birth Date / Location: 7 July 1882, California

Death Date / Location: 14 April 1892, Orange County, California

Name: Ruth Elizabeth “Bessie” Avas

Birth Date / Location: 20 March 1884, California

Death Date / Location: 11 April 1892, Orange County, California

Name: Frederick John Avas

Birth Date / Location: 31 July 1885, California

Death Date / Location: 18 May 1960, Orange County, California

Married Mabel R Bissett

Name: George Jerome Avas

Birth Date / Location: 15 October 1889, California

Death Date / Location: 23 October 1955, Riverside County, California

Additional Information

John Avas was born in Germany in 1843 and came to the United States with his parents at the age of 2 years. His parents settled first in Woodford County, Illinois and then relocated to Peoria County, Illinois where his father passed away. After his father's death John's mother married Frederic Denicus of Tazewell County, Illinois. John remained with her until he was about 15. At that early age he began to work at various farms in the area. One of the farms he worked at was that of Asa Brown who was the father of his future bride Ruth Brown.

In 1862 he joined the Union Army being discharged in 1863. The money he had earned prior to the war was enough to eventually purchase 240 acres of farmland in Woodford County. He farmed and raised stock in Illinois for 12 years. He lost his wife, Ruth, in 1880. He sold his property in Illinois and moved to California. After his arrival in Santa Ana he made large investments and became known as the best financier and businessman in the county. He married Lucy E. Moesser in 1881. He helped build the Richelieu Hotel in Santa Ana and eventually became the sole proprietor. He was elected to the first City Council of Santa Ana, was Mayor of Santa Ana and was the President of the Santa Ana City Board of Trustees for 12 years.

Member of Sedgwick Post No 17, GAR, Santa Ana, Orange County, California

John Avas residing in Washington, Tazewell County, Illinois enlisted on 4 August 1862 as a Private in Co. B, 47th Illinois US Infantry.
Discharged for disability 24 February 1863.

1903 Orange County Directory Advertisement

- John Avas' son, Frederick, eventually became the proprietor of the hotel

HOTEL RICHELIEU
John Avas, Proprietor
Leading Family ^A_N^D Business Hotel of the City
Conveniently located and strictly First-Class. Free
'Bus to and from all trains. Good Livery in connection
Telephone Red 301 **SANTA ANA, CAL.**

Sources

"Pioneers in Blue and Gray", Civil War Veterans in Orange County by Gordon Bricken, First Edition, The Bricken Press, Santa Ana, California, Copyright 2009

- Record for John Avas

Orange County California Genealogy Society Quarterly Journal, XVIII, #2, June 1981 – Roll of Honor for the Sedgwick Post No 17 GAR.

- Record for John Avas

"Illinois Civil War Muster and Descriptive Rolls" Searchable Database, Illinois State Archives, An Index Compiled by Fred Delap in cooperation with the Illinois State Archives, <http://www.ilsos.gov/genealogy/>

- Record for John Avas

Seventh Census of the United States, 1850; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M432, 1009 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

- Lebanon, St Clair County, Illinois, Roll M432_126, Family 637, Record for John Avist in the household of Huet Avist
- Washington, Tazewell County, Illinois, Roll M432_129, Page 6A, Family 75, Record for Ruth Brown in the household of Asa and Catherine Brown

1860 U.S. census, population schedule. NARA microfilm publication M653, 1,438 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

- Washington, Tazewell County, Illinois, Roll M653_232, Page 65, Family 489, Record for Frederic Denicus

1870 U.S. census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

- Clayton, Woodford County, Illinois, Roll M593_295, Page 265B, Family 147, Record for John Avis

Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. (NARA microfilm publication T9, 1,454 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

- Clayton, Woodford County, Illinois, Roll T9_262, Page 381A, ED 223, Family 10, Record for John Avas

United States of America, Bureau of the Census. *Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900. T623, 1854 rolls.

- Santa Ana, Orange County, California, Roll T623_96, Page 3A, ED 0147, Family 78, Record for John Avas

Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910 (NARA microfilm publication T624, 1,178 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

- Santa Ana Ward 5, Orange County, California; Roll: T624_90; Page 1A, ED: 0058, Family 7, Record for John Avas

"1890 The Great Register of Orange County", State of California, Compiled by Orange County California Genealogical Society, Orange, CA 92668, 1996, searchable on-line at: <http://occg.com/projects/1890%20Register/1890%20Register%201.pdf>

- Record for John Avas , Includes date and place of naturalization

Illinois State Archives, Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, 1763 – 1900, Searchable Database, <http://www.ilsos.gov/GenealogyMWeb/marrsrch.html>

- Record for John Avas and Ruth Brown

Ancestry.com. *Illinois, County Marriage Records, 1800-1940* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016.

- Record for Emma Denicus and David Spring, Bride's parents – Anna Rabel and Volkert (Frederic) Denicus
- Record for Fred Denicus and Ann Rebel

Rootsweb.com, searchable Database, Pre-1920 Marriages, California

- Record for John Avas and Lizzie Moesser

Social Security Applications and Claims, 1936-2007.

- Record for John Frederick Avas

State of California. California Death Index, 1940-1997. Sacramento, CA, USA: State of California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, Microfilm

- Record for Lucy Elizabeth Avas, Mother's Maiden Name: Clyde, Father's Name: Moesser
- Record for John F Avas, Mother's Maiden Name: Moesser
- Record for Mable R Avas, Mother's Maiden Name: Morris, Father's Name: Bissett
- Record for George Avas, Father's Name: Avas

World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration. M1509, 4,582 rolls

- Record for Geo J Avas

Passport Applications, 1795–1905. NARA Microfilm Publication M1372, 694 rolls. General Records Department of State, Record Group 59. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

- Record for John Avas
- Record for Gaet Aves. father

Findagrave.com, searchable data base of cemeteries with tombstone inscriptions, memorials and photographs

- Memorial 8721876, Created by Roy Robinson, Record for John Avas
- Memorial 102123422, Created by Shiver, Record for Ruth *Brown* Avas
- Memorial 8522895, Created by Eldora Sasser, Record for Lucy E Avas
- Memorial 8782203, Created by Eldora Sasser, Record for Fred Avas
- Memorial 8522875, Created by Eldora Sasser, Record for George Jerome Avas
- Memorial 8717543, Created by Eldora Sasser, Record for Winnie Avas
- Memorial 8717513, Created by Eldora Sasser, Record for Bessie Avas

"Orange County Directory", A Complete and Reliable Edition, Published by The Orange County Directory Company, J. N. Stephens, L.H. Pagham, Santa Ana, California, September 1903

- Record for Hotel Richelieu

An illustrated history of Southern California: embracing the counties of San Diego, San Bernardino, Los Angeles and Orange, and the peninsula of Lower California, from the earliest period of occupancy to the present time; together with glimpses of their prospects; also, full-page portraits of some of their eminent men, and biographical mention of many of their pioneers and of prominent citizens of to-day, The Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1890

- Record for John Avas and Lucy E Moesser
- Record for Maggie, Ruth, John and George Avas

Pleasants Family, Collector, Manuscripts, Orange County (California) – History of Santa Ana (California). Material in Public Domain

- Record for John Avas

The Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, Tuesday, April 12, 1892, Pg 7, Col 5

- Record for Ruth Elizabeth Avas – 8 year old daughter of Mr & Mrs John Avas died suddenly yesterday of diphtheria and mumps.

Santa Ana Register, Santa Ana, California, Friday, June 8, 1922, Pg 7, Col 2, 3

"Avas at Farewell Dinner Tells Kid Story on Shoes"

- Record for John Avas

Santa Ana Register, Santa Ana, California, Friday, June 13, 1924, Pg 1, Col 5

"John Avas, 81, S.A. Pioneer Succumbs"

- Record for John Avas
- Record for Mrs. Emma Pering (Spring), half sister
- Record for George Denicus, half brother

Santa Ana Register, Santa Ana, California, Tuesday, June 17, 1924, Pg 3, Col 5

"Funeral Service Held for Pioneer"

- Record for John Avas

Santa Ana Register, Santa Ana, California, Wednesday, June 25, 1924, Pg 1, Col 4,

"Avas Estate Held Worth \$136,000"

- Record for John Avas

Photograph of headstone for John Avas, Santa Ana Cemetery, Orange County, California taken by Charles Lewis Beal, 2/20/2007. Used with the permission of Charles Lewis Beal.