

# **OCCGS Civil War Veterans Project**

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## **Veteran's Information**

**Veteran's Name:** John AVAS

**Birth Date:** 27 April 1843

Location: Oast, Fresland, Germany

**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: 47<sup>th</sup> 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: Unknown**

Birth Date/Location:

Death Date/Location:

**Spouse: Ruth Brown**

Birth Date / Location:

Death Date/Location: 4 October 1880, Illinois

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

**Spouse: Lucy E. 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: Frederick J. Avas**

Birth Date / Location: July 1885, California

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

**Name: George J. Avas**

Birth Date / Location: 15 October 1889, California

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

World War I Draft Registration State of California

**Name: Maggie Avas**

Birth Date / Location: unknown

Death Date / Location:

**Name: Ruth Avas**

Birth Date / Location: unknown

Death Date / Location:

## Additional Information

### Member of Sedgwick Post No 17, GAR

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

The following is a condensed version of the data.

John Avas was born in Germany 24 April 1843 coming to the US at the age of 2. His family settled in Woodford County, Illinois. His father died in Peoria County, Illinois and his mother remarried. John did not get along with his stepfather and left at the age of 12. John worked on farms saving his money and was able to purchase a 160-acre farm in Woodford County. He also became the Tax Assessor and Tax Collector. He married Ruth Brown. After his wife's death he moved to Santa Ana, California where he met and married Lucy E. Moesser. He helped build the Richelieu Hotel in Santa Ana and became the sole proprietor. He was the President of the Santa Ana City Board of Trustees for 12 years.

His occupation is listed as Hotel Keeper in the 1900 census for Orange County, California

### Illinois Civil War Muster and Descriptive Rolls

John Avas residing in Washington, Tazewell County, Illinois enlisted on 4 August 1862 as a Private in Co. B, 47<sup>th</sup> Illinois US Infantry  
Discharged for disability 24 February 1863 and died 12 June 1924

### Illinois State Wide Marriage Index, 1763 - 1900

John Avas and Ruth Brown, 9 November 1864, Peoria County, Illinois  
Volume 003, Page 0132, License Number 00007230

## RootsWeb Marriage Records Index about John Avas

John Avas and Lizzie Moesser, 2 October 1881, Los Angeles County, California

## 1890, The Great Register of California

John Avas, age 46, born in Germany, Capitalist, residing in Santa Ana  
Naturalized: April 15, 1878, Woodford County, Illinois

## U.S. Passport Applications, 1795-1925 about John Avas

John Avas, born in Oast Fresland, Germany on 27 April 1843  
Currently Residing in Santa Ana, California  
Passport Issue Date: 13 Apr 1922  
Father's Information: Gaet Avas, born in Germany, deceased

## 1903 Orange County Directory Advertisement

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**HOTEL RICHELIEU**  
John Avas, Proprietor

**Leading Family <sup>A</sup><sub>N</sub><sup>D</sup> 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

- Civil War Veterans – Orange County, California submitted by Gordon Bricken, searchable data base, <http://www.cagenweb.com/orange/civilwarvets.htm>
- Findagrave.com, searchable data base of cemeteries with tombstone inscriptions, memorials and photographs
- "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/>
- Illinois State Archives, Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, 1763 – 1900, Searchable Database, <http://www.ilsos.gov/GenealogyMWeb/marrsrch.html>
- State of California. California Death Index, 1940-1997. Sacramento, CA, USA: State of California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, Microfilm

- Rootsweb.com, searchable Database, Pre-1920 Marriages, California
- “1890 *The Great Register of Orange County*”, State of California, Compiled by Orange County California Genealogical Society, Orange, CA 92668, 1996
- Ancestry.com. *U.S. Passport Applications, 1795-1925* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2007.
  - Original data: *Passport Applications, 1795–1905*. NARA Microfilm Publication M1372, 694 rolls. General Records Department of State, Record Group 59. National Archives, Washington, D.C.
- 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, Page 381A, ED 223 searching 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, Page 3A, ED 147, searching 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, searching for John Avas
- 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
- “*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