

# OCCGS Civil War Veterans Project

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## Veteran's Information

**Veteran's Name:** Lewis Loss BURNES <sup>1,2</sup> (aka Louis Burns) <sup>4</sup>

**Birth Date:** 11 December 1849 <sup>2</sup>

Location: Rockford, Winnebago County, Illinois <sup>3</sup>

**Death Date:** 16 May 1912 <sup>1,2</sup>

Location: Orange County, California

Buried at: Anaheim Cemetery

Plot Location: AD (B3, 27, 5)

GPS Coordinates: N33° 50' 35.62280" W117° 53' 55.36240"

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

**Side Served:** Union <sup>9</sup>

Rank: Private

Company: A

Unit: 67<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment

State: Illinois

Rank: Private

Company: D

Unit: 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment

State: Illinois

Rank: Private

Company: F

Unit: 46<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment

State: Illinois

**Occupation:** Teamster

## Family Information

**Parents –**

Father: Michael Burnes <sup>11</sup>

Birth Date/Location: Abt. 1811, Ireland

Death Date/Location: Missouri

Mother: Deborah Morgan <sup>11</sup>

Birth Date/Location: Abt. 1809, Ireland

Death Date/Location: Missouri

**Spouse:** Anna Caroline Schlensker <sup>1,5,8</sup>

Birth Date / Location: Aug 1857, Milwaukee, Wisconsin <sup>5</sup>

Death Date/Location: 1922, Orange County, California <sup>1</sup>

Marriage Date / Location: September 28, 1881, Durango, Colorado <sup>4,5</sup>

## Children –

**Name: Louis Loss Burns, Jr.** <sup>1, 6, 8</sup>

Birth Date / Location: 28 September 1882, Williams, Coconino County, Arizona <sup>6</sup>

Death Date / Location: 7 January 1944, Los Angeles County, California <sup>8</sup>

**Name: Nina Anna Burns (Milligan)** <sup>1, 6, 8</sup>

Birth Date / Location: 27 March 1885, Arizona <sup>6, 8</sup>

Death Date / Location: 7 July 1983, Los Angeles County, California <sup>8</sup>

**Name: George William Burns** <sup>6</sup>

Birth Date / Location: February 1887, Arizona <sup>6</sup>

Death Date / Location: 12 November 1939, Orange County, California <sup>10</sup>

**Name: Joseph Frederick Burns** <sup>6, 8</sup>

Birth Date / Location: 15 February 1891, Arizona <sup>8</sup>

Death Date / Location: 30 October 1947, Los Angeles County, California <sup>8</sup>

Buried at Los Angeles National Cemetery

**Name: Ralph Everett Burns** <sup>7, 8</sup>

Birth Date / Location: 1 May 1901, Arizona <sup>8</sup>

Death Date / Location: 23 March 1980, Los Angeles County, California <sup>8</sup>

## Additional Information

**Member of Malvern Hill Post 131, GAR and was the Territorial Commander of the GAR while living in Flagstaff, Arizona**

**Lewis joined the Army at age 12 changing his name from Lewis Loss Burnes to Louis Burns.**

### Illinois Civil War Detail Report

Lewis Burnes, age 19, residing in Byron, Ogle County, Illinois

Farmer by trade with auburn hair and blue eyes, 5'4"

Enlisted June 2, 1862 as a Private in Co A, 67<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry for a period of 3 months

Muster In June 13, 1862 in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois

### National Park Service, Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System

Louis Burns enlisted in Co D 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Illinois on 2 February 1864 and transferred to Co F, 46<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Illinois on 14 July 1865.

Muster Out 26 September 1865

### Civil War Pension Records

67<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Illinois Co A, 11th Infantry Regiment Illinois Co D and Co F 46<sup>th</sup> Infantry Illinois

Louis L. Burnes filed in Arizona 17 February 1898

Annie C. Burnes, widow filed in California 8 June 1912

**Lewis's brother George** joined Co A, 67<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry at the same time as Lewis.

**Lewis's brother William** fought for the State of Wisconsin in the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry and died at Gettysburg.

**Lewis was the brother-in-law to Captain George P. Ladd**, Assistant Quartermaster of the United States Army after the Civil War.

**Lewis's son Joseph** was a Corporal in the US Army during World War I

**Lewis's son George** was City Engineer of Anaheim

**Lewis's son Louis Loss Burns, Jr.**, was the co-founder with Harry Reiver of Western Costume Company one of the oldest motion picture businesses in Hollywood. Begun in 1912 it outlasted many of its competitors. Louis was an Indian trader and had accumulated a stock of Indian costumes and artifacts which eventually found their way into many Hollywood movies of the time. By the early 1920's the company had moved to their third building located on Broadway between Ninth and Tenth Streets. In their early years the company produced the Civil War costumes for D.W. Griffith's "Birth of a Nation" and supplied costumes in films produced by Douglas Fairbanks and Charlie Chaplin. They also supplied the costumes for Rudolph Valentino's "The Sheik".

In the late 1920's Western Costume was competing with other costume companies and the movie studios who were also creating their own costume departments. Louis L. Burns lost control of Western Costume in 1928. Louis L. Burns went on to become the head of Warner Bros. costume department.

The Western Costume Company exists today and a full history can be found on their website <http://www.westerncostume.com/about-us/history>.

### **Rockford Register Star**

DEATH CLAIMS LEWIS BURNS  
CIVIL WAR VETERAN, BORN IN ROCKFORD, DIES IN LOS ANGELES (sic)(1.)

Rockford, Illinois May 16, 1912  
CAPT. KETCHESON'S VALET  
Ran Away and Enlisted when Twelve Years Old.  
Named after Congregational Pastor.

Information has been received from Los Angeles of the death of Lewis Loss Burns, another of the Rockford veterans who passed through the civil war in the service of his country.

Old timers will remember Michael Burns, who was so long connected with the store of David Wallach, at the corner where Ashton's block is now located. Mr. Burns was the father of three sons, named respectively William H.H., George and Lewis Loss, all three of whom served in the union army. Wm. H.H. Burns strayed from the Rockford home and enlisted at Beloit in the Sixth Wisconsin. He served but a little over one strenuous year, during which he participated in eleven battles and twenty-two skirmishes, when he fell on the historic field of Gettysburg. George B. Burns enlisted in Taylor's battery, in which he served four years and marched with Sherman from Atlanta to the sea, and is still in active business at Austin, Ill.

The third son, Lewis Loss Burns, named after an early pastor of the first Congregational church of Rockford, in 1849, desiring to help in his country's service, although only 12 years of age, he ran away in 1861 and unknown to his parents, secured a position as valet to Captain Ketcheson, who kept a grocery store where Porter's pharmacy has been located for so many years. Serving a year in that capacity, Lewis returned home and from there enlisted as a veteran in the same company, and again served under Capt. Ketcheson as a veteran not being discharged until 1866.

At the close of the war L.L. Burns removed to Anaheim, Calif., where he was engaged in business with S.S. Montague, also formerly of Rockford. A dispatch received on the 20th announced that L.L. Burns suffered a severe hæmorrhage and died suddenly on the 9th on the anniversary of his father's death, leaving a widow and five adult children.

Few families responded more promptly to their country's call than did that of Michael Burns of Rockford, who gave all his sons to help Father Abraham in his great struggle to preserve our glorious union.

The surviving daughter of Michael Burns is well known to many of our readers, though now residing at Milwaukee, the wife of Frederick Peterson, himself a veteran member of Capt. Ketcheson's Company, and is highly respected by all who know her.

## 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

"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/isaveterans/civilmustersrch.jsp>

National Park Service, Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System, searchable database on-line  
<http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-soldiers.htm>

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National Archives and Records Administration. *Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934* database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2000

Orange County Cemetery District, Property Search. <http://occemeterydistrict.com>  
George William Burns, unmarked grave, Anaheim Cemetery, AD (B3, 27, 9)

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 Joseph Frederick Burns, Mother's Maiden name Schlensker  
Record for Ralph Everett Burns, Mother's Maiden name Schlensker

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

Memorial 8733459, Created by Shiver, Record for George Lewis Burnes

Memorial 8722460, Created by Shiver, Record for Annie C Burnes

Memorial 80718951, Created by Patricia Strebig, Record for Louis Loss Burns

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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.

- Rockford, Winnebago County, Illinois; Roll M432\_134, Page 425B, Family 120, Line 5, Record for Michael Burns

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

- Rockford, Winnebago County, Illinois; Roll M653\_240, Page 167, Family 1197, Line 38, Record for Michael Burns

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- Los Pinos Canyon, Conejos County, Colorado; Roll T9\_89, Page 207D, Family 227, Line 2, Record for Louis L Burns

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- Flagstaff, Coconino County, Arizona Territory; Roll T623\_45, Page 6A, Family 157, Line 20, Record for Louis L Burns

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- Anaheim, Orange County, California; Roll T624\_90, Page 16A, Family 317, Line 1, Record for Louis L. Burns

Rockford Register Star, Rockford, Illinois May 16, 1912, Obituary for Louis Loss Burns

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> Findagrave.com

<sup>2</sup> Pioneers in Blue and Gray, Civil War Veterans In Orange County, CA, By Gordon Briken

<sup>3</sup> Illinois Civil War Muster and Descriptive Rolls Database

<sup>4</sup> FamilyTreemaker On-Line, The Family Home Page of William L. Burns of Los Angeles

<sup>5</sup> 1880 Census, Denver, Arapahoe, Colorado

<sup>6</sup> 1900 Census, Flagstaff, Coconino Arizona Territory

<sup>7</sup> 1910 Census, Anaheim, Orange, California

<sup>8</sup> State of California, California Death Index, 1940-1997.

<sup>9</sup> National Archives and Records Administration. Civil War Pension Index

<sup>10</sup> Orange County Cemetery District

<sup>11</sup> 1850 Census, Rockford, Winnebago, Illinois