

OCCGS Civil War Veterans Project

Veteran's Information

Veteran's Name: Orson Valentine KNOWLTON

Birth Date: 26 February 1848

Location: McKean County, Pennsylvania

Death Date: 9 September 1928

Location: Fullerton, Orange County, California

Buried at (Cemetery): Loma Vista Memorial Park

Plot Location: CYP/570/1

GPS Coordinates: N33° 54' 08.65798" W117° 54' 59.81708"

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



Side Served: Union

Rank: Private

Company: B

Unit: 17th Cavalry Regiment

State: Illinois

Occupation: Cabinetmaker, Carpenter

Family Information

Parents –

Father: Charles Knowlton

Birth Date/Location: unknown, Canada

Death Date/Location: March 1848, McKean County, Pennsylvania

Mother: Cornelia Potter

Birth Date/Location: 15 October 1825, New York

Death Date/Location: 1 March 1856, McHenry County, Illinois

Spouse: Julia Alsera Huntington

Birth Date/Location: 26 January 1851, Illinois

Death Date/Location: 12 November 1902, Fullerton, Orange County, California

Marriage Date/Location: 28 June 1876, McHenry County, Illinois

Children –

Name: Charles Spencer Knowlton

Birth Date/Location: 2 April 1878, McHenry County, Illinois

Death Date/Location: 12 April 1964, Fullerton, Orange County, California

Name: George Sponable Knowlton

Birth Date/Location: 29 April 1880, Kansas

Death Date/Location: 22 October 1890, Orange County, California

Name: Avis Sophia Knowlton

Birth Date/Location: 18 March 1882, Nuckolls County, Nebraska

Death Date/Location: 11 April 1952, Orange County, California

Name: Kent Stuart Knowlton

Birth Date/Location: 23 July 1883, Thayer County, Nebraska

Death Date/Location: 4 January 1949, Los Angeles County, California

Name: Hollis Huntington Knowlton

Birth Date/Location: 17 December 1885, Davenport, Thayer County, Nebraska

Death Date/Location: 26 January 1972, Orange County, California

Name: Herman Thorpe Knowlton

Birth Date/Location: 28 June 1888, Anaheim, Orange County, California

Death Date/Location: 31 July 1888, Orange County, California

Name: Emery Potter Knowlton

Birth Date/Location: 13 September 1889, Anaheim, Orange County, California

Death Date/Location: 24 December 1890, Orange County, California

Name: Ruth Cornelia Knowlton (Harner)

Birth Date/Location: 20 September 1894, Anaheim, Orange County, California

Death Date/Location: 24 July 1988, Yorba Linda, Orange County, California

Additional Information

Member of Malvern Hill Post No 131, GAR – Post Commander

U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers

Enlisted 12 November 1863 at Riley, McHenry County, Illinois as a Private in Co B, 17th Illinois Cavalry. Mustered in 22 January 1864 and mustered out 15 December 1865 at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas

Orson Knowlton's father, Charles, was murdered when Orson was only 3 weeks old. His mother then moved to McHenry County, Illinois to live with a brother. She passed away in 1854 and Orson continued to live with his Uncle. Orson enlisted in 1863 serving with the Army of the West. In the spring of 1865 his unit was sent to the plains on the campaign against the Indians. His unit helped build stockades across the plains so that the Butterfield Stages could make it through the Indian Territory. While in the military he suffered a gunshot wound to the thigh plus four other wounds.

After the war he worked in the Pennsylvania oil industry. He moved onto Kansas and Nebraska where he took up the building trade eventually ending up in Fullerton, Orange County, California around 1886. He worked 5 acres in Fullerton planting them with Valencia Oranges. He was the commander of the Southern California Veterans Associate and also state mortuary officer for Orange County for 18 years.

His wife, Julia Huntington a graduate of the University of Illinois, was a teacher when they met. Their son Charles became a rancher in Fullerton, daughter Avis presided over her fathers property, Kent was a sergeant in Co A, 319th Engineers and became the horticultural commissioner of Orange County, Hollis was a gunnery sergeant and instructor in the Marines and Ruth became a teacher.

Orson's grandfather, Edmond Potter, was a veteran of the War of 1812 who fought at Lundy's Lane.

Orson's mother's family can trace their ancestry back to Roger Williams.

Photograph of tombstone for Orson V. Knowlton, Loma Vista Memorial Park, Orange County, California taken by Charles Lewis Beal, 2/19/2007. Used with the permission of Charles Beal.

Sources

"Pioneers in Blue and Gray", Civil War Veterans in Orange County by Gordon Bricken, First Edition, The Bricken Press, Santa Ana, California, Copyright 20

Ancestry.com. *U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938* [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007

Historical Data Systems, comp.. *U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles* [database online].

Armor, Samuel, *"The History of Orange County with Biographical Sketches*, Historic Record Company, Los Angeles, California 1921

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.

- Java, Wyoming County, New York; Roll M432_616, Page 69A, Family 1002, Record for Orson U Knowlton, living in the household of Lorenzo Persons and Elizabeth Potter Persons

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

- Riley, McHenry County, Illinois; Roll M653_202, Page 438, Family 3188, Record for Orso Knowlton

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.

- Walnut, Jewell County, Kansas; Roll T9_383, Page 365A, ED: 124, Family 44, Record for OV Knowlton

Schedules of the Nebraska State Census of 1885. NARA Microfilm Publication M352, 56 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration. n.d.

- Davenport, Thayer County, Nebraska, Group M352, Page 2, ED 750, Family 13, Record for O V Knowlton

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

- Fullerton, Orange County, California; Roll T623_95; Page 15A, ED: 0141, Family 342, Record for Orson Knowlton

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.

- Fullerton, Orange County, California; Roll T624_90, Page 10A, ED: 0047, Family 264, Record for Owen V Knowlton

Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920. (NARA microfilm publication T625, 2076 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

- Fullerton, Orange County, California; Roll T625_123, Page 7A, ED: 61, Family 171, Record for Orson V Knowlton

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

- Record for Charles S. Knowlton, Mother's Maiden Name: Huntington
- Record for Avis Sophia Knowlton, Mother's Maiden Name: Huntington
- Record for Ruth C Harner, Mother's Maiden Name: Huntington, Father's: Knowlton
- Record for Kent Stuart Knowlton, Mother's Maiden Name: Huntington
- Record for Hollis H Knowlton

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 Charles Spencer Knowlton, Orange County, California

Death Notice, Mrs O V Knowlton, Weekly Blade, Santa Ana, Orange County, California, Friday November 14, 1902, Vol I4, No 16, Page 1, Column 3

California, Death Index, 1905-1939. California Department of Health and Welfare. California Vital Records

- Record for Orson V Knowlton, 9 September 1928

State of California, United States. Great Register of Voters. Sacramento, California: California State Library.

- 1888, Knowlton, Orson V, 40, Pennsylvania, Carpenter, living in Anaheim, Los Angeles County
- 1892, Knowlton, Orson V, 44, Pennsylvania, living in Anaheim, Orange County
- 1896, Knowlton, Orson V, 48, Pennsylvania, Carpenter, living in Fullerton, Orange County

Orange County Cemetery District, Property Search, <http://occemetrydistrict.com/custom.cfm?name=searchProperties.cfm>

- Death dates for Herman, George and Emery Knowlton

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

- Memorial 8722517, Created by Shiver, Record for Orson V Knowlton
- Memorial 18338880, Created by William Barritt, Record for Julia H Knowlton
- Memorial 3724933, Created by US Veterans Affairs Office, Record for Kent Stuart Knowlton
- Memorial 5360379, Created by Don Berry, Record for Corneila Knowlton
- Memorial 18338861, Created by William Barritt, Record for George Knowlton
- Memorial 18338896, Created by William Barritt, Record for Emery Knowlton
- Memorial 18338868, Created by William Barritt, Record for Herman Knowlton

Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois, Edited by Newton Bateman, and Paul Selby, Including Genealogy, Family Records and Biography of McHenry County Citizens, Volume II, Chicago: Munsell Publishing Company 1903, http://archive.org/stream/historical2bate/historical2bate_djvu.txt

- Record for Potter Family