

OCCGS Civil War Veterans Project

Veteran's Information

Veteran's Name: John Alpheus WILLSON

Birth Date: 22 October 1838

Location: Brownsburg, Rockbridge County, Virginia

Death Date: 15 June 1916

Location: Santa Ana, Orange County, California

Buried at (Cemetery): Fairhaven Memorial Park

Plot Location: S-137-1

GPS Coordinates: N33° 46' 14.36402" W117° 50' 29.53600"

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



Side Served: Confederacy

Rank: 2nd Lieutenant

Company: H

Unit: 25th Infantry Regiment

State: Virginia

Company: H

Unit: 14th Cavalry Regiment

State: Virginia

Occupation: Justice of the Peace, City Recorder

Family Information

Parents –

Father: John Willson

Birth Date/Location: 1810, Virginia

Death Date/Location: 1901, Rockbridge County, Virginia

Mother: Jane Eliza Weir

Birth Date/Location: May 1813, Virginia

Death Date/Location: 22 January 1853, Rockbridge County, Virginia

Spouse: Lavinia L. Wallace

Birth Date/Location: 1848, Randolph County, Virginia

Death Date/Location: abt. 1889, Santa Ana, Orange County, California

Marriage Date/Location: 14 November 1867, Rockbridge County, Virginia

Children –

Name: Mary E Willson (Henry)

Birth Date/Location: September 1868, Virginia

Death Date/Location: 1971, Orange County, California

Name: Carrie W Willson (Copeland)

Birth Date/Location: 7 December 1870, Virginia

Death Date/Location: 20 April 1966, Orange County, California

Name: William Dunlap Willson

Birth Date/Location: 2 June 1878, Texas

Death Date/Location: 9 May 1944, Orange County, California

Name: James Alph Scott Willson

Birth Date/Location: 15 December 1888, California

Death Date/Location: 26 May 1932, Sierra Madre

Spouse: Henrietta Jackson

Birth Date/Location: 1855, Tennessee

Death Date/Location: 21 May 1935, Orange County, California

Marriage Date/Location: 12 November 1900, Orange County, California

Additional Information

Enlisted in the Virginia 25th Infantry Regiment on 21 May 1861 at Churchville, Virginia, promoted to Full Corporal on 30 June 1861, promoted to Full 1st Sergeant on 16 July 1861, promoted to Full 2nd Sergeant on 17 February 1862, promoted to Full 2nd Lieutenant on 1 May 1862, he was wounded in the hip at the Battle of Antietam September 1862, mustered out on 17 October 1862.

Enlisted again with 14th Cavalry Regiment Virginia October 1862 at Brownsburg, Rockbridge County, Virginia. He was an orderly to General John McCausland December 1864 and surrendered at Appomattox, Virginia April 1865.

He and his family lived in Santa Ana for over 27 years where he was Justice of the Peace, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and City Recorder. At the time of his death he was the Commander of Hi Bledsoe Camp U.C.V of Santa Ana He was the last surviving Pallbearer at the funeral of Robert E. Lee, the two families having been close.

Photograph of tombstone for John A. Willson, Fairhaven Memorial Park, Orange County, California taken by Charles Lewis Beal, 3/16/2007. Used with the permission of Charles Beal.

Sources

"Confederates in California", compiled by Margaret Alley, Published by Motheralley, PO Box 3295, Montebello, California 906420, copyright by Margaret Alley April 1, 2008

Historical Data Systems, comp. U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2009.

- Record for John Alpheus Willson

Civil War Service Records>Confederate Records>Complied Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organization from the State of Virginia>Fourteenth Cavalry>W>Willson, John A. - Flow3 (data base on-line) Lindon UT, USA

Virginia, Marriages, 1785-1940," index, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XRH9-Q6T> : accessed 20 Oct 2013), Jno. Wilson in entry for J. Alph Wilson and Lavenia L. Wallace, 14 Nov 1867

Ancestry.com. Web: RootsWeb Marriage Records Index [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

- Record for John A. Willson

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

- Memorial 8722442, Created by Shiver, Record for John Alpheus Willson
- Memorial 59374546, Created by Tony & Cindy Lloyd, Record for Henrietta Willson
- Memorial 10279333, Created by Eldora Sasser, Record for Mary E Henry
- Memorial Carrie W Copeland, Created by Eldora Sasser, Record for Carrie W Copeland
- Memorial 94016671, Created by LSP, Record for John Willson
- Memorial 62188564, Created by LSP, Record for Jane Eliza *Weir* Willson

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.

- District 51, Rockbridge County, Virginia; Roll M432_973, Page 392A, Family 213, Record for John A Willson
- District 4, Rockbridge County, Virginia; Roll M653_1378, Page 110, Family Record for Lavinia Wallace

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

- Lexington, Rockbridge, Virginia; Roll M593_1675, Page 462B, Family 53, Record for John A Wilson

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. United States of America, Bureau of the Census.

- Sherman, Grayson County, Texas; Roll T9_1306, Page 4D, ED: 001, Family 53, Record for Alp Wilson

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 1B, ED: 0147, Family 32. Record for John A Willson

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 James Alph Scott Willson, Spokane County, Washington
- Record for William Dunlap Willson, Orange County, California

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

- Record for John A Willson
- Record for James A Willson
- Record for Henriett Wilson

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

- Record for William Dunlap Wilson, Mother's Maiden Name: Wallace

Confederate Veterans Magazine, <http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/serial?id=confedvet>,
Volume 24, Page 462, J. A. Willson

"Santa Ana Man Lee's Pallbearer", Orange Daily News, Vol IX, No 58, Orange, California, Tuesday,
June 20, 1916. Pg 4, Column 4

Santa Ana Register, Santa Ana, California, Friday Evening May 27, 1932, Pg 3, Col 2

- Death James Alp Scott Willson