

# OCCGS Civil War Veterans Project

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## Veteran's Information

**Veteran's Name:** Archibald Thomas ARMSTRONG

**Birth Date:** 4 March 1844

Location: Little Calf Pasture, Augusta County, Virginia

**Death Date:** 1 March 1940

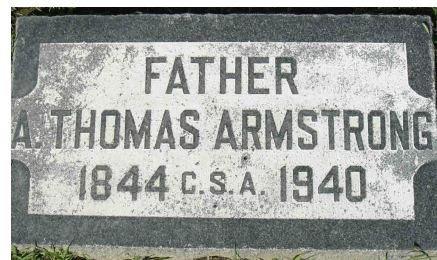
Location: Orange County, California

Buried at (Cemetery): Fairhaven Memorial Park

Plot Location: L-53-1

GPS Coordinates: N33° 46' 18.52777" W117° 50' 33.42682"

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



### Side Served - Confederacy

Rank: Private

Company: A

Unit: 1st Cavalry

State: Virginia

**Occupation:** Farmer

## Family Information

### Parents –

**Father: Archibald Armstrong**

Birth Date/Location: 23 November 1797, Augusta County, Virginia

Death Date/Location: 19 June 1853, Little Calf Pastures, Augusta County, Virginia

**Mother: Elizabeth "Betsey" McCutcheon**

Birth Date/Location: 27 October 1806, Virginia

Death Date/Location: 4 February 1864, Little Calf Pastures, Augusta County, Virginia

### Spouse: Martha Jane "Mattie" Firebaugh

Birth Date / Location: 27 October 1846, Rockbridge County, Virginia

Death Date/Location: 18 June 1927, Santa Ana, Orange County, California

Marriage Date / Location: 5 September 1871, Rockbridge County, Virginia

### Children –

**Name: Infant Armstrong**

Birth Date / Location: California

Death Date / Location: California

**Name: Infant Armstrong**

Birth Date / Location: California

Death Date / Location: California

**Name: Minnie Virginia Armstrong**

Birth Date / Location: 18 April 1873, Santa Ana, Orange County, California

Death Date / Location: 17 November 1976, Santa Ana, Orange County, California

Married Frank Russell Baxter, 2 September 1889, Off the coast of Orange County, California on the ship Wanda

**Name: Berta L. Armstrong**

Birth Date / Location: 17 November 1875, Santa Ana, Orange County, California

Death Date / Location: 24 November 1977, Santa Ana, Orange County, California

**Name: William Wallace Armstrong**

Birth Date / Location: 12 August 1877, Greenville, Orange County, California

Death Date / Location: 3 March 1958, Santa Ana, Orange County, California

Married Blanche Rogers, Adair County, Missouri, 17 November 1920

**Name: Frances Armstrong**

Birth Date / Location: 13 August 1879, Santa Ana, Orange County, California

Death Date / Location: 19 January 1978, Santa Ana, Orange County, California

Married Harry Albert Tedford 19 January 1909, Orange County, California

**Name: Ruth L. Armstrong**

Birth Date / Location: 21 July 1892, Santa Ana, Orange County, California

Death Date / Location: 18 August 1978, Santa Ana, Orange County, California

## Additional Information

Archibald T Armstrong's father, Archibald, passed away in 1853 and from that time until 1864 Archibald took responsibility for running the family farm. He enlisted in 1864 in Co A, Virginia 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Cavalry. Mustered Out in 1865.. He served under General Fitzhugh Lee who was the nephew of Robert E. Lee. Archibald's mother, Elizabeth, passed away in 1864. Archibald returned to the family farm after the war until 1867 when he sold the land and moved to Rockbridge County, Virginia. He continued farming in Rockbridge County until 1871.

Archibald Armstrong and his new bride Martha Jane came to California in 1871 shortly after their marriage. He rented land for four years before purchasing land in Orange County. He became a well-known farmer and rancher in the county. He farmed in what is now the South Coast Plaza area of Santa Ana, and he was neighbors of the Sergestroms. As early as 1923 his address was listed as being 1008 N Broadway, Santa Ana, Orange County, California.

An 1889 article in the Santa Ana, California "*Weekly Blade*" titled "Home and Farm" detailed the accomplishments of several farmers in the area including Archibald Armstrong and his wife. The article indicates that Armstrong had been in the area for 16 years. In 1889 he was expected to sell \$1,398.48 worth of butter. His wife, who raised chickens, had in seven month period sold 803½ dozen eggs for \$169.85. Armstrong also was reported to have a fine orchard of apples and pears.

Archibald T Armstrong attended the funeral of Robert E Lee.

Member of Camp Hi Bledsoe, Confederate Veterans organization in Orange County, California.

In 1936 Archibald T Armstrong was listed as the sole Confederate Veteran still living in Santa Ana.

Archibald Armstrong's grandfather, William Armstrong, at the age of 16 was a Revolutionary War soldier and was reported as being present at several battles and at the surrender of Yorktown.

## Sources

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- Record for Archibald Thomas Armstrong

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- Record for Frances A Tedford
- Record for Ruth L Armstrong

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"Veteran Present at Lee's Funeral Dies"

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Photograph of tombstone for Archibald Thomas Armstrong, Fairhaven Memorial Park, Orange County, California taken by Charles Lewis Beal, 3/9/2007. Used with the permission of Charles Lewis Beal.