

# OCCGS Civil War Veterans Project

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## Veteran's Information

**Veteran's Name: Leander BELL**

**Birth Date: 21 March 1846**

Location: West Brookfield, Worcester County, Massachusetts

**Death Date: 19 May 1896**

Location: Santa Ana, Orange County, California

Buried at: Santa Ana Cemetery

Plot Location: D (17, 2 ,3)

GPS Coordinates: N33° 46' 08.71141" W117° 50' 27.13968"

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

**Side Served: Union**

Rank: Private

Company: E

Unit: 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry

State: Massachusetts

Rank: Corporal

Company: D

Unit: 56<sup>th</sup> Infantry

State: Massachusetts

**Occupation:** Photographer, Dry Goods and Stationery Store

## Family Information

**Parents –**

**Father: Thomas Bell**

Birth Date/Location: 1818, Massachusetts

Death Date/Location: November 1849, West Brookfield, Worcester County, Massachusetts

**Mother: Lizzetta Haskins**

Birth Date/Location: 20 August 1819, Prescott, Hampshire County, Massachusetts

Death Date/Location: 27 January 1892, North Brookfield, Worcester County Massachusetts

**Spouse: Lura Velma Warner**

Birth Date / Location: abt 1853, Massachusetts

Death Date/Location: 12 January 1922, Orange County, California

Marriage Date / Location: 20 March 1872, Mitchell County, Kansas

## **Children –**

### **Name: Edward Adelbert Bell**

Birth Date / Location: April 1874, Osborne County, Kansas

Death Date / Location: 1956, Orange County, California

World War I Draft Registration, Orange County, California

## **Additional Information**

### **Member of Sedgwick Post No 17, GAR**

#### **Military Service:**

Leander Bell enlisted for three years. He mustered 4 April 1864 in 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Company D, Massachusetts Volunteers as a Private. He transferred 8 June 1865 in 56<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Company D, Massachusetts Volunteers as a Corporal. He mustered out 12 July, 1865.

#### **Pension Applications:**

56<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry, Company D as Private, and 36<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry, Company E as Corporal

Leander Bell,

Lura V. Bell, widow, June 15, 1896, California

#### **Newspaper Articles:**

May 15, 1896 Santa Ana

Leander Bell is seriously sick with fever.

Los Angeles Herald, Friday Morning, May 15, 1896

May 27, 1896 Santa Ana

Leander Bell died last evening, aged 51 years. Mr. Bell has been one of Santa Ana's honored business men for many years.

He will be buried under the auspices of the G.A.R. from the Congregational church at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday.

Los Angeles Herald, Friday Morning, May 27, 1896

May 28, 1896 Santa Ana

The funeral services of the late Leander Bell at the Congregational church were very largely attended today. The G.A.R. post, ladies of the G.A.R. circle and W.R.C. were out in force, and after appropriate words by Rev. J.H. Cooper and the singing of beautiful selections by the choir, the ladies of the circle performed their impressive services, when he was laid to his last rest by his comrades with the usual post ceremonies.

Los Angeles Herald, Friday Morning, May 28, 1896

**Leander Bell's son Edward Adelbert** married Eva J. Shallenberger, daughter of Henry Shallenberger, Co B, 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Pennsylvania, a Civil War Veteran buried in Orange County.

**The Following Biography was Written by Muriel Fitzsimmons as part of the Original Adopt-A-Soldier Program**

## **Biography for Leander BELL - 1845-1896**

Leander Bell was one of the Pioneers of Orange County and a Civil War veteran. Records show he was a photographer in Downey and Santa Ana in 1883 and 1884. Leander was born in West Brookfield, Worcester County, Massachusetts on 21 March 1846. His parents were Thomas and Lizzetta (Haskins) Bell.

He enlisted in the Co E. 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment Volunteer Infantry as a private in Worcester, Massachusetts on 4 April 1864. The 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment left the state for Maryland and Virginia area. Before Leander joined the Regiment, the Regiment was involved in many campaigns in Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky in addition to Maryland and Virginia. Leander was involved in several battles and campaigns in the Spottsylvania area before advancing to Petersburg in June 1864. The Regiment assaulted Petersburg in April 1865 and moved on to Alexandria, Virginia. Members of the Regiment were mustered out 8 June 1865 but Leander transferred to Co D, 56<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

On 12 July 1865, Leander received an Honorary Discharge from Co. D 56<sup>th</sup> Regiment in Petersburg, Virginia by reason of close of the Civil War. At that time he was 5' 8" tall, light complexion, brown eyes and hair. The Regiment surgeon states he had "contracted disease of the lungs, chest and varicocele caused by exposure."

Leander appears in the 1870 Massachusetts census as living in New Braintree in County of Worcester on 23 July 1870. His occupation was listed as "clerk in store." Soon after, for some unknown reason he traveled to Kansas to marry Lura V. Warner on 20 March 1872. They married in Cawker City in Mitchell County, Kansas. She was the daughter of Eliah and Lucia Warner. They had one son, Edward A, born 8 June 1874 in Kansas.

Leander's occupation in 1880 census was a sewing machine agent and they continued to live in Cawker City until about 1883. At that time Leander and Lura with their son Edward and Lura's parents traveled to California. They settled in San Gabriel, Los Angeles County for a short time before moving to Santa Ana. Leander started a business as a photographer and was in partnership with a gentleman by the name of Welton in 1883-84. Together they had a studio in Downey and Santa Ana called "Bell & Welton". The studio was located near the corner of Fourth and Main Streets in Santa Ana. It is believed he kept his photography studio until his death on 19 May 1896. He is buried in Fairview Cemetery in Santa Ana. His wife, Lura was living on his Civil War veteran's pension until her death on 12 January 1922. She died in her son, Edward A., home at 1720 Spurgeon Street, Santa Ana.

## Sources

Civil War Veterans – Orange County, California submitted by Gordon Bricken, searchable database, <http://www.cagenweb.com/orange/civilwarvets.htm>

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.

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- North Brookfield, Worcester County, Massachusetts; Roll M432\_343, Page 15B, Family 271, Line 39, Record for Leander Bell

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

- North Brookfield, Worcester County, Massachusetts; Roll M653\_533, Page 24, Family 187, Line 28, Record for Leander Bell

Massachusetts State Census, 1865."database and digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org>: accessed 25 March 2011). Peter M Peterson, age 64; citing Massachusetts State Census Records, FHL microfilm 954,374; Massachusetts State Archives, Boston, Massachusetts, United States.

- 1865 Massachusetts State Census: North Brookfield, Worcester County Line 11 Living with Leeretta Haskell

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- New Braintree, Worcester County, Massachusetts; Roll M593\_655, Page 11, Family 92, Line 39, Record for Leander Bell

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- 1875 Kansas State Census: Corinth, Osborne County, Kansas; Roll ks1875\_15, Family 35, Line 19, Record for Leander Bell

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.

- Cawker Township, Mitchell County, Kansas; Roll T9\_389, Page 67D, Family 78, Line 3, Record for Leander Bell

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 12B, Family 7, Line 54, Record for Laura V. Bell

California Digital Newspaper Collection, Center for Bibliographic Studies and Research, University of California, Riverside, <http://cdnc.ucr.edu>

*A Historical Record of the Soldiers and Sailors of North Brookfield, and of Others Who Counted Upon the Quota of the Town, in the War for the Preservation of the Union Against the Rebellion, 1861–1865. Regimental Histories, etc.* North Brookfield, MA: North Brookfield, H.J. Lawrence, 1990.

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

- Memorial 8721888, Created by Shiver, Record for Leander Bell
- Memorial 10283251, Created by Eldora Sasser, Record for Lura Bell
- Memorial 10283245, Created by Eldora Sasser, Record for Edward Adelbert Bell

Ancestry.com. California Voter Registrations, 1900-1968 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2008.

- 1884, Leander Bell, 39, Massachusetts, Photographer, Santa Ana
- 1888, Leander Bell, 43, Santa Ana
- 1892, Leander Bell, 47, Santa Ana

Ancestry.com. *U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

- Leander Bell, 1884, Photographer, Los Angeles, California

Photograph of tombstone for Leander Bell, Santa Ana, Cemetery, Orange County, California taken by Charles Lewis Beal, 2/21/2007. Retrieved 2 February 2012, from Findagrave.com. Used with the permission of Charles Beal.