

# OCCGS Civil War Veterans Project

---

## Veteran's Information

**Veteran's Name:** Charles E. FRENCH

**Birth Date:** 3 June 1841

Location: Athens, Somerset County, Maine

**Death Date:** 2 November 1914

Location: Orange County, CA

Buried at: Fairhaven Memorial Park

Plot Location: L-2-A

GPS Coordinates: N33° 46' 17.55444" W117° 50' 31.91887"

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

**Side Served:** Union

Rank: MUSICIAN

Company: B

Unit: 9TH INFANTRY

State: MAINE

**Occupation:** Capitalist and Farmer

## Family Information

**Parents –**

**Father: Joseph French**

Birth Date/Location: Maine

Death Date/Location: unknown

**Mother: Abigail Palmer**

Birth Date/Location: New Hampshire

Death Date/Location: unknown

**Spouse: Emma L. Waugh**

Birth Date / Location: 5 April 1843, Massachusetts

Death Date/Location: 19 December 1940, Orange County, California

Marriage Date / Location: November 1868, Massachusetts

**Children –**

**Name: Gertrude M. French (Burns)**

Birth Date / Location: 21 May 1870, Maine

Death Date / Location: 12 October 1966, Orange County, California

**Name: Ethel French**

Birth Date / Location: ABT 1876, California

Death Date / Location: AFT 1920

## Additional Information

### Member of Sedgwick Post No 17, GAR

Post Commander

### US Civil War Soldiers Records – Maine 9th Infantry, Company Band

Charles E French, 20, residing in Anson, Somerset County, Maine  
Enlisted 22 September 1861, Muster out 10 May 1862

### Civil War Pension Records

Musician 9th Maine Infantry

Charles E. French – invalid – 6 November 1883, California

Emma L. French – widow- 3 December 1914, California

Charles E French listed his occupation in the 1900 Census as Farmer and Capitalist. These are just a few of his many jobs, offices and accomplishments. Samuel Armor's 1921 book, History of Orange County ..., lists countless successes of this man from Maine including:

- 1864 came to Yreka, California to mine for gold returning to the east around 1868
- Appointed Assistant Assessor of Internal Revenue by President Grant
- Joined a boot and shoe manufacturing firm in Maine
- Eventually returned to Southern California in 1871 and became general manager of the land and stock holdings of Irvine, Flint and Co. which encompassed over 100,000 acres including as many 50,000 head of sheep
- Built a ranch house for James Irvine and Family
- Became active in the development of Santa Ana
- 1899 Built the Grand Opera House block
- Post Master for Santa Ana holding the office under 4 presidents
- Pivotal in having the Santa Fe Line run through Santa Ana
- President of the Orange County Savings Bank
- Director of the First National Bank of Santa Ana
- Built a large family home on the corner of Ninth and Spurgeon streets

## Sources

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

- Anson, Somerset County, Maine; Roll M653\_452, Page 499, Family 38, Record for Charles E. French

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

- Anson, Somerset County, Maine; Roll M593\_558, Page 6B, Family 100, Record for Chas E French

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.

- Santa Ana, Los Angeles County, California; Roll T9\_67, Page 248A, Family 106, Record for Charles French

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 9A, Family 249, Record for Charles E French

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.

- Santa Ana Ward 1, Orange County, California; Roll T624\_90, Page 6A, Family 184, Record for Charles E French

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.

- Santa Ana Ward 1, Orange County, California; Rol: T625\_124, Page 9B, Family 234, Record for Emma L. French and Ethel French

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 Gertrude M. Burns, mothers maiden name Waugh

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

- Memorial # 8722260, Created by Shiver, Record for Charles E French
- Memorial #58639652, Created by Tony & Cindy Lloyd, Record for Emma L. French
- Memorial #58489275, Created by Tony & Cindy Lloyd, Record for Gertrude M. Burns

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.

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

History of Orange County, California *with biographical sketches of the leading men and women of the county who have been identified with its earliest growth and development from the early days to the present* by Samuel Armor. Published 1921 by Historic Record Co. in Los Angeles

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