

OCCGS Civil War Veteran's Project

Veteran's Information

Veteran's Name: William Thornton GLASSELL

Birth Date: 15 January 1831

Location: Culpeper County, Virginia

Death Date: 28 January 1876

Location: City of Orange, in then Los Angeles County, California

Buried at: Cremated

Service: Confederacy

Rank: CAPT

Company: Confederate Navy

Ship: *CSS David*

State: Virginia

Occupation:

Family Information

Parents –

Father: Andrew Glassell

Birth Date/Location: 15 May 1793

Death Date/Location: November 1873, California

Mother: Susan Thompson Thornton

Birth Date/Location: 1804

Death Date/Location: 1836

Spouse: None

Additional Information

Record of William T Glassell's service in the United States Navy up to the start of the Civil War.

- Midshipman, 15 March 1848
- Passed Midshipman, 15 June 1854
- Master, 15 September 1855
- Lieutenant, 16 September 1855
- Dismissed, 6 December 1861

He was a midshipman in the United States Navy in 1848 and promoted to Lieutenant in 1855. When the Civil War began Glassell would not swear to an additional oath of allegiance required of all Southerners. He was imprisoned at Fort Warren. The Confederacy commissioned him a Lieutenant and arranged for his release. He was assigned to the *CSS Chicora* of the Charleston Squadron. He also served on *CSS North Carolina*. Glassell is known for taking part in the use of torpedo boats for the Confederate Navy against the US blockade. In 1863, he crewed the small torpedo boat *CSS David* and attacked the *USN New Ironsides*. The damage to the *New Ironsides* laid her up until the end of 1864, a blow to the Union Navy. After the attack Glassell was captured along with some of his crew and again found himself imprisoned at Fort Warren. Glassell was part of a prisoner exchange in 1865 and eventually made his way to Richmond, Virginia to command the ironclad *Fredericksburg* in the James River Squadron.

Glassell moved to Los Angeles California in 1866 and joined his brother Andrew in business.

William T Glassell's sister, Susan Thornton Glassell, married George Smith Patton. Their grandson was General George S Patton.

William T Glassell's father, Andrew, was a veteran of the War of 1812. He served with Capt. Joseph Brock's Virginia Militia from July 30, 1814 to Jan 25, 1815.

Sources

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- Record for William Thornton Glassell

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- Record for William T Glassell

"Confederates in California", compiled by Margaret Alley, Published by Motheralley, PO Box 3295, Montebello, California 90640, copyright by Margaret Alley April 1, 2008

- Record for William T Glassell

Navy and Marine Corps Officers, 1775 – 1900, Compiled from the Official Records of the Navy Department, Edited by Edward W Callahan, Registrar, Bureau of Navigation, Navy Department, New York, L.R. Hamersly & Co, 1901

- Record for William T Glassell, Page 218

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- Record for William T Glassell

War of 1812 Pension Applications Files Index, 1812 – 1815, Publication M313, NARA, Record Group 94, Roll 37, Fold3.com

- Record for Andrew Glassell

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.

- Livingston, Sumter County, Alabama, Roll M432_15, Page 262A, Family Record for Andrew Glassell

Ancestry.com. *Virginia, Select Marriages, 1785-1940* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc, 2014.

- Record for Andrew Glassell, Jr and Susan T Thornton, Culpeper County, Virginia, 10 March 1825

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

- Record for Capt. Glassell
- Record for Andrew Glassell

Virginia Genealogies: A Genealogy of the Glassell Family of Scotland and Virginia: Also, the Families of Ball, Brown, Bryan, Conway, Daniel, Ewell, Holladay, Lewis, Littlepage, Moncure, Peyton, Robinson, Scott, Taylor, Wallace, and Others, of Virginia and Maryland Horace Edwin Hayden, E. B. Yordy Printer, 1891 – Virginia

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- Record for William Thornton Glassell

The Pattons: A Personal History of an American Family, Robert H Patton, 1957, New York: Crown Publishers

- Record for Sue Glassell – 1835 - 1883

The Livingston Journal, Livingston, Alabama, Friday, January 9, 1874, Pg 3, Col 3

- Reprint of Los Angeles California Express Article of November 28, 1873 regarding the funeral of Andrew Glassell, Sr in California. A former resident of Livingston.

Los Angeles Herald, Los Angeles, California, Thursday, January 30, 1879, Pg 3, Col 5

- In Memoriam – William T Glassell