LEONARD, WILLIAM S., born at Buffalo, Erie County, New York, about
1836; probably born in Johnson County, Illinois; enrolled September 6, at
Marysville, Yuba County, California, and mustered on September 9, 1861
at Camp Merchant near Oakland, California, to serve three years as Private,
Company D, 1st California Cavalry; occupation when enlisted, Farmer; went
with the Company to Southern California and was one of a detail under
Lieutenant E. C. Baldwin attached to an advance party commanded by
Captain W. P. Calloway which left Camp Carleton, near San Bernardino,
March 1, and went via Fort Yuma to Stanwix, A.R., arriving March 16, 1862;
left Stanwix April 8 and arrived at the Pima villages with no signs of
Confederates other than a number of burned haystacks at the different over-
land stage stations; participated in an attack upon Confederate troops at
Picacho Pass, April 16, 1862, in which he was mortally wounded.

His death and burial with Lieutenant James Barrett and Private
George Johnson was described by Julius G. Hall, who served as Private in
Company K, 1st California Infantry, as follows:

"As night approached we put out strong guards and placed our
little Battery where we could command a clearing in front and had
everything ready should the Texans march on us before morning.
We lay down to get what rest we could, being tired out with the
hard marches of the past few days.

"Suddenly we were awakened by a command to turn out and help
bury the dead. I don't know how long we had been sleeping but
the moon was shining brightly, and it was a beautiful night. The
scene being enacted before us in this wild pass was
with hazy, misty light falling around and casting strange shadows
upon the men as they moved about, with here and then a command given
in a whisper, seemed unnatural. To add still more to our loneliness
as the sound of the pick and the shovel were heard, was the
dismal howl of the wild coyote. The graves being dug, without a
word or a prayer we rolled the bodies in their blankets and laid
them to rest.

"William Leonard had been shot through the neck. His pain was
excruciating and his groans could be heard at every hour of the
night. When morning came we could see the shadow of death upon his face and he soon passed away. We placed him by the side of his comrades and covered their graves with wild cactus, so the wolves would not disturb them, and our sad duty was over."

Died at Picacho Pass, in what is now Pima County, Arizona, April 16, 1862, aged 26; the place of his burial is now marked by a monument erected by the Arizona Highway Department.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Orton, E. H. - Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion, Sacramento, 1890, p. 120
The Adjutant General of the Army - Military Service Records
The National Tribune, Washington, D. C., October 2, 1877.