

# McCORMICK, WILLIAM RANNELS

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MCCORMICK WILLIAM RANNELS, born in Bourbon County, Kentucky, 1843; son of John and Augusta McCormick; married, Leandra Luna (1849-1935) at Las Cruces, Dona Ana County, New Mexico, April 18, 1865; children George and Nettie (Mrs. A. D. McLean)

Enrolled, aged 27, in Amador County, August 18 and mustered in August 26, 1861, at Camp Downey in Oakland, to serve 3 years as Private, Company C., 1st California Infantry, occupation when enlisted - Deputy Sheriff; promoted to Corporal, September 1, 1861; reduced to Private at Camp Latham, near Los Angeles, January 6, 1862; crossed Southern Arizona from Fort Yuma via Fort Barrett and Tucson to the Rio Grande, April to July 1862; promoted Sergeant at Mesilla, N. M. September 1, 1862; stationed at Fort Wingate N. M. from July to November 1863; in a letter dated at Fort Whipple, December 21, 1863, addressed to the Department Adjutant at Santa Fe, Major E. B. Willis wrote:

Ten men of Captain Hargrave's Company C were left at Fort Wingate, they being at the time of our departure on escort duty at Fort Canby. I would respectfully request that they be ordered to join their Company as soon as practicable.

He was in charge of 9 men of the Company which joined the escort of the Territorial officials at Fort Wingate on December 20; the Secretary of the Territory, Richard C. McCormick and Judge Joseph P. Allyn "with a squad of California Volunteers, left the main party at Volunteer Spring, near the San Francisco Mountain, on the morning of January 16 and arrived at Fort Whipple on the 17th of that month."

The company muster roll for February 29 reported him "on detached service to Salt River Valley, Arizona from February 18, 1864"; in April

he was listed in the Territorial Census taken at Fort Whipple, age 24, occupation - soldier; resident in Arizona 4 months; the Company was stationed at Fort Whipple until August and he returned with it to New Mexico where he was honorably discharged at Los Pinos on the last day of that month; at Fort Sumner on June 27, 1865, he gave the following testimony relative to the cultivated land at Fort Stanton (Bosque Redondo) where the Navajo Indians were held as prisoners of war:

I am a practical farmer; have resided in New Mexico 3 years; I have looked over the land on the reservation, planted to wheat and corn; I have given attention to the crops to see the prospects within the last few days; I estimate the wheat at five or six hundred acres, in four different places.

The No. 1 piece of wheat of 150 acres to 175 acres will, I think, yield 20 bushels per acre; the No. 2 of 175 to 200 acres; 15 to 18 bushels; No. 3 is connected with this--will not exceed from 7 to 10 bushels per acre; it is not even on the ground.

The corn looks promising, but at this stage of its growth it is impossible to estimate the crop. The crop now upon the ground is no criterion of what might be produced when the system is perfected.

Masonic records show that he was a member of Aztec Lodge No. 3, F. & A. M. at Las Cruces, N. M. and a charter member of Coronado Lodge No. 8 at Clifton, A. T.; served as Justice of the Peace at Clifton, 1885-87; the following is taken from an undated newspaper clipping:

After he was mustered out of the service he settled on the Rio Grande where he married. When copper mining first commenced in this camp, he came here with the Lesinsky Company and was in their employ as foreman of the Longfellow mine for several years.

He was sent by them to California in 1878 for a number of Chinese to work in the mines. At the last election was elected by a large majority, Justice of the Peace, an office which he had frequently creditably filled. He was a man well liked and popular and delighted in talking to his friends of the pioneers of Arizona and his early experiences in this Territory and New Mexico.

Only a short time since he talked to the writer about his old friends and comrades in arms, George Hand, George Foster and Capt.

Toole, late of Tucson, two of whom, like himself, cut the brittle thread of life and sought to solve the mystery of the hereafter. In that conversation, he earnestly deprecated the idea that a rational being would take his own life."

Died at Clifton, Graham County, A. T. February 12, 1891, aged, 57; buried Ward's Canyon Cemetery; his remains were removed to the Shannon Hill Cemetery and later to the Masonic Cemetery at Clifton.

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Orton, R.H. - Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion, 1890, p. 346.
- 1st Arizona Territorial Legislature - Journals, pp. 12-13.
- The Adjutant General of the Army - Military Service Records.
- U. S. Veterans Administration - Pension records, W. C. 356,231
- The Silver City Enterprise February 27, 1891 (Resolutions" of Respect adopted by the Masonic Lodge at Clifton).
- The Arizona Miner, Prescott, March 9, 3:4 and April 20, 1864, 3:3.
- The Graham County Bulletin, Solomonsville, November 28, 1890, 1:4; February 20, 3:4 (obituary) and February 27, 1891, 3:2.
- The Arizona Enterprise, Prescott, April 4, 1:4 and October 19, 1878, 3:3.
- The Arizona Star, Tucson, August 22, 1878, 1:3 and February 14, 1891 (death notice).
- The Prescott Courier, February 17, 1891, 3:1 (death notice).
- The Arizona Silver Belt Globe, February 21, 1891, 2:1 (death notice).