

MCNEILL, WILLIAM

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McNEILL, WILLIAM, born at Rockford, Winnebago County, Illinois, June 24, 1838; son of William H. and Christiana Tobyne McNeill; Married, (1) his cousin, Elizabeth McNeill, in Oregon whom he divorced in 1866 (2) Martha Jones at Yolo, California in August, 1869, from whom he separated (3) Alice B. LaValua at Healdsburg, California, November 3, 1871; Children, Louis, William Jr., Irvin, Clarence, Ida, Eugina, Maggie, Clara (Mrs. Wendell Alten) and Bertha (Mrs. August Rheil).

Came with his parents to California, 1854; resided in Oregon, 1860-63; returned to California and was Commissioned 1st Lieutenant at Sacramento, November 19 and mustered in at the Presidio of San Francisco on November 25, 1864, to serve 3 years in Captain G. D. Kendall's Company I, 7th California Infantry; left the Presidio in May and arrived at Fort Whipple, A.T., in June, 1865; was Post Adjutant and Provost Marshal at that post; in October, 1865, he was assigned to command of Company A, 1st Arizona Infantry, stationed at Camp Lincoln for the protection of the first American settlers in the Verde Valley who were being constantly harrassed by the Apaches; one of them, Dr. J.M. Sweatnam, states that the Lieutenant "was a very good man who seemed to realize the situation"; honorably discharged on tender of his resignation because of the ill health of his wife, by Special Order no. 23, Department of the Pacific, November 7, 1865.

Enlisted September 14, 1866, at Sacramento, California, as Private, Company B., 8th U.S. Cavalry; transferred on September 9, 1868, to Company L., same Regiment, of which his friend, Charles

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Hobart, was the Captain; honorably discharged at Fort Whipple, A.T., February 18, 1869.

Settled on a farm near Winsor, Sonoma County, California, where he died on December 8, 1910, aged 72; buried in Shiloh Cemetery, Windsor, California; W.C. 730,572.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

McFarland & Poole - Historical and Biographical Record of the Territory of Arizona, Chicago, 1896, p. 428.

Farish, T.E. - History of Arizona, Vol. 4, p. 246.

Orton, R.H. - Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion, 1890, p. 790.

The Adjutant General of the Army - Military service records.

U.S. Veterans Administration - Pension records

The Press-Democrat, Santa Rosa, California, December 13, 1910.