

LAINE, RICHARD WILLIAM, born at Hallowell, Kennebec County, Maine, September 10, 1828; son of William Frederick and Mary Dummer (Perley) Laine; married, (1) Emily S. E. Pollard at _____, on _____, 18____, from whom he was divorced in San Francisco, California, February 15, 1873, (2) Louisa Isabella Friel (or Fried) at Honolulu Hawaii, June 2, 1874; children, Edward Wilder, _____.

Enlisted, age 19, under the assumed name of Francis Seymour, at New York City, November 18, 1847, to serve three years as ordinary seaman, U. S. Navy; assigned to U.S.S. CUMBERLAND and sailed for the Gulf of Mexico where he served at Tampico, Turpam and, in the siege of Vera Cruz, on the U.S.S. NORTH CAROLINA; went ashore and participated in actions at Cerro Gordo and other battles of the Mexican War; severely wounded at the battle of Churubusco, August 27, 1847; honorably discharged because of his wounds at Brooklyn Hospital, New York, August 19, 1848.

Went to Texas where he was employed at San Antonio by the Overland Mail Company; was at the stage station at Maricopa Wells, in the Gadsden Purchase, September, 1857, when an invading force of Yuma Indians was defeated by the Pimas and Maricopas; the Yumas "commenced the attack by burning some wigwams and killing women and children belonging to the Maricopas;" J. Ross Browne says that:

"The battle was fought in front of the stage station. Of 75 Yumas who attempted, in connection with the Hualpais and Mohaves, to overthrow the Pimas and Maricopas, but 3 live to tell the tale of their disaster. Their allies deserted them in the hour of extremity, and the bones of 72 Yuma warriors still moulder on the plain. Mr. R. W. Laine, subsequently an express messenger for Wells, Fargo & Co., and now an officer of the U. S. Navy, saw the fight and gave me a most thrilling account of it."

Their Chief, Anton Azul, led the Pimas in this fight which was reported shortly afterwards by Lieutenant Sylvester Mowry, who quotes another Army officer:

"The Yumas and Mohaves suffered severely. Our old friend Sol Francisco (the Yuma Chief) who acted as our agent in rescuing Olive Oatman from the Mohaves a year since, was killed. Out of 100 Yumas who went to battle only 6 or 7 returned.

"Until the late battle, a wholesome dread of the Pimas and Maricopas, on the part of the Colorado River Indians, had kept them at home while the Pimas, content to mind their crops, remained peaceably in their villages. The Pimas have retained their wonted superiority and inflicted a blow upon their enemies which their children and their children's children shall recount and mourn around their camp fires."

Laine re-entered the U. S. Navy when he was appointed mate on board the U.S.S. LANCASTER at Honolulu, January 1, 1866; appointed Acting Ensign at Mare Island Navy Yard, California, May 6, 1866; served successively on U.S.S. SAGINAW, VANDERBILT, INDEPENDENCE, and SARANAC of the North Pacific Squadron until October 2, 1867, when he was ordered to New York via the Isthmus of Darien; on temporary duty, U.S.S. VERMONT, December 28, 1867 to May 16, 1868; resigned, at Washington, D. C. June 15, 1868; returned to California to become Fleet Paymaster's Clerk on the U.S.S. PENSACOLA, flagship of the Pacific fleet, December 31, 1868; honorably discharged September 7, 1869.

First went to Honolulu in 18___ where he served as Mexican Consul and Vice Consul for Spain; "He was in the Royal School with Lunalilo, King of the Sandwich Island; became a public spirited Hawaiian but still remained a patriotic American of the keen new England type; was instrumental in organizing the George W. De Long

Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Honolulu, on _____;
18__ then the only G.A.R. Post without the limits of the United
States; became a member, California Commandery, Military Order of
the Loyal Legion of the United States, November 5, 1883.

Died, while on a visit to San Francisco, California, June 20,
1890, aged, 61; buried _____ Cemetery,
Honolulu, T.H.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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Browne, J. R. - Adventures in the Apache Country, N. Y. 1874, p. 104.

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35th Congress, 1st Session, Senate Ex. Doc. No. 11, pt. 1, pp. 587-589.

Ives, J. C. - Report Upon the Colorado River of the West - 1861,
p. 45.

Bureau of Navigation, Navy Department - Naval service records.

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