

LEONARD, WILLIAM S.

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LEONARD, WILLIAM S., born at Buffalo, Erie County, New York, *about* 1836; ~~probably son of John and Ann Leonard~~; enrolled September 6, at Marysville, Yuba County, California, and mustered ~~at~~ 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.T., 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 15, 1862, in which he was mortally wounded.

His death and burial with Lieutenant James Barrett and Private George Johnson was described by Julius C. 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 scenes 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 now 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 ^{Pinal} 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, R. 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.