

## North and South Soldiers in Redlands

In the wake of the bloodiest, most destructive war of the century, the North and South sought political and cultural reconciliation. Soldiers on both sides sought to reconcile with former enemies by recognizing and commemorating their shared sacrifice. The former soldiers formed regimental associations and the Grand Army of the Republic and the United Confederate Veterans were organized with posts in every state, county, town and territory. Their meetings and reunions were published in local and national newspapers and often joint meetings between the two former enemies were held. Although the end of Reconstruction had not ended racism and the Jim Crow laws continued well into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the common soldiers who fought the war wanted to continue with their lives, have families, prosper and help with their communities. Both former Union and Confederate veterans settled in Redlands, helped build the city, established businesses, churches, and became public officials in the early days of the city. In Redlands, there was the Bear Valley Grand Army of the Republic Post and two United Daughters of the Confederacy, the General Jordan and General John Hunt Morgan posts.<sup>1</sup>

Two such men were Royall Henry Kendall who served in Co. C, 1<sup>st</sup> New Hampshire Cavalry and William J. Withers who served in Co. K, 1<sup>st</sup> Kentucky Cavalry and the 9<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Cavalry.

### William J. Withers

William J. Withers came to Redlands in 1888. He bought and sold real estate, owned several orange groves, started a cement block and artificial stone company in San Bernardino, started and operated a business which shipped horses and cattle to Hawaii and built one of the first cold storage facilities in San Bernardino. But in 1860 he was a nineteen year old young man working in his father's tannery business and attending school at Woodward University. His father was a successful businessman who owned twenty-one slaves. His father was originally from North Carolina but had moved to Christian County Kentucky after he had married his second. His first wife had died four months after giving birth to William.

In October 1861 William Joel Withers had enlisted in Company K of the 1<sup>st</sup> Kentucky Cavalry (Helms'). Kentucky had remained true to the Union so William had to journey to Tennessee to enlist. He had also lied about his age stating that he was twenty-one years old when he was nineteen years old, having been born 1842 in Virginia.<sup>2</sup> The regiment was assigned to the Army of Central Kentucky and for the next year the regiment participated in the Battle of Belmont and the Battles of Fort Henry and Donelson, primarily in scouting and escort duty. One year after he had enlisted, William Withers was mustered out of the army.

However, after General Braxton Bragg had invaded Kentucky and then retreated into Tennessee, William again enlisted in Co. E of the 9<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Cavalry. The regiment had been recruited during Bragg's invasion into Kentucky and William had volunteered, but William did not actually enlist until

---

<sup>1</sup> Redlands did not have a United Confederate Veterans post. Los Angeles had two UCV Posts.

<sup>2</sup> Records also indicate that he was born in Rockingham North Carolina. But his tombstone states Virginia. Both his parents were born in North Carolina. Census records state Virginia as his birth state.

January 1863. But this time he reversed his name and enlisted at Withers William.<sup>3</sup> The 9<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Cavalry consisted for two battalions of five companies each and as such operated separately for much of its existence. The regiment was assigned to Wheeler's Corps, Army of Tennessee from March 1863 until the end of the war. It took a prominent part in the Battle of Chickamauga and when Major General Rosecrans was under siege in Chattanooga, participated in the cavalry raid into Central Tennessee which inflicted major damage in Union support depots and railroads. The regiment then supported General Longstreet in the siege of Knoxville and following Bragg's defeat at Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, helped cover Bragg's retreat. The regiment was active opposing Major General Sherman's advance toward Atlanta fighting at Resaca, Allatoona, Noonday Creek, Peach Tree Creek and during the Atlanta siege. Later during Sherman's march to the sea, it engaged Union Cavalry forces and opposed Sherman's "Bummer's" as they scoured the countryside. Remnants of the regiment followed the Army of Tennessee through the Carolina's, surrendering at Bennett's Farm House in April 1865. Other portions of the regiment surrendered at Washington, Georgia on May 10, 1865.

After the war William Withers returned home to Kentucky. His father, who had owned a tannery business and slaves, lost all and moved to Missouri working as a farmer. William married Sallie Polk Shipp and established their home in Hopkinsville, Christian County. He engaged in farming and business becoming successful in both. He became prominent in Democratic politics and was elected for three terms as mayor of Hopkinsville. William and Sallie had two children, William S. born in 1866 and Elizabeth Jeanette born in 1876. In 1886/7 the family spent a year in Colorado then travelled to San Diego. The weather was inviting and with business possibilities outstanding, he moved to Redlands in 1888 and bought and sold real estate. After the annexation of Hawaii, he and his son went to Honolulu and started a business to ship horses, cattle and all types of domestic animals. He then opened the Honolulu Stockyards Company. But the business was lost in a fire and losing \$47,000 he returned to Redlands. He returned to the real estate business, started a company to manufacture cement blocks. With the business to provide resources he built homes and the Cudahy cold storage plant in San Bernardino. His cement block manufacturing business was one of the commercial and manufacturing businesses which support the building of Redlands. He was very active in the Democratic party in the county and state. William also invested in business in San Francisco and would alternate where he lived between Redlands and San Francisco depending on business. In 1905, his son was one of three businessmen who incorporated the Insurance, Realty and Trust Co. in San Bernardino, one of the largest real estate investment companies in California.

Williams wife Sallie was the daughter of Colonel William Shipp who was a friend of Andrew Jackson and James K. Polk. Sallie spent considerable time with James K. Polk's wife as a child and was named in her honor. In 1910 Sallie died and was buried at Hillside Memorial Cemetery. William continued to live with his daughter and her husband, dying in 1923. He used the honorary title of "Colonel" in the last years of his life, although he was only a very young Private. They lay together overlooking Redlands. Their

---

<sup>3</sup> Records for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Cavalry are spotty at best. Due to casualties and soldiers leaving to visit their home in Kentucky the companies were frequently combined. In addition, the Kentucky regiments were not that "regular" in their record keeping. Other than records of his enlistment there are no additional records for William J. Withers. Enlisting as Withers William may also have been a clerical error but this is the name on all available records.

daughter Elizabeth married Frederick F. Stowe who worked as a rancher and as a contractor with his father-in-law. They also are buried at Hillside Memorial Cemetery.



The Wither cemetery plots are in Block J at the Hillside Memorial Cemetery

## Bibliography

1. Sifakis, Steward, Compendium of the Confederate Armies, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, the Confederate Units and Indian Units
2. Ancestry.com, William Joel Withers & Lewis Wyatt Withers
3. Compiled Military Service Record, National Archives, Withers, W.J., Co. A 1 (Helm's) Kentucky Cavalry and Withers William, Co. C, 9<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Cavalry
4. Guinn, J.M., A History of California, Historic Record Co., Los Angeles, 1902
5. Recum, Franz V., Withers – America or A Collection of genealogical data concerning the history of the descendants in the males line of James Withers (1680/1746) of Stafford County, Virginia.
6. Newspapers.com, San Bernardino County Sun, 1904, 1905, 1908, 1913, 1923. There are many more news articles regarding "W.J. Williams" across the years up until 1925.

## Royall Henry Kendall

Although most Civil War soldiers were between 18 and 39 years old, many young men also fought in the war. It is estimated that at least 100,000 Union soldiers were boys between the ages of 15 and 18 years of age. Since soldiers had to be at least 18 years old to enlist in the military, many of these young men lied about their age to join. One such young man was Royall Henry Kendall who enlisted at age 16.<sup>4</sup>

When the Civil War started Royall was thirteen years old. His father, Isaac F. Kendall, was original from Vermont but his father had moved to New Hampshire after his marriage to Royall's mother Fidelia A. Pulsipher and the birth of Royall, the first born. Royall's parents would eventually have nine children total. His mother's grandfather had served in Colonel James Reed Regiment at the Battle of Bunker Hill, defending the rail fence. For the next three years as the war progressed he attended school and worked on his father's farm. But with the call for additional troops in preparation for the spring campaigns of 1864, Royal Henry Kendall enlisted in Company C, 1<sup>st</sup> New Hampshire Cavalry<sup>5</sup> on March 31, 1864. He stated that his age was eighteen years when it was sixteen. His older brother Isaac, who was four years older than Royall, would enlist in the Navy in March 1865 as a Landsman, but die at sea a year later.

The 1<sup>st</sup> New Hampshire Cavalry has started as a four company Battalion in the 1st New England Cavalry in 1861. In January 1864 after three years of war the 1<sup>st</sup> New England Cavalry became a battalion (renamed the 1<sup>st</sup> Vermont Cavalry) due to casualties and the battalion of New Hampshire cavalry men were organized into the 1<sup>st</sup> New Hampshire Cavalry regiment with additional new recruits from New Hampshire providing the additional companies. Seven companies were organized and ordered to Washington D.C. The new recruits received basic training at the cavalry training camp, Camp Stoneman. The regiment was then assigned to the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, Cavalry Corps, Army of the Potomac. With the Brigade it moved to Belle Plains, Virginia, then guarded Aquia Creek and Fredericksburg railroad then moved to White House. It participated in engagements at Hanover Court House and Cold Harbor, Long Bridge, Riddle's Shop and White Oak Swamp the middle of June. It then participated in Wilson's Raid on Southside & Danville Railroad, fought at Ream's Station and Nottaway Court House and Black and White Station June 23. It performed scouting and picket duty at Light House Point and City Point. The cavalry corps was then ordered to move and join Major General Sheridan during the Shenandoah Valley Campaign from August to December 1864. The regiment fought at Winchester, Summit Station, and Berryville. But it was during the Battle of Kearneysville in the Valley on August 25 that seventeen year old Private Royall H. Kendall was wounded in a skirmish with Mosby's command. He would spend the next five months in army hospitals recuperating from his wound. He rejoined his regiment in time to participate in the Battle of Cedar Creek, and then rode with the regiment during Sheridan's raid into Virginia. On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, it fought at the Battle of Waynesboro, leading a charge on the enemy's works, capturing 1,500 prisoners and the flag of every Confederate regiment engaged. The 1<sup>st</sup> New Hampshire Cavalry would spend the remainder of the war escorting prisoners and performing

---

<sup>4</sup> Drummer boys as young as 14 years could legally join (this was occasionally ignored by recruiters). To be a soldier carrying a rifle the minimum age was 18 but technically a parent's signature was required between the ages of 18 and twenty-one (and this was very frequently ignored by recruiting officers). Illustrated Redlands states that he was three months shy of fifteen when he enlisted, but census records for 1850, 1860, 1880 and 1900 state that he was sixteen years old when he enlisted. When he enlisted his first name was taken as Royal not Royall.

<sup>5</sup> He was credited to the state of Vermont, the state of his birth. Enlistment credits for states was a hot political item amongst the states. The only reason for Vermont to receive the credit was because of his birth and his father's family had remained in Vermont.

garrison and picket duty in the Valley. Royal H. Kendall was mustered out with the regiment on 15 July 1865 at Cloud's Mills, Virginia. In his sixteen months of service Royall had participated in hard campaigning, skirmishes, battles, and being wounded.

Royall returned home after the war, a veteran at only eighteen years of age. For three years he helped with this father's farm and then he journeyed west to California. He spent a short time there, then travelled to Arizona Territory. He then returned to California and kept a stage station at Whitewater before the railroad was established. He then returned to San Bernardino and in 1876 he married Emily Benson<sup>6</sup>, a native Californian (born in Alameda – 1858). In 1885 the couple moved to Redlands with their five children. Royall was first engaged in ranching but when Redlands was incorporated he was holding the office of road overseer and after incorporation of the city he was the street superintendent. Later he was the night watchman for the city. Royall Kendall applied for a pension in 1879 and was provided \$8.00 per month. This was subsequently increased to \$30.00 by 1910.

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1892 Kendall was performing his night watchman duties when he heard an explosion coming from the Santé Fe Railroad office. He ran to the building, looked into the window, and saw two burglars. He yelled at them and they shot at him three or four times. One bullet struck a glancing blow at the base of his skull and he fell to the ground. He then returned fire, emptying his revolver. Other people arrived at the building attracted by the explosion and gunfire. The two burglars escaped but Kendall and other witnesses provided descriptions. A kit of burglar tools and powder were found the next morning. The burglars escaped with nothing as the safe had recently been installed and nothing had been placed in the safe yet as the railroad agent had not received the safe's combination. The two robbers were caught within two weeks and were sentenced to jail. Kendall's wound proved not to be serious and he returned to his patrol duties within three days. This demonstration of his bravery enabled Royall Henry Kendall to be elected Marshall of Redlands for two terms, serving from 1892 to 1896.

After Royall had served as Redlands City Marshall he returned to his normal occupancy as a carpenter. In 1903, he was appointed as a deputy to the city constable, J. Rivera. He continued to work as a carpenter and performing odd jobs until his death in 1916. His wife Emily received a widow's pension the year her husband died. Emily died in 1932. Royall and Emily are both buried at Hillside Memorial Cemetery in unmarked graves in Block J 795. Kendall Street in Redlands is named after Royall Henry Kendall.

---

<sup>6</sup> Emily S. Benson was the first child of the 4<sup>th</sup> wife of Jerome Messenger Benson (1810-1877) (he would eventually have four wives, three of whom he married on the same day, one of them being Emily's mother), who had ventured west with the Mormon Exodus from Illinois. He belonged to a faction of the Mormon church which disagreed with its President regarding land titles. He eventually removed himself along with his fourth wife to Alameda where Emily was born. What happened with the other four wives is unknown. He is buried at the Pioneer Memorial Cemetery in San Bernardino. There is no evidence that Royall Henry Kendall belong to the Mormon Church.



Royall Henry Kendall and his wife's graves are located in Block J 795. There is no tombstone.

**REDLANDS.**

The Santa Fé's new safe in Redlands was blown open at 4 a.m. yesterday (Sunday.) There was nothing in it.

R. H. Kendall, night watchman, heard the explosion, ran up to the window, looked in, and saw two burglars. He yelled at them, and they shot at him three or four times. One bullet struck him a glancing blow at the base of the skull and felled him to the ground, but did not injure him seriously. Kendall emptied his revolver at the men through the window. Several other parties came up, attracted by the noise. The two burglars ran away. One had a heavy black moustache, weighed about 130 or 140 pounds. A kit of burglars' tools and giant powder were found under a pile of lumber in the morning. Nothing had been placed in the safe yet, which was a new one, and had not been opened, as the railroad agent had not yet received the combination.

The Santa Fé just got a new safe the middle of last week, but had not put the books and money into it. This was the one blown open, so the robbers got nothing. The old safe, containing all the valuables, stood beside it untouched. The criminals have not yet been apprehended.

Word that the awarding of premiums

Los Angeles Times, Monday, March 7, 1892, pg. 7.

NAME OF SOLDIER: <i>Kendall, Royall H.</i>				
NAME OF DEPENDENT: <i>Widow, Kendall, Emily D.</i>				
SERVICE: <i>Co. 1 72<sup>nd</sup> Regt.</i>				
DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED.
<i>1879 Oct 1</i>	<i>Invalid.</i>	<i>312 358</i>	<i>195,779</i>	
<i>1916 Dec. 28</i>	<i>Widow,</i>	<i>1089768</i>	<i>847165</i>	<i>Cal</i>
	<i>Minor,</i>			
ATTORNEY:				
REMARKS:				

Royall H. Kendall Pension Record

### Bibliography

1. Ancestry.com, Royall Henry Kendall, Emily S. Benson
2. Compiled Military Service Record, National Archives, Royal Henry Kendall, Co. C, 1<sup>st</sup> New Hampshire Cavalry
3. FindaGrave, Hillside Memorial Cemetery, Redlands, California, Royall Henry Kendall
4. Illustrated Redlands, R.H. Kendall
5. Newspapers.com, The Weekly Sun (San Bernardino), January 9, 1903
6. Newspapers.com, Los Angeles Times, March 7, 1892.
7. Redlands' First City Trustees, Redlands Chronicles, March 2014
8. Historical Data Systems, Inc., Royal H. Kendall, Co. C, 1<sup>st</sup> NH Cav.
9. Vermont in the Civil War. Kendall, Royal Henry