

REAL SON AND DAUGHTER, BROTHER AND SISTER, LOCATED

Real Son Walter E. Roode of Portola, CA, and his sister Montiel H. (Roode) McAuley of Ludlow, MA, were recently brought to our Order's attention by Pastor Bryan Olden, LifePoint Church, Chicopee, MA. Montiel is a Church member. The pastor hoped to have the two added to the List of Living Civil War Widows & Children. After the Dept. of CA & Pac's research, they were added in late July.

Walter's and Montiel's father, Pvt. Stephen Washington Roode, enlisted at age 15 in Co. K, 9th VT Inf. After being taken prisoner at Harper's Ferry and his release, he enlisted in Co. B, 2nd Battalion of the 17th Reg., Regular Army. He served from January 1863 until June 1865, seeing action at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the NYC Draft Riots, the Wilderness, Petersburg and Weldon Railroad.

He died February 19, 1932, in Northampton, MA; and is buried in Flushing, NY's Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Walter was born in 1913 and Montiel in 1915, after their 63-year old father married a second time in 1911 to 27 year-old Mary Peerebom.

98-year old Br. Walter was initiated into Reno, NV's Gen. Wm. Passmore Carlin Camp 25 by CinC Schall on July 11th, just a month and 3 days after his birthday. CC John Riggs presented Walter with his membership certificate and badge. Dept. Historian David A. Davis presented a History Book of the 9th VT Inf.

Br. Walter served three tours in the U.S. Army prior to and during WWII. He is a 50-year and Life Member of the American Legion, and was named 1993's Legionnaire of the Year. He was a 3-term Commander of the Portola A.L. Post, and served as Dist. Commander (1979-80).

SPECIAL GUESTS AT OK ENCAMPMENT

The Pawnee Bill Museum and Ranch hosted the Dept.'s 2011 Encampment. The Dept. decided to use a covered ranch pavilion, reminiscent of the outdoor encampments at the turn of the last century.

Real Sons Charles A. Cox, whose father was Cpl. Joseph H. Cox, 127th IL Inf., and John Whitman, whose father was Pvt. Nathaniel Amos Whitman, Co. L, 9th PA, both attended. The men had never met, and were quite interested in each other, as well as their families. Both were a popular focal point and were presented attractive plaques.

The Dept's Kansas cousin, Nat. Chief of Staff Alan Russ, also joined delegates and guests at the encampment.



Real Sons Charles Cox and John Whitman

THE OLDEST LIVING CIVIL WAR VETERAN

By PCC Richard Hardesty FL DPI

In early June, Audrey Bussey called me, saying she had seen an article* about the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. She wondered if I'd be interested in hearing about the oldest living Civil War veteran. Her great-grandfather had enlisted in the 14th NH Reg. Inf. at the age of 62! He had lied about his age, saying he was only 44. A 1907 Boston Post article recounted his death, and showed him with a medal, recognizing him as the oldest Civil War veteran in 1905.

According to the article, William Welch was born on March 29th, 1800...he was the oldest Mason in the U.S. and the oldest GAR member. He was born in New Brunswick, Canada, and while a youth, moved to Lempster, NH.

William married in June 1842 and had ten children. One set of twins, Elmer and Elma, was born in 1861...Elma is Audrey's grandmother. Mr. Welch enlisted in September 1862, and was the readiest man for any kind of service. Time and again, Welch responded for a sick comrade, serving in his place. He received an ugly scar from a gunshot wound at the Battle of Cedar Creek and was mustered out in July 1865. Although obliged to carry a cane, he had a very elastic step for his age and his eyesight was excellent. While the oldest U.S. pensioner, a special act was passed, doubling the amount he was formerly paid.

Until his death, Mr. Welch took great pride in the Boston Post medal. His death was peaceful, caused by extreme old age.

*The Fall 2009 *Osprey Observer* included a photo of Winfield Scott Whitehurst Camp 1's officers. Audrey's daughter then found my phone number. During my visit, I took a photo of Audrey holding a picture of her great-grandfather, in his Union uniform.

