

McDermitt, Charles

McDermitt, Charles
 Born: 7 May 1829
 Location: Pennsylvania
 Died: 7 August 1865
 Location: Queen's River Station, Nevada (later known as Ft. McDermitt)
 Inscription: Chas McDermitt Lieut. Col. 2nd Cal Cav

Military Data:

Regiment Name 2 California Cavalry
 Side Union Company M
 Soldier's Rank_In Capt.
 Soldier's Rank_Out Lt. Col.
 Film Number M533 roll 4
 Source: Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System

Charles McDermitt, Major, November 14, 1861
 Promoted Capt., Co. M; Promoted Lieut. Col. May 2, 1865.
 Charles McDermitt, Lieut.-Col. – Ft. Churchill, Nev.
 May 17, 1865 – May 11, 1865
 Promoted from Major, killed by Indians at Queens River, Nv.

Second Regiment of Cavalry, Field and Staff Officers
 From the book *Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion, 1861 to 1867*
 Source: <http://www.cagenweb.com/yuba/Civil%20War/2RC-Ofc.htm>

Census Data:

1860 Census – Siskiyou County, California – Scott's Valley
 Age: 40
 Occupation: Mechanic
 Place of Birth: Pennsylvania

**

On the 1880 Census, Charles' widow, Hannah, and his three surviving children
 Are living in Scott's Valley, Siskiyou Co., California. His surviving children are:
 Charles, Sada and Lizzie.



Note: originally buried at Ft. Churchill, Nv. and re-interred at Lone Mountain Cemetery on 17 Feb 1885. See "Re-interring Nevada's Unknown Soldiers" at the end of these pages.

Second photo: Charles McDermitt's child was also buried at Ft. Churchill and the child was re-interred next to the father's when Moved to Lone Mountain.

McDermit, Charles Obituary

STAR CITY DISPATCH

McDermit Killed by Indians – Soldiers Wounded

Carson Daily Appeal, August 10, 1865

Star City – July 9th.- A messenger from Queen's River Station arrived this morning with the intelligence that Lieutenant Colonel McDermit was killed by Indians on the 7th instant. It appears that the Colonel, with a portion of Captain Hill's infantry command and a detachment of cavalry, had been out on a scouting expedition and were returning, when they were fired upon from a willow thicket, wounding Col. McDermit mortally and two corporals seriously. Colonel McDermit lived only four hours. His remains are being brought in to Fort Churchill.

Further particulars will be furnished tomorrow.

LETTER FROM LIEUT. COLONEL McDERMIT

Carson Daily Appeal, August 11, 1865

We herewith publish a letter received yesterday by Governor Blasdel from Lieut. Colonel McDermit. It is probably the last letter ever written by that lamented officer. We are indebted to Judge Wells, the Governor's Private Secretary, for the liberty of giving it publicity:

HEADQUARTERS – SUBDISTRICT OF NEVADA

Queen's River Station, Aug. 1, 1865

GOVERNOR: I returned to this Station on yesterday evening, from the Owyhee River, Idaho Territory. The Indians will not meet us in Butte. We have driven them out of the State of Nevada to the Territory of Idaho, near the head waters of the Owyhee river, where they divided into two parties, the larger traveled northwest, and the other one we followed to the Humboldt River, above Gravelly Ford, where we took sixty-three prisoners, principally old men, women and children. The Thieves crossed the river. I sent a detachment of twenty-five men, Company E, Nevada Cavalry, under Lieut. Littlefield, and twelve men of Company B, Nevada Infantry, under Lieutenant Seamand, in pursuit, who followed them into Utah Territory, where they succeeded in killing seven of the most desperate of the party. We left the Humboldt River on the 11th of July for Queen's River, and arrived at this Station on the 23rd of July, and on the 25th I sent an escort of twenty men, Company I C. C. V., under Lieut. Tagge, to protect forty-two citizens through to Idaho mines. On the 27th I also ordered an escort of fifteen cavalry to go through to the same point with another party of citizens, six freight teams from Chico, Cal., and a drove of 900 cattle. At the same time, I ordered out three scouting parties of twenty-five men each to hunt for Indians. I went with Captain Payne's party to the Owyhee, where we surprised a party of ten Indians on the morning of the 28th. We succeeded in killing eight of the number. We then returned in a westerly direction for this camp. On the 30th a part of our command under Serg't Van Nostrand, Company E Nevada Cavalry, came across a party of twenty-five or thirty Indians and killed nine of their number. The balance of our party followed by the trail of the main party of mounted Indians, who went north after fighting Captain Wells. We discovered that it was the same party who attacked twenty citizens on the 3rd of July at the head of Queen's River Valley, Oregon, on their way to the Boise mines, in which Jackson, of Virginia City, was killed, and three others wounded. From this point they have proceeded in the direction of White or Snow Mountains, State of Oregon, where I am now preparing to follow them. I have traveled now some 1200 miles since I left Fort Churchill and expect to continue the pursuit until I succeed in catching and punishing these marauders. We have killed thirty-two Indians since I took the field, and have had one man wounded and one horse killed.

Since writing the above I have been officially informed that a detachment of Company I, Second C. C. V., and a detachment of Co. D Nevada Cavalry, had a fight with some twenty-five or thirty Indians in Paradise Valley, Nevada. They succeeded in killing seventeen Indians. One soldier was killed and four wounded.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant, C. McDermit, Lieut. Col. 2nd C. C. V., Com'g. His Excellency Gov. H. G. Blasdel, Carson City, Nevada

McDermitt, Charles

Gen.'l Ord. No. 2

Virginia Items

Carson Daily Appeal, August 25, 1865

We take the following items from yesterday's Union:

A few day's since we chronicled a strike among the Chinese washermen, they refusing to "washee" any more dirty clothes until an obnoxious license of \$10 per quarter be repealed. The strike is over. John saw it was no use kicking against the pricks, and now comes down with his regular \$10. In common with those who cast off their unclean linen once in two weeks, we rejoice.

A man who has been in the employ of Mrs. King, proprietress of the Antelope Restaurant, absconded last Saturday night, taking with him the contents of a trunk, which was in the room where he slept. The trunk was filled with gentlemen's fine clothing, and the thief succeeded in getting off with a couple hundred dollars worth of it. He has not yet been arrested.

The following order has been promulgated to the various military posts in this district:

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Fort Churchill, Aug. 19, 1865

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2

I. The remains of the late Lieut. Col. Charles McDermitt, 2nd Cavalry, California Volunteers, late Commanding the District of Nevada, who, while in the noble performance of his duty, gallantly leading a portion of his command through a wilderness infested by a savage foe, was shot and killed by hostile Indians, on the 7th inst., near Queen's River Station, Humboldt County, Nevada, having been brought to Fort Churchill, will be interred with appropriate military honors, on tomorrow, Sunday, the 20th instant, at 3 o'clock, P.M. Major M. O'Brien, 6th Infantry, California Volunteers, will command the funeral escort. The flags at Fort Churchill, and all military posts, stations and camps in this District, will be displayed at half-mast from sunrise until sunset on the day of the funeral, or the day following the receipt of this order; and all troops will be paraded at 10 o'clock A.M., and this order read to them after which all drills, fatigue duties and operations will be suspended for the day, as far as practicable.

II. The camp located near Queen's River Station will be known as Camp McDermitt, subject to the approval of the proper authority.

By order of Lieut. Col. Hooker

O.T. Sherwood, 1st Lt. and Adjt. 6th Inf. C.V.A.A.A.G.