

Tilton, John M.

Tilton, John M.

Born:

Location:

Mortally wounded: July 4, 1876 (see article, next page)

Died: August 10, 1876

Location: Carson City

Inscription: J. M. Tilton Co.C 6th Iowa Inf.

Section: W1G Row: 5 Plot: 2

Military Data:

Tilton, John M.

6 Iowa Infantry, Co. G

Rank In: Pvt

Rank Out: Pvt

Film Number: M541 Roll 26

Census Data:

None found

Other Sources: - Newspaper Accounts of Mr. Tilton's Accident
(original accounting is very long and appears on next page)

Carson Daily Appeal, July 7, 1876

The men who were burned and mutilated by the explosion of the cannon on the 4th are thought to be in a fair way of recovery. **Mr. Tilton's** hand is greatly swollen, and his eyes are in very bad condition. There is great danger of his losing his sight. Mr. Henderson's hands are very painful. His sight is not permanently injured. Mr. Reed is recovering from the shock. These men are attended by Dr.s Davison, Waters and White.



Carson Daily Appeal, July 20, 1876

TILTON, who was injured with others by the premature discharge of a gun on the 4th of July, is at the Adams House. He underwent yesterday an operation at the hands of Doctors Davidson and White. They extracted from over his left eye some large splinters and pieces of bone. His right eye is hopelessly gone. He can distinguish the difference between light and darkness with his remaining eye. Dr. Davison thinks his life will be saved. His general health has improved and he eats well. Strong hopes are entertained of saving the eye which was operated on yesterday.

Carson Daily Appeal, August 11, 1876

TILTON, the man who was injured, with others, by the premature explosion of a cannon on the Fourth of July died at Ormsby County Hospital yesterday. He had been a sad sufferer.

Tilton, John M. - Accident

A Terrible Accident

Carson Daily Appeal, July 6, 1876

It becomes our painful duty to report one of the most fearful accounts that ever occurred in Carson – one that has thrown a gloom over this entire community. It came too, with the suddenness of lightning, when the whole community were in the height of enjoyment of the greatest celebration, and most engrossing festivities ever known here. And it occurred to some of our fellow citizens that were participating in the most exciting part of the celebration. It is no less than the sudden death of one man and the maiming of three others. About 5 o'clock, on the evening of the Fourth, while some men, including the victims of the accident, were engaged in firing the new cannon owned by the railroad employees at the machine shops, the gun prematurely discharged while it was being loaded, and Mr. **Frank A. Bolander** had both his arms blown off, one at the shoulder, and the other at the elbow and shattering the bone higher up. He was also dreadfully mutilated in the breast and face, the chin, nose and cheek being partially torn away and his eyes fearfully injured by powder and splinters. He was thrown some distance into the sand. Partially rising, he exclaimed, "Where are my arms?" He was immediately taken to his room and Drs. Davison, Waters and White summoned. He bore his sufferings with wonderful nerve, and lived about twelve hours, expiring about 5 o'clock yesterday morning. He was about 25 years of age, unmarried, and has a mother living in San Francisco, and an uncle who is State Superintendent of Public Education of California. His relatives were telegraphed to, but no response could be obtained previous to his death, and not until late yesterday afternoon. The body was sent to San Francisco by last night's train. Coroner John P. Meder held an inquest upon the body. John M. Ingraban, Joseph Calenberti, B. Sinclair, James C. Smith, James S. Bemis and Charles F. Whitton were the jury. They rendered a verdict that the deceased was named **Frederick A. Bolander**; a native of Kentucky, about twenty-five years of age; that he came to his death from a premature discharge of a cannon which he was engaged in loading; that the discharge was occasioned by insufficient swabbing; (see *transcriber's note at bottom*) that the accident took place at Carson City on the 4th day of July, 1876. All of which is duly certified to. Another of the injured ones is **J. M. Tilton**, whose left hand is filled with powder and his face blacked and eyes greatly injured. He is at the Adams House, attended by Dr. Davison. He is perhaps 35 years of age, and unmarried. He will probably recover and it is hoped he will not lose his sight. The third one we notice is a **Mr. Reed**. His eyes were blown full of sand, and from what we can learn is not otherwise very seriously injured. Is an employee at the machine shop. The other man is **Mr. Henderson**, a moulder at the shops. Both hands were much injured. Will perhaps lose a thumb. His eyes are also severely injured. From the testimony before the Coroner's jury yesterday, we learn some further particulars regarding the accident. **Joseph Irwin** was attending the vent of the cannon at the time of the discharge. He was thrown violently upon his back. They had no water at the gun and the swab was dry and worn out. A boy had been sent for water but had not returned. The gun was used at midnight of the 3rd and twenty-six rounds fired. At sunrise thirty more rounds. Just previous to the fatal discharge twelve rounds had been fired. The gun was a twelve or fourteen pounder.

Transcriber's Note: "insufficient swabbing" means the cannon was not effectively cleaned and the gunpowder residue left in the cannon ignited.