

Biography



Adonoran Judson Ramsdell (1842 – 1916). USA Civil War veteran

By David Weatherill, Historian and member of Friends of Coburg Cemetery

Buried in the Coburg Cemetery on the 11th January 1916, is United States Civil War Veteran, Adonoran Judson Ramsdell. His grave is located in the Methodist A Section, Grave number 602. Burial records for the cemetery note his is the only burial in the grave.

Adonoran Ramsdell was born on the 4th February, 1842 at Newton Massachusetts, to Joshua Ramsdell and Francis. His birth record was located in the Massachusetts Town and Vital Records (1620-1988).

In the United States Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles (1861-1865) he is noted as a carpenter, aged 19 years, when he enlisted on the 17th September, 1861 as a Private in Company M, Massachusetts 1st Cavalry Regiment. On the 12th February 1864 he mustered out and then on the same date he transferred to Company M, 4th Cavalry Regiment. He was promoted to Full Corporal on the 12th February 1864 and on the 25th September 1864 he was promoted to Full Quarter Master Sergeant. The 14th November 1865 saw him finally mustered out at Richmond Virginia.

On the 15th June, 1871 he married Adelaide Augusta Rumrell in Providence, Rhode Island. The marriage only lasted for four years when Adelaide died of diphtheria, aged 33 years and 2nd July, 1875 saw her buried at Newton, Massachusetts. They had no children.

Adonoran left Newton on the 12 July, 1877 to travel to Australia. Arriving in Australia he married Grace Lulu McLean in North Fitzroy on 4th June, 1881. (VicBDM Marriage 2891/1881)

In September 1908 he applied for a military pension and in 1913 a pension of \$25 a month was paid to him in Australia. On the 2nd August his widow, Grace Ramsdell, was granted a widow's pension.

The 1914 Victorian electoral roll noted that A J Ramsdell was living at 1 Bent Street, Northcote and was listed as a carpenter.

On the 9th January 1916 Adonoran died from old age at the Melbourne Hospital, aged 73 years (Vic BDM Death 2596/1916). His usual address noted on the death certificate was 20 Rutland Street, Clifton Hill. His death certificates identifies he had six children. And occupation at the time of death was given as a carpenter.

In 1937 Grace Lulu Ramsdell (nee McLean) died at Bairnsdale, Aged 78 years.

In 1991 the American Veterans Administration provided a bronze plaque which was placed on his grave. Unfortunately the grave only has the plaque on it to identify its location.

See also 'Buried Treasures', the FOCC newsletter #16 published in June 2020 for a short article about Adonoran Ramsdell.