

# Oscar Rudolph Burkard

## **Born**

December 21, 1877  
Baden Achern, Germany

## **Service**

1898

## **Indian Campaigns**

Enlisted in the military at Hay Creek, Minnesota  
Assigned to the 3rd U.S. Infantry at Fort Snelling, MN  
Served as a Private in the Hospital Corps  
Present as an acting hospital steward  
at the Battle of Sugar Point or Battle of Leach Lake

October 5, 1898

## **Died**

February 18, 1950 (age 72)  
Rome, New York



## **Early Years**

Born in Achern, Germany, Oscar immigrated to the United States in 1895 and eventually enlisted in the military at Hay Creek, Minnesota. He was assigned to the 3rd U.S. Infantry at Fort Snelling. He served as a private in the Hospital Corps and was present as an acting hospital steward at the Battle of Sugar Point/ Battle of Leach Lake on October 5, 1898. He married Emma P. (Bernhard) Burkard (1881-1951). His known children are Elsie, Katherine and Emma Burkard.

## **The War Years**

In October 1898 an Indian uprising occurred at the Bear Island Reservation of the Chippewa in Minnesota. It was to be the last major conflict of the Indian Campaigns, though in and of itself this action was little more than resistance of a few hundred Indians against the execution of an order from the U.S. government. Even so, in the brief battle between 100 Army regulars that accompanied a United States Marshall in efforts to execute the order, seven soldiers were killed and sixteen wounded. Hospital Steward, Army Private Oscar Burkard, was cited for his own distinguished bravery in this action. During the battle, he rescued several soldiers while under heavy fire from the Pillagers and continued to do so throughout the day. He was later awarded the Medal of Honor "for distinguished bravery in action against hostile Indians" and officially received the award on August 21, 1899. Aside from being the only non-combatant to be decorated from that engagement, Burkard was also the last man to receive the medal during the Indian Wars.

## The Post War Years

Seeing service during World War I, he retired at the rank of Major on October 31, 1930. He was a member of the Board of Education in Rome, NY. He died in Rome, New York on February 18, 1950. He is buried in Rome Cemetery.



Photos of grave markers courtesy of Don Morfe, "Find A Grave" contributor who researches and photographs Medal Of Honor Recipient gravesites

Compiled by Diana Dickinson Lynch  
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Owens, Ron. *Medal of Honor: Historical Facts & Figures*. Paducah, Kentucky: Turner Publishing Company, 2004. (pg. 57) [ISBN 1-56311-995-1](#)

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[Photo of Grave site of MOH Recipient Oscar Burkard](#)". Retrieved October 4, 2010.

["Oscar Burkard"](#). *Claim to Fame: Medal of Honor recipients*. [Find a Grave](#). Retrieved April 17, 2008.

[Home of Heroes.com](#)