

William May

Born

January 16, 1826

Fayette County, Pennsylvania

Entered Service

August 14, 1862

Maysville, Franklin County, Iowa

Company H

32D Iowa Infantry

Civil War

Died

October 21, 1894, Wright County, Minnesota (age 68)

Early Years

When William C May was born on January 16, 1826, in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. He married Louisa Jane Dodd on July 22, 1852, in Huntington County, Indiana. They had eight children in 22 years.

“Will May was the son-in-law referred to of Garrett Dodd who enlisted and survived the Civil War. Will and Louisa left Indiana for Iowa with the Dodds” – Maude Dodd Anderson 1977.

A resident of Franklin County, Iowa and a Mexican War veteran when the Civil War started, he enlisted in the Union Army at age 33, and was mustered in as a Private in Company H, 32nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry on September 13, 1862.

The War Years

May's was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery in action on December 16, 1864 during second day of the Battle of Nashville, Tennessee, with his citation reading “Ran ahead of his regiment over the enemy's works and captured from its bearer the flag of Bonanchad's Confederate battery (C.S.A.)” The flag he captured was actually from Louisiana's Pointe Coupee Artillery battery, under command of Captain Joseph Alcide Bouanchaud. Private May was one of the first of his regiment to overrun the battery after attacking through terrible artillery and gunfire over an open field. Both sides had scores killed and eventually the guns of the Louisianans were captured by the Union troops. His regimental commander, Lieutenant Colonel Gustavus A Eberhart, mentioned his bravery in his official report of the battle. Private May's Medal for the act was awarded to him February 24, 1865 in Washington, DC, where he had traveled with other soldier's from Major General George H. Thomas' Army of the Cumberland that had captured Confederate battle flags to present them to Secretary of War Edwin M Stanton. In addition to their Medals, each man received a one- month furlough. After he returned to his unit he served through the end of the war , and was honorably mustered out at Clinton, Iowa on August 24, 1865. After the war William C May resided first in Winstead, McLeod County, then inn Howard Lake, Wright County, Minnesota before passing away in 1894. (bio by Russ Dodge)

Medal of Honor Citation

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The Post War Years

After the war William C. May resided first in Winstead, McLeod County, then in Howard Lake, Wright County, Minnesota before passing away in 1894.



Burial: Winsted Public Cemetery, Winsted, McLeod County, Minnesota, USA.

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

SOURCES:

- 1850 United States Federal Census: Brighton, Beaver, PA; Roll: M432_750; page 82B; Image: 166. Record for William C May.
- 1860 United States Federal Census; Reeve, Franklin Co., Iowa; Roll: M653_321; page 11; Image: 15;
- 1870 United States Federal Census; Winsted, McLeod Co., MN; Roll: T132_7; Image: 383515;
- 1880 United States Federal Census; Winsted, McLeod Co., MN; Roll:625; Enumeration District: 080 , The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
- 1900 United States Federal Census; Howard Lake, Wright Co., MN Louisa living with son, Charles A May. Roll: 798; page 6B; Enumeration District: 0227.
- Minnesota Territorial and State Censuses
- American Civil War Soldiers
- Indiana, Marriage Index, 1800-1941
- Fold3 , Pension, Medal of Honor
- MN Grand Army Membership Records.

- US Find a Grave
- Minnesota Wills and Probate Records, 1801-1925, Louisa J May, his wife.
- US Civil War Pension
- Findagrave.com
- National Archives and Records Administration

**Compiled by DeAnn Caddy
Captain Robert Orr Chapter DAR**

Children:

Josephine May (1855-1873)

Charles A May (1862-

William S May (1866-

Anna L. May (1862-1873)

Lillian A May (1869-

Minnie May (1872-

Leslie May (1876-

Fred C May (1877-