

ORANGE CITY NEWS

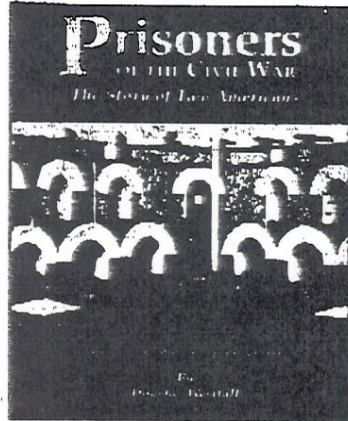
The Orange County Register

Serving Orange and Villa Park

WAR STORIES

MEMORIAL: New book by Orange historian Douglas Westfall chronicles the stories of two Orange Civil War veterans

By Paige Austin
Orange City News 5/24/01



Memorial Day a small Confederate flag will wave in the wind above the forgotten Los Angeles grave of early Orange settler William T. Glassell.

At the Fairhaven Memorial Park, a Union flag will grace the grave of William H. Clayton, one of Orange's first City Councilman.

The two men never met, but their lives are intertwined as firsthand tales from the battlefronts of the nation's bloodiest war.

In honor of Memorial Day, publisher Douglas Westfall is offering a book about the two featuring their letters. The book, "Prisoners of the Civil War: The Story of Two Americans," can be downloaded at www.SpecialBooks.com.

Glassell is the brother of Orange founder Andrew Glassell, who is never known to actually have set foot in Orange,

however William Glassell was the man who slammed a stake where fountain now sits. He divided up the lots of what later became downtown Orange.

Wealthy, educated and a fiercely loyal southern soldier, Confederate Capt. William Glassell came to Orange defeated and heartbroken after the fall of the South and the destruction of his family's plantation in Virginia.

A struggling farmer from Ohio, Clayton came to Orange where he lived out his life a locally celebrated hero, a Union soldier who defended his great country, Westfall said.

The two were worlds apart and yet tragically similar, said Westfall.

Both men risked their lives



STAN BIRD/Orange City News

MEMORIAL DAY: Publisher Doug Westfall places flag on William H. Clayton's grave at a cemetery in Santa Ana. Clayton was a Union soldier in the army and died in 1917. At left, the cover of Westfall's new book.

for their ideals and loyalty. Clayton fought to preserve the

Union, and Glassell fought for the sovereignty of the states over the "tyranny" of a federal government.

An officer in the U.S. Navy, Glassell returned from duty abroad to the Civil War. Rather than fight against his own family members in the south, he resigned and was sentenced to prison as a traitor at Fort Warren. In prison he wrote bitterly yet hopefully, "But I think I shall be free someday. And then I hope there may be something still for me to live for, besides revenge."

Glassell was freed in exchange for Union prisoners in the same month in 1862 that Clayton entered the war.

Clayton, Glassell history

1831	'40	'61	'62	'63	'64	'65	'70	'71	'79	1917
1831: William T. Glassell born in Virginia.	1840: William H. Clayton born in Philadelphia.	1861: Civil war begins. Glassell returns from U.S. Navy abroad and resigns his post rather than fight against the South. He's imprisoned for his resignation.	1862: Glassell is released and Clayton volunteers in Union Army.	1863: Clayton is captured and imprisoned. Glassell is captured and imprisoned.	1864: Clayton is released.	1868: Glassell is released. The Civil war ends and Lincoln is shot and killed.	1870: Glassell comes to Orange.	1871: Glassell pounds a surveyor's stake at the center of the Plaza where the fountain is today.	1879: Glassell dies of Tuberculosis in Los Angeles. Clayton comes to Orange and serves five city council terms.	1917: Clayton dies in Orange.

VETERAN

FROM 1

They endured endless marching and waiting for battle followed by intense and gruesome skirmishes. Clayton, a foot soldier fought in the pivotal battle of Vicksburg only to be captured soon after.

Glassell, a Navy captain, piloted the first submarine used in combat. Defending the Charleston Bay, he steered the submarine with his feet while sticking his head just above the water's surface to see. With a 15-foot pole his crew of five guided a "torpedo" (mine) into a massive Union ironclad.

The attack successfully blew a hole into the massive warship, but the waves from the explosion nearly sank the submarine, leaving Glassell floating and captured by Union soldiers.

At the same time in 1863, Clayton was captured by Confederate soldiers. Unlike Glassell, who lived under the comparatively luxurious conditions of an officer in prison, Clayton was forced to march more than 20 miles a day barefoot and with little clothing.

Despite his suffering, he complains little in his journal

and writes his stark observations about the war. "The Johnnies (rebels) are returning from across the river all wet and muddy. They do not glory much over their victory for it was dearly bought."

Both men where forever marked by the war. However, Clayton lived a long and celebrated life as a war hero and prominent political figure in early Orange, Westfall said.

The war left Glassell heartbroken. He never married and came to the west to be with his brother. Orange is named after the last town the Glassells lived in Virginia before coming west. Glassell slowly died of tuberculosis, which he likely contracted while imprisoned, Westfall said.

Locally on Memorial Day, the graves of soldiers north or south are adorned with a small Union flag.

Buried with his brother's family in Los Angeles, Glassell's grave is essentially forgotten, Westfall said. This Memorial Day, he plans to place a small confederate flag on the grave, honoring a man he describes as true and kind.

"He was an American and needs to be recognized," Westfall said.

"The Confederacy for which Glassell fought and would so gladly have given his life was

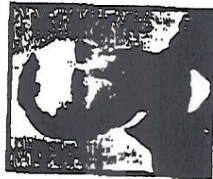
said Fairhaven Memorial Park

Reverend Lou Carlson, who wrote the forward to Westfall's book: "To be remembered, to have your grave marked is a measure of your mortality. To be forgotten is the worst ignominy imaginable."

In these days when there is a certain stigma attached to things historically Southern, it is more than ever important that we honor and at least remember the loyalty and fierce dedication that was so important to a man such as Glassell, Carlson said.

"Prisoners of The Civil War: The Story of Two Americans" can be obtained at www.SpecialBooks.com or by calling The Penguin Agency at 771-8652.

A letter from Glassell:



Following is an excerpt from a letter printed in "Prisoners of the Civil War: The Story of Two Americans."

"It (the Civil War) had been in progress for nearly six months when I came home from sea. I had taken no part in it, when on my arrival in Philadelphia, only because I could not truthfully swear that if felt no human sympathy for my own family and the friends of my childhood, and that I was willing to shed their blood and desolate their

homes. "I may have been a fool. I supposed or believed that the people of the South would never be conquered. I hardly hoped to live through the war. Though I had no intention of throwing my life away, I was willing to sacrifice it, if necessary, for the interests of a cause I believed to be just... But the time has arrived when I think it my duty to grant pardon to the government for all the injustice and injury I have received. I sincerely hope that harmony and prosperity may yet be restored to the United States of America."

— William Thornton Glassell, Autumn 1865