



**VISITING MEMORIES:** Paul Gillette, left, has researched Civil War veterans buried in Orange County, including those buried Loma Vista Memorial Park in Fullerton. He is at Lovitt family plot where (foreground) Union veteran Rezin Lovitt is buried. Below, a portrait of O.V. Knowlton rests on his grave marker.

Photos by  
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# A TIME TO REMEMBER

## Civil War dead recognized

BY **BARBARA GIASONE**  
Fullerton News Tribune

**N**aval Reservist Paul Gillette sidesteps hundreds of life stories buried beneath the sweeping lawns at Loma Vista Memorial Park to corner Fullerton's connection to the Civil War.

Here, miles from the bloody battlefields of the internal American rift, Gillette

takes his one-man crusade toward towering eucalyptuses that shade monuments tucked in the oldest section of the 87-year-old park.

In a matter of days, Memorial Day crosses and flags will decorate the graves of World War I, World War II, Korean, Vietnam and Gulf War veterans buried in Fullerton. But only a scant 40 markers, scat-

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## MEMORIAL

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tered among imposing monuments, identify the men who fought in what historians deem was the nation's bloodiest and saddest war.

"For years, these men didn't have a voice," says Gillette, continuing his quest to locate the cemetery's oldest soldiers.

"And now, we're giving them a voice again."

The amateur historian, mesmerized by family stories of his great-grandfather Thomas Hill's Civil War adventures, eventually found his passing interest in military lore evolving into a passion for tracking veterans' who moved to Orange County.

A longtime letter carrier, Gillette stumbled nearly 10 years ago on a Civil War veter-

an's burial site — the first of 715 graves he has since identified in the county.

The findings are documented in a book Gillette is collaborating on with three amateur historians.

At Loma Vista, Gillette quickly scans the gravestone names — pausing only when he spots the insignia GAR (Grand Army of the Republic).

"Charles Montgomery. 1864. Enlisted in Pennsylvania.

Wounded three months later at Laurel Hill, Va.," Gillette reads from his "Fullerton Civil War Veterans" folder. "Discharged in 1865 in Washington D.C."

"Henry Winchell. Enlisted at age 19 in 1863 in Davenport Iowa. Fought the Atlanta campaign and helped defeat the Confederate Army."

"To survive this Civil War, you had to be hardy like coal miners and farmers. The weak got weeded out in a hurry," Gil-

lette says. "It was a brutal process, but you had to be strong to survive."

The morning mission marches onward.

Rezin Lovitt, 24th Ohio Infantry. Enlisted in 1861. Fought in the Western Theater, including the Battles of Shiloh, Perryville, Ky., Chickamauga, Ga. Served the full three years, then mustered out in June 1864.

Three Confederates are buried in Fullerton - Willie Addames, George Ingram, Andrew Wallace - according to records Gillette researched through the Military History Institute in Carlisle, Pa.

"We called Willie Addames 'Uncle Willie,'" recalls Kendall Neisess, who was a 12-year-old Boy Scout when he met the veteran at a construction company in downtown Fullerton in 1930s. "He was the night watchman and he liked us Scouts to gather round so he could tell his stories about the Civil War."

Addames, who fought with the Confederate Navy, died in 1941 at age 103.

Gillette, one of the founders of the Orange County Civil War Round Table, regularly tells veterans' groups about William Case, who is buried at Loma Vista.

Case, it seems, was captured, released, then joined up again. "Under the rules in effect, prisoners were exchanged on promises not to fight again; however, they generally did," Gillette, 40, says. "Case was part of Sherman's March through Georgia. They totally destroyed everything."

"Railroad ties were torn up, heated and bent around trees, known as Sherman's neckties. All dogs, regardless of size,

were killed because slaves feared them. Case moved to California in 1890 and bought 25 acres near Euclid and Kattella."

Gillette says Case was active in the GAR, the early version of the American Legion. And, he was a member of the Malvern Hill Post, which had about 100 members. Thus, the Fullerton streets Malvern, Union and Rosecrans are among street names associated with the Civil War.

"Many of the Malvern Post vets got together and bought a big parcel of land in the Anaheim cemetery," Gillette says.

"That's why many Fullerton Civil War vets are buried in Anaheim."

North Orange County veterans eventually played a significant role in the county's political independence, exercising the spirit of local control that dominated the Civil War.

"Many of those vets came to Orange County in the 1890s, with about 13 Confederates responsible for our secession from Los Angeles County," Gillette says.

The link somewhat mirrors the beginnings of the Civil War itself when Abraham Lincoln's election to the presidency in

1860 triggered South Carolina to enact an ordinance declaring "the union now subsisting between South Carolina and other States, under the name of the United States of America, is hereby dissolved."

Within six weeks, six other deep-South states seceded from the Union and seized federal property inside their borders. In the 1860 census there were 31.4 million people; about 23 million in the 22 north states and nine million in the 11 states that later seceded.

Walking eastward in the cemetery, Gillette stumbles on the gravestone of Orson

Knowlton, who served in 1863 at age 15. Records indicate Knowlton fought in Missouri against Quantrell's Raiders, a group that included Jesse James. Eventually, he purchased five acres in Fullerton and served as commander of the Malvern Hill GAR before he died in 1928.

"I'd love to hear from as many descendants as possible," says Gillette, who invites people to call him at (714) 638-2024.

And particularly the Fullerton contingent that for years lay nearly forgotten during Memorial Day remembrances.

| Name                 | Loma Vista Civil War Veterans Born | Died       | Service |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------|---------|
| Addames, Willie      | 4/28/1837                          | 4/27/1941  | CSA     |
| Campbell, James B.   | N/A                                | 12/6/40    | GAR     |
| Case, Pvt. Wm. E.    | 1844                               | 9/28/32    | GAR     |
| Clark, Silas         | 1848                               | 8/3/22     | GAR     |
| Cressey, D.B.        | 1843                               | 1931       | GAR     |
| Greenough, John A.   | 1842                               | 1928       | GAR     |
| Greenough, Milton    | 1844                               | 1929       | GAR     |
| Hogle, George        | 1848                               | 12/8/28    | GAR     |
| Houston, John B.     | 1838                               | 12/3/37    | GAR     |
| Ingram, George D.    | 2/6/1847                           | 2/26/1919  | CSA     |
| Kammerer, William    | 1842                               | 1927       | GAR     |
| Knowlton, Orson V.   | 1848                               | 1928       | GAR     |
| Logsdon, James       | 1832                               | 3/6/1918   | GAR     |
| Lovitt, Rezin        | 1841                               | 1/9/1928   | GAR     |
| Markle, John         | 1838                               | 1924       | GAR     |
| Mason, Luther        | 1844                               | 2/1/1925   | GAR     |
| Mathews, Newton      | 1843                               | 1926       | GAR     |
| Maurry, Joseph       | 1868                               | 1917       | GAR     |
| Mears, Robert        | 1837                               | 6/19/1917  | GAR     |
| Montgomery, Chas.    | 1848                               | 1929       | GAR     |
| Muhr, John           | 1841                               | 9/19/1923  | GAR     |
| Nichols, John        | 1840                               | 8/24/1931  | GAR     |
| Nicholson, Wm. S.    | 1842                               | 1/29/26    | GAR     |
| Olds, John M.        | N/A                                | 12/26/1916 | GAR     |
| Phillips, Albert E.  | N/A                                | 12/8/1938  | GAR     |
| Reed, Clement        | 1838                               | 1916       | GAR     |
| Ricketts, Leander    | 1847                               | 7/6/1936   | GAR     |
| Robison, W. Fletcher | 1847                               | 1885       | GAR     |
| Rudlock, Nathan S.   | 1844                               | 1934       | GAR     |
| Schumacher, Peter    | 1843                               | 8/22/1933  | GAR     |
| Schumacher, Wm.      | 1848                               | 1917       | GAR     |
| Stanton, Richard F.  | 1834                               | 3/16/1921  | GAR     |
| Stevens, Pvt. Daniel | 10/12/1847                         | 1/14/1945  | GAR     |
| Stulke, Frederick    | N/A                                | 12/15/1938 | GAR     |
| Sweeney, Solomon     | 10/3/1847                          | 6/3/1919   | GAR     |
| Van Eaton, Lafayette | 1843                               | 1936       | GAR     |
| Walker, R.G.         | 1841                               | 1920       | GAR     |
| Wallace, Andrew B.   | 1845                               | 4/5/1905   | CSA     |
| Willhour, Samuel W.  | 1845                               | 8/7/1925   | GAR     |
| Wilson, Elkahah      | 1847                               | 1923       | GAR     |
| Winchel, Henry C.    | 1844                               | 1932       | GAR     |
| Woods, Samuel S.     | 1834                               | 1916       | GAR     |