

## WILLIAM R. LEAGUE

[League, William R.](#)

Confederate

Infantry

[44th Consolidated Regiment, Tennessee Infantry](#)

### CONFEDERATE TENNESSEE TROOPS

#### **44th Consolidated Regiment, Tennessee Infantry**

44th Infantry Regiment, organized at Camp Trousdale, Tennessee, in December, 1861, contained men from Coffee, Grundy, Franklin, Lincoln, and Bedford counties. The unit fought at [Shiloh](#) and lost seventy-four percent of the 470 engaged. On April 19, 1862, the 55th (McKoin's) Regiment, which also suffered heavy losses, merged into the 44th. It now had a force of 489 effectives. After fighting at [Munfordville](#) and [Perryville](#) it was assigned to General B.R. Johnson's Brigade, Army of Tennessee. During November, 1863, the unit was consolidated with the 25th Regiment. It participated in the Battles of [Murfreesboro](#) and [Chickamauga](#), was active in the Knoxville Campaign, then joined the Army of Northern Virginia. The regiment went on to fight at [Drewry's Bluff](#), was active in the [Petersburg](#) trenches north of the James River, and ended the war at [Appomattox](#). It lost thirty-four percent of the 509 engaged at Murfreesboro and thirty-eight percent of the 294 at Chickamauga. The 25th/44th sustained 95 casualties of the 259 at Drewry's Bluff. This regiment, attached to General McComb's Brigade, surrendered 5 officers and 53 men. The field officers were Colonels John S. Fulton, John H. Kelly, and Coleman A. McDaniel; Lieutenant Colonels John L. McEwen, Jr. and Henry S. Shied; and Majors Gibson M. Crawford, Henry C. Ewin, and James M. Johnson.

[U.S. Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865](#) about William R. League

<b>Name:</b>	William R. League
<b>Side:</b>	Confederate
<b>Regiment State/Origin:</b>	Tennessee
<b>Regiment Name:</b>	44 (Consolidated) Tennessee Infantry.
<b>Regiment Name Expanded:</b>	44th Consolidated Regiment, Tennessee Infantry
<b>Company:</b>	C
<b>Rank In:</b>	Private
<b>Rank In Expanded:</b>	Private

**Rank Out:** Private  
**Rank Out Expanded:** Private  
**Alternate Name:** W. R./Leage  
**Film Number:** M231 roll 25

[Civil War Service Records](#) about William R. League

**Name:** William R. League  
**Company:** C  
**Unit:** 44 (Consolidated) Tennessee Infantry.  
**Rank - Induction:** Private  
**Rank - Discharge:** Private  
**Allegiance:** Confederate  
**Notes:** W. R. League, 55 (McKoin's) Tenn. Inf.

(1850 census north of Cumberland, East to the river in the County of Smith, TN: Dwl: 282: **Riley Lague** is head of household, 50 yrs. old, VA md to **Jane**, 48 yrs. old, TN. Children: Cynthia J., 16 yrs. old; **Edmund**, 12 yrs. old; **William**, 10 yrs. old; Dabner M., 8 yrs. old; Oney Elizabeth, 6 yrs. old & Sarah J. Legue, 4 yrs. old. All born in TN).

(1860 census 16<sup>th</sup> Dist., Laurel Hill, DeKalb Co., TN: Dwl: 1548 – **Riley R. League** is head of household, 62 yrs. old, VA, occupation: farmer md to **Jane**, 48 yrs. old, TN. Children: **William League**, 21 yrs. old; Dabney M., 19 yrs. old; Elizabeth, 16 yrs. old & Sarah League, 15 yrs. old. All born in TN. Also living in the household: Robert Hall, 40 yrs. old, NC, occupation: Grocer).

(1860 census 16<sup>th</sup> Dist., Laurel Hill, DeKalb Co., TN: Dwl: 1547 - **Edmund R. League** is head of household, 23 yrs. old, TN, md to **Lucy J.**, 21 yrs. old, TN. Children: Martha J., 2 yrs. old, TN & Mary League, 9/12 yrs. old, TN).

(1870 census 16<sup>th</sup> Dist., Laurel Hill, DeKalb Co., TN: Dwl: 42 - **Jane League** is head of household, 59 yrs. old, TN. Children: **William R.**, 30 yrs. old; Dabney M., 28 yrs. old; Omah E., 25 yrs. old, Martha J., 12 yrs. old & Mary E. League, 10 yrs. old. All born in TN).

(1870 census 16<sup>th</sup> Dist., Laurel Hill, DeKalb Co., TN: Dwl: 46 – **Edmond R. League** is head of household, 33 yrs. old, TN, farmer, md to **Minerva A.**, 20 yrs. old, TN, housekeeping. Children: Laverna, 2 yrs. old, TN & Riley D. J. League, 10/12 yrs. old. Also living in the household: David T. Rowland, 28 yrs. old, TN, gentleman & Henry League, 42 yrs. old, day laborer & George W. League, 17 yrs. old, TN, day laborer).

(1880 census, Falls Township, Sumner, KS: Dwl: 42 -**William Leage** is head of household, 31 yrs. old, TN md to **L. E.**, 24 yrs. old, IN. Children: John Leage, 2 yrs. old, KS & Willey Leage, 1 month old, May, KS).

(1900 census, Bruno, Butler, KS: **William R. League** is head of household, 51 yrs. old, b. March 1839, TN (father born in VA, mother, TN), md 25 yrs. to **Laura**, 43 yrs. old, b. September 1856, IN, (father born in KY, mother IN). Children: John League, 23 yrs. old, b. February 1878, KS; Lonnie, 18 yrs. old, b. April, 1882, KS & Orloff League, 14 yrs. old, b. September 1885, KS).

(1910 census, Augusta, Butler, KS: Dwl: 35 - **William League** is head of household, 70 yrs. old, TN (survivor of the confederate army), md 33 yrs. to **Laura E.**, 53 yrs. old, IN).

(1920 census, Elmwood, Beaver, OK: Dwl: 70- **Edmond R. League** is head of household, 82 yrs. old, TN, widow, no occupation).

**RYLEIGH RILEY LEAGUE**, b. 17 January 1799, Amelia Co., VA – d. ca. 1870. Smith Co., TN, md MARY JANE RAFFERTY, b. 13 May 1812, TN – d. 1880, TN, d/o WILLIAM RAFFERTY (1784-?) & MARGARET “PEGGY” STEARMAN (1780-?). RYLEIGH RILEY LEAGUE, s/o EDMUND LEAGUE (1759-1838) & MARY BEADLE (1768-1852).

Children of Ryleigh Riley League & Mary Jane Rafferty are: Mary League (1830-1906); Cinthia Ann League (1833-1920); Edmond Randolph League (1837-1923); William R. League (1839-1921); Dabney M. League (1841-1872); Oma Elizabeth League (1842-1939); Sarah J. League (1844-1897); John W. League (1850-1855); A. T. League (1855-?); Martha League (1858-?) & Mary League (1860-?).

**EDMOND RANDOLPH LEAGUE**, b. 12 May 1837, Smith Co., TN – d. 3 March 1923, Beaver, OK, md 2<sup>nd</sup> on the 30<sup>th</sup> of December 1866, DeKalb Co., TN to **MANERVA ANN EXUM**, b. 2 August 1848, Smith Co., TN – d. 12 January 1880, South Haven, Sumner, KS. Edmond Randolph League md 1<sup>st</sup> on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 1857, DeKalb Co., TN to **LUCINDA ELLEN JANE TERRY**, b. 1 January 1838, Jackson Co., TN – d. 1862, DeKalb Co., TN.

Children of Edmond Randolph League & Lucinda “Lucy” Ellen Jane Terry are: Martha Jane League (1858-1939) & Mary Elizabeth League (1859-1951).

Children of Edmond Randolph League & Manerva Ann Exum are: Laverna League (1868-1943); Riley D. J. League (1869-1928); Helen League (1874-1954); Morris League (1878-1960 & Nettie Elizabeth League Measer (1879-1959).

**WILLIAM RILEY LEAGUE**, b. 4 March 1839, Smith Co., TN – d. 21 January 1921, Butler Co., KS, md ca. 1875 to **LAURA EVALINE NEAL**, b. 4 September 1856, IN – d. 16 March 1926, Butler Co., KS. William Riley League, s/o **RYLEIGH ‘RILEY’ LEAGUE** (1799-1870) & **MARY JANE RAFFERTY** (1812-1880).

Children of William Riley League & Mary Jane Rafferty are: John E. League (1878-1902); William Randolph League (1880-?); Alonzo Bedford Lonnie League (1882-1972) & Orloff R. League (1885-1962).

**EDMUND'S GIFT TO RYLEIGH LEAGUE INCLUDES SLAVES HILLSMAN AND DILSEY**

SMITH COUNTY, TN - DEEDS - Deed of Gift, Edmund League to Ryleigh League,  
27 Jan 1838 ----- Deed, Edmund League to Ryleigh  
League - including slaves Smith Co. Tennessee, Deed Book 0, p. 207 I Edmund League  
of the county of Smith and State of Tennessee have this day for the consideration of the  
natural love and affection which I have for my son Ryleigh League and for the further  
consideration that he has obligated himself to find and furnish a sufficiency of everything  
necessary for the support of myself and my wife for and during both of our natural lives  
sold, given and conveyed to the said Ryleigh League and his heirs forever the following  
described tract of land lying in the County and State aforesaid on the east side of Caney  
Fork in Love's Valley beginning on a sugartree east 70 paces to a stake hence north 62  
paces to a Hickory sapling and beech, thence east 71 paces to a stake thence 75 paces to  
the beginning, thence east to a white oak, poplar and hickory thence south 117 paces to a  
sugartree conditionally made between Felix Overton and William Pinsky(?), thence west  
toa beech, thence south 221 paces to a beech thence west 63 paces to a stake, thence 36  
(?) paces to an ash, thence south 80 paces to Mrs Ballard's northeast corner, thence west  
56 paces to an oak on her northwest corner and Emerson's east boundary, thence north ?  
paces to a sugartree to the beginning containing by estimation two hundred acres to the  
same more or less. I have also this day for the consideration herein mentioned sold,  
given, conveyed and delivered unto the said Ryleigh League and his heirs forever the  
following named Negroes (to wit), **Hilman**, Amy, Bedy, Tilman, Henry, Caroline, Chloe,  
David, Lucy, **Dilsey** and a yoke of oxen and cart. To have and to hold all the above  
described lands with the (illegible) and (illegible) therein and also all the above described  
Negroes, cart and oxen to him the said Ryleigh League and his heirs forever and the said  
Edmund League for myself and my heirs do covenant with the said Ryleigh League and  
his heirs that I will forever warrant and defend the title to all the above described land  
and Negroes, cart and oxen against the [un?]lawful claim or title of all and every person  
or manner of persons whatever in testimony whereof I have hereto set my hand and  
affixed my seal this 27th day of January 1838. Signed, Sealed and delivered in the  
presence of Edmund

(the word "seal") State of Tennessee Smith County Personally appeared before  
me John J. Burnett, clerk of Smith County court Edmund League the within named  
bargainer with whom I am personally acquainted and who acknowledges that he  
(illegible) the (illegible) deed of gift to Ryleigh League for the purpose herein contained  
set my hand (?) of office this 27th day of January, 1838.

**EDMOND AND WILLIAM LEAGUE RETURN FROM CIVIL WAR INCLUDES  
SLAVE DILSEY LEAGUE WIFE OF HILLSMAN LEAGUE**

SMITH COUNTY, TN - MILITARY - Edmond R. League, Coming Home from the Civil War  
Homecoming

By Edmond R. League, son of Ryleigh League

One cold day in April and Assistant Adjutant General came in and, to shelter himself from the raw wind, came near me, as I was standing in a somewhat protected spot. He asked me what state I was from, what battles I was in, and about those battles. I answered as well as I could. He then told me that he had been left in his tent, when his comrades were about to be captured. Here, he was found by three Tennesseans, who came to view the camp and took him to the home of one of them and secreted him in the house and provided physician and medicine, in all kindness until the doctor said that he was sufficiently recovered. These friends then took him on horseback for two and one-half days, traveling by night and sleeping by day, and brought him to the Union lines and bid him goodbye.

I felt that there was one to whom I could appeal. I said, "Why can't I take the oath and go home?" I told him that the President could grant such a request. Finally, he agreed to write a petition to the President, we were to sign it, and he would use all his influence to have it granted. Fourteen of my company signed the petition; others thought it useless. The petition was mailed at four p.m. and next morning by nine a.m. it was back with orders to give us rations and transportation to the nearest point of our home.

We were ordered to report at six a.m. next morning to take the oath at the fort. We took a boat and went to Philadelphia, went to the Provost Marshall, got out to Galatin, Tennessee, May 1, and reached home the 11th at 11 p.m. Galatin was 40 miles from home and we were so weak that it took us two days and part of a night to walk that distance. In the creek bottom it was so muddy-half shoe mouth deep-William would get stuck in the mud, fall over, and I had to help him up and lead him along. That was a long, weary walk, but at least we were in sight of hope (home?), and few people realize as we did what home means.

We had not written home for three years or more. You may think this a great neglect on our part, but opportunity to write was not often. We knew not how soon we would be killed. If we did not write, they could still hope that we were alive. If they thought us dead, no use to make them mourn afresh as any hour we might be killed.

When the army surrendered, some of the boys went home immediately and Father went to inquire of us, but only learned that they had seen us in that last battle and could tell him no more. He returned home and we were given up as dead, not only by our folks, but by all of our friends.

When we reached the house all the folks had gone to bed. The lights were all out. We went through the hall to our parents' bedroom, expecting to find them still up, but when I unbolted the door and looked in, all was dark there, too. I said, "Huh! I guess they are all asleep." This awoke Mother and she said, "Is that you, Ed?" I said, "Yes." Then she said, "Where is William" I said, "Here he is." This also awoke Father. He got up, began to feel on the mantle for a candle and matches, all the time saying, "Lord, Lord, the boys have got home once more!" As soon as he lighted the candle, he came to us and embraced us.

Although the Negro cabins were 100 yards away, old Aunt Dils, the only one of the colored people not gone to bed, was sitting parching for her family. When we passed through the hall, she heard us walking and knew my step. She awoke the other Negroes and told them that Ed had come home, saying, "I heard him walk through the hall." Then, here came all the Negroes (about 20). We were sitting in the middle of the room when they came in just as they had gotten out of bed, in their nightgowns. They formed a circle around us, opened their eyes until it look as though they would pop from their heads and stared at us. They could not believe it was really us. As soon as they knew that it really was, they dashed away to tell our sisters that "Ed and William had gotten home," and shouted the news at every house they passed.

In our neighborhood, about half of the people sympathized with the North and the community had become divided, but before morning the house was filled with both the Blue and the Gray. The war was ended and we were all neighbors again and before noon, the yard was nearly filled.

Father ordered the Negroes to kill and cook and asked that everyone stay and eat dinner. This they did. The strife of the war was laid aside and forgotten, once more we were a united family, united neighbors, and united community, knowing each other as friends.

I had fought the Yanks, as became a Johnny, but I gained one more victory. I won the love and brought to my home the sister of a Yankee Captain. She was a devout Christian, a true and loving wife.

THE END

MOLLIE LEAGUE CEMETERY  
DeKalb Co., TN

From Center Hill Dam, go east on Hwy. 141 about three fourths mile to Hwy. 96, go north on 96 about one half mile. Turn left on Love's Valley Road, go one fourth mile to old Lucy McDonald house on right. (Now owned by Mr Truitt, owned by Ryleigh League before and during the Civil War.) Cemetery is up old road, on east side of house, about 200 yards up the road and 30 yards east of the road. It is on the north side of a small hill and much overgrown with honeysuckle and small trees. It is owned by Kenzie Wright in 1988. The only legible stone is : Mollie League, December 26, 1871 – November 8, 1904 (Mollie League is thought to be of a black family.) There are 8 limestone rocks and 1 slate rock markers with no inscriptions. There are possibly 8-10 unmarked graves. The Rafferty and League families once owned this property and it is thought possible that buried here are the following members of white families: William Rafferty, April 7, 1784 – died after 1837 and Mrs. William Rafferty dates unknown ( it is possible the Raffertys moved to Greene County, IL and died there.)

Ryleigh R. League, b. January 17, 1799 – d. about 1867.

Mary Jane (Rafferty) League, b. 18 May 1811- d. after 1880, wife of Ryleigh R. League. She is the daughter of William Rafferty.

Infant of Charlie Pullum's brother, died 1890's.

Source: DeKalb County Tennessee Cemeteries by Doris Garrison Gilbert, pg. 163.



**EDGAR EVINS STATE PARK CELEBRATED ITS RICH HISTORY**

**WITH A HISTORIC HAYRIDE ON SATURDAY.**

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN

11 October 2011

(Picture) Mrs. Riley League, played by Lori Christensen during Edgar Evins History Hayride, was the mother of two Confederate soldiers. Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea. Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 10 October 2011).

\*See more history items at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>