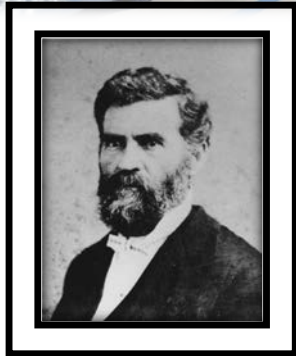


COMMANDER RIGGS' COMMUNIQUE – Camp 25 - JAN. 16, 2013

Commander John A. Riggs standing in front of Sec. of Nevada Territory Orion Clemens house in Carson City, NV: Orion lived here with his wife Mary E., i.e. Mollie from 1864 to 1866. (Photo by SVC D. Davis.) Below, NV State Archives photo of Clemens. Then Clemens home below with SVC Davis.



CIVIL WAR SERVICE: The Honorable Orion Clemens was appointed Secretary of Nevada Territory, 1861-1864, by President James Buchanan on March 2, 1861.

He is the older brother of Samuel Clemens who served as his secretary for a time for the State of Nevada but government forgot to provide a salary for Samuel.

Orion ran for Sec. of State when Nevada formed the new state, but made the mistake of thinking he didn't have to campaign because everyone already knew him. Backroom politics cut him out and devastated him personally.

Per the Legislative Council Bureau, he was a member of the Nevada Assembly from Nov 1865 to Nov 1866, for Ormsby County as a representative of the Union Party. In 1866 resigned and returned to MO. He was very disappointed in his treatment by not only the political activists, parties and voters he had served so faithfully while he was here. He expended much of his own fortune, and helped forge NV into a state during and after the Civil War. He was Acting Governor on numerous occasions & Commander of the State Militia when he signed the orders creating the NV 1st Cavalry for Civil War service.

God Bless him, Mollie and dear little Jennie for being such an important part of US and Nevada history. He does not get enough credit as a NV pioneer and is over shadowed by the antics of his younger brother Mark Twain.

Photos Commander *John A. Riggs*



Commanders Report. General William Passmore Carlin, Camp 25, Dept. of California & the Pacific (CAL-NEVA & HI), Camp Commander John A. Riggs, BS in Ed., M.Ed.



Above,

photos of sidewalk sign in front of Orion Clemens home showing Samuel Clemens, aka Mark Twain stayed with the family and photo of family home. Photo of **Jennie Clemens** grave in Carson City's Lone Mountain cemetery with additional marker: "*YOU ARE NOT ALONE JENNIE. YOUR PRESBYTERIAN SISTERS CHERISH YOUR BIBLE*" plot 1E-07-06. Before Jennie died in 1865, she had been raising money to purchase a bible for her parish church, after her death, the program was completed with the help of her uncle and the bible was presented. Her uncle also helped raise the funds that built the Presbyterian Church in Carson City, NV. In the next public domain photo, Jennie Clemens all dressed up in her grammar school finery, posing for picture at school in Carson City, NV in about 1865. She was a very serious and good student and a bright little star in the community. She was born in Iowa on June 12, 1855, died December 25, 1865 in Carson City, NV. [Camp 25 Commander John A. Riggs 01/06/13](#)