

## Scout William Henry Harrison McCall

**William Henry Harrison McCall** was born about 1841 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, (son of John McCall and Ann \_\_\_\_\_) and died JUN-13-1883 in Prescott, Yavapai County, Arizona and is buried in Citizens Cemetery, Prescott, Arizona.

McCall apparently grew up in Philadelphia as he is found there in the 1850 and 1860 US Census, his father being a Philadelphia grocer, and prior to joining the Army, worked as a lumberman in the Pennsylvania forest.

At the outbreak of the Civil War and at the age of 20 he was mustered into the Union Army on June 5, 1861, as a sergeant of Company D, Fifth Pennsylvania Reserve Infantry. On March 5, 1863 he was promoted to captain. On September 3, 1864, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and assigned to the 200<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry, followed by being brevetted to Colonel for "coolness, bravery, and skill at Fort Steadman, Virginia." Finally, on August 22, 1865 he was appointed Brigadier General by Brevet in the Volunteer Force, Army of the United States. He mustered out and was discharged from service on July 11, 1865. His daughter's obituary stated that he was at one time the youngest General in the Union Army.

At the time of the assassination of President Lincoln, McCall was a member of the staff of General John F. Hartranft which was responsible for securing the Lincoln assassination conspirators at the arsenal in Washington D.C. <sup>1</sup>



Left to right: Capt. R.A. Watts, Lt. Col. George W. Frederick, **Lt. Col. William H.H. McCall**, Lt. D.H. Geissinger, Gen. Hartranft, Asst. Surg. George L. Porter, Col. L.A. Dodd, Capt. Christian Rath.

Following the War, McCall settled in Kansas and by late 1867 was in the area of Fort Harker.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> **WWHA Journal**, Frontier Scouts, William H. H. McCall, by Roy B. Young, 2009

<sup>2</sup> **WWHA Journal**, Frontier Scouts, William H. H. McCall, by Roy B. Young, 2009

When Major George A. Forsyth was authorized by General Philip H. Sheridan in August of 1868 to organize “without delay, fifty first class hardy frontiersmen to be used as scouts against the hostile Indians,” William H. H. McCall, was one of those selected.

Major Forsyth wrote of McCall, “As my scouts were to serve as soldiers, I organized the command as a troop of cavalry. My first sergeant was a man about thirty years of age, who had served throughout the Civil War with more than ordinary distinction. He was General William H. H. McCall, had been colonel of a Pennsylvania regiment, and had been brevetted a brigadier general for his brilliant services.... McCall, like many another good man of either army, had drifted West since the close of the war, been unsuccessful, became a bit dissipated, and just at this period was ready and willing to take chances in anything that offered an opportunity for advancement or distinction.”<sup>3</sup>

The Forsyth Scouts left Fort Harker and moved west, toward their place in history.

Early in the morning September, 17, during the first day’s fight at Beecher Island, McCall was wounded in the neck. Most accounts state that the bullet that wounded McCall, after passing through his neck, killed Scout George W. Culver, who was sharing cover with McCall.

After Forsyth’s scouts were disbanded, McCall served for a short time with Pepon’s Scouts (with a number of other former Forsyth Scouts) and then in 1869 settled in Hays City, Kansas. At Hays, McCall was a partner in a saloon with a Mr. Brady. During this period another former Forsyth scout, Jim Currie, appeared in Hays City where he purchased the Star Saloon, which included a restaurant and some questionable services provided by madam Ida May and her girls.<sup>4</sup> (Some accounts say that McCall had a gunfight with Currie in front of the Star Saloon; neither was killed, but both were said to be severely wounded. Orvel Criqui’s “Fifty Fearless Men” seems to indicate the story of this gunfight is unfounded).

By 1873, McCall was at Fort Sill, Indian Territory where he was once again allied with Jack Stilwell. In the spring of 1877, McCall, Jack and Frank Stilwell became associated in a teamster business bound for Arizona Territory. Being joined by several other men, the journey originated at the Wichita Agency at Anadarko in the Indian Territory. Their Arizona destination was Prescott, the territorial capital, and Fort Whipple.

By 1881 at Fort Whipple, McCall was serving as a courier and had many exciting adventures. In Prescott, McCall and the Stilwell brothers had a brief connection

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<sup>3</sup> *Thrilling Days in Army Life*, George A. Forsyth

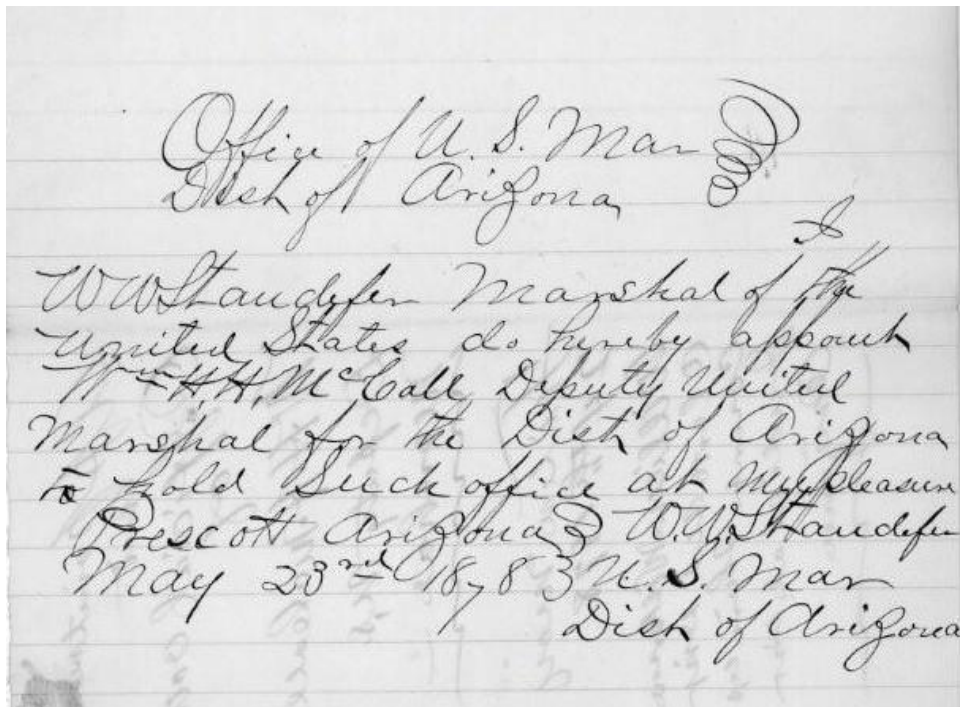
<sup>4</sup> **WWHA Journal**, Frontier Scouts, William H. H. McCall, by Roy B. Young, 2009

with Virgil Earp, Sheriff Ed Bowers, and U.S. Marshal Wiley W. Standefer.<sup>5</sup> (Frank Stilwell, brother of Scout Jack Stilwell, was a prominent player in the events leading up to and following the Gunfight at the OK Corral, and a possible conspirator in the murder of Morgan Earp, along with Ike Clanton. On the night of March 20th, 1882, after putting their family members on a train bound for California, Wyatt and Warren Earp, Doc Holliday and their fellow riders ambushed Stilwell at the train station, after they said Frank Stilwell had lain in wait to ambush them.)<sup>6</sup>

On May 8, 1878 McCall was commissioned as a deputy Sheriff in Arizona. He was hired to investigate the January 19, 1878 Wickenburg, Arizona stagecoach robbery. On May 28, 1878, McCall was deposed pertaining to the arrest of three suspects in the robbery. The whole deposition can be read here:

<http://n.j.dushane.home.comcast.net/~n.j.dushane/swilling/swiltrial.doc>

On May 23, 1878 William H.H. McCall was appointed as a Deputy US Marshal by Wiley W. Standefer. His oath and appointment are shown below.

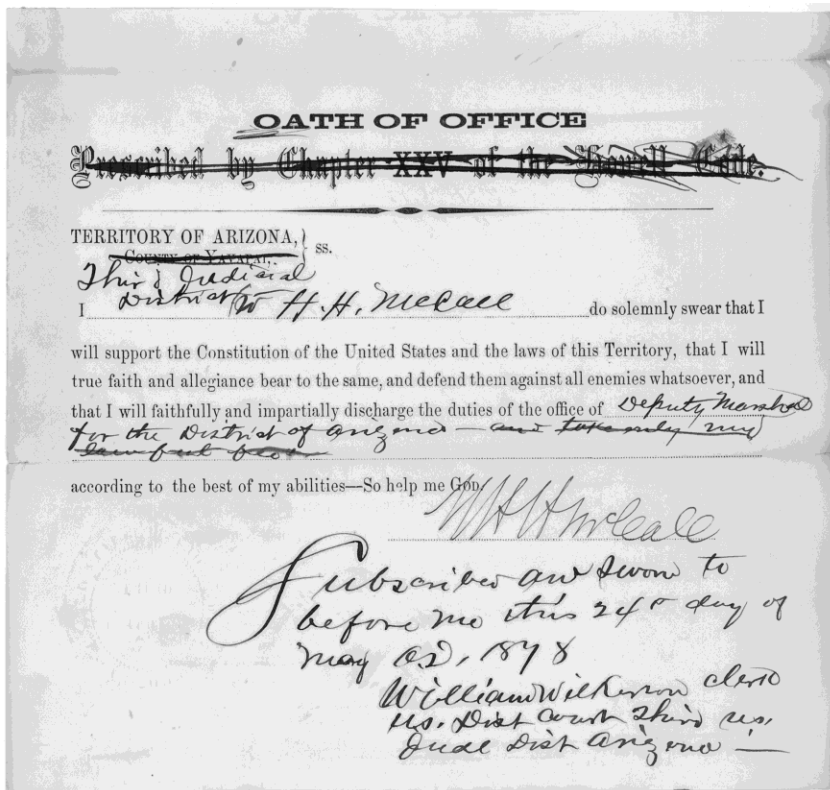


Office of U.S. Marshal  
Dist. of Arizona

I  
W. W. Standefer Marshal of the  
United States do hereby appoint  
W. H. H. McCall Deputy United  
Marshal for the Dist. of Arizona  
to hold such office at my pleasure  
Prescott Arizona W. W. Standefer  
May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1878 U.S. Mar  
Dist. of Arizona

<sup>5</sup> **WWHA Journal**, Frontier Scouts, William H. H. McCall, by Roy B. Young, 2009

<sup>6</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank\\_Stilwell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Stilwell)



On September 18, 1878 in Prescott, Yavapai County, Arizona, William married Mary R. Wilson. She was born about 1858 in Marion Township, Doniphan County, Kansas Territory, (daughter of William H. Wilson and Maria Lee \_\_\_\_\_) and died AUG-22-1882 in or near Prescott. It is suspected that she is buried in an unmarked grave in Citizen's Cemetery, Prescott, Arizona, next to where William was later buried.

In June of 1880, when the US census was conducted, William, Mary and their son Joseph McCall are living on Montezuma Street in Prescott and are listed as residence # 51. William is listed as a miner and Mary is a keeping house. Next door as their neighbor in residence # 52 was the famous frontier dentist, J. H. "Doc" Holiday.

1880 census photo

Residence	Name	Age	Sex	Color	Profession	Place of Birth
51	Wm McCall	41	M	W	Miner	Philadelphia Pa
	Mary R	22	F	W	Keeping house	Kansas Terr
	Joe	1	M	W		Arizona Pa Kansas
52	Holladay J H	29	M	W	Dentist	Georgia S. Carolina S. Carolina

On May 30, 1883, William was admitted to St. Joseph's Hospital (later called Mercy Hospital). At that time, St. Joseph's Hospital had the contract for taking care of the indigent sick of Yavapai County. Dr. F. K. Ainsworth was his physician. McCall passed away at the hospital on June 13, 1883. His obituary, which appeared in the Prescott Weekly Courier on June 16, 1883, stated, "The successes which marked his earlier career were denied him in his later life...."

Following his death, McCall's two young children were then cared for by their maternal grandmother, Maria L. Wilson, guardian. The family continued to live in Prescott for a time. By November 1891, the family was living in Globe, Gila County, Arizona.<sup>7</sup>

While living with their grandmother, on November 18, 1891 the McCall children filed a petition for their father's pension in Globe, Arizona. This was the last known information on the McCall children until new information was recently discovered.

The children of William Henry Harrison McCall and Mary R. Wilson were Joseph Hooker McCall, born AUG-07-1879 in Prescott, Yavapai County, Arizona. He probably died in 1894 in Globe, Gila County, Arizona, and is buried in Globe Cemetery, Globe, Arizona. The Joseph H. McCall buried in the Globe Cemetery has a marker giving a date of birth of 1880, rather than 1879, but I do believe this is him. The research continues in him.

Edith Georgia (sometimes Georgia Edith) McCall born MAR-09-1882 in Prescott, Yavapai County, Arizona and died about SEP-03-1907 in Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona<sup>8</sup> and is buried in the Douglas Cemetery, Douglas, Arizona. Her obituary follows:

Douglas Daily Dispatch  
Douglas, Arizona  
Sunday Morning September 8, 1907

#### FUNERAL TO BE HELD HERE

The body of Mrs. Edith Haythornwhite, wife of H. Haythornwhite, accompanied by the bereaved husband and baby son, arrived in Douglas yesterday for burial from Globe.

Two months ago the happy little family went to Globe on a visit to the friends and relatives of Mrs. Haythornwhite with the sad termination recorded in the local papers.

Mrs. Haythornwhite, whose maiden name was Edith McCall, formerly lived in Globe, where she passed her girlhood, her rare amiability and pure attractive character endearing her to all who had the honor of being numbered among her acquaintances. For several months she was in charge of the post office at Naco, where her friends numbered the whole population of the little border city. She subsequently became the wife of Mr. Haythornwhite, a trusted employee of the Calumet & Arizona Smelter. The union was blessed by a little son, now two years of age, which, thanks to the inability of innocent babyhood to comprehend

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<sup>7</sup> [http://www.sharlot.org/archives/history/dayspast/text/1999\\_05\\_30.shtml](http://www.sharlot.org/archives/history/dayspast/text/1999_05_30.shtml)

<sup>8</sup> <http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/westernStates/westernStatesRecordDetail.cfm?recordID=200906>

the bereavement, lay smiling in his father's arms as the sad news was communicated to a friend.

General McCall, father of the deceased, was at one time the youngest General in the United States Army, every inch a soldier and was prominently identified with the early history of the territory when Indian wars made strife and peril the order of the day. Among the dear ones left to mourn her loss is her aged grandmother, Mrs. M.B. Wilson of Globe than who, no pioneer lady of Arizona enjoys the regard of a larger circle of devoted friends.

The press, the people of Douglas, where the deceased requested she be buried, and a multitude of friends in Globe and other sections of the territory mourn with the bereaved husband and motherless little one, the untimely taking away by fate of a true lady, a devoted wife and mother, a model of American womanhood.



She married Harry Haythornwhite, JUN-01-1902 in Naco, Cochise County, Arizona. He was born JAN-16-1882 in Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas, (son of Harry H. Haythornwhite and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Allen) and died OCT-22-1963 in Placer County, California.

Edith and Harry Haythornwhite's children were; Harold Haythornwhite, born MAY-06-1905 in Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona and died of injuries suffered in a car crash AUG-01-1928 in Bisbee, Cochise County, Arizona. He is buried with his mother and brother in Douglas Cemetery, Douglas, Arizona and Everett Haythornwhite, born and died about DEC-25-1906 in Douglas or Globe, Arizona. He is buried with his mother and brother in Douglas Cemetery, Douglas, Arizona.

Following is an interesting article about W. H. H. McCall being involved in a shootout. His status as a lawman at this time is unknown;

The Reno Evening Gazette  
November 1, 1877

PRESCOTT, ARIZONA, Oct. 17, 1877  
FROLIC OF BORDER RUFFIANS

Yesterday afternoon quite a ripple of excitement was created in our usually quiet town by the appearance of two genuine border ruffians in our streets. They first made themselves troublesome at Jackson & Thompkins' saloon, where they drew their revolvers and flourished them in a threatening manner. Colonel **McCall**, who happened to be there, was covered with the pistols several times, and was told that if he opened his mouth they would let daylight through him, and he wisely kept still. They then began firing at a dog, and afterward, mounting their horses, they rode down Montezuma street at full gallop, yelling like demons and firing right and left at everything that showed itself, the bullets whistling in



unpleasant proximity to several persons who were on the street. John Raiblo's dog was the only thing hit by them. Proceeding on down the street they stopped on the outskirts of the town and reloaded their weapons. **Marshal Standefer** and Colonel **McCall** armed themselves and got into Duprez's barouche and started in pursuit. Sheriff Bowers and Frank Murray, City Marshal, also armed themselves, and mounting their horses, started after them. Standefer and **McCall** passed the ruffians on the flat near Nowes old mill, so as to get on the other side and head them off. Sheriff Bowers and Murray came up on one side, and the Sheriff ordered them to throw up their hands and surrender, instead of which they opened fire on him. Tullos, one of the desperados slid off his horse and fired three shots at Bowers, all of them coming pretty close, when a charge of buckshot from the Sheriff's gun brought him down. Marshal Standefer also emptied a load into him. Running across the road, Tullos got under the bushes and commenced to load his revolver, still refusing to surrender, when a shot from the Sheriff's revolver stretched him out lifeless. Vaughn, his companion, kept firing away, but was soon brought down with a bullet in his head, but was not killed. There was so much shooting going on the it is almost impossible to tell who fired the fatal shots. The horse Sheriff Bowers road was shot in the hind quarters. This was the only harm that befell the pursuing party. The dead and wounded were brought to the Sheriff's office and from thence Vaughn, the wounded one, was taken to the hospital, where he now lies still conscious, but he can live but two or three days. From a letter found on the body of the one killed it was ascertained that his name was Robert Tullos, of Stephenville, Erath County, Texas, and that he did not bear a very enviable reputation there.<sup>9</sup>



Here is similar account of the same incident from a Colorado newspaper.

Pueblo Weekly Chieftain  
Pueblo, Colorado  
November 15, 1877

George Wilson, the desperado who broke jail in this city some time since, is certainly dead. He died of wounds inflicted by a sheriff while trying to arrest him in Arizona.

Pueblo Colorado Weekly Chieftain  
Pueblo, Colorado  
November 22, 1877

Sheriff Cook, of Denver, has received official notification of the death of George Wilson, the desperado who broke jail here some time since. Wilson lived four days with a bullet in his brain, but finally cheated the gallows by dying.



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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.carolyar.com/AZQuarterlies.htm>

Pueblo Weekly Chieftain

Pueblo, Colorado

November 29, 1877

George Wilson – The Circumstances of His Death –

The Enterprise, published at Prescott, Arizona, gives the following particulars of the shooting of George Wilson, the desperado who broke jail here some time since: Yesterday afternoon quite a ripple of excitement was created in our usually quiet town by the appearance of two genuine border ruffians on our streets. They first made themselves troublesome at Jackson & Thompson's saloon, where they drew their revolvers, and flourished them in a threatening manner. Col. **McCall**, who happened to be there, was covered with the pistols several times, and told that if he opened his mouth they would let daylight through him, and he very wisely kept still. They then began firing at a dog, and afterwards mounting their horses, rode down Montezuma street at a full gallop, yelling like demons and firing right and left at everything that showed itself, the bullets whistling in unpleasant proximity to several persons who were on the street. John Raible's dog was the only thing hit by them. Proceeding on down the street they stopped on the outskirts of the town and reloaded their weapons. Marshal Standefer and Col. **McCall** armed themselves and got into Duprez's barouche and started in pursuit. Sheriff Bowers and Frank Murray, city marshal, also armed themselves, and mounting their horses started after them. Standefer and **McCall** passed the ruffians on the other side and headed them off. Sheriff Bowers and Murray came up on this side, and the sheriff ordered them to throw up their hands and surrender, instead of which they opened fire on him. Tullos, one of the desperados, slid off his horse and fired three shots at Bowers, all of them coming pretty close, when a charge of buckshot from the sheriff's gun brought him down. Marshal Standefer also emptied a load into him. Running across the road Tullos got under the bushes and commenced to reload his revolver, still refusing to surrender, when a shot from the sheriff's revolver stretched him lifeless. Vaughn (Wilson), his companion, kept firing away, but was soon brought down by a shot in the head, but was not killed. There was so much shooting going on that it was almost impossible to tell who fired the fatal shots. The horse Sheriff Bowers rode was shot in the hind quarters. This was the only harm that befell the pursuing party. The dead and wounded were brought to the sheriff's office and from thence Vaughn (Wilson), the wounded man, was taken to the hospital, where he now lies, still conscious, but Dr. Day says he cannot live more than two or three days.





As mentioned earlier, in 1878 William McCall was deposed pertaining to the arrest of three suspects in the Wickenburg, Arizona Stagecoach Robbery. The link is above. Some excerpts that give a little personal information follow:

Q. State your name, age and occupation?

A. My name is W. H. H. McCall, I am thirty seven years of age, and my business, the lumber business.

Q: How long have you been in Yavapai County Arizona?

A: A year the ninth of June next.

Q: Where did you come from before you came here?

A: From the Texas Pacific Rail Road, one hundred and five miles from Dallas Texas, from a place called Glade-Water.

Q: What is your present occupation?

A: I have been a portion of the time since coming to Prescott, at the Clipper Saw Mill and I have mined some, and have done most everything, for a livelihood.

Q: How long before the time of the arrest was it that you took charge of the case?

A: I was deputized on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of May.

Subscribed and sworn to  
before me this 28th  
day of May 1878

(signature)  
W. H. H. McCall



All for this month.

Mike