

## Civil War Medal of Honor recipient lived in South San Francisco

Written by Jean Bartlett, 2016

(for Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery, Colma)



### **KAUFFMAN, CHARLES FELIX (1844-1905)**

(Served in the Union Army and later in the U.S. Navy under the name:  
**CHAPMAN, JOHN**)

(Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery, Colma, CA. Section B, Row 23, Area 22,  
Grave 3)

In an undated statement, Civil War Medal of Honor recipient Charles Kauffman writes:

*"I was born at Strasbourg, France. Came to New York when four years of age. I was enrolled on the fifth day of October, 1864, as a private of Co. B, 1st Maine Heavy Artillery. I was twenty years of age, five feet, six inches high, my hair was brown, eyes hazel, complexion dark. No visible scars. Had an anchor tattooed on left hand but don't think it was noticed.*

*I enlisted under the name of John Chapman, giving my place of birth as St. John, N.B. (Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada), for the reason that my father, F. A. Kauffman, was not willing that I should go."*

Charles joined the 1st Maine Heavy Artillery from Limerick, Maine. On April 6, 1865, during the Battle of Sailor's Creek (sometimes Sayler's Creek), the last major engagement of the war in Virginia, Charles captured a Confederate flag. For his gallantry in battle, he was awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest U.S. military honor. The citation reads: "Capture of Flag, Sailor's Creek, Virginia." It was issued on May 10, 1865. Along with Charles, Second Lieutenant Thomas Ward Custer, younger brother of George Armstrong Custer, was among the Medal of Honor recipients for the Battle of Sailor's Creek.

The native of France served in the Union Army until September of 1865. He then entered the U.S. Navy as a Fireman 2nd Class and served on the USS Monongahela, a 2,078-ton steam screw sloop, from October of 1865 to July of 1868. (The latter information is courtesy of the 2006 California Medal of Honor Project out of San Jose, California.) Charles was discharged at New York Harbor in the summer of 1868 and relocated to San Francisco with his wife Margaret, originally of County Roscommon, Ireland. (The couple married in 1866.) In the 1880 and the 1900 U.S. Federal Census, Charles and Margaret can be found living in Sonoma County, California, in the township of Analy. Charles notes his occupation as "farmer." Margaret died on February 18, 1904 at the age of 65 and is buried at Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Santa Rosa, CA.

Born on February 10, 1844, Charles died on September 30, 1905 and was buried at Holy Cross the third of October. He was survived by his brother Philippe Louis Kauffman and his nieces and nephews: Louis, Alfred, Edward, George, Marguerite and Marie Kauffman. His funeral was held at his residence in South San Francisco.

*This particular biography can be found in Jean Bartlett's 2016-released book, "[Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery, Colma: Roll Call ~ Reveille](#)," which offers 55 biographies on individuals, now at rest at Holy Cross, who served in wars dating back to the U.S.-Mexican War and on through the Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I and World War II. The book is available at Holy Cross, [www.holycrosscemetery.com](http://www.holycrosscemetery.com).*