



DAISY SHERRILL

Daisy Belle Sherrill (nee Nolen) was NOT the average woman of her time. She consistently lived her life “out front” on the leading edge of her day. Born November 3, 1895 in a cabin on Yellow Creek not far from Cumberland City, she was the oldest child of seven, born to Monroe and Adella Nolen. Monroe moved the family to Houston County when Daisy was a teenager and it was here she established her reputation as an extraordinary young woman. She rode “side-saddle” to meet societal etiquette of her generation, however these impractical conventions chafed her skills as an accomplished and adventurous horsewoman. Soon she became the first of her circle to ride “astraddle” and jump fences at leisure. Some of the county disparaged her behavior as “fast”.

In a time when education was not considered essential for a woman she talked her father into letting her go to high school in order to be able to help him keep up with the farm expenses and income. When her skills in math and record keeping proved valuable in improving the farm’s profits, she further convinced him in the advantages of sending her to attend the Bowling Green Business University in Bowling Green, Kentucky. (This University later merged to become part of present day Western Kentucky University.) She excelled in her studies there and graduated qualified to teach bookkeeping, shorthand, typewriting and its allied branches.

During WWI, the United States Navy faced a shortage of sailors, as able-bodied men who might otherwise serve aboard ship, were assigned shore duty to perform clerical work. On March 19, 1917, the Secretary of the Navy, Josephus Daniels, succeeded in getting the Naval Reserve Force Act passed which allowed the enlistment of women to fill positions such as "radio operators, stenographers, nurses, messengers, chauffeurs, etc.," thus freeing these needed sailors for other critical duties. Daisy Belle Nolen was one of the first of about one hundred women to enlist for 4 years in this newly formed United States Naval Reserve on April 8, 1917 with the rating of Yeoman 1st class. She excelled in the performance of her duties as stenographer in various offices beginning in Georgetown, South Carolina, ultimately achieving the rating of Chief Yeoman, the highest rank a woman in the US Navy could obtain at that time. She completed her service working as the stenographer for Rear Admiral A.P. Niblack, Commandant of the Navy Yard and Sixth Naval District and you will find attached his glowing recommendation of the performance of her duties in this capacity. Daisy was proud of her Naval service and was pleased to serve as Elected Commander of the American Legion Post 54 of Houston County from August 1, 1944, through July 31, 1945. She was the post's

only woman member, and at that time, the only known woman veteran of WWI in Houston County.

As an aside, I will tell you my grandmother was considered the great beauty of her day with gorgeous red hair, complemented by fair skin and deep blue eyes. She possessed a beguiling charm and wit, was known for her fashionable dress and chic style, as well as being a marvelous dancer, current in every new step. Needless to say, her hand was sought by every available suitor far and wide and she left a swath of broken hearts. I remember looking through her jewelry box as a child. When I would ask about a certain piece she would smile and say, "Oh, that. It was a gift from one of my beaux." She met my grandfather, Glenn Sherrill, in Bowling Green, Kentucky, where he also attended and graduated from Bowling Green Business University. It was not until later when they met again serving in the Navy at the Naval Yard in Charleston, South Carolina that he finally succeeded in winning her hand in marriage. After the end of the war they bought a farm near the Stewart/Houston County line on what is now Hwy 149. My grandmother was widowed at 52 years old when my grandfather was killed in an auto accident. Courageously, she took over running the family farm successfully, utilizing hired help, and returned to government civil service, working until her retirement at Fort Campbell as a

4

secretary, still known for her speed and accuracy in stenography and typing as well as organizational and other secretarial skills. She lived to be 97 years old.

In reply refer to No.....

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT APN-S1 8/22
UNITED STATES NAVY YARD
CHARLESTON, S. C.

22 August, 1922.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that Mrs. D.B. Sherrill has served as stenographer to the Commandant, Navy Yard, Charleston, South Carolina, since January 1, 1922, and before that has served at the Navy Yard as stenographer in other offices since August, 1917.

She has an excellent record and is rated very highly as a stenographer. Her services are being dispensed with on account of the closing of the Navy Yard, and as her husband is also employed, under the rule one of the two has to go, she has chosen to be the one.

During the time that she has been acting as my stenographer, she has given complete satisfaction in every way, is an expert stenographer and takes dictation rapidly and accurately.

Very sincerely yours,



A.P. NIBLACK,
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy,
Commandant, Navy Yard, and Sixth Naval District.



UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE FORCE
DISCHARGE

DISCHARGE

This is to certify That No. 191-99-49, SHERBILL, Daisy B.

a Chief Yeoman (F) *Provisional or confirmed rating.* and the U. S. Naval Reserve Force, Class 4, by reason of U. S. S. 14th Naval District *Provisional or confirmed rating.* this date has been discharged from the

SPECIAL ORDER NAVY DEPARTMENT
Enter Expectation of enlistment; special order of Navy Department (under age); physical disability; order Bureau of Navigation (date); or other reason, giving same in detail.
Ordered to active duty - 8/14/17; Released from active duty - 12/20/18.

Is recommended for reenlistment. Rating best qualified to fill, Chief Yeoman
Dated this 30th day of September, 1920, at Charleston, S. C. *Provisional or confirmed rating.*

Character of discharge Regular
April 16, 1920.
Certified to be a true copy
W. W. Thompson, Lieutenant, U. S. N. RF
Personnel Officer.

Lieut. Comdr. USNR.



REC'D 9-15 10 88 AT 12:20 A.M.
NAVY DEPARTMENT
RECEIVED 3 PAGE 85

Robert J. Reynolds, Registrar, Houston County, Tenn.
Re signed by Reynolds by order
Victory Medal Issued.

ENROLLMENT RECORD.

SCALE OF MARKS: 0, Bad; 1, Indifferent; 1.5, Fair; 2.5, Passing; 3.0, Good; 3.5, Very Good; 4.0, Excellent.

Name, Daisy B. Sherrill; Rate, CY(F);
Enroll'd. April 8, 19 17, at Georgetown, MD, for 4 years;
Previous naval service, --- years; Previous Naval Reserve Service, --- years;
Served apprenticeship, -----; Gun Captain
certificate, -----; Certificate graduation P. O. School, -----;
Seaman Gunner, -----; Trade, Teacher; Citizenship, U. S.;
Ratings held during enrollment, Yeo. 1c, Ch. Yeo.
Proficiency in rating, 3.8.5; Sobriety, 4; Obedience, 4;
Average standing for term of enrollment, 3.9.5 Special qualifications, ---

DESCRIPTIVE LIST.

(To be made after careful examination at date of discharge.)

Where born, Erin, Tenn.; Date, Nov. 3, 18 95;
Age, 24 years, 10 months; Height, 5 feet, 2 inches; Weight, 92 lbs.;
Eyes, Blue; Hair, Brown; Complexion, Fair
Personal characteristics, marks, etc., 3.1/4" on front right
wrist. 1.3/4" at base of right thumb.

Percentage of time on sick list during enrollment, 2 sick days

Is --- physically qualified for reenrollment. On inactive status.
Not present for examination.

_____, U. S. N.
(Signature Medical Officer.)

I hereby certify that the above-named _____
has been paid _____ dollars _____ cents
(\$ _____), in full to date.

_____, 19 _____

_____, U. S. N.
(Signature Paymaster.)

HEADQUARTERS SIXTH NAVAL DISTRICT
UNITED STATES NAVY YARD
CHARLESTON, S. C.

17 September, 1924

Mr. G.L. Sherrill,
Route 1
Cumberland City, Tenn.

Dear Mr. Sherrill:

Replying to your letter of the 13th. inst. I am pleased to furnish the following information taken from Mrs. Sherrill's correspondence jacket on file in this office, which I believe will be all that is necessary in filing claim for the adjusted compensation:

SERVICE NUMBER-- 191-99-49.

8 April, 1917-- Enrolled in the USNRF class 4, as Yeo. 1c.

✓ 14 August, 1917-- Reported for active duty.

29 November, 1917-- Records changed to "Daisy B. Sherrill"

1 July, 1918-- Rating changed to Chief Yeoman.

✓ 20 December, 1918-- Released from active duty.

30 September, 1920-- Honorably discharged from the USNRF. (Inactive)

With best regards ,

Yours very truly

Geo Boggs
Geo? Boggs
C.C. 6th. N.D.



Daisy Belle Sherrill
in the **U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current**

Name: Daisy Belle Sherrill
Maiden Name: Nolen
Birth Date: 3 Nov 1895
Death Date: 13 Feb 1992
Cemetery: Cumberland City Cemetery
Burial or Cremation Place: Cumberland City, Stewart County,
Tennessee, United States of America
Has Bio?: N
Father: Monroe Nolen
Mother: Adella Nolen
Spouse: Glenn Lowell Sherrill
URL: <https://www.findagrave.com/mem...>

Source Information

Ancestry.com. U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.

Original data: Find A Grave. Find A Grave. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi>.

Anne E. Glen Sherrill
155 Brookview Dr.
MAYNARDVILLE, TN
37807

mailed
5/22/18

ave. Corrections and additions to
database, you can navigate to the
the Find A Grave URL. Once viewing the
[earn more...](#)



Daisy Sherrill
in the U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS
Death File, 1850-2010

Name: Daisy Sherrill
Birth Date: 3 Nov 1895
Death Date: 13 Feb 1992
SSN: 409584182
Branch 1: NAVY
Enlistment Date 1: 8 Apr 1917
Release Date 1: 30 Sep 1920

Source Information

Ancestry.com. *U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850-2010* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

Original data: *Beneficiary Identification Records Locator Subsystem (BIRLS) Death File*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Description

This index contains birth and death dates for more than 14 million veterans and VA beneficiaries who served during the years 1800-2010. [Learn more...](#)

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Daisey B Nolen
in the **1910 United States Federal Census**

Name: Daisey B Nolen
 Age in 1910: 15
 Birth Year: abt 1895
 Birthplace: Tennessee
 Home in 1910: Civil District 8, Houston, Tennessee
 Street: Ellis Mill and Cumerland City Road
 Race: White
 Gender: Female
 Relation to Head of House: Daughter
 Marital Status: Single
 Father's name: Monroe Nolen
 Father's Birthplace: Tennessee
 Mother's name: Della Nolen
 Mother's Birthplace: Tennessee
 Native Tongue: English
 Attended School: Yes
 Able to Read: Yes
 Able to Write: Yes
 Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

Household Members:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
Monroe Nolen	34
Della Nolen	35
Daisey B Nolen	15
Conely E Nolen	9
John L Nolen	4
Bessey Nolen	0
Arabella Davis	70

Source Citation

Year: 1910; Census Place: Civil District 8, Houston, Tennessee; Roll: T624_1506; Page: 3A; Enumeration District: 0059; FHL microfilm: 1375519

Source Information

Ancestry.com. 1910 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.