

Civil War veterans: Rufus White Morrell and William B. Millhorn

By Gene Morrell

Rufus White Morrell and William B. Millhorn were Civil War veterans who lived within about a mile of each other in Enterprise community, near Piney Flats, in Sullivan County, Tennessee, in the late 1890's and early 1900's.

Both were born in Sullivan County, and, shortly after the war began in April 1861, the two teenagers volunteered to help defend their homeland. Rufus was 18 years old when he joined the Confederate army in May 1862, and William was 16 years old when he enlisted in August 1861. They joined separate local companies, which were eventually made part of Confederate infantry regiments. Two of Rufus's brothers and his brother-in-law served alongside him in the same regiment, and William and his father-in-law served in the same unit.

Rufus and William were in infantry regiments on the front lines in historic battles. William was among the Confederate soldiers who fought at Vicksburg, Miss., against Union forces under the command of Gen. U.S. Grant, and Rufus stood in the trenches around Petersburg, Va., as Confederate soldiers faced off against Union forces under the command of Gen. Grant.

If Rufus and William were like many other young men of their time, until their Civil War service, they had not travelled far from their birthplaces. William's wartime service took him through Tennessee, into Kentucky, and to Vicksburg, along the Mississippi River, about 650 miles from home. Rufus travelled hundreds of miles during his time in military service throughout eastern Tennessee and more than 300 miles away to eastern Virginia where he took part in battles near Richmond and Petersburg.

Both suffered disabilities as a result of their wartime experiences, and both filed applications with the State of Tennessee for veterans' pensions.

Both men were farmers, and their families were well-acquainted. Members of their families attended church together, and Rufus's son, Albert, married William's daughter, Letha. When Rufus died and his widow filed for a state pension, William served as a witness for her application.

Both veterans died at their homes in Enterprise community. Rufus died when he was 72 years old, and William passed away when he was 73. They were buried in separate family cemeteries in the community, but their final resting places are only a short distance apart, separated by Boone Lake, which flows between them.

Rufus was born on Aug. 27, 1843. He was the son of Isaac Morrell and Susannah Crumley Morrell. Isaac was born May 18, 1799, in Tennessee and died Oct. 7, 1870. He married Susannah on Oct. 19, 1823. She was born on Jan. 6, 1802, and was the daughter of George Crumley, whose wife is unidentified. Susannah died on May 29, 1876. Isaac and Susannah's children were: Elbert Morrell; Harriet Morrell; Marshall Morrell; Thomas O. Morrell; Eldridge Sevier Morrell (born Feb. 1, 1828; died May 2, 1907), who married Susan Allison; Mary Ann Morrell; Isaac Morrell; Joseph O. Morrell; Catherine Morrell (born Oct. 27, 1834; died Jan. 29, 1902); Martha Morrell; Elzilah Morrell (born June 5, 1826; died Sept. 10, 1884), who married George Millard on Nov. 21, 1844, in Bluff City; and Rufus White Morrell. [See "George Crumley Family of Sullivan County, Tennessee," by Hugh H. Mottern, family.search.org, rootsweb.ancestry.com, and familytreemaker.genealogy.com]

Rufus was a soldier in the Civil War from May 1862 to the end of the war in April 1865. When he returned from the war, he resided for a number of years at his parents' homeplace in Washington County, Tennessee.

In the 1860 census for Washington County, about one year prior to the start of the war, members of Isaac and Susannah's household were: Isaac, 61; Susannah, 58; Martha, 20; Thomas, 18; and Rufus, 16.

In the 1870 census for Washington County, about five years after the end of the war in April 1865, members of Isaac and Susannah's household were: Isaac; Susannah; Rufus; daughter, Martha L. James, 30; and Robert D. James, 5, presumably Martha's son.

According to information on www.morrillonline.com, Martha was born Oct. 4, 1839, in Sullivan County. According to www.familytreemaker.com, she married Elbert James in 1863, and after he passed away, Martha married William Perninar in July 1881. He worked for the Santa Fe Railroad in Topeka, Kan., and they moved from Tennessee to Kansas, where Martha died in 1902.

There is conflicting information concerning whether Martha's first husband's last name was James or Jones. The web site familysearch.org states that Martha married Elbert Jones on Feb. 10, 1863, in Washington County.

Rufus and Martha were the only children of Isaac and Susannah who were still residing at the homeplace at the time of the 1870 census. The other children had married and moved out, or passed away.

Following is a transcribed version of Isaac's will which was made out Aug. 3, 1870.

“In the name of God, amen. I, Isaac Morrell, of the state of Tennessee, being of sound mind and memory, but considering the uncertainties of this frail and transitory life, do make this my last will and testament. That is to say, first, after all my lawful debts are paid, I give and bequeath to my beloved wife, Susannah, during her natural life, all of my estate, both real and personal. At her death, I give and bequeath to my daughter, Elzilah, the sum of five dollars, and to my daughter, Mary, the like sum of five dollars, and to my sons, Eldridge, Isaac and Joseph each the like sum of five dollars. To my daughter, Catherine, I give and bequeath my horse, saddle, and bridle. And to my son, Rufus, and my daughter, Martha, I give and bequeath all the remainder of my estate both real and personal to be divided as follows: my said son Rufus is to have, say two-thirds of the farm upon which I am living, containing one hundred and thirty acres, more or less, and to my daughter Martha, I give and bequeath the remaining one-third of my personal effects and also the remaining one-third of my real estate. That is to say the remaining one-third of the farm upon which I am now living. The conditions of this gift to my son Rufus and to my daughter Martha is as follows. That the said Rufus and the said Martha are to remain with, support and provide for and wait on myself and my beloved wife Susannah during our natural lives, but if the said Martha should not remain with us during the remainder of our natural lives, then and in that event the said Martha is to have one horse, saddle, and bridle, and the said Rufus is to have the remaining one-third of the farm, and I do make and constitute and appoint my son Rufus to be executor of this my last will and testament. This the third day of August in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and seventy.” Signed: Isaac Morrell.

The will was presented to the court for probate during the November term in 1871, proven by the oaths of the two witnesses, and ordered to be recorded by J.F. Grisham, clerk.

According to information in the September 1988 edition of "Holston Pastfinder," Isaac's farm was located in Washington County, on the head waters of Limestone Creek, District 15.

Isaac died in 1870, and, according to the terms of the will, Susannah would have controlled the land until her death. After his mother's death in 1876, Rufus would have inherited two-thirds of the 130 acres of the estate, and Martha, if she remained at home, would have gotten the other one-third.

On Jan. 21, 1872, Rufus married Sarah C. Armentrout in Washington County, Tennessee. She was 14 years old at the time, and Rufus was 28 years old. Apparently, the couple had no children. She was born in Tennessee on Dec. 22, 1857, and died May 15, 1881, at the age of 23. She is buried in Luther Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery near Telford, Tenn., according to information on the website at www.tngenweb.org.

According to information on familysearch.org, the Washington County census for 1880 listed Rufus and Sarah as living alone in their own household in District 15. The exact location of the home is undetermined.

About two years after his first wife's death, Rufus married Martha Ellen Morrell (born June 15, 1861; died Feb. 16, 1935) on Feb. 25, 1883. Rufus was 39 years old and Martha Ellen was 22 when they married. They were second cousins.

She was the daughter of George W. Morrell (born Sept. 9, 1833; died June 10, 1863) and Martha Jane Mahaffey (born Nov. 24, 1834; died Sept. 11, 1863), who was the daughter of Samuel and Martha Mahaffey.

George was a son of Caleb Morrell, who was a son of Jonathan Morrell. Isaac, Rufus's father, was also a son of Jonathan. In other words, Jonathan was Rufus's grandfather and Martha Ellen's great-grandfather.

George was a soldier in Company K, 26th Tennessee Infantry Regiment, during the Civil War. The unit fought in battles at Murfreesboro, Tenn., Chickamauga, Ga., and other locations. While serving in the unit, he contracted pneumonia and died in June 1863 near Dalton, Ga., where he was buried. According to information on www.markeroni.com, George's name is among those listed on the Confederate Cemetery Memorial Wall, a historical marker in Dalton, Ga. According to information on www.civilwar.org, "most casualties and deaths in the Civil War were the result of non-combat-related disease. For every three soldiers killed in battle, five more died of disease."

George's widow, Martha Jane, died in September 1863. The couple's two orphaned daughters, Martha Ellen and Frances Irena, went to live with their grandparents in Sullivan County, near Bristol. According to information on familysearch.org, the U.S. Census in 1870 for Sullivan County listed Martha Ellen, age 9, and Frances Irena, age 10, as members of Samuel and Martha Mahaffey's household.

The Civil War began in April 1861, and, when Rufus was 18 years, he volunteered for service in the Confederate army. He was a private and served with Company D, 63rd Tennessee Infantry Regiment, from May 1862 until April 1865, when the unit disbanded following Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox.

According to a history of the unit on www.63rdtenn.org, Company D was organized on May 13, 1862, at Jonesboro, Tenn., in Washington County. Its nickname was "The Kirby Smith Rifles." Smith was a general in the Confederate army.

According to information on the web site, the regiment engaged in a number of battles, including Chickamauga, Knoxville, Bean Station, Fort Loudon, Chattanooga, Drewry's Bluff and Petersburg. The regiment was formally surrendered and was paroled at Appomattox Courthouse April 9, 1865, as part of Gen. A. P. Hill's Corps, Gen. Henry Heth's Division, Gen. William McComb's Brigade. At this time, the 17th, 23rd, 25th, 44th, and 63rd Tennessee Regiments were reported as consolidated into one unit. Col. Abraham Fulkerson stated in his history of the regiment, which was included in John Lindsley's "The Military Annals of Tennessee: Confederate," that at the time of the unit's surrender, there were only 28 men left from the 63rd Tennessee Regiment, under the command of Lt. E. L. Etter of Company C. [Lindsley's "Annals" are available online at www.archive.org.]

Two of Rufus's brothers, Pvt. Joseph O'Dell Morrell (born Feb. 4, 1833; died Oct. 22, 1908) and Sgt. Thomas O'Dell Morrell (born about 1840; died 1864), were also soldiers in Company D. Rufus's brother-in-law, George Millard (born April 25, 1823; died May 18, 1864), who was the husband of Elzilah Morrell, was a soldier in Company E.

According to information in Lindsley's "Annals," in fighting around Petersburg in May 1864, George "was killed on the line near the Clay house." Information on www.familysearch.org states that George was killed at Drewry's Bluff, which is just outside Petersburg. Where he was buried has not been determined. Information on the web site at civilwarhandbook.nfshost.com states that thousands of Confederate soldiers killed in and around Petersburg were interred in local cemeteries in unmarked graves.

According to information on familysearch.org, George and Elzilah had seven children. After George was killed, his widow was left on her own to provide for six children. One child, Thomas Millard, died in 1845 when he was two days old. Sometime after the end of the war, Elzilah moved from Tennessee to a new home near Hillsboro, Texas. [As an aside, Hillsboro is about eight miles from Abbott, Texas, the birthplace of country music singer, Willie Nelson.]

How and with whom Elzilah travelled more than 1,000 miles to Texas is a mystery. Due to the unsettled and sometimes lawless nature of the post-Civil War period, this would have been a potentially dangerous trip, and Elzira and her children probably travelled with friends or members of her extended family. In a letter on www.roots.web, Glen Collier, address not given, stated that a number of Crumleys from Sullivan County relocated to Texas after the war. Although it is only speculation, Elzilah could conceivably have travelled with them, or, perhaps, with members of the Millard family. Elzilah's mother, Susannah Crumley Morrell, had relatives in Washington and Sullivan counties. Elzilah died Sept. 10, 1884, in Hillsboro, Texas.

Elzilah took five of her six children with her to Texas. One of her daughters, Susan Alice, remained in Tennessee and lived with her uncle, Nathan Gregg, and her aunt, Catherine Morrell Gregg. The Greggs lived in the Eighth District of Sullivan County in New Bethel community, about five miles from Enterprise community. Nathan and Catherine are buried in New Bethel Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

According to information available at www.wikipedia.org, Nathan was a second lieutenant in Company B, 19th Tennessee Infantry Regiment. The regiment was formed in June 1861 and included 20 companies of volunteers from throughout eastern Tennessee. According to "Historic Sullivan: Sullivan County, Tennessee," by Oliver Taylor [online at www.books.google.com], Nathan was a soldier in Capt. Zadoc Willett's company, which was

made up of volunteers from Washington County. The regiment fought at Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Vicksburg, and Shiloh. According to Taylor, Nathan was badly wounded at Shiloh on April 6, 1862. After recovering from his wound, he joined the 60th Tennessee Infantry Regiment in 1863. He was captured on May 17, 1863, by Union forces in fighting at Big Black River Bridge during the battle of Vicksburg. As a prisoner of war, he was taken to Johnson's Island in Ohio until he was released as part of a prisoner exchange. He returned to duty with the 60th and was later promoted to colonel. Nathan served as regimental commander until the unit disbanded at Christiansburg, Va., on April 12, 1865, following Gen. Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

According to information on findagrave.com, when Nathan passed away, former Tennessee Gov. John I. Cox wrote a memorial which appeared in the Bristol newspaper. Cox stated, "After the war, (Nathan) was elected sheriff of Sullivan County for three successive terms, the constitutional limit. He then was elected to the legislature and became one of the political leaders of the state. He took a conspicuous part in the settlement of the state debt. In 1885, Robert Cleveland appointed him internal revenue collector. He was often mentioned in connection with the governorship of Tennessee but never became a candidate. He was a devout admirer of the beloved Bob Taylor and was one of the influential men who made Taylor governor of Tennessee."

In the 1870 census of Sullivan County, Nathan was listed as living in the Eighth District, and his household included: his wife, Catherine; Alice Millard, age 11; and Nathan's father, Abraham, age 80.

Nathan's father died in 1876. According to information on www.findagrave.com, on Oct. 4, 1877, in Sullivan County, Alice married Edward W. (E.W.) King (born 1852; died 1945), the

son of William King and Emily Hodge King. [Note: According to E.W.'s death certificate listed on familysearch.org, his wife's full name was Susan Alice Millard.]

In the 1880 census, Nathan's household included Catherine and Walter M. Felty, age 20, a farm laborer. No further information has been located regarding Felty.

Returning to the subject of Rufus's brothers who served with him, before the Civil War began, Joseph Morrell married Rhoda Anderson (born May 26, 1836; died Oct. 26, 1931) in Carter County, Tennessee, Sept. 24, 1856, according to information on www.morrillonline.com.

Thomas Morrell, who never married, was killed in action in a battle near Petersburg, Va., in May 1864 when he was about 24 years old.

In a letter in the Tennessee Virtual Archive, located on line at teva.contentdm.oclc.org, about nine months before his death, Thomas wrote to his family from near Knoxville, Tenn., on Aug. 21, 1863:

"My Dear Folks,

I now take the opportunity of writing to you to let you know that I am well and on the march again. But cannot tell you where we are going. We left Strawberry Plains Thursday morning and now are on the Clinton Road, three miles from Knoxville. We are kept in readiness to march at [a] minute's orders. We are going to Clinton, I think. Well, I will try and let you know my whereabouts as I go. Joseph was in to see Rufus yesterday. He is well. Father, I understand that there is men sent to Washington County to [seize horses]. I want you to sell mine as soon as you can if you can get a good price for her, and, if you can't sell her, I want you to give her to Catherine Gregg. They say that they will not take one from a soldier's wife. Just find some way to keep them from taking her from me. Keep yourself ready, and don't let them take

anything from you if you can help it. Do the best you can. Every day, I expect that we will have a hot time of it before we are done. It is reported that Bragg is after the Yankees and we are going to Kentucky to cut off their retreat. Well, I have nothing more to write, but I hope I will see you again. Give all my folks my love.

Your brother and son,

T.O. Morrell.”

Regarding people mentioned in his letter, Catherine was Thomas’s sister. As previously stated, she was the wife of Col. Nathan Gregg (born Aug. 5, 1835; died July 5, 1894), who commanded the 60th Tennessee Mounted Infantry Regiment.

“Bragg” refers to Gen. Braxton Bragg.

This online letter was reproduced from the original, and the handwriting is unreadable in the section where the words “seize horses” have been inserted. Apparently, Thomas was referring to men sent to confiscate horses from residents for use by the Confederate army.

According to Lindsley’s “Annals,” during fighting against the Union forces around Petersburg in May 1864, Thomas was “shot eight or nine times and killed.” Where Thomas was buried has not been determined. Like his brother-in-law George Millard, he is most likely buried in an unmarked grave in or near Petersburg.

Joseph and Rufus survived the war.

The State of Tennessee provided pensions for indigent and disabled Civil War veterans. Rufus applied for a pension, and his application, along with other documentation, is on file in the Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville.

He submitted his original application in December 1901, and it was filed with the Board of Pension Examiners in February 1902. The application encountered bureaucratic snags, and he was forced to reapply in June 1904, with the Board officially receiving that application in July 1904. In January 1905, he was still trying to get his pension approved.

In his “Soldier’s Application for a Pension” in 1901, Rufus stated that he was a resident of Gross Community in Sullivan County. At that time, a post office station was located at Gross Store, with the community deriving its name from the store/post office. The post office ceased operation in 1902. The store was located at an intersection along Enterprise Road, about two or three miles from the old Morrell homeplace. The community is now called Enterprise, which derived its name from the school and church located there.

Rufus stated that during the “war between the United States and the Confederate States,” he served with Company D, 63rd Tennessee Infantry Regiment, Gen. Bushrod Johnson’s Brigade, Heth’s Division, Hill’s Corps in Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia.

He enlisted in Company D in 1862. Capt. A.A. Blair was company commander then, and Col. Richard Fain was regimental commander. Rufus listed Lt. Col. Abraham Fulkerson and Maj. John Aiken as other regimental officers.

Rufus stated that he was wounded in the battle of Drewry’s Bluff, which is located near Petersburg, Va. The regiment fought at Drewry’s Bluff from May through June 1864.

“We had made an unsuccessful attack [on Union forces] and was ordered to retreat. In this retreat, I was knocked down by [a] piece of shell or some hostile missile. I was struck about the center of the left shoulder blade, first, penetrating my knapsack, knocking me in a semiconscious condition,” he stated.

He was incapacitated by the wound for some time but was not discharged from the service. He was hospitalized at Howards Grove Hospital in Richmond, Va. He recuperated there for a while, but was later discharged and returned to duty with his company. He stated that, as a result of the wound, he later suffered “loss of function of [his] left arm,” which resulted in a permanent disability.

In his 1901 application, Rufus stated that he was married and had three children living then. His wife, Martha Ellen, was about 40 years old. Their oldest daughter, Mary Catherine, was about 17 years old; their son, Albert Sidney, was about 15 years old; and their youngest daughter, Susan (Sudie) Frances, was about 11 years old. Rufus and Martha Ellen had a fourth child, George, who was born on May 19, 1889, and died the same day.

There is conflicting information regarding the year of Sudie’s birth. Based on information in this application, Rufus’s second application in 1904, and Martha Ellen’s widow’s pension application completed in 1915 regarding the ages of their children, Sudie would have been born in 1890 or 1891, and, in the 1910 U.S. census of Sullivan County on familysearch.org, she is listed as being 19 years old. However, in the 1920 census of Washington County, Va., she is listed as being 24 years old, and, in the 1940 census, she is listed as being 44 years old, which would indicate she was born in 1895 or 1896.

Rufus stated in his application in 1901 that he was not involved in any business and that, during the past five years, he had supported himself and his family through “whatever means I had and [with] help from friends.” His estate included 26 acres of land, valued at about \$300, and personal property, owned by his wife, valued at about \$12.50.

His application was officially witnessed by Dr. E.S. King, William K. Sells, and John F. Gross. Below these signatures is a notation, “We did not see the applicant sign,” along with the signatures of Joe P. Lyle and A.H. Bullock.

The application was officially certified by J. R. Hancher, a justice of the peace.

As part of the application, Dr. King stated in December 1901 that he had examined Rufus and found that he was suffering from “neurasthenia, or nerve exhaustion, from which he is incapacitated from labor, and this disease most probably was caused from the effects of [the] wound received in the war.”

The application process also required two witnesses who served with the applicant in the army to provide statements regarding the applicant’s good character and service. The following statement concerning Rufus’s service was certified by S.H. Ponder, notary public. In February 1902, the witnesses, Lyle and Bullock, stated, “We were both in the army with the applicant and know he was a good and faithful soldier and we are satisfied from reliable testimony that he is in needy circumstances and we are informed and believe that his mind is so impaired that he is at least partially demented and is entitled to sympathy and help.”

As the end of the war neared, the 63rd Tennessee Infantry Regiment was in disarray. In his pension application, Rufus stated that he got out of the army when remnants of his unit disbanded at Lynchburg, Va., following Gen. Lee’s surrender at Appomattox. Other soldiers from his unit officially surrendered at Appomattox, took the required oath of allegiance to the United States, and were discharged. Since the fragment of the regiment he was with in Lynchburg simply disbanded, with the soldiers then heading home, Rufus’s pension application did not include written proof of his discharge from service, and this, along with the fact that he

never signed an official oath of allegiance to the United States government, may have been the cause for the problems he encountered in getting his pension application approved.

For whatever reason, the information on the first application was not sufficient, and, on June 1, 1904, Rufus was required to file a second pension application, which was received by the Board of Pension Examiners on July 21, 1904.

In this application, Rufus stated that he resided at RFD 1 near Piney Flats. The Gross post office station was inactivated in 1902 by the Postal Service, and two rural routes were set up and served by the new Piney Flats Post Office.

He stated that, while a member of Company D, 63rd Tennessee Infantry Regiment, he was wounded in the battle of Drewry's Bluff, Va., and "was struck in the left shoulder by a ball or shell. I suppose it went through [my] knapsack and struck my shoulder near [my] backbone."

In addition, he stated, "While in the ditches around Petersburg, I received a sunstroke, which overcame me. Also, have had this a number of times since. I contracted rheumatism in [my] left arm while in the war so I could scarcely use it. I still have it there. My right arm now is just about as bad with it now. I have also heart trouble. I have had it ever since the ball or shell struck me at Drewry's Bluff. [It struck] me so, it knocked me heels over head."

In answer to a question concerning when he enlisted in the army, Rufus stated, "I don't remember exactly, but think it was in the year 1862." When asked to give the names of regimental and company officers under whom he was serving when he was wounded at Drewry's Bluff, he listed Capt. A.A. Blair and Col. William Fulkerson. "I think J.R. McCallum was captain when I was wounded," Rufus stated.

Regarding the precise nature of his wound, he stated, "It was a piece of shell or a ball struck me on back of left shoulder near the spinal column. It did not enter the hide but went through my clothes. Knocked me down and so disabled me that I went to the hospital for about a month and half and have never recovered from [the wound]. Have never been able to work since."

Concerning his current disabilities as a result of his wartime service, he stated, "My present disability is rheumatism in both arms and my knees. Valvular heart trouble, spinal and nervous affliction, all contracted in war, I think. I know the rheumatism and heart trouble was. I am now totally disabled and in the bed all the time and have been for some four or five years."

After being wounded at Drewry's Bluff, he stated that he "was in hospital till I got better and then went back in the service."

Regarding how he was discharged from the army, Rufus stated, "When Gen. Lee surrendered [at Appomattox, Va., on April 9, 1865], I was at Lynchburg, Va. I had been in the battle at Petersburg April 2, 1865, when our lines were broken and a great many were captured but I got away. Just had gotten over as far as [Lynchburg] when Gen. Lee surrendered and was there [when the unit] just disbanded."

In the 1904 application, he listed his family as: wife, 42 years old; a daughter, 20; son, 17; and a daughter, 14.

Concerning what business in which he was engaged, he stated, "None. I cannot do anything. Am in bed."

For his real estate and personal property, he listed 26 acres of land, worth about \$250, and "some household and kitchen furniture worth about \$40." In answer to the question, "What

estate has your wife in her own right, real and personal, and what is its value?" he stated, "One cow. Worth about \$25."

The witnesses to Rufus's application were Dr. H.T. Massengill and S.P. Haynes.

As part of the application process, Dr. Massengill performed a medical examination of Rufus and listed the following disabilities: "Chronic rheumatism with complication affecting heart, producing a valvular trouble of the heart....Also a marked degree of melancholia insanity and nervous degeneracy caused by sunstroke during the war, which is permanent and incurable. Also a wound by a bomb striking his back, knocking him senseless and causing a permanent spinal trouble. I believe his disabilities permanent, and he is totally unable to perform any mental or physical work."

In a statement made in June 1904 and sworn to before notary public W.D. Lyon, Haynes stated that he was a lieutenant in the 63rd Tennessee, that he was well acquainted with Rufus during the Civil War, and that Rufus was a member of Co. D, 63rd Tennessee Regiment. Haynes stated that "he was present in battle at Drewry's Bluff when Mr. Morrell was wounded and went to him when he fell, that he was knocked down and looked like a man who was dying, but on examination [Haynes] found that Mr. Morrell's hide had not broken but that he had been struck by something. [Haynes] believes it was a grapeshot as the enemy were throwing grape and canister at the time. This struck [Rufus] pretty close to the backbone and left shoulder about opposite his heart. He was a good soldier. [Haynes] thinks [Rufus] was carried off the battlefield that day and was disabled for service most of the time after this. There was a large bruised place where he was struck by the grapeshot."

In a separate statement made in May 1904 and sworn to before notary public A.H. Bullock, J.O. Morrell, and Joe P. Lyle stated that “they were present as members of the 63rd Tennessee Regiment, Confederate Army, and Rufus Morrell was a member of same regiment and Company D of said regiment and that they were both together on 2nd April 1865 in front of Petersburg, Virginia, and in the battle together and that they was captured then and there as were a great many others and they state further that said Rufus Morrell was right there and in the fight and we were together and this is known to be true, but he got away and was not captured. We were then taken prisoners to Fort Delaware and remained till after the surrender. Of course, as we were captured and kept till [after the] surrender and Rufus Morrell was not, we can state no more, but he and we were both in the fight together when the lines broke on the morning of 2 April 1865.”

The pension record also includes a letter from Catherine Woods of Bluff City, Tenn., dated February 1905, to Frank Moses, of the state pension board in Nashville. The letter states, “Rufus W. Morrell’s friends have been trying to get up his pension but have failed so far. He has been down for most two years, past doing anything. They are [in] needy circumstances. The only boy [Rufus’s son, Albert] is now down with rheumatism. [Rufus] served through the Civil War and deserves a pension if they could get [it] up. I have known him all his life. His mind has been weak at times, most ever since he came out of the war. If there can be anything done for him, it would be a great help to him in time of need. I don’t know that this will do any good. If he was so he could be about, I don’t think it would be much trouble for him to get up his pension. Hoping they will be successful in getting something for him.”

Also, as part of the pension record, S.P. Haynes, of Vance, Tenn., sent a letter to Moses, dated Jan. 6, 1905. Haynes wrote, “Today, I received a letter from one of Morrell’s family asking

me to write you about Rufus's case. They thought had made all proof necessary, but as they have heard nothing, they are anxious to know whether it is lack of proof or lack of appropriation. I have not seen Rufus since the war, but I hear he is in a sad condition. They only wish to know if anything is lacking that could be provided."

As part of the pension record, there is a statement, dated Jan. 31, 1905, from Sullivan County Trustee R.R. Newland certifying that "Rufus Morrell has nothing assessed to him on the tax book of the aforesaid county and state [Sullivan County, Tennessee] and that his wife, M.E. Morrell, has 26 acres of land valued at \$220 assessed to her in the aforesaid county and state."

In support of the pension application, Richard Miller wrote a letter, sworn to before notary public W.D. Lyon, on June 15, 1904. Miller stated that "he has been intimately acquainted with R.W. Morrell, who is an applicant for a pension from the State of Tennessee, for about 25 years [and] that he now lives about five miles from him. [For the past] five years, Mr. Morrell's mind has been badly affected. He was put in the asylum for the insane about four years ago and kept there about seven months, when he seemed to get some better and was sent back home, but he has not been right since he came back home. He sometimes has lucid intervals in which he will talk as rational as he ever did. Then he will not talk scarcely a word for months. He is also an invalid at present, is confined to his bed and has been for about two years and been confined to the house for about five years. [Miller] was present and saw [Rufus] the day he made out his application for pension and will state that at that time his mind seemed to be clear, but this was only an exceptional time. He has about 26 acres of poor land and has no means of support except as his wife and children make it on this little piece of poor land and as they are helped out by other people. They are in great need of help. Mr. Morrell is a respectable and good citizen and in his unfortunate condition, he and his family deserve to be helped. He is getting

very thin and feeble and is not likely to last much longer. There seems to be no chance for him to ever get out of his bed....”

On January 20, 1905, George B. Guild, of the Tennessee Board of Pension Examiners, sent a memo to Gen. F.C. Ainsworth, Chief Record and Pension Office in Washington, D.C., stating, “R.W. Morrell, who is an applicant for pension under the Tennessee pension law, claimed to have been a member of Company D, 63rd Regiment Tennessee Infantry, C.S.A., and to have been at Lynchburg, Va., at the close of the war. Please give any record of this man.”

On January 24, 1905, the Military Secretary’s Office of the War Department in Washington, D.C., sent a memo to Guild. The memo states, “The records show that R. W. Morrell, private, Company D, 63rd (also called 74th) Tennessee Infantry, C.S.A., was enlisted May 3, 1862, at Jonesboro, to serve three years or during the war. On the roll of the company dated December 31, 1864, the last roll on file, he is reported present. No further record of him has been found. No record of his capture or parole has been found.”

There is no correspondence included in Rufus’s record indicating that he was awarded a pension, but, in her application for a widow’s pension, Martha Ellen refers to Rufus as a pensioner, indicating that he did receive a pension.

Following her husband’s death in 1915, on Jan. 25, 1916, Martha Ellen applied for a widow’s indigent pension from the State of Tennessee, based on Rufus’s Civil War service. The application was witnessed by John F. Gross, notary public, and Fred Malone. In the application, she stated that she had resided in Tennessee her entire life and that she was born in the eastern part of Sullivan County. According to information on her death certificate, Martha Ellen was born in Emmett community, located near Bluff City. Attached to the pension application is a

copy of her marriage certificate. She married Rufus on February 25, 1883. The marriage took place about two miles southwest of Bluff City and was performed by J.K. Hancher, a Lutheran minister.

The application stated that Rufus died at his home, located four miles north of Piney Flats. At the time of her application, Martha Ellen had one son, Albert Sidney, age 29, and two daughters, Mary Catherine, age 31, and Susan (Sudie) Frances, 25. She listed her real and personal property as 26 acres of land, with an assessed value of \$150, and household property valued at \$50. In answer to a question on the application which asked, "What property, real or personal, did you possess at death of husband or did he leave you, and what disposition, if any, by sale or gift, have you made of same?" she stated, "None at all. The title to the land was in my [husband's name], and he died without a will."

Richard Miller of Bluff City is listed on the application as a friend who would be willing to have the Pension Board contact him about the application, if necessary. The pension record contains no statement from Miller. Miller married Frances Irena Morrell, Martha Ellen's sister.

D.A. Droke and William B. Millhorn presented themselves as witnesses for the widow's pension application, with their statement sworn to before Gross on January 25, 1916. They stated that they had known Martha Ellen for about 15 years. Droke stated that he knew Rufus for about 40 years, and Millhorn stated that he knew him for about 20 years. They attested that Martha Ellen was Rufus's widow.

As part of the pension application, E.D. Akard, Sullivan County trustee, certified that the property assessed on the tax books of the county for Martha Ellen was 26 acres of land, assessed at \$150.

Her widow's pension was approved, but, apparently, there was some glitch involving the payments. Included in the pension record is a letter, dated March 11, 1919, which Martha Ellen sent to Jonathan P. Hickman, secretary of the pension board. She stated, "Received your card telling me I had been restored to the pension roll. Hope to receive all my back time and voucher soon. Am still living, and my address (RFD 1, Piney Flats, Tenn.) is above."

Martha Ellen and Rufus had three children: Mary Catherine (born March 1884; died, 1955) married Henry Peters on Jan. 19, 1908, and moved to California; Albert Sidney (born Nov. 29, 1886; died Sept. 3, 1923) married Letha Tulin Millhorn on May 14, 1916; and Susan (Sudie) Frances (born about Aug. 5, 1895; died Sept. 4, 1962) married Charles (Charlie) P. Hopkins Sr. in July 1917.

According to information on familysearch.org, Charlie and Sudie's marriage took place on July 14, 1917, in Bristol, Va. The license gives Charlie's birthplace as Abingdon, Va., and Sudie's birthplace as Bluff City, Tenn. Both are listed as being 22 years old.

In the 1910 census for Washington County, Va., available on familysearch.org, Charlie is listed as living in Goodson community as part of the household of his father and mother, Charles P. Hopkins, age 38, and Etta Hopkins, age 30. Both parents were born in Virginia. Charlie, who was born in Virginia, was 14 at the time of the census. Other children in the household were: Annie, 13, born in Virginia; William, 8, born in Tennessee; and Beatrice, 2, born in Virginia.

In the 1920 census, available on the same web site, Charlie and Sudie Hopkins are listed as living in Goodson community in Washington County, Va. Their child, Charlie P. Jr., who was born in Tennessee, was 1 year old. In the 1930 census, they were still living in Goodson.

It is not clear where the Rufus and Martha Ellen were residing when their children were born, but, in 1898, the couple purchased land in Sullivan County from Joan Hicks and Joseph Hicks. This land was located in Enterprise community. The majority of the original acreage has been sold out of the family, but part of the land is still owned by three of Rufus and Martha Ellen's great-grandchildren. Although it has undergone many renovations, the structure of the old homeplace where Rufus and Martha Ellen resided still stands near the intersection of Fillers Road and Summersound Road.

Rufus died December 6, 1915, and, according to his death certificate, available on familysearch.org, he was buried on Tuesday, December 7. Dr. F. Graves signed the certificate and listed the cause of death as tuberculosis. The two doctors who examined Rufus for his pension applications made no mention of him suffering from this disease. The Enterprise community news section of the December 15, 1915, edition of "The Sullivan County Developer" contained the following notice: "R.W. Morrell, age 72 years, died at his home Monday night, Dec. 6th. He leaves a wife, two daughters [and] one son to mourn his loss. He had been a member of the Lutheran church for a number of years. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Owen, after which the body was interred in the Droke Cemetery. Those who attended the funeral from a distance were Misses Rosa and Jessie Morrell of Jonesboro, Mr. Bailey Morrell of Johnson City, and Mrs. W.E. Miller and Miss Fay Miller of Bluff City."

According to information on www.ancestry.com, Walter E. (W.E.) Miller and Fay Miller were the children of Richard Miller and Frances Irena Morrell. Bailey Morrell's family relationship is unclear. Rosa Morrell and Jessie Morrell were the children of Joseph Morrell. Joseph was the son of Eldridge Sevier Morrell, Rufus's brother.

Eldridge also served as a Confederate soldier during the Civil War. He was an officer in Company M, 1st (Carter's) Tennessee Cavalry Regiment, which was formed in 1863 in Sullivan County under the command of Capt. Edward Gammon. The regiment served in various locations, and, in 1864, took part in Gen. Jubal Early's Virginia Valley campaign.

At the time of Rufus's death, two of his children, Albert and "Sudie," were still living at home. After "Sudie" got married, she moved out, but Albert remained at home. After his marriage, Albert and Letha lived at the Morrell homeplace with Martha Ellen. When Albert died in 1923, Letha and her three children – R.W., Joe and Harmon – continued to live at the homeplace with Martha Ellen.

According to her death certificate, Martha Ellen was 73 years old when she passed away at about 4:15 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16, 1935. Dr. Aaron Cole, of Piney Flats, completed the death certificate and listed the primary cause of her death as a cerebral hemorrhage [a stroke], with arterial hypertension [high blood pressure] as a contributory cause. On Feb. 17, Martha Ellen was buried next to Rufus in Droke Cemetery.

Akard Funeral Home in Bristol, Tenn., handled the arrangements, and according to the funeral record, the total cost of the funeral was \$135. Charles P. Hopkins, husband of Susan (Sudie) Frances Morrell, assumed original responsibility for the cost. E.W. King and Harmon Miller paid the majority of the funeral bill in installment payments. According to findagrave.com, Harmon Miller was the son of Richard Miller and Frances Irena Morrell.

William B. Millhorn, Letha's father, was Martha Ellen's friend and neighbor, and he had served as a witness for Martha Ellen's pension application.

William was the son of Henderson Millhorn (born 1825) and Nancy Ann Cross (born 1819; died Aug. 8, 1894). She was the daughter of Jesse Cross (born 1787; died 1872) and Susannah Hicks (born 1790). Henderson and Nancy Millhorn's children included: Richard Millhorn, Benjamin Millhorn, Rachael Millhorn, Eliza Millhorn, Rebecca Millhorn, Mary Ann Millhorn, Jonathan Millhorn and William B. Millhorn.

William (born March 16, 1845; died May 26, 1918) married Elizabeth Edelin Cross (born Nov. 27, 1851; died Aug. 30, 1924) on Jan. 18, 1874, about three miles south of Blountville. James A. Cole, a justice of the peace, conducted the marriage ceremony.

William was known as "Buck" to his contemporaries, and he was a farmer, who owned 33 acres in 1905. The acreage included land on which Jack Combs resided along Enterprise Road until his death in 1989. Jack never married and lived there with his mother, Emma Millhorn Combs, one of William and Elizabeth's children, until she passed away in 1957.

In October 1894, William and Elizabeth donated one-half acre to the school commissioners for the purpose of establishing a public school, with the school building also to be used as a house of worship by any religious denomination. This piece of land is located about one-fourth mile from the Combs' property, with the two parcels located on opposite sides of the present Enterprise Road.

Enterprise School operated until the late 1940's, when it was closed by the county. Some of the Millhorns' grandchildren and great-grandchildren attended school there. The church, now Enterprise United Methodist Church, is still active. Five generations of William and Elizabeth's descendants have attended church there, from their children to their great-great-great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth Cross was the daughter of Reece B. (R.B.) Cross Sr. (born 1828; died Dec. 22, 1864) and Harriet Cox (born March 1, 1834). Their children included: Hoyle Cross, Nat A. Cross, Martha Cross, Sara Ann Cross, Susie Cross and Elizabeth Edelin Cross.

R.B. Sr. was a private in Company G, 60th Tennessee Infantry Regiment, along with his son-in-law, William B. Millhorn. Cross enlisted in September 1862 when he was about 34 years old. He was captured by Union forces during the fighting at Vicksburg, Miss., in 1863. He was included in an exchange of prisoners of war and later reentered the fighting. He was captured again on Oct. 28, 1864, in Jefferson County. He was transferred to Union prisoner of war camps at Nashville, Tenn., Louisville, Ken., and Camp Douglas, Ill. He died at Camp Douglas of pleurisy and was buried in the old City Cemetery in Chicago. According to information on the website, graveyards.com, when the City Cemetery was closed, the bodies of the Confederate soldiers who died at Camp Douglas were moved to Rosehill, Graceland and Oak Woods cemeteries. R.B. was among more than 6,000 Confederate soldiers buried in a mass grave at Oak Woods. According to information on archive.org, his name was listed in the “Register of Confederate soldiers who died in Camp Douglas, 1862-65, and lie buried in Oak Woods Cemetery, Chicago, Ill.” The booklet was published in 1892 by the Illinois Division of the United Confederate Veterans.

William survived the war and returned home to Sullivan County, and, in September 1905, he applied for a Civil War pension.

In his application, he stated that he was born in 1844 in Sullivan County. [Information on his tombstone in Lindamood Cemetery, located in Enterprise community, states that he was born in 1845].

In 1905, he stated that his household then consisted of: his wife, Elizabeth, age 55; a son, Reece B., age 24; and a daughter, Letha Tulin, age 14. Presumably, his other two daughters had already married and moved out of the home.

William and Elizabeth's children included: Flora (born 1878; died Oct. 8, 1929), who married J.C. White; Reece B. (born about 1880), who married Cordia Childress; Emma Jane (born Nov. 26, 1874; died April 9, 1957), who married Andrew Emmert Combs; and Letha Tulin (born Oct. 6, 1891; died June 26, 1965), who married Albert Morrell. [According to information on www.danahillfarm.com, Reece B. was born in 1880. Information on familytreemaker.genealogy.com states he was born in 1876.]

William first served as a private in Company F, 29th Regiment, Tennessee Infantry. According to information on familysearch.org, the regiment was assembled at Henderson's Mills in Greene County, Tennessee, in September 1861. He was discharged from the unit when his one-year enlistment was up.

According to information on www.nps.gov, the regiment took part in the battles at Fishing Creek, Munfordville, and Perryville. It participated in the various campaigns from Murfreesboro to Atlanta and fought in North Carolina. In January 1862, the regiment reported 493 present for duty, sustained 29 casualties at Fishing Creek, and lost 51 percent of 220 soldiers at Murfreesboro. It had 71 disabled at Chickamauga. Only a remnant surrendered in April 1865 when the war ended.

Included in Elizabeth's later application for an indigent widow's pension was a copy of a "Soldier's Discharge" for William. It was signed by First Lt. W.A Cross, of Company F, 29th Regiment Tennessee Volunteers.

It stated: "To all whom it may concern. Greeting. Know ye that William Millhorn, a private in Captain J.B. Johnson's Company (F) of the Twenty-Ninth Regiment Tennessee Volunteers, who was enlisted at Camp Henderson on the twenty-first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, to serve one year, having proved himself a obedient and faithful soldier is entitled to a discharge from the Confederate States service under the Conscription Act, being under 18 years of age." The discharge certificate was written in Knoxville, Tenn., in November 1862. William was 16 years old when he enlisted and was 17 when he was discharged.

After his discharge from the 29th, William enlisted in Company G, 60th Tennessee Mounted Infantry Regiment in February 1863, according to information on his pension application.

The company had first been formed at Blountville on Sept. 25, 1862, and later mustered with the other companies of the regiment in Knoxville on Nov. 7, 1862. According to information on www.tngennet.org, "Soon after its organization, it was assigned to the brigade of John C. Vaughn and ordered to Mississippi and Louisiana....During the siege of [Vicksburg], it garrisoned the Confederate works. It also assisted gallantly in opposing the advance of Gen. Grant from below Vicksburg. At Big Black Bridge, it lost severely and fought against great odds. [On] July 4, 1863, it was surrendered with Pemberton's army, after having reached the point of starvation. It was finally exchanged."

William was among the Confederate soldiers captured by Union forces in fighting at Big Black Bridge during the battle of Vicksburg. He was paroled and was later was part of an exchange of prisoners of war.

There is a document included with Elizabeth's pension application that attests to William's parole by Union forces. It states: "Vicksburg, Mississippi, July 8th, 1863. To all whom it may concern, know ye that: I, Wm. Millhorn, a private of Company G, 60th Reg't Tennessee Vols., C.S.A., being a prisoner of war, in the hands of the United States Forces, in virtue of the capitulation of the City of Vicksburg and its garrison, by Lieut. Gen. John C. Pemberton, C.S.A, commanding, on the 4th day of July, 1863, do in pursuance of the terms of said capitulation, give my solemn parole under oath – that I will not take up arms again in any fort, garrison or field work, held by the Confederate States of America, against the United States of America, nor as guard of prisons, depots or stores, nor discharge any duties usually performed by officers or soldiers, against the United States of America, until duly exchanged by proper authorities." The document bears William's signature. "Sworn to and subscribed before me at Vicksburg, Miss, this 8th day of July 1863. Sam Roper, 56th Reg't, Ill. Inf. Vols, Captain and Paroling Officer."

After the 60th Tennessee Regiment was formally exchanged, the unit joined Gen. Longstreet's forces and moved toward Knoxville. [Note: For a time during the Civil War, the U.S. and Confederate governments conducted large-scale prisoner of war exchanges. If they could not be immediately exchanged, captured soldiers were placed on parole, that is they promised not to fight again until they were officially exchanged.] The unit later fought in a number of locations in Virginia and was engaged in fighting in western Virginia when the news of Gen. Lee's surrender at Appomattox reached the unit. "The gallant regiment resolved to join [Confederate Gen.] Johnston and accordingly rendezvoused at Charlotte [N.C.], but finally surrendered with Vaughn's brigade," according to the unit's history on www.tngennet.org.

Millhorn stated that he was with the 60th during the siege of Vicksburg and that he was also involved in the following battles during the war: Corinth, Miss.; Gen. Braxton Bragg's campaign through Mississippi with the 29th in 1862; Perryville, Ken.; Baker's Creek, Miss.; Big Black River, Miss.; and Morristown, Tenn.

In his application, William stated, "I was captured at Morristown Oct. 1864 [and] took to prison at Chattanooga, Tenn., then to Louisville, then Camp Douglas, and to Pt. Lookout, Md., where I took the oath after the war closed."

William's official oath of allegiance is also included with Elizabeth's pension application. It states: "I, Wm. Millhorn, of the County of Sullivan, State of Tennessee, do solemnly swear that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and government of the United States against all enemies, whether domestic or foreign; that I will bear true faith, allegiance and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution, or laws of any state, convention, or legislature, to the contrary notwithstanding; and further, that I will faithfully perform all the duties which may be required of me by the laws of the United States; and I take this oath freely and voluntarily, without mental reservation or evasion whatever." The oath was signed by William on June 29, 1865, and sworn to before Major A.W. Brady of the Provost Marshal's Office. There is an additional statement at the bottom of the oath of allegiance, which reads: "The above named [William B. Millhorn] has fair complexion, light hair, and hazel eyes; and is 5 feet, 7 ¼ inches high." William signed the oath on June 29, 1865, at Point Lookout.

William stated in his application, "I took it [the oath of allegiance] to get out of prison June 29th, 1865."

The "Certificate of Release of Prisoner of War" was also from the Provost Marshal's Office at Headquarters, Point Lookout, Md. It stated, "I hereby certify that Wm. Millhorn,

prisoner of war, having this day taken the oath of allegiance to the United States, in conformity with instructions from the War Department, [is] hereby released and discharged.” The certificate was dated June 29, 1865, and signed by Maj. Brady.

William stated that he was not wounded during the war, but that he “contracted rheumatism in the war and have had it ever since. Also [contracted] diarrhea while in prison and still have it. I also had chills and fever.”

As part of the pension application process, William was examined by a physician, and Dr. W. S. Sproles stated in October 1905 that William suffered from the following disabilities: “Chronic rheumatism of the hips and lower limbs to the extent he cannot raise himself to an erect posture without aid. At times, past going at all. Also, and worst of all, chronic diarrhea contracted in prison, rendering [him] unable for manual labor. Will average not less than 5 actions a day and night. The two diseases render him in a worse condition than the loss of an eye or limb.”

At the time of his application, William stated that he was doing some farming but “do not earn but little.” He stated that his real property consisted of 33 acres of land, “worth about \$300 and assessed at \$200,” and that his personal property included “1 cow, 4 head of [not legible], and household goods, all worth about \$100.” He stated that his wife did not own any estate in her own right, “except an interest in the above property.” As part of the application, Sullivan County Trustee R. R. Newland attached a statement which read: “State of Tennessee, County of Sullivan: This is to certify that W.B. Millhorn has 33 acres of land valued at \$200.00 assessed to him, and that his wife has nothing assessed to her on the tax book of aforesaid state and county. Given this [date] Oct. 10, 1905.”

William's application was notarized by W.D. Lyon and witnessed by R.B. Cross. [Note: According to www.researchonline.net, R. B. Cross Sr., mentioned above, and R.B. Cross Jr. were both soldiers in Company G, 60th Tennessee. It is unclear how the two were related. Presumably, the R.B. Cross who witnessed William's application is R.B. Jr.]

Cross stated that William "was a member of Company G, 60th Tennessee, and that he knows the applicant, [that] William Millhorn enlisted as a member of said Company G, 60th Tennessee, in February 1863, that he was a good soldier, that he contracted chills and fever as stated by him and also rheumatism, that he was captured at Morristown and taken to prison. Affiant [Cross] has known [William] ever since the war and knows he is in needy circumstances and is now and has been complaining of rheumatism and diarrhea ever since the war."

As part of William's pension application, in September 1905, W.A. Cross made a sworn statement, which was notarized by Lyon. Cross stated that he was lieutenant in Company F, 29th Tennessee, and that William was a private in the unit. Cross stated that William "was a good soldier but was discharged under the Conscript Act Nov. 2, 1862. Affiant has known Mr. Millhorn ever since the war. He is a good citizen, in needy circumstances, unable to work but little, [and] has complained of rheumatism and diarrhea ever since the war."

After submitting his application, on Jan. 22, 1906, William sent a follow-up letter to the Pension Board asking if any action was taken to approve a pension for him. The Board met on the second Tuesday in January, April, July and October.

Apparently, William did not receive a response to his Jan. 22 inquiry. On March 27, 1906, William sent another letter of inquiry to John P. Hickman in Nashville. William wrote, "Did the Board of Pension Examiners do anything towards passing my papers (No. 7519) at [its]

last meeting? If not, what proof is required? Would you please let me know at once? I will try to have my papers fixed by the next meeting.”

On April 25, 1906, William wrote a letter to Gov. John I. Cox and stated, “I had my pension papers filed at Nashville some time ago. They were to be acted on last meeting [of the pension board], but I have been informed that they did not come before the board. I would appreciate it if you would look them up and see what is wrong. The no. of the papers are 7519.”

Also, on April 25, 1906, R.B. Cross sent a letter to Gov. Cox and wrote, “Dear Friend: Old man Wm. Millhorn filed a claim (No. 7519) for a state pension. His claim is just, and he is in needy circumstances. His record as a soldier can’t be disputed. If you can spare the time, I would consider it a favor to see if you could get his claim before the board. [Signed:] Yours to command, R.B. Cross.”

According to information on www.tricitie.com, Cox “was born Nov. 23, 1855, in a small house on a rough hillside farm near Blountville, Sullivan County, Tenn. One family historian sets the location as being about 3 ½ miles down Enterprise Road near Rainbow Bridge and states that the farm was later owned by a family named Lindamood.” This is most likely part of same property on which Lindamood Cemetery is located.

William’s record does not specifically indicate whether his application was approved, but when Elizabeth applied for a widow’s pension, she referred to him on the application as a pensioner, so, presumably, he did receive a pension.

Following her husband’s death, Elizabeth completed her application on June 7, 1918, for an indigent widow’s pension. The application was notarized by John F. Gross, and Gross is also listed as a friend who would be willing, if necessary, to supply the state pension board with more information during the application process.

On her application, Elizabeth stated that she was born about four and one-half miles from Bluff City, Tenn., and that William was born about four miles west of Bluff City along the Holston River and died at his residence, located about four miles west of Bluff City, along the Holston River.

In her application, Elizabeth stated that she and her husband had six children, but only four were listed as living in 1918: a daughter (Emma Jane), 44 years old; a son (Reece B.), 38; a daughter (Flora), 36; and a daughter (Letha), 27 years old. According to information on www.danahillfarm.com, Elizabeth and William also had a daughter, Eliza, who died in infancy. The sixth child is unidentified, but information on www.tngenweb.org lists a son of William and Elizabeth, also named Reece B., who died in infancy and was buried in Lindamood Cemetery in Piney Flats, Tenn.

In answer to the question, "Have you a family? If so, who compose such family? Give their means of support. Have they any lands or other property?" she answered, "Only a granddaughter, 13 years old." [The granddaughter is unidentified, and why she would be living in her grandmother's home is not clear.]

Concerning what real or personal property she possessed, Elizabeth listed the contents of her house, valued at about \$60, and 26 acres of land. "Only a small portion of [the land is farmable] and [it is] very poor," she stated. "The above described land [was] left [by her deceased husband] for me to control but [it] won't anything like support me," she added.

W.C. Droke and S.L. Cross completed witness statements for Elizabeth's application. John F. Gross notarized their statements on June 7, 1918.

Cross and Droke stated, "We have lived very near her all her life," and they stated they knew William for more than 60 years.

Concerning the property that Elizabeth owned, they stated she owned 26 acres of “very poor land.”

As part of the application, Sullivan County Trustee E.K. Akard certified that Elizabeth had property assessed on the tax books of the county, but neither the acreage nor the property value was listed.

Included in the pension application package is a letter to Elizabeth from the director of accounts. The office address and the date of the letter are not legible, but, presumably, it is from the office in charge of widows’ pensions.

It states: “Enclosed find certification in the amount of \$5.00, covering pension for the month of January. We are in receipt of letter from the Welfare Department, advising your Old Age Assistance grant was increased to \$12.00 during the month of December, and, as you were overpaid, \$2.00 for that month, this amount is being deducted from the \$7.00 from this office, leaving a balance of \$5.00 for which certificate is enclosed. Hereafter, you should receive \$12.00 per month from the Welfare Department and \$7.00 from this office. Very truly, Director of Accounts.” Courtesy copies of the letter were sent to Miss Stoves and to the Pension Board.

Elizabeth was 73 years old when she passed away at her home in Enterprise community on Saturday, Aug. 30, 1924. Her death certificate was signed by Dr. F. Graves. He stated that the cause of her death was unknown. Wolfe Brothers & Company of Piney Flats served as the undertaker. Elizabeth was buried beside her husband in Lindamood Cemetery on Sunday, Aug. 31. No death certificate for William has been located.

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