
Greene County Magazine

The Soldiers of Company F, 7th Virginia Infantry



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TWO SOLDIERS OF COMPANY F, 7TH. VA. INFANTRY*

By: Stewart Estes Wood

During the early years of the Civil War, the young men of Greene County came forth to serve the Confederate States of America in relatively large numbers. While some enlisted or were conscripted into companies from neighboring Madison and Albemarle Counties, Greene County also produced its own company of soldiers. Known as Company F, and assigned to the 7th Virginia Infantry, these young men served with valor. This article provides a closer look at the military and personal lives of two soldiers of Company F.

- ELIJAH AMANSON WOOD -

Elijah Amanson Wood was born in 1844 in either Albemarle or Greene County, Virginia, the second son of Amanson Wood and Verinda Cox Wood. Elijah was reared at his parental home near Celt on the north side of Route 648, immediately west of Roach (Buffalo) River, in a two-story frame residence with a one-story addition which still stands today (currently painted blue). A section of his father's farm was part of a larger tract that Elijah's ancestor, Samuel Estes, patented in 1728.

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After serving for a period of time in a local militia unit, Elijah A. Wood enlisted on March 29, 1862 at Camp Taylor in Greene County as a private in Company F, 7th. Virginia Infantry, of the Confederate States Army. As Elijah's older brother, Robert, had been killed in the conflict, it is said that Elijah's mother wept as she made by hand the uniform that Elijah would wear off to war.

On May 5, 1862, less than two months after his enlistment, Elijah A. Wood was injured in battle near Williamsburg, Virginia. His injury did not warrant his immediate removal from combat, however, and he served on until January 20, 1863. His discharge on the latter date resulted from his supplying a substitute to take his place in the military, and family folklore holds that Elijah's father paid the substitute \$1,000 to take his son's place in combat.

On October 15, 1863, Elijah A. Wood married his second-cousin, Ardenia Jane Wood, at the bride's home on Route 660 near Earlysville in Albemarle County. Born in August, 1841, Ardenia Jane Wood was the daughter of the Reverend Zachariah Wood, Jr., and Mary Ann (Wood) Wood of Reas Ford Road in Albemarle County.

Sometime between February and October in the year of 1864, 'Elijah A. Wood was one day en route between his father-in-law's home at Earlysville and his father's home at Celt in Greene County. While traveling along what is today Simmons Gap Road (State Route 663), Elijah was captured near the present site of Mt. Sinai Church by Union soldiers and taken away as a prisoner of war. He was held

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prisoner for several months and released in the year of 1865. It's not known if Elijah was captured as a civilian in 1864, or whether he was perhaps again serving in some militia unit at that time.

On June 17, 1872, Elijah A. and Ardenia Jane Wood were given 95 acres of land off the Wood family farm by Elijah's parents for "love and affection." Elijah and Ardenia settled on this farm in a small house that once stood off the north side of present Route 648, and on the west side of Buffalo River. This house no longer stands.

Elijah A. Wood fell victim to typhoid fever and died in Greene County in September of 1876. Elijah was only about 32 years of age at the time of his untimely death, and this young civil War veteran was buried in an unmarked grave in a family cemetery on his father-in-law's farm off Route 660 near Earlysville, Virginia

Such was the fear of the spread of typhoid fever in that era that, upon his death, all of Elijah Wood's personal effects were immediately destroyed by fire.

Elijah and Ardenia Jane Wood had two children: (1.) Mary Ann Verinda ("Mollie") Wood who married Charles L.J. ("Charlie") Estes; and (2.) Phillip Ellis Nathaniel Wood. Ellis first married Sarah Ann Elizabeth Bruce, daughter of William Dick Bruce and Mary Angeline Cox Bruce of Greene County. Ellis secondly married his first-cousin, Ella M. Wood, daughter of Jacob N. and Frances Garrison Wood of Albemarle County.

Ardenia Jane Wood, widow of Elijah Amanson Wood, secondly married her second-cousin, Thomas J. Garrison, on October 13, 1881

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in Greene County, and she had additional issue by this marriage. Ardenia was again widowed some eight years later when Thomas J. Garrison died of tuberculosis at 40 years of age in July 1889. Ardenia Jane Wood Garrison died in Greene County, Virginia ca. 1906-1907, and she was buried at her parental home near Earls-ville, Virginia beside the remains of her first husband.



Ardenia Jane Wood

Elijah Amanson Wood
Co. F. 7th Va Infantry, C.S.A.

- WILLIAM SANFORD ESTES -

William Sanford Estes was born in 1826 in either Albemarle or Orange County, Virginia, and he was a son of Merriam ("Merry") Estes and Elizabeth Wood Estes of Albemarle, Orange and Greene Counties. William Sanford's paternal grandfather, William Estes, Sr., and his maternal grandfather, John Wood, were both soldiers of the American Revolutionary War.

William Sanford Estes married Sarah Ann Elizabeth Wood on October 13, 1859 in Greene County, Virginia. Sarah Ann Elizabeth was born in April 1842, the daughter of Amanson J. Wood and Verinda Cox Wood of the Celt neighborhood of Southern Greene County. William Sanford Estes and his father-in-law were first-cousins.

On March 29, 1862, when he was approximately 36 years-old, William Sanford Estes enlisted in Company F, 7th Infantry of the Confederate States Army, at Camp Taylor. Private Estes was thus volunteering to fight against the nation which both of his grandfathers had fought to help create nearly a century earlier.

Private William Sanford Estes was described in his military records as being 5'8" in height, with fair complexion, black hair and gray eyes. He enlisted on the same date, and at the same place, as did his first-cousin and neighbor, William Henry Cox; his brother-in-law and neighbor, Elijah Amanson Wood; and perhaps also his brother and neighbor, Littleton E. Estes.

William Sanford Estes's tour of duty with the Confederate Army would be brief, however; he was discharged on July 27, 1862 for

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being over age. Estes also served in at least one local militia unit during the Civil War, but his pride in having served in Company F would later be memorialized on his tombstone.

After the Civil War, William Sanford Estes returned to his family and to his farm in the Celt community of southern Greene County. William Sanford, and his wife, Sarah Ann Elizabeth, eventually acquired a farm of some 169 acres of land on the north side of present Route 648, which was the aggregate of three parcels: (1.) a parcel of 57 acres, acquired from William Sanford's father, Merriam ("Merry") Estes; (2.) a tract of 74 acres, which came as a gift from Sarah's father, Amanson Wood; and (3.) a parcel of 38 acres, inherited by Sarah from her father's residuary estate.

On March 22, 1887, William S. And Sarah A.E. Estes conveyed all three tracts of land mentioned above to their daughter, Edith Frances E. ("Fanny") Estes. The grantors reserved for themselves only the right to continue living in their house on this farm until such time as they could secure a home elsewhere. The grantee, Edith Frances E. Estes, later married James Alexander Bruce, and the old Estes farm thus passed into the Bruce family.

Upon his death, William Sanford Estes was buried in the Estes-Bruce family cemetery on a hilltop just west of Roach (Buffalo) River, and off the north side of present Route 648, on land that was once a part of his farm (but which is owned today by Mrs. Susie Jansen). His tombstone contains only the inscription:

William S. Estes
Co. F
7th. VA. Inf.
C.S.A.

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Sarah Ann Elizabeth Wood Estes, widow of William Sanford Estes, died at Celt in Greene County on March 27, 1924.

The children of William Sanford Estes and Sarah Ann Elizabeth Wood Estes were (but not necessarily in this order by chronology of births), viz.:

(1) Edith Frances E. Estes - born December 4, 1865, died on September 3, 1941; married James Alexander Bruce (1867-1947).

(2.) Robert Edgar Estes - born February 20, 1866, died on July 30, 1947; married Nancy Frances Wood on January 6, 1888, daughter of John Miller Wood and Julia Ann Elizabeth Estes Wood.

(3.) Andrew Jackson Estes - born August 16, 1870, died on June 20, 1939; married (1.) Lucy Pearl Walton, daughter of Charles P. Walton and Permelia Burton Walton; married (2.) Sallie M. Wood, daughter of Eley Yelpton Wood and Fannie Mildred Norris Wood.

(4.) Ella Estes - married Cliff Ward.

(5.) Lively Y. Estes - born ca. 1877, married Margaret Rebecca ("Maggie") Lawson on March 10, 1898 in Greene County, Virginia.

(6.) Martha J. Estes - married Eugene O. Wood on November 26, 1896 in Greene County, Virginia; Eugene O. Wood was the son of William and Elizabeth Wood.

(7.) Mary Estes - Twin sister of Martha J. Estes. Mary Estes married West Marshall.

(8.) Susie Estes - died at age 2 years.

(9.) Willie A. Estes - married Emma E. Powell on September 23, 1895 in Albemarle Co., Virginia.

Finally, I would like to cordially invite anyone who has an

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interest in the history and genealogy of the Wood family in Virginia or Maryland to contact me: Mr. Stewart Estes Wood, 10345 Kiptopeake Way, Ashland, Virginia, 23005.

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- REFERENCES & NOTES -

David F. Riggs, 7th Virginia Infantry, (Lynchburg. Va.: H.E. Howard, Inc.), 1982, pp. 70, 73, 100.

Woodie Brown Parrott, "The Wood Family," Greene County Record, August 16, 1973 issue, p. 4.

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Obituary of Sarah Ann Elizabeth Wood Estes, Greene County Record, March 27, 1924 issue, Vol. 12, No. 52, p. 3.

General contributions by the late Mrs. Mary Ellen Bruce Collier of Charlottesville, Virginia, and data on Andrew Jackson Estes contributed by Mrs. Dorothy Estes Wesbey of Louisa, Virginia.

Family folklore on Elijah Amanson Wood largely contributed by Mrs. Hazel Wood Parrott of Stanardsville, Virginia, and by Mrs. Helen Wood Deane of Charlottesville, Virginia, from their recollections of information related by Elijah A. Wood's daughter, Mary Ann Verinda Wood Estes.

Albemarle County, Va. Circuit Court Records.

Greene County, Va. Circuit Court Records.