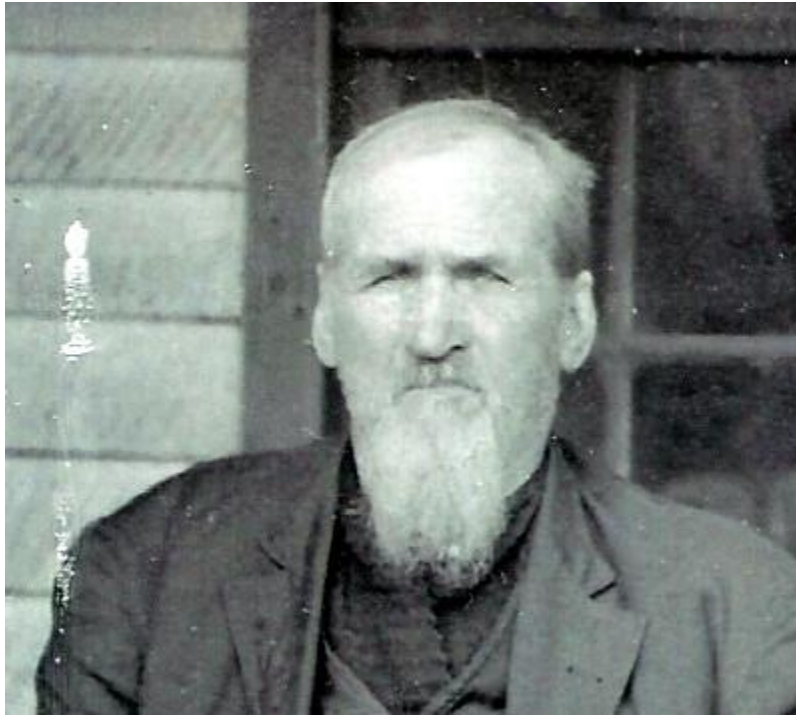


Jackson Lafayette Wilson and Ava Rilla Williams Carringer Wilson

By: Pat Queen (great-great-granddaughter)

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Jackson Lafayette Wilson

Jackson Lafayette Wilson was born on November 9, 1828, in Caswell County, North Carolina, the child of Compton and Margaret Grady. He married Ava Rilla Williams on August 26, 1875. They had eight children during their marriage. He died on August 14, 1913, in Bryson City, North Carolina, having lived a long life of 84 years, and was buried there. From the handwritten notes of his granddaughter Hattie Wilson Franklin and great-granddaughter Sandra Franklin Casey:

Jackson Lafayette Wilson (1828-1913) did not know who his father was according to his youngest son, Joseph Henderson (1883 - 1948). His mother was not married and he thought his father was a Compton. Jackson Lafayette had two wives and 17 children. The first was Nancy Isabella Lee (1829-1874) whom he married in 1849 and had 8 children. She was supposed to have been related to Robert E. Lee. He listed his place of birth as Orange County which was later split into Caswell and Person Counties. He came through Burnsville, Yancey, North Carolina to Haywood County and then to Macon County in 1855. Per the 1860 Census he had \$400 worth of real estate and \$670 in personal property in the Burningtown District, Macon County, North Carolina.

One year they had a crop failure due to frost every month of the year and the family moved to Tennessee. Jackson Lafayette was a Union soldier in the Civil War and joined in Blount County, Tennessee. 26 July 1864 he was a private in Company E, 3rd Regiment, Tennessee Mounted Infantry commanded by Joe Devine. When the Company was disbanded he had a hernia, a bad knee, swelling and tumors on his shoulders and hemorrhoids; all were contracted in the service. He drew a pension of \$100 a month in old age. By the 1870 Census he had moved to Nantahala, North Carolina.

On the 26th day of August 1875 Justice of the Peace, J. B. Carringer, married Ava Rilla Williams Carringer (1838-1913) of Yellow Creek and Jackson Lafayette Wilson in Graham County, North Carolina, a second marriage for both. Together they had 9 children. The 1880 Census shows the family in Cheoah Township, Graham, North Carolina. He moved to Cherokee County, North Carolina from Graham County, North Carolina, verified by the 1900 Census. He had to move when family trouble threatened to cause a mountain feud.

He had a brick yard in Murphy, North Carolina. He made his own brick and was a good brick mason. He built the first brick buildings in Murphy. One was torn down in the 1980's on the square. It was the old Regal Hotel.



Middle 20th century postcard of the Regal.



(Asheville Gazette News, February 22, 1915)

The presence of a telephone in each room noted in the 1915 Gazette-News ad is striking. A Christmas Day, 1921 edition of the Asheville Citizen-Times noted that the Regal Hotel, constructed of pressed brick and native marble, had 65 steam heated rooms, and electric elevator service. An ad from the next decade (below) indicated that the hotel had been renovated, with fewer rooms.



(Asheville Citizen Times, January 17, 1937)

Resuming the comments from Hattie Wilson Franklin about buildings in Murphy for which Jackson provided the brick:

The old Mattox Hardware store burned in the 1990's. The only one standing at this writing houses Coward's Store. He also taught brick work to his son, Joseph Henderson Wilson.

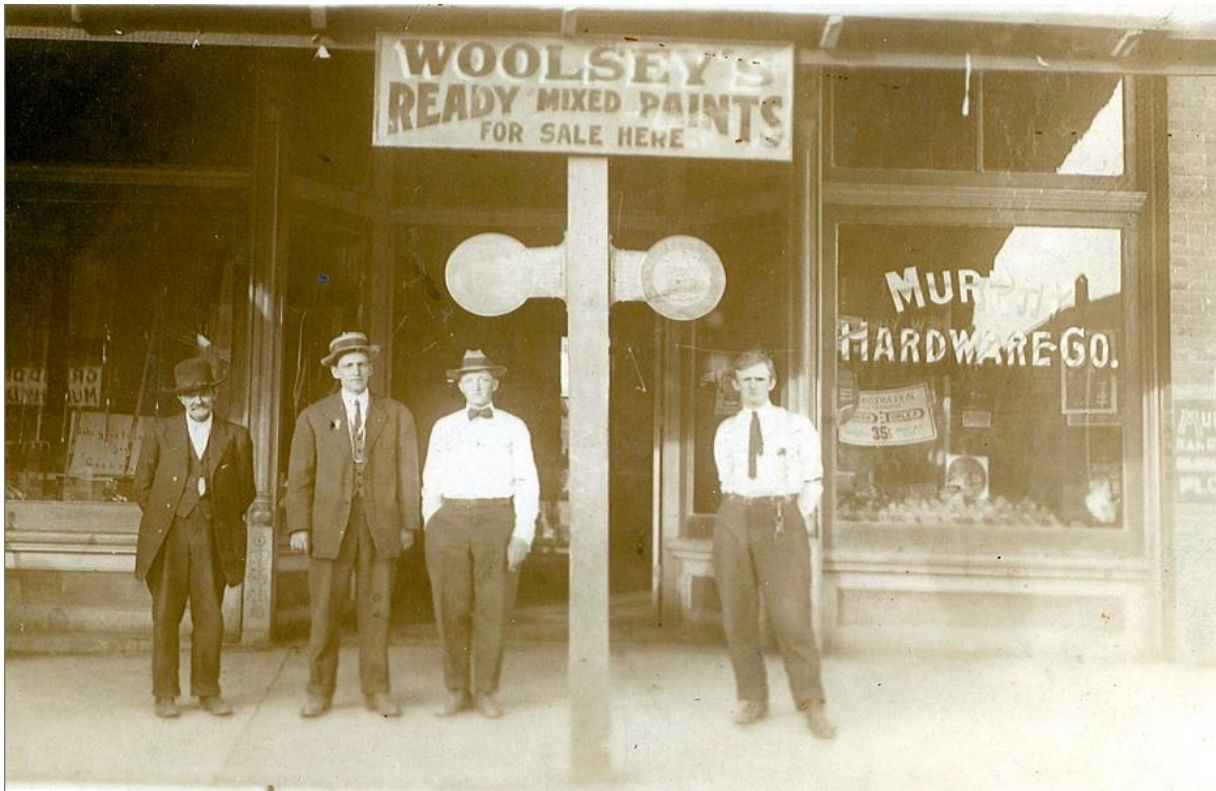
Comments from a descendant of the owners of Mattox Hardware:

I am Phil Mattox, the youngest son of H. A. Mattox, the last owner of the Murphy Hardware store. It was commonly called Mattox Hardware but was never really named that. It burned in 1967, a total loss. The hardware was reopened in the ground floor of the Regal Hotel (no longer in operation as a hotel) thus completing the connection with Jackson Lafayette Wilson. The hardware was closed some years later and eventually the hotel (was) torn down.

The only person I can identify is the man on the far right standing alone. That is my grandfather, Roscoe Conklin Mattox, born in Comer, Georgia in 1880, died in Murphy, NC in 1955. Here is the way I remember the history.

Roscoe brought his bride to Murphy sometime before 1905. He was a clerk in the Murphy Hardware Company which was a wholesale and retail business. Some years later the owners decided to get out of retail part of the business and Roscoe bought it. Clearly Roscoe did not own the business when your great- great- grandfather did the brick work. My mother's family were the Coopers¹ and I remember hearing that way back the family was involved with brick making. I have no way to confirm any of these memories.

¹ Editor's note: from a brief and unconfirmed review of family genealogy, it appears that the great-grandfather of Phil Mattox's mother was a first cousin to brothers William F. and Dr. Joel A. Cooper who are buried in the Bryson City Cemetery. FBCC Member Joyce Cooper is a descendant of Dr.Cooper.



Murphy Hardware, Murphy, NC



Murphy (Mattox) Hardware left and Coward's Store right circa 1940
(Photo provided by Harry Mattox, brother of Phil)

The hardware is the 3 story building to the left. The one on the right is still standing and I called it the Coward building while growing up. Alden Coward had a men's clothing store on the ground level. I think the building was built by a Townsend and would have been the same era as you great-great-grandfather. That building is still standing and has been beautifully restored.

The fountain in the foreground of the picture was a traffic circle and fountain called by everyone "the bull moose pen." To my knowledge there never was a moose anywhere near this area.

According to the 1870 and 1880 Census, Jackson was a farmer who could neither read nor write. The 1900 and 1910 Census showed his occupation as a brick mason. They also showed that his wife could neither read nor write.

From official records, Jackson was residing in Iredell County, North Carolina, when on August 11, 1862, at the age of 32 he enlisted in the Confederate Army as a private in Company B, North Carolina 23rd Infantry Regiment and mustered out on 17 Oct 1863 at Fort Delaware, DE. The 23rd Infantry Regiment fought battles at South Mountain, Sharpsburg/Antietam, Fredericksburg and was held in reserve at Gettysburg while Jackson was a member. The regiment surrendered at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, on 9 April, 1865, 4 officers and 82 men of which 35 were armed. Jackson is listed on the roster of the 23rd but it says he did not survive the war. (Source: North Carolina Troops 1861-65, A Roster <http://civilwararmykinnc.net/roster01.htm#Roster>)

There is, however, evidence he also joined the Union Army as stated by Aunt Hattie. The 3rd Regiment, Tennessee Mounted Infantry was organized at Loudon, Strawberry Plains and Knoxville July to September, 1864. Duty was in East Tennessee until November. There were skirmishes at Lee's Ferry September 6 and Greenville October 12, and they mustered out November 30, 1864. The roster of troops shows a Lafayette Wilson.

Sources: www.civilwararchive.com/Unreght/untinf.htm#3rdmount
freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~snipper/3mir/3rdhistory.html

His filing for disability in 1890 lists the *Company E, 3rd Regiment, Tennessee Mounted Infantry* as the area of service. Maybe he got fed up with the Confederates and decided to join the Yanks?

NAME OF SOLDIER:		Wilson Jackson L.			(3-11-2)
NAME OF DEPENDENT:		Widow, Wilson, Ava R.			
		Minor,			
SERVICE:		E. 3. Tenn. Mtd. Inf.			
DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED.	
1890 Aug 15	Invalid,	206,775	751,820	N.C.	
1913 Oct 10	Widow,	1015,604		N.C.	
	Minor,				
ATTORNEY:		Geo E. Lemon			
REMARKS:					

Original Application for Disability, 15 Aug 1890, Widow filed 10 Oct 1913

Further research shows there was a **Confederate** 3rd Regiment, Tennessee Mounted Infantry as well. Company E was from Blount County. From

[familysearch.org/wiki/en/3rd_Regiment,_Tennessee_Mounted_Infantry_\(Lillard's\)_Confederate](http://familysearch.org/wiki/en/3rd_Regiment,_Tennessee_Mounted_Infantry_(Lillard's)_Confederate):

This regiment was organized in May, 1861, at Knoxville, Tennessee, and mustered into Confederate service in June at Lynchburg, Virginia. In April, 1865, it moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, and became part of President Davis' escort, until surrendering at Washington, Georgia, on May 9, 1865.

Also called 3rd (Vaughn's) Tennessee Infantry Regiment, PACS; also called 3rd Confederate Infantry; and the 3rd Tennessee Cavalry Regiment. Records filed as 3rd in (Lillard's) Tennessee Mounted Infantry Regiment.

A roster of troops for this unit did not include Jackson Lafayette Wilson. However, an Asheville Gazette article of April 26, 1902 indicated “The house committee on invalid pensions today reported favorably bills introduced by Major Moody² to allow pensions of \$10 per month to Enoch Voyles and \$20 per month to Jackson L. Wilson, both of Cherokee County.”

² Editor's note: “Major Moody” is James Montraville Moody, a native of Cherokee County who served as a major in the Spanish American War. He was a member of the State Senate and later a U.S. Representative from North Carolina in the Fifty-seventh Congress. He is buried in Green Hill Cemetery in Waynesville (Source: *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774-2005*, Ancestry.com).



Ava Rilla Williams Carringer Wilson

Ava Rilla Williams Wilson was born on February 16, 1838, the child of William Bill and Triphena Williams. She died on December 24, 1913, having lived a long life of 75 years. From the handwritten notes of his grand-daughter Hattie Wilson Franklin and great-grand-daughter Sandra Franklin Casey:

Jackson and Ava Rilla moved from Cherokee County to Swain County, Bryson City, when their youngest son, Joseph Henderson, moved there. They lived there until their deaths and both are buried in the Old Arlington Cemetery across from the old school buildings in Bryson City. Ava Rilla Williams (1838-1913) was first married to David Wesley Carringer (1834-1874) and had 11 children. She married Jackson Lafayette Wilson (1828-1913) in 1875 and had 8 more children including their youngest, my great-grandfather, Joseph Henderson Wilson.

After marrying Jackson, the family moved from Cherokee County, North Carolina to Bryson City, Swain, North Carolina. They lived there until their deaths. Both are buried in the Old Arlington Cemetery³ across from the site of the old school buildings.



Grave Markers for Jackson Lafayette Wilson and Ava Rilla Wilson

³ Editor's note: The Bryson City Cemetery has sometimes been called the Arlington Cemetery (including in the 1937 WPA survey of Swain County Cemeteries as well as here). It can be a source of confusion since there is an Arlington Cemetery which straddles the ridge between Jenkins and Hughes Branches, just west of Arlington Baptist Church.