

MILLSAPS WAS UNION SOLDIER IN MAJOR BATTLES OF CIVIL WAR

Historical News

Pioneer Families

by John Wilson

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Jasper Newton Millsaps trekked during the Civil War to Kentucky to fight to preserve the Union. The many letters he wrote his wife, Phoebe Caroline, from the battlefield have been preserved by family members.

The Millsaps were previously in the vicinity of Monroe, Roane and Blount counties. Jesse Millsaps had arrived in Tennessee by 1799 when he married Mary Hyder at Cater County.



It was at Blount County where Jasper Newton Millsaps was born in 1829. His mother was Jane Raulston, who was born in 1812 and was the daughter of **Moses Roulstone** and **Mary Denny** who were married at Jefferson County in 1803. Her grandfather was **Matthew Roulstone**.

(Picture: Jasper Newton Millsaps, who fought for the North in the Civil War, poses with his wife, Phoebe Caroline Maddux Millisaps.

Researchers have not been able to learn the name of the father of Jasper N. Millsaps. He is said to have “gotten up one morning and left on an errand but never returned. His wife waited seven years, then remarried.:

Her second husband was George Bowers. Their marriage occurred in Roane County in 1844.

J.N. Millsaps had made his way to Harrison in Hamilton County by the mid-1850's. In 1856 he married Phoebe Caroline Maddux, daughter of Adam Maddux and Mary Ann Campbell. Her grandparents were John and Phoebe Cassidy Campbell, who were from Virginia.

J.N. Millsaps had a sister, Lydia, who married William J. Green, and a sister, Isabel, who married William McAnally.

The Millsaps lived for several years on the east side of the river, then they were joined by the Bowers family on Walden's Ridge above Daisy just before the Civil War. This was on land given by the father-in-law, Adam Maddux. They first lived on the Sequatchie County side, then built a house on the Ridge in Hamilton County about the 1880's.

It was February 25, 1862, when J.N. Millsaps enlisted as a private in Co. C of the 5th regiment Tennessee Voluntary Infantry. It was organized at Barboursville, KY, by Col. James T. Shelley of Roane County. The Federal unit took part in the action around Cumberland Gap, then was at Stones River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, the Georgia campaign, and around Nashville.

He wrote his wife from Cartage, TN, reporting that he was “as fleshy as you ever saw me” and saying, “You stated that you would like to see me on the mountaintop with the Blue on and my enfield Rifle. I hope the time is near at hand when you will see it. I have no doubt ere this reaches you that many of the yankeys will have been through your section of the country. I long to be there and then I will show McRunels whose house he is searching and whose hogs he is killing. I hope to be able to pay all such men as him their just dues.”

He added, “Don't let the Rebels discourage you in no wise for we will soon be at home. Never fear. Take good care of the children likewise yourself.”

Millsaps, while he was present for the fierce fighting around Chattanooga, was able to steal away for a joyous but brief reunion with his wife and children.

From a camp at Marietta, GA on August 2, 1864, he reported he was still in good health though "I have saw more from the time I saw you up to the present than I could rite in a day. I have saw a hard time and had to face more danger than I ever did in all my life before. But the Lord has brought me safe so far and hope he will hereafter."

Millsaps noted, "I have a heap of connections in this army and we have been very lucky. We number some 8 or 10 and only two has been killed and one wounded yet. Thomas Daughtrey was killed and cousin Bill Jones was killed, and cousin Bill Ralston wounded.

Jasper Newton Millsaps was discharged from the army on April 4, 1865, at Nashville.

The Millsaps children were Mary Jane who married Perez Woodard Grant Jr., Cynthia Isabel who married Allen N. Smith, Tennessee Caroline who married George W. Lovelady, John Maddux who married Mary Elizabeth Henry, Rachael Missouri who married William Jackson Cox, Lydia Murtiller who married Robert Grant Varner, William Jarrett who married Birdie Zellum Thompson, Robert Samuel who married Lavina Chancey, James Jasper who married Caroline Ellison, Nancy Malinda who married Joseph L. Hensley, George Darland who married Ethel Reynolds, and Adam Garfield who married Lillie Mae Dyke.

J. N. Millsaps was an active Baptist, and he helped establish the Mowbray Baptist Church as well as the First Baptist Church at Daisy. He was ordained a Baptist minister on June 3, 1876, at Union Fork Baptist Church near Soddy by fellow ministers, J.A. Barnes, Jones Posey Moon and Noah Moon.

Millsaps was a member of the County Court for over 20 years and still held that position when he died at his home on Walden's Ridge on January 3, 1905. He was 76. His wife had passed away in 1898.

The Millsaps parents and all their 12 children are buried on land he gave for a cemetery on Hotwater Road on Walden Ridge.

Adam G. Millsaps, the youngest son, continued to occupy the homeplace until 1937 when it was sold out of the family. It is presently owned by Glenn Skiles.

John Henry Millsaps, a son of John Maddux Millsaps, was on the staff at criminal Court and was country building inspector. Jasper Newton Millsaps, son Robert Samuel Millsaps, was deputy sheriff.

Several of the Millsaps were teachers, including Charles H. son of Adam G. Millsaps. He lived at Daisy and was a teacher and coach in the city and county schools. His brother, Willard Millsaps, was a outstanding athlete and teacher.

William Hobart Millsaps was the son of William Jarret Maillsaps, who was a coal mine operator. Hobart Millsaps began teaching after getting his master's degree at the University of Tennessee in 1939. Known as a strict disciplinarian and character builder, he was an outstanding principal at Red Bank high and then at Central High for 26 years. He married Myra Sue Bryant.

One of their sons, William Millsaps, is a newspaper editor in Virginia. Another son, Bryant Millsaps, was clerk of the Tennessee House of Representatives then was Tennessee Secretary of State. Currently he is executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

Of the 84 grandchildren of J.N. Millsaps, those still living are Blanche Owens, William Hensley and Lillian Sims, all of Soddy Daisy.

<http://www.epcc.edu/faculty/jesseh/Hyder-h2.htm>

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Jesse Millsaps' wife Mary (Polly) Hyder Millsaps was the dau. of Revolution War Soldier Michael Hyder [Sr.] & Elizabeth Woods Hyder. Michael Hyder came to the Watauge Settlement from Hampshire Co., Va. in the year 1766 or 1768. He was one of the earliest settlers on Watauga. He served in the Revolutionary War & was at the Battle of Kings Mountain Oct 8, 1780 ... [editor's note - rather it is thought that Michael Sr. was detailed out of this battle so that he could scout for indians to protect the Watauge Settlement. He was involved in 3 other Rev. War battles] ... above data on Michael Hyder is from Tenn. Records; Bible Records & Marriage Bounds compiled by Acklen; Gen. Pub. Co.; Baltimore ; 1967, p97.

Jesse Millsaps & Hyder Family: a family genealogical chart was constructed on the children of Michael Hyder Sr. by Fredrick Boren Hyder who was a descendant of Michael's son Jonathan, through James Edens Hyder. The list compiled in the early 1900's has been handed down through the Hyder family, and has been accepted by the D.A.R. as authentic. Most of the children are also recorded in Michael Hyder, Sr.'s will which was dated May 20, 1790, and is in Jonesboro, Washington Co., Tn. The daughters Polly, Nancy, Katy & Martha were not mentioned in the will. [chart as following]:

"Michael Hyder, Sr.: Born about 1743, died June 25, 1790, buried in the Hyder Cemetery, Powder Branch, Carter Co., Tn. Married Elizabeth Wood(s) Dec. 2, 1764. She was born ca 1745, died Jan 3, 1841 & buried in the Hyder Cemetery.

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