



*Captain Bennett Thomas Hillsman*  
*December 8, 1821 ~ March 23, 1904*

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**Capt. Bennett Thomas Hillsman, Co. B, 55 TN Infantry, CSA**

- 1821 Dec 8: Bennett Thomas Hillsman was born in NC to parents William and Mary Hillsman.
- 1848 Married Sarah Jane Harlan in TN.
- 1849 Jun 21: B.T. Hillsman appeared on a land grant record that stated he was granted one hundred and ninety three acres in TN.

1850 Oct 12: The US Federal Census enumerated in Carroll County, TN listed B.T. Hillsman at twenty eight years old and employed in farming. He lived with his wife Sarah. The 1850 Slave Schedule taken the same day listed B.T. Hillsman as the owner of three slaves.

1860 Aug 3: The US Federal Census enumerated in Carroll County, TN listed Bennett T. Hillsman at thirty eight years old. He was employed as a farmer with a personal estate listed at \$25,545. He was the head of the household and his wife, three children, and widowed mother all lived with him. The 1860 Slave Schedule taken the same day listed Bennett T. Hillsman as the owner of sixteen slaves. His widowed mother Mary was listed as the owner of fourteen slaves probably inherited after her husband's death in 1857.

The 1860 Agricultural Census taken in Carroll County, TN listed Bennett Hillsman as the owner of approximately 850 acres of land. He owned multiple horses, mules, sheep, and swine all valued at \$1500. Wheat, corn, and oats were being grown but the most profitable crop was tobacco valued at \$12,500. The farm itself was valued at \$12,750.

1861 Oct 25: Enlisted in the Confederate Army at Trenton, TN. He was mustered into Co. G, 55th TN Infantry as a lieutenant.

1862 Feb 16: Captured at Fort Donelson, TN.

Apr 13: Arrived at Camp Chase, OH as a prisoner of war. Remarks, "Coat with US buttons."

Apr 26: Sent to Johnson's Island, OH as a prisoner of war.

Sep 1: 55th TN Infantry exchanged for US prisoners of war at Vicksburg, MS. Lt. Bennett Hillsman returned to Confederate military service.

Sep 26: Elected Captain in command of Co. B, 55th TN Infantry upon reorganization.

1864 Nov 30: 55th TN Infantry fought at the Battle of Franklin. They were part of Gen. Quarles' brigade in Gen. Walthall's Division. They assaulted the Federal earthworks on the eastern side of the Columbia pike and suffered severe casualties. Capt. Bennett Hillsman was captured in this action and moved north towards Nashville as a prisoner of war. At some point he was transported north by train to Louisville, KY.

Dec 3: Transferred from Louisville, KY to Johnson's Island, OH.

1865 Jan 17: Capt. Bennett Hillsman wrote a letter to his business partner Hiram from Johnson's Island, OH as a prisoner of war.

Johnson's Island Ohio Block 12 Case  
Jan 17<sup>th</sup> 1865

Dear Hiram

I have received your letter to day of the 26<sup>th</sup> ult enclosing \$20 - when I wrote for more money I did not know it was contrary to orders for more than \$20 to sent a prisoner at one time I hope I shall not need more during my stay here. I have some hopes of an exchange being made before ~~long~~ long - You state for me to be sure to have my letters examined & permitted & then will be no difficulty in sending them - All letters written from here are examined by the Officers here before they are sent off - I ordered some provisions from home if they reach your city you will please attend to having them expressed - It does not require a permit <sup>help</sup> for any thing that maybe sent from within the Confederate lines - Write or send words to my family that I am well - write often & give all the news if any from N.S. be sure to state how my family are - Wm B. J. Hillsman



Jun 16: Bennett T. Hillsman took the oath of allegiance at Johnson's Island, OH.  
 Place of Residence: McLemoresville, TN, Age: 43, Complexion: Dark, Hair: Dark, Eyes: Grey, Height: 5 ft, 9 in, where captured: Franklin, Tenn, When Captured: Nov. 30, 1864

1870 Bennett Hillsman appeared on the 1870 Industrial Census conducted in Carroll County, TN. He listed six horses used to power his cotton gin and press. He bought \$18,000 worth of cotton seeds and \$600 worth of baling materials. Once these seeds were planted and harvested, they produced two hundred bales of cotton worth \$20,000 and the seeds ginned from the cotton were valued at \$1,000.

|          |        |     |       |   |       |   |   |   |      |   |     |       |       |        |       |       |
|----------|--------|-----|-------|---|-------|---|---|---|------|---|-----|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| Hillsman | Callan | 800 | horse | 6 | Gen   | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1000 | 2 | Sar | 30000 | 15000 | Cotton | 200   | 20000 |
| Hillsman | Callan |     |       |   | Press | 1 |   |   |      |   |     |       |       | Cotton | 40000 |       |
| Hillsman | Callan |     |       |   |       |   |   |   |      |   |     |       |       | Seeds  | 10000 | 1000  |
| Hillsman | Callan |     |       |   |       |   |   |   |      |   |     |       |       |        |       |       |

Jul 26: The US Federal Census enumerated in Carroll County, TN showed Bennett Hillsman at forty nine years old employed as a farmer. He lived with his wife Sarah and eight children. Also on his property was a house occupied by his widowed mother Mary Hillsman. She had a twenty seven year old woman named Sillany Stafford that lived with her as well as a family of formerly enslaved people that had taken her name. Nancy Hillsman was employed as a cook and three children, Milton, 18, Frances, 10, and Lula, 10 were listed as farm labor and could not read or write.

1880 Jun 14: The US Federal Census enumerated in Carroll County, TN listed Bennett Hillsman at fifty eight years old employed as a farmer. He lived with his wife Sarah and five children. Maria Fuqua was listed as a black woman at twenty five years old employed as a cook in Bennett's household. She had two children with her.

Jun 18: The 1880 Agricultural Census conducted in Carroll County, TN listed Bennett Hillsman as the owner of over one thousand acres of land. Two hundred were improved and eight hundred were unimproved. His farm value was listed at \$12,000. Over the preceding year his farm had produced 1,750 bushels of Indian corn, 540 bushels of wheat and 21 bales of cotton. Bennett also had an apple orchard that produced 300 bushels of apples.

1886 Oct 19: Bennett's wife Sarah passed away in Carroll County, TN. She was buried in the Hillsman Family Cemetery there.

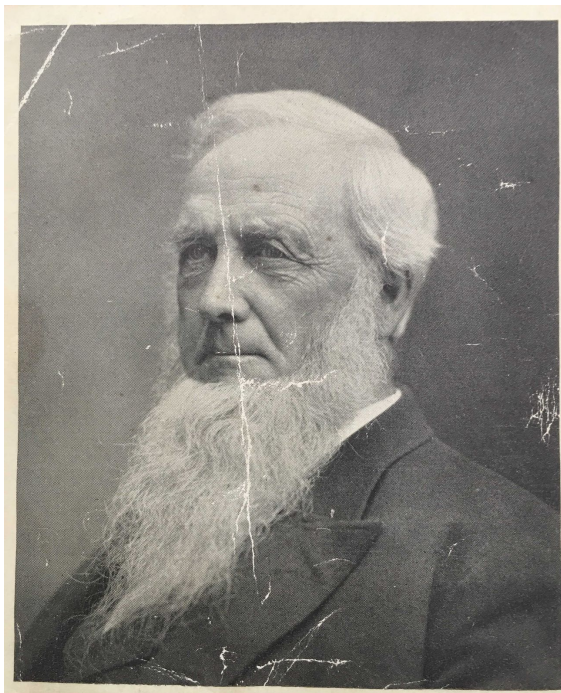
1891 B.T. Hillsman appeared on a TN Voters List in Carroll County, TN.

1900 Jun 9: The US Federal Census enumerated in Carroll County, TN listed Bennett T Hillsman in the household of his son, Bennett H. Hillsman. He was listed as seventy eight years old.

1904 Mar 22: Bennett Thomas Hillsman passed away in Carroll County, TN and was buried in the Hillsman Cemetery next to his wife Sarah who had preceded him in death in 1886.

HUNTINGDON, Tenn., March 23.—  
(Special.)—In the death of Capt. Bennett Hillsman at Trezevant Tuesday afternoon the county loses one of its best and most influential citizens. Mr. Hillsman was 89 years old and commanded a company during the Civil War. He raised a large and interesting family, all of whom are a credit to their communities. He was a Christian gentleman and will be greatly missed.—Vester Ellis, a prominent young man residing near Pillowville, is dead.

Mar 24:



<sup>2</sup> *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Thursday, March 24, 1904, pg. 6.

<sup>3</sup> [findagrave.com/user/Rollo13](https://www.findagrave.com/user/Rollo13)

<sup>4</sup> [findagrave.com/user/gary barnes](https://www.findagrave.com/user/gary%20barnes)