



Spencer B. Talley, Lieutenant, Co. F, 28 TN Infantry, CS

1841 May 22: Born to Coleman and Mary Johnson Talley in Wilson County, TN.

“Spencer B. Talley (that’s me) was born May 22, 1841 and during my infancy children were often and seriously affected with croup. In my babyhood days I was troubled with phtthisis. When I was thirty years old our doctor said I had asthma. This affliction still abides with me and has been for a number of years an enemy I have had to fight. Much of my time and hard earned means have been spent with it.”

1850 October 10: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Wilson County, TN showed ten-year-old Spencer living with his parents and siblings. His father, Coleman, was a farmer. The Talley family owned 7 slaves according to the 1860 Federal Slave Schedule.

1860 July 26: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Wilson County, TN showed twenty-year-old Spencer living with his parents and siblings. His father was a farmer.

“My father and mother decided that I would never be able to do much manual labor and gave me somewhat better education than the other children that I might make a living by other means than farming. So I attended the best of our county schools until it was decided I had a fairly good education and I began teaching when I was 19 years old, this being the fall of 1860”

1861 *“In January, 1861, I began teaching at a school near where Beres Church house now stands on the Coles Ferry Pike and boarded where Dr. James H. McFarland now lives, but in a much more convenient and up to date building. Before my school closed political matters were at fever heat. Lincoln had been elected president of the United States on an abolition platform. This threw the southern states into a furor of excitement, and one state after another seceded from the union. Lincoln made a call for seventy-five thousand troops to suppress the action of the southern states. This so enraged the southern people that nothing less than a war could settle their differences.”*

September 18: Talley and his older brother Rob enlisted in the C.S. Army together at Camp Zollicoffer and mustered in as privates to Co. F, 28th TN Infantry.

September & October: Company Muster Roll. Present.

1862 February 28 to October: Company Muster Roll. Present. Remarks “elected 1st Lieut 8 May 62.”

1863 January 2: Appeared on casualty report “wounded slightly in side....in Pillow’s Brigade, in the battle near Murfreesboro, Tenn., Jan. 2, 1863.”

January & February: Company Muster Roll. Absent. Remarks “On recruiting service.”

1864 July 20: Brother Rob, was killed at the Battle of Peachtree Creek.

November 30: Fought at the Battle of Franklin.

“...on to Franklin. There they had trenches, and were well fortified, and had their batteries planted for a strong defense. We could have made a flank movement and gone around them and forced them to fight us in the open but our leader failed to use this strategy and attack them in the trenches. Our battle lines were formed about a half mile in their front. Our brass bands were playing "Dixie" while the cannons gushing thunder from both sides was almost deafening. The order to charge was given. The rebel yell was terrifying as we never heard it before. We rushed on and on through a field and opening in which was no protection. The battle raged with fury and swiftness from start to finish. Our men were mowed down like grain before the sickle. Our company started in this fray with fifty seven fighting men and only eight or nine escaped death or being crippled and wounded. Captain Holman was killed in the midst of the charge, leaving the company in my command. We rushed through the locust thicket to the breast works where I fell with a broken skull. It was now between sundown and dark, and I lay as I fell in an unconscious condition until about midnight when I came to myself, I realized that I was wounded in the head. I made many efforts to rise up on my feet, but in every attempt I would fall back to the ground. My vision was impaired and it seemed that I must climb a very steep hill. The ground and everything I could see was right up in front of me and I could only be convinced of my impaired vision by trying to place my hands on objects that I apparently saw.

I was just recovering from the shock and could stand on my knees some bit before I could on my feet, as stated above we were in a locust thicket and it was by holding to these little bullet shattered trees that I could stand and stagger along by holding to them. The moon shown brightly and I could see the ground covered with the dead and dying, over which I had to pass in making my way out. Once out of this thicket I was soon in the hands of our litter corps who helped me into an ambulance of wounded men, which took us to the field hospital where Dr. O.C. Kidder examined my wound and removed some of the sharp splints that would prevent healing, and I was glad when he said you will soon get over this provided the inner bone lying next to the brain is not fractured. The next day I could walk about without any assistance, and went back on the battlefield to see that Captain Holman's grave was plainly marked and easily located. About a year after the close of the war his remains were brought back in interred in the family graveyard, not far from Hunter's Point on the Cumberland River.”¹

December 4: After his brother’s death, surviving the Tennessee campaign and being wounded at the Battle of Franklin, Talley deserted the Confederate Army.

1865 January 13: Signed his Oath of Allegiance to the U.S. Gov’t in Nashville, TN.

March 21: Married Mary Frances Kitrell in Wilson County, TN.

1870 August 8: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Wilson County, TN showed Spencer B., a farmer, and Marion living with their two young children.

¹ Talley, Spencer, Diary (accessed ancestry.com)---all first hand accounts were retrieved from Spencer’s diary.

- 1880 June 1: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Wilson County, TN showed Spencer B, a farmer, and Fannie living with their four children.
- 1900 June 22: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Wilson County, TN showed Spencer, a farmer, and Fannie with three of their children, his mother, Mary, and two farm hands.
- 1910 April 21: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Wilson County, TN showed Spencer and Fannie living with their adult daughter Bertha. Spencer's occupation is listed as "Insurance," type of industry "farmer" and being "supported." He was most likely retired and living off an insurance type settlement.
- 1920 January 13: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Wilson County, TN showed a retired Spencer and Fannie living with their daughter Bertha and her family.
- March 27: *"Mrs. A.N. Trice of Garland Avenue spent Tuesday in Lebanon, where she attended the fifty-fifty wedding anniversary celebration of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer B. Talley."*²
- December 20: Died in Wilson County, TN. He was buried at Bellwood Cemetery.



3

² The Tennessean, Nashville, TN, Saturday, 27 Mar 1920, pg. 9 (accessed newspapers.com)

³ Findagrave.com/user/Harriet W. Berry

S. B. TALLEY.

LEBANON, Tenn., Dec. 21.—The funeral service of S. B. Talley, 92, was held at the Christian church here Tuesday morning by the Rev. E. A. Ealam. Mr. Talley was a veteran of the civil war. On his return from the war he went to his farm near Bellwood, where he remained until six years ago, when he and his wife came to make his home with their daughter, Mrs. Ed Walker, of this city. He was a member of the county court for several sessions. He is survived by his wife and four children, Mrs. Ed Walker, Mrs. J. W. Allen, Mrs. A. N. Trice, and C. C. Talley, all of this county.

S. B. TALLEY DIES AT LEBANON

Lebanon, Tenn., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—S. B. Talley, one of Lebanon's oldest and most highly esteemed citizens, died this morning at the home of his son-in-law, Judge E. G. Walker, aged 82 years. He had been in poor health for several years, having been a sufferer from asthma for a long period. He was a member of the Church of Christ, and his life was an exemplary one. His faith was shown in the patience and fortitude with which he bore his sufferings for so many years. He was a member of the Masonic order.

Mr. Talley was a Confederate veteran, having served from early in the conflict through the battle of Franklin, where he was desperately wounded in the head and left for dead upon that bloody field. His wound never permitted him to rejoin the army, though he made the attempt to do so.

Surviving Mr. Talley are his wife, three daughters, Mrs. Walker and Mrs. J. W. Allen of Lebanon, and Mrs. A. N. Trice of Nashville, and one son, Carver Talley, of Lebanon.

⁴ The Tennessean, Nashville, Tn, Wednesday, 22 Dec 1920, pg. 5 (accessed newspapers.com)

⁵ Nashville Banner, Nashville, TN, Monday, 20 Dec 1920, pg. 10, (accessed newspapers.com)