

Nim Wilkes  
Enslaved by Jim Wilkes  
Served Nathan Bedford Forrest

- 1834 September 25: Nim Wilkes was born a slave in Maury County, TN to Bin[Ben?] Wilkes and Nannie Booker.
- 1850 October 30: U.S. Federal Census Slave schedule enumerated in District 7, Maury County, TN did not give names of the enslaved. Information given was slave owner's name and the gender, race and age of slave. James. H. Wilkes was listed as owning twenty-three people. There are several male slave that fit Nim's age.
- 1862 Nim Wilkes was rented out to the Confederate Army by his owner Jim Wilkes along with another slave Joe. In his own words Nim served under Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest driving a wagon until the close of the war. His owner Jim Wilkes would have been paid for his service.

Nim Wilkes Testimony:

*"I was a member of Forrests headquarters, personal servant & waggoner for General Forrest. General Forrest pressed me in with others in Columbia. I was in every battle General Forrest fought on leaving Columbia until the surrender, generally driving an ordinance wagon. Never was wounded."*

Witness Testimony Joe Wilkes, freedman:

*"I was hired to Gen Forrest Quarter Master Maj. Serison [?] by my owner Esquire Jim Wilkes and continued in service as such until close of the war and know of my own personal knowledge Nim Wilkes employed at same time under same conditions and served until the surrender in 1865."*

Witness Testimony R.V. Cagle, Confederate Soldier:

*"I was a soldier in the Confederate Army, and met Nim Wilkes, colored, at Corinth Miss, at which time he was with Forrest Brigade. I knew him from that time to the surrender at Selma Ala, and he was still with Gen Forrest in the Confederate service. I knew him bout two years in the service with Gen. Forrest."<sup>1</sup>*

- 1864 April-August: Nim was hurt when a mule fell on his right ankle after Ft. Pillow. He was in the hospital recuperating for six months after that.<sup>2</sup>

November 30: Nim would have been present at the Battle of Franklin as a slave. His job was as a waggoner for the cavalry.

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<sup>1</sup> Wilkes, Nim, Tennessee Confederate Pension Application (accessed familysearch.org)

<sup>2</sup> Wilkes, Nim, 'ditto', Image 2629(accessed familysearch.org)

1866 November 16: Nimrod Wilkes married Nancy Mayes in Maury County, TN.

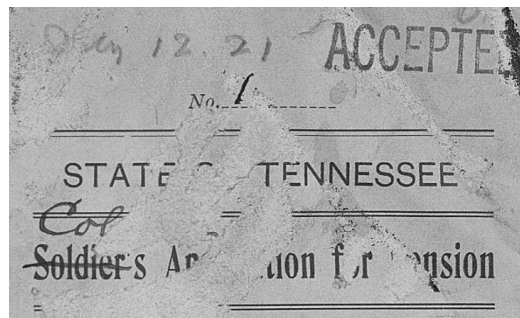
1868 After the war, Nim and his family were targeted by the Ku Klux Klan.

**MORE KU-KLUX OUTRAGES.**  
Nim Wilks testified that the Ku-Klux came to his house after him, but he got upon the roof and escaped. The Ku-Klux kicked and choked his wife to make her tell where he was, and threatened to hang her. On the 1st of June the Ku-Klux hanged two colored men on the Polaski pike. Witness also saw a white man hanging. One of the colored men hung was accused of burning a barn. Jim Bocker, one of the Klan, said that he tied the rope around his neck, but was sorry for it, as the evidence showed the colored man to be innocent, and that Tom Haleburn burned the barn. Witness wanted his employer to pay him his wages, and the employer set the Ku-Klux upon him. Witness knows of two colored men who were taken by the K. K. K. from their houses and very badly beaten. They also beat the men's wives and broke all their dishes, and threatened to hang them if they reported the case to the authorities.

1910 April 29: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in District 14, Lawrence County, TN showed Nim as a farm laborer. He was a widower living on his own and renting a home. He was listed as not being able to read and write. It was also noted that he was NOT a veteran of the military.

1920 January 20: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Mount Pleasant, Maury County, TN showed Nim,

1921 May 27: Nim applied for a Confederate Pension from the State of Tennessee. He was the first body servant in the state to apply. The applications for servants must not have been available yet, note the word "Soldier" crossed out and the "col" written above it. Nim was approved for his pension.



<sup>3</sup> Chicago Tribune, Chicago, IL, Monday 14 Sep 1868, pg. 2 (accessed newspapers.com)

1923 September 28: Nim Wilkes died.

1 PLACE OF DEATH		STATE OF TENNESSEE 400	
County	<i>Maury</i>	STATE BOARD OF HEALTH Bureau of Vital Statistics	
Civil Dist.	<i>7</i>	CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
OR Village	<i>Mt Pleasant</i>	Registration District No.	<i>612</i>
OR City		Primary Registration District No.	<i>612</i>
		File No.	
		Registered No.	<i>99</i>
2 FULL NAME		[If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.]	
<i>Nim Wilkes</i>			
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS			MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
3 SEX	4 COLOR OR RACE	5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED (Write the word)	16 DATE OF DEATH
<i>male</i>	<i>Colored</i>	<i>widower</i>	<i>Sept 28</i> , 192 <i>3</i>
6 DATE OF BIRTH	7 AGE		17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from
<i>Sept 25</i>	<i>89</i> yrs. <i>3</i> mo. <i>3</i> da.		<i>Sept 21</i> , 1923, to <i>Sept 28</i> , 1923,
	If LESS than 1 day, ... hrs. or ... min.?		that I last saw him alive on <i>Sept 24</i> , 1923
8 OCCUPATION	9 BIRTHPLACE (State or country)		and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at <i>8 P.M.</i>
(a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work.	<i>Tenn</i>		The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows:
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer).			<i>Lobar pneumonia</i>
			<i>10 da</i>
			[Duration] ... yrs. ... mo. ... da.
			Contributory [SECONDARY] .....
			[Duration] ... yrs. ... mo. ... da.
			Signed <i>J. A. McFerron</i> M. D.
			.1923 Address <i>Mt Pleasant</i>
			* State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or, in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (1) MEANS OF INJURY; and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL.
			18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (FOR HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS, TRANSIENTS, OR RECENT RESIDENTS)
			At place ... yrs. ... mo. ... da. In the State ... yrs. ... mo. ... da.
			Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death?
			Former or usual residence
14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE	19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL		DATE OF BURIAL
[Informant] <i>Andrew Wilke</i>	<i>Columbia R 1</i>		<i>Sept 30, 1923</i>
[Address] <i>Mt Pleasant R 3</i>	20 UNDERTAKER		ADDRESS
15 Filed <i>Oct 1st</i> , 1923	<i>Peterson + Roundtree at Pleasant</i>		
<i>E. D. Hughes</i>	REGISTRAR		

<sup>4</sup> Wilkes, Nim, Tennessee, Death Records, 1908-1965 (accessed ancestry.com)