

Frederick Stuart Wileman Documents 21st Michigan Infantry

Biography

FREDERICK STUART WILEMAN

F. S. Wileman was born June 2, 1844 in Danbury, Connecticut, son of Miles Herman Wileman and Emily J. Stuart. During the Civil War, he enlisted in the 21st Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. B, on August 13, 1862 at Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was 18 years old, 5 feet 7 inches tall, with black hair, gray eyes and dark complexion, and gave his occupation as "Clerk" (Volunteer Enlistment, US Archives) He was mustered-in at Camp Siegle, Ionia, Michigan on September 9, 1862 for a 3 year term. On December 28, 1862 he was detailed to Provost Guard. On December 31, 1862 he was captured at Murphreesboro [sic], Tennessee, Battle of Stone's [sic] River. He was held at Libby Prison, Richmond, Va. On February 3, 1863 (also given as January 26, 1863) he was paroled at City Point, Virginia (Pension Records, US Archives). While imprisoned, he contracted heart disease "caused by being subjected to exposure to rain and cold weather... and because of insufficient and improper food furnished him by the enemy which resulted in his having chronic dyarrhea [sic], piles, kidney disease and rheumatism from all of which he has suffered more or less, ever since his imprisonment aforesaid. That his disability which is principally heart disease is not due to vicious habits ..." (General Affidavit made Jan. 29, 1892) He reported at Camp Parole, Maryland February 5, 1863. On February 26, he was ill with catarrh. He reported to Camp Chase, Ohio March 22, 1863 and requested transportation to Detroit. From August to October 1863, he was absent from the muster-roll because of illness. He was mustered out June 8, 1865. He was listed as having been in Co. D, 1st Reg't [sic] Paroled Prisoners, U.S. Army, formed for duty compatible with parole. Rank: private. (All above from military records, US Archives.) His first name is variously given as Frederick, Fredric, Frederic, Fredk, and is signed by him as Fredric and Fredrick.

F. S. Wileman, age 26, married Margaretha Frederica Wilson known as Margaret or Marguerite, age 21, on October 20, 1870. His occupation is given as carpenter and joiner. They had three children: Herman Miles, born 1872, Marie Emily, born 1877, Jennie Stephanie, born 1886. Margaretha died of meningitis on Jan. 21, 1891, Grand Rapids, Michigan (death certificate).

On September 30, 1893, Frederick S. Wileman married Elida R. Empson Mallory in Grand Rapids. Both listed one previous marriage. On October 30, 1900, at age 53 (ages on marriage license and pension application are not consistent), Elida Wileman applied for one-half of the pension due to F. S. Wileman who: "has deserted his wife since the 7th day of February, A.D. 1900, now over 8 months, he having left without cause or provocation and has never returned or aided in her support." On their

marriage license, F. S. Wileman lists his occupation as "Painting." (Pension records, US Archives)

Frederick Wileman moved to Washington, D.C. In 1909 his last illness began. He was nursed for 9 months in 1910 by his daughter, Marie Hudson. He returned to Grand Rapids and stayed at 22 Packard St. with Mr. and Mrs. Herman M. Wileman. After an eight week stay, he died in the Harry Martin Soldiers' Home in Grand Rapids on October 24, 1911 at 5:00 a.m. He was 67. He died of "intestinal obstruction and progressive muscular atrophy – organic heart disease."

He left an insurance policy for \$95.00 from Prudential. The premiums were paid by "other than the deceased, \$3.25 per month for seven years." Benefits went to H. M. Wileman.

F. S. Wileman was buried at Oak Hill Cemetery, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Letter from F. S. Wileman & others requesting transportation to Detroit

June 26, 1863

Camp Chase, Ohio

Col. Smith. Sir

Having been duly examined by the Surgeon, myself and Charles Dickenson and James H. Binney have been put in the Invalid Corps. A squad of men who designed for the Invalid Corps and were in the Hospittle [sic] has been sent to Detroit, but not [belonging] to the hospittle [sic] we could not go. The Doctor told me I would have to wait [illegible] months before I could go to Detroit unless I could get transportation there he said I could go. The Surgeon says he would rather I was in Detroit than in Camp Chase. Now is it in your power to send myself and comrades [illegible] transportation [illegible] by sending to us the required transportation necessary for us to have to get to Detroit, you will do us a favor that we shall never forget.

Though I have been in this Camp 3 months I have not been home yet. I never will go home unless I can get a furlough. If I go home I wish to go with a free conscience and hold my head as high as anyone in similar circumstances.

I enlisted in the 21st Regt for 3 years unless sooner discharged and I shall remain in the servis [sic] till I get home honorable.

I am the same man that wrote to you before about getting a light duty in Detroit. You wrote to me that the way to get a light duty was to get assigned to the Invalid Corps. I have done so and only haven't the means to get to Detroit. Excuse my blunders if you please. I am so nervous I can hardly write.

From your Obedient Servants
F. S. Wileman
J. H. Binney
C. Dickenson

July 1st, 1863

Camp Chase, Ohio

Dear Father and Mother

I received your letter of the 28th 1863 with much pleasure. Yesterday and today I have had the diarrhea [sic] pretty bad. Yesterday I was examined by the medical director of the District of Columbus or the head Doc of the State of Ohio and 3 others, surgeons of the highest order. There is only 30 or 40 sick exchanged men in this camp, all the rest are paroled men, so we were examined so they could see who was fit to go to their Regt and to see how many were playing off. A great many were sent to their Regts. [sic] When they came to examine me, the head surgeon said, "Well, my son, what is the matter with you." I told him that my heart was affected and I had hard work to breathe, he got up and unbuttoned my shirt, put his ear to my breast and listened, then he said, that is so; you have got it and no mistake it is right there. He said this to the other doctors. The rest of them examined me and said 'twas so. They asked me what I thought brought it on. I told them I first felt it when I was on the march from Louisville to Nashville in the hot sun. One of the doctors then said I was a fit subject for a discharge. They then put my name on a piece of paper and dismissed me. I am to remain here, how long I do not know. I have been ordered to report to headquarters tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock. What for I do not know. The inhabitants of Penn will soon know what war is. Gen. Rosecrans is in the west has whipped them up at Shelbyville and is now fighting them at Tullahoma. May God aid him in his efforts for he is one of the best generals we have in the field. Oh how mad it makes me to see the changes they have made in the eastern army. I see a great many of the Union League have enlisted. Now take my advice and do not enlist, you could not stand it a month. Father, I thank you a thousand times for your offer of sending me money, but I do not feel able to use it. I may want 2 or 3 dollars. When I do I will surely notify you. I have got plenty of government clothes. I am not destitute of clothes by any means. I will wait till I feel better off before I get me a vest and other things. I went to Sunday school last Sunday. They wanted me to read some verses in the Bible. I did so and in the afternoon I went to church. I then went home. I shall go next Sunday. I am sorry you've sold your house in Grand Rapids but you know best about it I suppose. I am sorry your B[illegible] was stollen [sic]. I will bet that no more of my money is stollen [sic], but I will now close, so good by.

My respects to all. Write soon.

Yours with respect and love,

F. S. Wileman

P.S. Also yesterday it rained hard quite so. I hope you will enjoy the 4th of July. I do not care a snap for it. I had my fourth of July at the Battle of Murphreesboro [sic]. I think it was equal to Van Amberg's maneuvers.

Letter from Frederick Wileman to his daughter Jennie Wileman dated May 17, 1910

Dear Children

Yours at hand last night. glad [sic] to hear from you and know you are all well. I wish I was. I have White lead poisoning and progressiv [sic] paralysis. Herman and the rest help me dress, it is all in my hands and arms, all I can do is doctor, I will work Jennie for music holdes [sic] it is cold and raining. I am glad Clara is haveing [sic] a good time. Is Birney so he can talk and walk. I can walk all right, but when it comes to my hands o you kid. It takes me a good while to write a letter as I cannot feel my pencil enough to guide it. I have just eat my dinner at the shop, bread, egg, cake, ain't [sic] that good enough. Well goodbye [sic], write soon, love to all, Clara included. FSW

8 p.m. Just went and got shaved. Rains like the old boy. The Drs. say I can be cured but it will take a long time.

Frederick Wileman Obituary from Unidentified Newspapers

SON IS NOT IN CITY

Frederick S. Wileman Dies at the Soldiers' Home

Corporal Frederick S. Wileman is dead at the Michigan Soldiers' Home, aged sixty-seven years. Mr. Wileman entered the home early last August. He was ill at that time and continued so until his death at the institution hospital. When he registered at the home he gave the address of a son, Herman M. Wileman of 66 Packard street, who has since gone to Washington, D.C. Mr. Wileman was notified of his father's death and funeral arrangements will not be made until officials have been notified by the son. Mr. Wileman served in Company E, Twenty-first Michigan Infantry.

Obituary from Unidentified Newspaper

Frederick S. Wileman

Funeral services for Frederick S. Wileman, who died at the Soldiers' home hospital, will be held at Spring's chapel, 66 Sheldon street, Monday at 10 o'clock. Mr. Wileman is survived by a son, Herman, of this city; two daughters, Mrs. Theo. Hudson and Mrs. William Rhodes of Washington, D.C.; a brother, Alva Wileman of Louisville, Ky.; and a sister, Miss Emma Wileman of Grand Rapids.

Volunteer Enlistment Form

VOLUNTEER ENLISTMENT.

STATE OF Michigan.

TOWN [crossed out] CITY OF Grand Rapids

COUNTY OF Kent Co [crossed out]

I Fredric S. Wileman born in 6 Danebury in the State of Connecticut aged eighteen years, and by occupation a Clerk DO HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE to have volunteered this 13th day of August 1862, to serve as a Soldier in the Army of the United States of America, for the period of THREE YEARS, unless sooner discharged by proper authority; Do also agree to accept such bounty, pay, rations, and clothing, as are, or may be, established by law for volunteers. And I, Fredric S. Wileman do solemnly swear, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America, and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies or opposers whomsoever; and that I will observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States, and the order of the officers appointed over me according to the Rules and Articles of War.

Sworn to and subscribed to at Grand Rapids this 13th day of August 1862,
Fredric S. Wileman

Before [illegible name]
Justice of the Peace

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR that I have carefully examined the above named volunteer, agreeably to the General Regulations of the Army, and that in my opinion he is free from all bodily defects and mental infirmity, which would in anyway, disqualify him from performing the duties of a soldier.

EXAMINING SURGEON.

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, that I have minutely inspected the Volunteer Fredric S. Wileman previous to his enlistment and that he was entirely sober when enlisted, that to the best of my judgement and belief, he is of lawful age; and that in accepting him as duly qualified to perform the duties of an able-bodied soldier, I have strictly observed the Regulations which govern the recruiting service. This soldier has gray eyes, black hair, dark complexion, is 5 feet 7 inches [rest of form is obscured.]

[Along the left hand margin are typed instructions for the form which are too faded to be read legibly.]