
6-1989

A Soldier Who Would Not Die

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.murraystate.edu/jphs>



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

(1989) "A Soldier Who Would Not Die," *Jackson Purchase Historical Society*. Vol. 17 : No. 1 , Article 6.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.murraystate.edu/jphs/vol17/iss1/6>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Murray State's Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Jackson Purchase Historical Society by an authorized editor of Murray State's Digital Commons. For more information, please contact msu.digitalcommons@murraystate.edu.

A SOLDIER WHO WOULD NOT DIE

Evilena Filbeck Barrett

William Henry was his name, his buddies called him Will
He responded to the Draft Board; Military duty to fulfil...
In a global epidemic, twenty million persons died
For countless U.S. Service Men, influenza took their lives...

World War I was winding down; Oh Lord, do peace bestow
Will stood by within his troop; Assignment Europe, for to go...
Will collapsed one day, while at attention he did stand
At McClellan Army Hospital, medics came to take command...

Sick soldiers were everywhere; cots crowded side by side
The inside air was so polluted, the majority of them died...
When flu patients entered coma, it was diagnosed as death
Will was moved to hospital porch, because there was no breath...

Among the soldier corpses, Will laid silent for a while
Then suddenly, blue eyes came open and he began to smile...
Healing power of God's fresh air, is the logic one can say
For the miracle that happened, to Will Barrett on that day...

Ten years before, a dear friend was saved from death so grim
Will rescued Blandford Edwards, who didn't know how to swim...
At age seventy six, Will had enjoyed a wholesome life
Three children, many friends; Pearl Bailey his loving wife...

IN 1919 WILL WAS A HERO; HE WAS A SOLDIER WHO
REFUSED TO DIE!

Copyright © by Evilena Filbeck Barrett

Contributed to the Historical Society Journal by Reece Barrett

In Memory of : William Henry Barrett (1892-1968)
World War I Battery A 35 Field Artillery
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Father of James, Lacy, and Reece Barrett. He was a life-long resident of Marshall County, Kentucky. Buried Fooks Cemetery.