

# 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!

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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.