

World War I Profile: William Winfield Millinor 1890-1926

*William Winfield Millinor 1890-1926
Fish Factory, Brunswick County, NC
U.S. Army, Private
Served: April 2, 1918 –
Dec. 11, 1919*

BY NORMA ECKARD
GUEST COLUMNIST

William "Willie" Winfield Millinor was born and raised in Brunswick County. A partial family tree is located in Family Search.

The 1900 Census and the 1910 Census show him living in Southport with his parents.

On Dec. 16, 1913, Willie married Katie Gore. Their only child was born the following year, Sept. 16, 1914, which is also the date of death of Katie Millinor, apparently dying during childbirth.

His WWI Draft Registration shows he was living in Southport, single (actually widowed),

supporting one child, and working as a laborer for Captain J.F. Bussells at Neptune Fisheries. According to newspapers at the time, Neptune removed the oil from the fish and used the scrap for fertilizer.

Willie was ordered to report for duty on April 2, 1918 and sent to Camp Jackson.

On April 24, he went to Medical Detachment, Embarkation Hospital, at Camp Stuart, Va. At the same time, Brunswick County privates Guy Ellis Watson and Roy McKeehan (later Sgt.) were assigned, presumably making the trip with him.

The WWI Profile for Guy Ellis Watson included some details of the responsibilities of those serving at the Camp Stuart hospital. It is not known what role Private Millinor held. Camp Stuart was the largest single embarkation camp of the war and the hospital served an important

role in sending healthy soldiers to France.

On Feb. 22, 1919, Private Millinor was transferred from the Embarkation Hospital to the Debarkation Hospital, as the focus turned from sending soldiers to France to receiving the returning soldiers.

Private Millinor was honorably discharged in Dec. 11, 1919, serving longer than usual, likely due to being crucial for processing soldiers from overseas.

In 1920, it appears that his parents (C.T. Milander) and one brother (C.C. Milander) and his family were living in Southport. Willie could not be located in census records, although his son, George Atwood Millinor, was located in Town Creek, living with his maternal grandmother.

William "Willie" Winfield Millinor died in a one-car accident, hitting a telegraph pole, on Aug. 22, 1926, at the age of

35. He was laid to rest in Drew Cemetery in Winabow. No photograph is available to verify whether military honors are shown.

Source: The Medical Department of the United States Army in the World War, Volume IV, Activities Concerning Mobilization Camps and Ports of Embarkation. Washington: U.S. Govt. Printing Office: 1928, Chapter 24

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Don't forget to read on the website (caswellriferange.com) about the nurses that served at Fort Caswell during WWI.

Another Roll Call is planned for Veterans Day, Monday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. beside the 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range Memorial in Caswell Beach. The public is welcome.



Photo contributed by Jane B. Henry (Millinor is her paternal grandmother's brother.)

William "Willie" Winfield Millinor

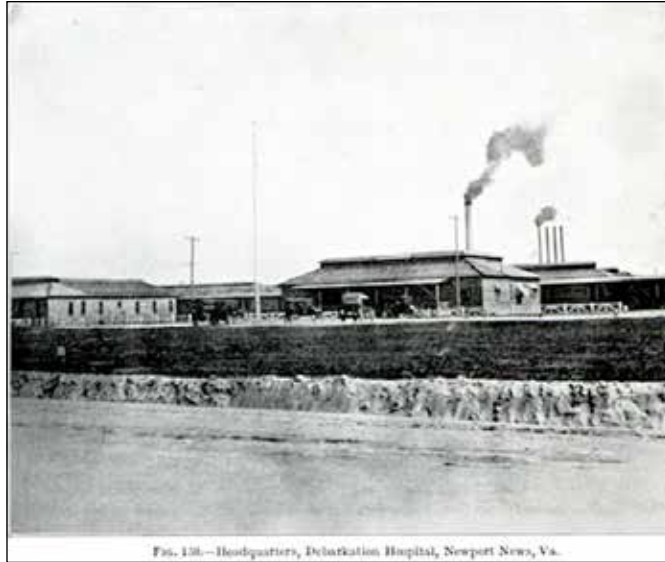
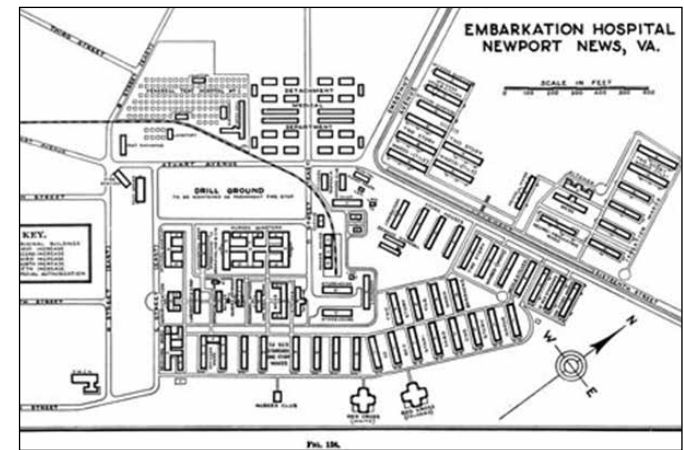
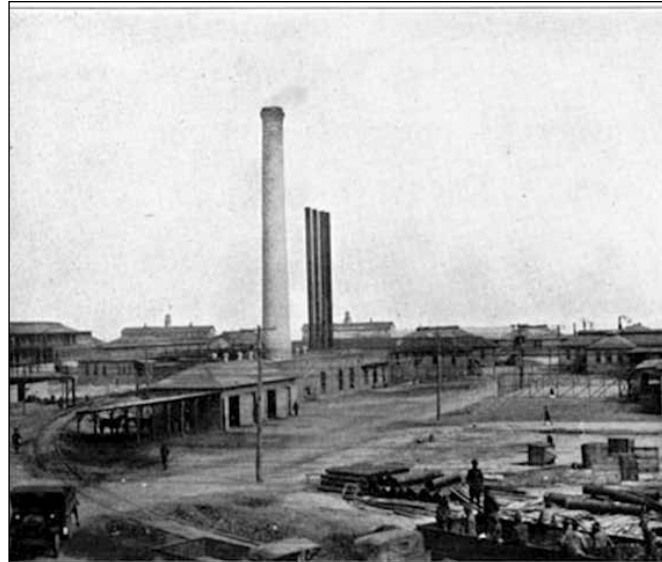


FIG. 138.—Headquarters, Embarkation Hospital, Newport News, Va.



Photos contributed

Debarkation Hospital in Newport News, Va. More Brunswick County men could have served there. NC WWI Service cards of those serving in medical detachment units do not always include the location of the hospital.