

WWI Snapshot focuses on Hiram Van Bellamy, 1895-1973

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FRIENDS OF FORT CASWELL RIFLE RANGE

According to his WWI Draft Registration, Hiram Van Bellamy was born in Supply, in Brunswick County. His registration shows he was working at a sawmill in Southport when he registered for the draft.

Hiram's brother, Jasper Bellamy, also served in World War I. His snapshot will follow soon.

Hiram was ordered to report for duty on July 15, 1918. He served with the 811th Pioneer Infantry, serving overseas from Oct. 20, 1918, to July 31, 1919. He was honorably discharged on Aug. 5, 1919. He returned to Southport where he raised a family with his wife. He appeared to remain in Southport for the rest of his life.

Hiram Van Bellamy passed away on Oct. 31, 1973, at J. Arthur Doshier Memorial Hospital in Southport at age 77. He was laid to rest in John N. Smith Cemetery in Southport. The exact location of his gravesite is unknown.

He was preceded in death by his two sons, Ellis Bellamy and Clarence Hiram Bellamy, both WWII veterans. Ellis died of tuberculosis while serving in WWII; Clarence died in 1962. As a tribute to their father, shown below are the two news stories about the death of Ellis during WWII and the obituary for Clarence.

Local boy dies in Texas hospital

Pvt. Ellis Bellamy, 20-year-old son of Van and Lue Delphia Bellamy, highly respected colored people in Southport, died in the Brooks General Army Hospital at Fort Sam Houston in Texas on Nov. 13. Tuberculosis was the immediate cause.

The body in its flag-draped casket was shipped here, arriving on the 18th. Burial was held Sunday afternoon at two o'clock and was largely attended by both white and colored.

The young man graduated from the Brunswick County Training School with the class of 1941. He entered the armed service on Feb. 27, 1943, and was on his way to becoming a fine soldier when the fatal illness set in.

(Source: The State Port Pilot in Southport, Nov. 24, 1943, p. 4)

He was a serviceman

Ellis Bellamy, 20-year-old soldier whose home was at

Bellamy, Hiram V		3,669,484	Colored
(Surname)	(Christian name)	(Army serial number)	(Race: White or colored)
Residence:	Southport	Brunswick	NORTH CAROLINA
(Street and house number)	(Town or city)	(County)	(State)
* Enlisted in:	Inducted at Southport NC	July 15/18.	
† Born in:	Supply NC	22 7/12 yrs	
Organizations:	153 Dep Brig to July 27/18; August Automatic Re- placement Draft to ---; Co I 811 Pion Inf to Sept 12/18; Co M 811 Pion Inf to disch.		
Grades:	Pvt		
Engagements:			
Wounds or other injuries received in action:	None.		
‡ Served overseas:	Oct 20/18 - July 31/19		
§ Hon. disch.	Aug 5/19	on demobilization	
Was reported	0	per cent disabled on date of discharge, in view of occupation.	
Remarks:			
Form No. 724-1½, A. G. O. * Insert "R. A.", "N. G.", "E. R. C.", "N. A." as case may be, followed by place and date of enlistment. † Give place of birth and date of birth, or age at enlistment. ‡ Give dates of departure from and arrival in the United States. § Give date.			

Photo contributed

NC Service Card for Hiram Van Bellamy.

Southport, died in an army camp in Texas last week. He was a negro, was stricken with a fatal illness and died without ever having been sent to the front. But, during that illness, every resource of the army was given in an effort to make him well again. He was cared for until the last and when he died, the brotherhood of the army did not end there. His body was sent home in a steel casket, draped with the flag he had served.

An undertaker, the family and friends prepared to bury the body in their own way. They had their funeral services at their church and following this, a great cortege wended its way to a nearby cemetery. There they found the mayor of the town, the commander and vice commander of the American Legion, an army lieutenant with a bugler and a squad of six white soldiers, waiting to join in the last tribute. The dead serviceman, regardless of his color, was given a serviceman's last due.

(Source: The State Port Pilot in Southport, Dec. 1, 1943, p. 2)

Clarence H. Bellamy (obit)

Clarence H. Bellamy, 43, of 601 Fairfield St., passed away Friday night in a local hospital. A native of Southport, he attended Brunswick County Training High School and graduated from Eckels College of Mortuary Science in Philadelphia, Pa., as an embalmer and specialist in derma surgery. He made an extensive study of bacteriology at the University of Arkansas and was a graduate of Carver Business School. He served an apprenticeship with the Davidson Funeral Home and was associated with

Long's Mortuary Service until his death.

Mr. Bellamy was president of Long's Mutual Burial Association and secretary/treasurer of Long's Mortuary Service. A veteran of World War II, he served with the Medical Dept. of U.S. Army, spending 28 months overseas in the capacities of surgical technician and first aid instructor.

He was a member of Rock Rest Lodge No. 609 AF&AM and of Lamda Zeta Nu fraternity; also the Henry Lawrence Branch of McCrory YMCA, the NAACP, and secretary of Mecklenburg County Veterans' Organization. A member of Greenville Tabernacle AME Zion Church, he was a steward and member of the Cathedral choir, serving faithfully in all capacities.

Survivors include his wife, Queen C. Bellamy; a daughter, Denise L. Bellamy; father, Mr. Hiram Van Bellamy of Southport; two sisters, Mrs. Evelyn Hewitt and Mrs. Loudelphia Rogers, both of Southport; five uncles; a nephew; seven aunts; and a niece.

Funeral services will be held at 3:30 p.m. Monday from the Greenville Tabernacle AME Zion Church with the Rev. M. R. Cuthbertson, the pastor, officiating. He will be assisted by Dr. J.W. Smith and the Rev. F.M. Allen. Interment in York Memorial Park.

Flower bearers are Mrs. Hortense Johnson, Mrs. Marizetta Kerry, Mrs. Carrie Hamer, Mrs. Willie Powell, Mrs. Claudia McFaden, Mrs. Gwendolyn Cunningham, Mrs. Dorothy Steele, Mrs. Ruth Johnson, Mrs. Vinie Watkins, Mrs. Shirley Kennedy, Mrs. Esther Carter, Mrs. Shirley Manigo, Mrs. Eddie Long, Mrs.

Constance Caldwell, Mrs. Sadie English, Miss Gladys Walker, Mrs. Perry Davis and Mrs. Vernell Partlow.

Active pallbearers are local morticians and funeral directors.

Honorary pallbearers are Mr. Perry Davis, Mr. Joe Swain, Mr. T.M. Martin, Mr. R.L. Floyd, Mr. Robert Carter, Mr. Robert Johnson, Mr. Joseph Belton, Mr. George Moreland, Mr. Isaac Heard, Mr. Alvin Kennedy, Mr. Israel Garrison, Mr. Kenneth Powell, Mr. Herman L. Martin, Mr. W.M. Harrison, Mr. Clyde Brown, Mr. Fancy English, Dr. Richard Hill and Mr. Luther Caldwell.

The body will be placed in the church at 1 o'clock to lie in state until the hour of service.

(Source: The Charlotte Observer, May 7, 1962, p. 9)

If you would like to help us honor Hiram Van Bellamy or another Brunswick County WWI veteran, email ftcaswellriflerange@gmail.com.

"Brunswick County in the Great War: Preserving the 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range and the Legacies of the Men and Women Who Served" has sold over 100 books. The book covers the history and preservation of the rifle range, and includes profiles and snapshots of all of the courageous men and women from Brunswick County who served in WWI and have been featured on the website and in the Beacon for nearly three years. Anyone wishing to purchase a book may visit the Friends website at caswellriflerange.com for directions or call Norma Eckard at (910) 278-7584. For more information, email ftcaswellriflerange@gmail.com.