

# William R. Flannery - Tracking Down The History Of An Elliott Co. Civil War Veteran

## Two Men With Same Name Makes Genealogy Study Confusing!

*Editor's Note: Curt Flannery, P.O. Box 48, Olive Hill, KY 41164, kindly shares the following article and photos concerning William R. Flannery.*

By John A. Stegall - 1996

**W**illiam R. Flannery was a private in Co. E, of the 40th Kentucky Infantry. In 1890, he stated that he entered the Union Army in October 1863 and served until September 25, 1864. His address was Ibex (Elliott County), and he stated that he was "not discharged." (It should be pointed out that this did not necessarily indicate that the soldier had deserted. In many cases, as the war was winding down, if a soldier's particular unit or company disbanded, he might have made his way back home without receiving an official discharge.

The earliest record I find for a William Flannery (also spelled various other ways) is in the 1850 Morgan County, Kentucky, census. Therein was enumerated the family of John Flannery, Jr., who was 35 years of age and born in Virginia. His wife was Ellen, age 33, and also born in Virginia. Their son, William, was age 5, and born in Kentucky.

In this same census we find a John Flannery, Sr., and wife, Elizabeth. John was 71 years of age; Elizabeth was 63. Both were born in Virginia, and undoubtedly the parents of John, Jr.

Perhaps I should point out that there were two William Flannerys named in the 1850 Morgan census. The other William was age 4, the son of Huston and Almire Flannery, and also born in Virginia.

In the 1860 Morgan County census, we find Ellen, the wife of John Flannery, Jr., listed as the head of the household under the name Ellender. She was 43 years of age, and again stated that she was born in Virginia. Children named in 1860 were: Sarrah J., 21; Henderson, 17; William R., 14; Martha A, 12; Isaac, 10; John R., 7; Nancy, 5; and Reece B., 3. Ellender indicated that the first five children were born in Virginia.

Tracing William R. Flannery becomes difficult in the 1870 Elliott County census. W.R. Flannery, age 25, was living in the Martinsburg Precinct. His wife, Mary was age 22. They had two children: Wade, 2, and John, 1. W.R. stated that he was born in Virginia. But this same census records this family again. This time they were living in the Moccasin Precinct. William was 24 years of age and born in Virginia; Nancy (Mary in the earlier report) was 22; Wade was 4; and John was 2.

Still another William Flannery, age 30 and born in Kentucky, was living in the Moccasin Precinct. His wife, Nancy L., was 29, and their only child, John A., was 6.

Further confusion: It seems that this last William Flannery, age 30, was enumerated in Precinct #2, called North Fork. In this particular instance, he stated that he was born in Virginia (some say in Scott County). Nancy, his wife, was again recorded as being only 29; and their only son, John, was 5.

In the 1880 census, William R. Flannery was 35 years of age and still living in the Moccasin Precinct. He again gave information indicating that he was born in Virginia. Nancy A., his wife, was 32 in 1880, and born in Ken-



William Riley Flannery  
(Courtesy of Curt Flannery)

tucky. Their children named in this report were: Wade H., 12; John M., 11; Isom, 9; Marion S., 7 (a son); Ellender E., 5; and Hattie, 1.

Also found living in the Moccasin Precinct was W.R. Flannery. In 1880, he stated that he was 39 years of age, which is consistent with the age given in 1870. His wife, Nancy I., was 39, and born in Kentucky. The following children were named: Eliza, 9; Sousannah, 7; Alice, 5; Andrew W., 3; and Anna M., 4 months. Also in their home was John Maise (Mayse?), age 15, and listed as a "son."

The 1890 Elliott County Tax Assessments record only one William R. Flannery in the Moccasin Precinct. This record shows him the owner of 113 acres of land, and a total value of \$1,048 for all property. The tax records also record another William R. Flannery. He was a resident of the Cracker's Neck Precinct, where he owned 170 acres of land, with all property valued at \$1,350, a large amount for that time.

In 1900, we again find two William R. Flannerys residents in the Moccasin Precinct. The first one stated that he was born in Kentucky in July 1840, and was 59 years of age in 1900. His wife, Nancy, was 59, having been born in November of 1840 in Kentucky. Two children were named: Alice, 24, was born in October 1875, and Willis, 13, born in July 1886. They had been married 30 years and had 6 children living and 2 deceased.

A birth recorded in the Elliott County records shows that Alice Flannery was born October 8, 1875, to Wm. R. Flannery and Nancy L. Foster.

The other William R. Flannery stated that he was 53 years of age, having been born in January 1847 in Virginia. Nancy, his wife, was 53, having been born in November 1846 in Kentucky. They had been married 35 years and had eleven children living. Children named in this report were: Lizzie, age 24; Hattie, 21; Willie, 18; Robert, 16; Rufus, 16; Sarah, 14; and Joseph, 10.

Referring back to the Elliott County birth records: A son, Harry Flannery, was born July 15, 1878, to Wm.

R. Flannery and Nancy A. Davidson. This record indicates that the father was born in Scott County, Virginia; the mother in Carter County, Kentucky.

When the 1910 Elliott County census was taken there was only one William R. Flannery residing in



Some of the children of William R. Flannery left Kentucky near the turn of the century and moved to Wisconsin. As a result a large group of Kentucky-related Flannerys live in Wisconsin today.

Elliott County. This one stated that he was 69 years of age and was born in Kentucky. He was a widower after 43 years of marriage. He also stated that he was a Union veteran.

Living in the William R. Flannery household were his daughter, Alice, age 34; another daughter, Ann Johnston, age 31, and a widow with two children; Hester, age 9; Beecher, 7; and a son, Willis Flannery, 23.

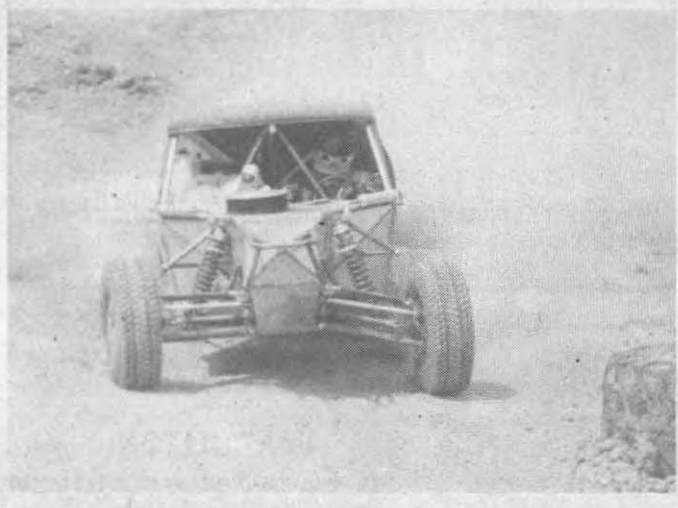
Were both William R. Flannerys Civil War veterans? They may have been.

*Isaac Flannery: The History Of Elliott County, Vol. II*, names Isaac Flannery as being one of the Civil War veterans residing in Elliott in 1890. My personal list of such veterans does not show a Isaac Flannery to have been a veteran.

The 1860 Morgan County census names Isaac S. Flannery, age 10, as the son of Ellender Flannery and John Flannery, Jr., who was then deceased.

The 1870 Elliott County census also names Isaac Flannery, who was then 20 years of age, and married to Sarah C. Gray, then 16 years of age. Ages given for Isaac seem consistent from census to census; therefore, he would appear to have been far too young to have participated in the war.





## A Kentucky Connection

Several members of the Flannery family who now reside in and near Crandon, Wisconsin, are connected with off-road racing. In fact, Jack Flannery won the Short-course Off-road Drivers' Association World's Championship last year in Crandon, Wisconsin. Recently he visited Carter County's Thunder Mountain Courseway and brought his racer with him. Photo at left shows his vehicle being tested there. Above: Kentucky cousins are pictured at Thunder Mountain. (l-r): Joan and husband Curt Flannery of Olive Hill, Kentucky; Jack Flannery and wife Connie of Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin; Melvin Flannery of Crandon, Wisconsin; and his brother, Joseph Flannery, of Pelican Lake, Wisconsin. All of the Flannerys are related through children of William R. Flannery. Some stayed in Kentucky others moved to Wisconsin many years ago.

(Photos By Larry Boblitt - Olive Hill Times)

Isaac S. Flannery is named in the 1880 Elliott County census. He stated that he was 30 years of age, still consistent with the age given in 1870. (Sarah Gray, age 7, is found in the 1860 Morgan County census, and was most likely the daughter of James M. and Elizabeth Humphries Gray.)

Morgan County records show that Isaac S. Flannery and Sarah C. Gray were married on December 3, 1868.

The only Isaac Flannery that appears to have been of military age at the time of the Civil War that I can find is named in the 1837 Floyd County, Kentucky, tax roll. While I have seen nothing to prove that he was in Elliott County in 1890, Singleton Flannery, possibly a brother to Isaac, was also named in the 1837 tax record, and is named in the 1860 Morgan County census. This may well be the Isaac Flannery who was listed as a veteran in the 1890 census.

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*Editor's Note: Curt Flannery added this list of children of William Riley Flannery: The children of William Riley Flannery were Wade who married Becky Kegley, and moved to Wisconsin in 1914; John Milt who was Carter County sheriff in the early 1900s and who married Josie Skeins; Isom who was a wholesale grocer in Olive Hill and who married Elizabeth Skeins; Marion who married Rhoda Kegley and moved to Wisconsin in 1893; Lizzie who married Nathan Flannery, the son of Reece, of Elliott County; Hattie who married John Callahan and lived in Olive Hill; Willie who married Fannie Skeins and moved to Wisconsin, date unknown; Bob, twin of Rufus, who was killed in a gunfight in 1904 at Limestone, Carter County; Rufus who married Tennessee Kinster and farmed in Carter County; Sarah who married Luster Binion and lived in Elliott County; Joe who married Earlie Parker and moved to Portsmouth, Ohio; and Ida who died as an infant.*