

James A. ("Pony Jim") Miller (1825-1893)

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 2010

8 March 2010
Richard A. Bennett
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Mr. Bennett:

I have identified some information about Pony Jim Miller. He is the James A. Miller, who has a monument at the Panther Creek Baptist Church in Ohio County, KY. He was born on 25 Dec 1825 and died on 31 May 1893. He married Frances T. Berry in Daviess County, KY on 10 Nov 1853. Her monument at Panther Creek has that she was born 1 Jan 1834 and died 19 Oct 1863. One of their children, Mary E. "Mollie" Brown married in 1880 Hardin David Brown, who is a 2nd cousin to my great-grandfather, Joe Young. I had recorded from family members that her father, James Brown was known by the nickname of "Pony Jim".

James A. Brown is listed in the 1860, 1870 and 1880 censuses of Hancock County, KY. He was residing in the Pellville neighborhood. The death notice that you had from the scrapbook was from the Owensboro or Hancock County newspaper. Copies from that time period no longer exist for the Hancock Clarion. An item was also published in the Owensboro Messenger issue of 1 June 1893 is identical in the wording. I have sent a copy of the Owensboro item, part of it is torn away.

Even with the new information I was not able to learn if Pony Jim Miller had served in the army during the Civil War. He would have been age 36 when the war began. Thus it is possible he did serve. But in the Kentucky Adjutant General's report of the Union outfits there are over 20 different James Millers and in the local units I could not be certain one was him or not. In the Registration of Veterans Graves in Ohio County that was compiled in the early 1940's James A. Miller is not listed. These lists, however, are not comprehensive of everybody that served. His monument at Panther Creek gives no indication of military service.

Sorry I could not currently confirm the military service of James A. "Pony Jim" Miller (1825-1893).

Best wishes,
Jerry Long
Kentucky Room

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Note: James A. Miller married twice – 1st Susan E. Hazel (born c1827 KY), 20 November 1846 Daviess County, KY and 2nd Frances T. Berry, 10 November 1853 Daviess County, KY. The 1850 Daviess County, KY, 1860, 1870 & 1880 Hancock County, KY censuses show James A. Miller with five children:

1. Catherine E., born c1848 KY, died after 1850.
2. Robert E. Miller, born 1 December 1850 KY, died 5 March 1884, buried Panther Creek Baptist Church, Ohio County, KY.
3. William F., born c1855 KY, died after 1870,
4. Mary Elizabeth, 'Mollie', born 29 November 1857 KY, married Hardin David Brown (1857-1937), died 11 July 1939 Hancock County, KY, buried Pellville Cemetery, Pellville, Hancock County, KY.
5. Charles, born c1861 KY, died after 1880.

Owensboro Messenger, Thursday, 1 June 1893, p.4:

“Pony” Jim Miller, a well known citizen of Hancock county died Wednesday morning at 1 o'clock at his home in Pellville, of general debility. He was about 70 years old. He will be buried this morning at 10 o'clock. He had a number of relatives in this city.

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Panther Creek Baptist Church
Cemetery, Ohio County, KY