

"As I must end my story of Benjamin G. Hill here due to lack of records, I can only deduce he joins one of the many, many soldiers whose final chapter may never be known. Researched, composed and written by me this 17th day of April, 2008; e-signed: Andy Bryant.".....

"My Final Story of Benjamin G. Hill"

THUS was the ending of my story of Sgt. Benjamin G. Hill, 11th NY Cavalry in April, 2008, when I wrote it. Time has passed now and I didn't give up my hopes of finishing his story; someday.

Passing time seems to help; in a lot of ways. Recently, while researching other members of the "HILL" family, I discovered a record I had never seen before. There it was! It was a record from the *"District of Columbia, Select Deaths and Burials, 1840-1964"*.

The information stated:

"Benjamin Goggin Hill; Married; (age) 59; (birth date & place) 1844, Madison Co., VA; (death date & location) 24 Jul 1903, United States Jail, DC; (burial date & place) 25 Jul 1903 in DC.

(REF: http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=FS1DCDeathsandBurials&h=734721&ti=0&indiv=try&gss=pt&ssrc=pt_t81387825_p40439674165_kpidz0q3d40439674165z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid)

Finally! I have found the final resting place of Sgt. Benjamin G. Hill! After all of these years! I never really thought that day would come. Not only did I discover his death date and location; I also discovered what his middle initial of "G" stood for. There it was on that record. His middle name was "GOGGIN".

Now, my task is to try to piece in the parts of his life from when he "mustered out" of the 11th New York Cavalry on September 30th, 1865 in Memphis, Tennessee.
(Ref: www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/template.cfm)

After leaving Memphis, Tennessee in 1865, the next records I find for Benjamin is in the year of 1870. Benjamin is now listed on an 1870, US Census as living in Catalpa, Culpeper, Virginia. He is now recorded as being 26 years old and living with his mother, Malinda Hill; who is now 55 years old.

(REF: http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1870usfedcen&h=37599225&ti=0&indiv=try&gss=pt&ssrc=pt_t81387825_p40439674165_kpidz0q3d40439674165z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid)

Four years pass and the year is 1874. Benjamin finds a girl of his dreams. Her name is Martha "Mattie" A. Colvin. They fall deeply in love and are married on July 28th, 1874. Mattie is sixteen years old when they married. Records reflect they married in the "District of Columbia"; or DC.

(REF: <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/81387825/person/40439674165>)

It was a short time later, they were the parents of a daughter who they named Gertrude Hill. She was born in early 1875 and then she died two years later in 1877; she was 2 years and 1 month old. In 1877, they had a son, they named him Leonidas Hill. In 1880, they had a daughter, they named her Bertha E. Hill. Finally, in 1887, they had their last child, a daughter, who they named Lucy Ellen Hill. Also, during this time period, Benjamin is listed as a "bartender" on an 1880 US Census.

REF: http://interactive.ancestry.com/6742/4244581-00881/42674746?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fdb%3d1880usfedcen%26h%3d42674746%26ti%3d0%26indiv%3dtry%26gss%3dpt%26ssrc%3dpt_t81387825_p40439674165_kpidz0q3d40439674165z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid&ssrc=pt_t81387825_p40439674165_kpidz0q3d40439674165z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid&backlabel=ReturnRecord

In a sad time in Benjamin's life, his mother dies. As recorded in a US Census record of 1880, Malenda E. Hill (73 yrs) is listed as living with Benjamin, Mattie, Leonidas and Bertha Hill. They all are listed as living in Stevensburg, Culpeper, Virginia. Malenda (Benjamin's mother) is listed as "Mother" and "Widowed".

REF: http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1880usfedcen&h=42674589&ti=0&indiv=try&gss=pt&ssrc=pt_t81387825_p40439674165_kpidz0q3d40439674165z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid

[NOTE: As a researcher and the writer of this story of Benjamin G. Hill, I have found no record of any kind of his mother (Malenda) ever being married. I will comment my thoughts on this matter at the end of my story.]

The following is only my personal belief and hypothesis that the following events occurred. I am only assuming that Benjamin's mother, Malenda, died sometimes after the US Census was taken in 1880 and June of 1890; I am guessing, somewhere about 1887.

During their marriage and early child bearing years, Benjamin and Mattie were living in Culpeper County, Virginia. Sometimes between their third and fourth child, they moved their family to Proffit, Albemarle County, Virginia. This was between the years of 1880 and 1887.

Recorded on a "1890 Veterans Schedules for Benjamin G. Hill" is an item on line #36 that lists him as having a "post office address" as "Proffit Albemarle, Va.". The community of Proffit, Virginia was an unincorporated community populated of mostly African Americans; who gathered there after the Civil War ended in 1865.

(REF: <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/81387825/person/40439677371>)

The community Proffit, VA is described in the web site, *"Proffit Historic District Online Recourse Archive" as....." March 1881: Proffit's Station opens on the Virginia Midland Rail Road line, attracting white residents to the village. "Until the railroad was built this town had no white inhabitants. There were white people on the outlying farms, of course, but none in town. When the railroad was built there the white people came and now have a pleasant little village." [Irwin, 1929]*

"Samuel Proffit was an early white landowner in the Egypt community. He sold part of his property to the Virginia Midland (later Southern and now Norfolk-Southern) railroad for a right-of-way. When the railroad line opened between Charlottesville and Orange in 1881, the depot at this location was named Proffit in his honor." [Dames & Moore, 1995]".....

REF: <http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/afam/proffit/timeline/>

As described in the above description of Proffit, Virginia, there were no "white inhabitants" there; until "the railroad was built". It is also recorded the "Proffit's Station" opened "March 1881". Therefore, as listed in the "1890 Veterans Schedules for Benjamin G. Hill", he is now living there; with his family.

REF: http://interactive.ancestry.com/8667/DCM123_118-0032/107896?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fdb%3d1890veterans%26h%3d107896%26ti%3d0%26indiv%3dtry%26gss%3dpt%26ssrc%3dpt_t81387825_p40439674165_kpidz0q3d40439674165z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid&ssrc=pt_t81387825_p40439674165_kpidz0q3d40439674165z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid&backlabel=ReturnRecord

It is also documented by a "U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938" (record # 13144) that Benjamin G. Hill's occupation was listed as "rail roader". He was also described as being 6 feet tall, having a light complexion, having hazel eyes and gray hair. He was also described to being able to read and write and being of the Protestant religion. He too, is listed as being a "Widower". His "next of kin" is listed as, "Bertha E. Hill, 95 Myrtle St., N.E., Washington, D.C., Daughter". His disability was listed as "Rheumatism" which was contracted "In the service".

REF: http://interactive.ancestry.com/1200/MIUSA1866_113947-00642/301388?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fdb%3dNationalHomes%26h%3d301388%26ti%3d0%26indiv%3dtry%26gss%3dpt%26ssrc%3dpt_t81387825_p40439674165_kpidz0q3d40439674165z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid&ssrc=pt_t81387825_p40439674165_kpidz0q3d40439674165z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid&backlabel=ReturnRecord

We now know from this record, Benjamin's wife has died (her death record is listed as dying in 1894 and being buried in Culpeper, Culpeper County, Virginia, USA; she was 36 years old.

REF: http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=FindAGraveUS&h=90532992&ti=0&indiv=try&gss=pt&ssrc=pt_t81387825_p40439677371_kpidz0q3d40439677371z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid

Neither history nor I can understand how Benjamin felt, thought or suffered during this period of his life. His wife of 20 years has died! I can understand his deep anxiety and the great depression and sorrow he must have suffered.

It is 1894 and he is now only 50 years old. He lost his first child, a baby girl, when she was only a month over 2 years old. He fought the Northern Army while he served in the

Confederate Army. He also fought the Confederate Army while he served in the Union Army. He spent 2 years, 9 months and 17 days fighting in war!

(REF: http://interactive.ancestry.com/8667/DCM123_118-0032/107896?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fdb%3d1890veterans%26h%3d107896%26ti%3d0%26indiv%3dtry%26gss%3dpt%26ssrc%3dpt_t81387825_p40439674165_kpidz0q3d40439674165z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid&ssrc=pt_t81387825_p40439674165_kpidz0q3d40439674165z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid&backlabel=ReturnRecord)

As mentioned earlier, his occupation was recorded as a "rail roader". I am assuming Benjamin was, in the year of 1894, a railroader. I feel he was working on the new rail road that extended into Proffit, Virginia; the community he was recorded as living in.

During those next few years, I can find no records of him; that is, until the early part of 1898. On, or about, the **12th of February, 1898**, Benjamin G. Hill was recorded as being admitted into the "U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers".

REF: http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=NationalHomes&h=301388&ti=0&indiv=try&gss=pt&ssrc=pt_t81387825_p40439674165_kpidz0q3d40439674165z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid

Below, I will quote some information directly from [Wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org):

...."The National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was originally called the National Asylum in the legislation approved by Congress and signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln in March 1865. The term "asylum" was used in the 19th century for institutions caring for dependent members of society, such as the insane and the poor, who were thought to temporarily suffer from conditions that could be cured or corrected.[1] But, the term had some negative connotations. In January 1873, the Board of Managers gained approval of the name, the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.".....

REF: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Home_for_Disabled_Volunteer_Soldiers

Benjamin G. Hill registered into,"The Southern Branch (now the Hampton VA Medical Center), located in Hampton, Virginia, opened in 1870 as the fourth branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. The board wanted a branch in the South to serve African American veterans from the United States Colored Troops, but few actually entered the Home. The location was quite popular with other veterans though because of the mild climate.".....

....."Charitable organizations and concerned citizens had long recognized the need for a place to care for disabled veterans. The injured and debilitated men who returned home from the Civil War needed long term care, often more than their families could offer. As volunteers, they were not eligible for care in the homes serving career military veterans. Even though these veterans were eligible for pensions, it was not always enough to help them cope with their injuries or chronic illnesses. Many people believed that creating a home for veterans was the best way to care for these disabled men.

Legislation for the creation of the National Asylum of Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was introduced to Congress on February 28, 1865. Both Houses of Congress quickly passed the legislation, and President Lincoln signed the bill in March 1865, just a month before

his assassination. In 1873, the name was changed from National Asylum of Disabled Volunteer Soldiers to the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, to remove any stigma attached to the term "asylum."

As described by the Board of Managers, "the Home is neither an [sic] hospital nor almshouse, but a home, where subsistence, quarters, clothing, religious instruction, employment when possible, and amusements are provided by the Government of the United States. The provision is not a charity, but is a reward to the brave and deserving." The Board of Managers envisioned a system of branches located across the country."...
REF: http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/veterans_affairs/History.html

Benjamin is now 54 years old. He has seen and experienced many things that most Americans have not. His life is starting to "unwind"; in my personal opinion. He now exists in a "home" for other disabled, deranged and otherwise, derelict people. What would his daily life be like? What is there to look forward to? Where is the hope? Who even cares?.....Yet, Benjamin manages to exist through it all for 4 years and 9 months. Then it happens; a brighter day arises. He meets new, younger, girl!

Sometimes, not knowing the details from history, I find from records that Theodora Carrie Marsden and her daughter, Bertha, have now moved into Washington, D. C. (Evidently, she is now a widowed, single mother.) She and her daughter, are listed as living at 1713 N. Capitol Street in 1897.

REF: http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=USDirectories&h=1023046002&ti=0&indiv=try&gss=pt&ssrc=pt_t81387825_p40484659423_kpidz0q3d40484659423z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid

The month is March; the year is 1898. Benjamin G Hill marries a second time.

Benjamin finds himself drawn to another young lady. She was, in fact, a bit younger than Benjamin. When they married, Benjamin was fifty-four years old and his new wife was thirty-seven years old. There was a difference of seventeen years.

As it was reported in "The Evening Star, Thursday, March 31, 1898".....

...."**Marriage Licenses.**""**Benjamin G. Hill and Theda (sp) C. Marsden;**"

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1898-03-31/ed-1/seq-5/#date1=1870&index=12&rows=20&words=Benjamin+G+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=District+of+Columbia&date2=1905&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=13&x=13&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>

So it was, they were married on **30 Mar 1898** in the District of Columbia. At that time, her name was **Theodora Carrie Marsden**. It was thought that her maiden name was "Marsden" but records reflect she was first married to a man "Marsden". His first name is unknown; however, they had a daughter together. Her name was, Bertha A. Marsden and she was born in 1889. Records also reflect that Theodora Carrie Marsden was born in New York; possibly married there the first time and had her daughter there.

As it was reported in "**THE EVENING TIMES, WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1901.**"ASSULTED HIS WIFE -- A Pensioner fined \$40 in the Police Court Today. -- Mrs. Carry Hill, a prepossessing woman about forty-five years of age, with gold rimmed eyeglasses and sealskin cloak, was complaining witness in the Police Court today against her husband, Benjamin G. Hill, whom she charged with assault. Mrs. Hill appeared to be suffering bodily pains and had to be assisted to the witness box.

"My husband seemed to be beside himself yesterday." she told Judge Kimball, "and without reason struck me and knocked me down twice." Jennie Havener, who lives in the house with the Hills, at 35 Missouri Avenue, northwest, also testified that Hill knocked his wife down twice. She said there was no apparent cause for his acts.

Hill, who is probably ten years older than his wife, took the witness stand. "Were you drunk?" asked Judge Kimball. "I was not, your honor." replied the prisoner. "What excuse have you, then, for this cowardly and inhuman conduct?" demanded the court. "Aint you ashamed of yourself?"

"I am." answered Hill. "I was suffering greatly toothache and neuralgia yesterday." he continued, "My wife, who seems out of sorts, began nagging me about domestic matters. I begged her to desist, but she kept right on, and finally lost my temper and slapped her face."

Hill explained that he was a pensioner and now and then he acted as a guide to show strangers the sights of the National Capital. He was neatly but plainly dressed, and showed that he was a man of more than average intelligence and apparent refinement. For the assault on his wife he was fined \$30 with the alternative of serving ninety days in the District Jail, while on the charge of disorderly conduct he was fined \$10 with thirty days in the workhouse with default. Neither fine was paid." ,,,,,,

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84024441/1901-11-28/ed-1/seq-2/#date1=1870&index=19&rows=20&words=Benjamin+G+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=District+of+Columbia&date2=1905&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=13&x=13&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=3>

At last, Benjamin is released from Hampton! The date of record is, **November 2, 1902.** The reason of "Cause of Discharge", is listed as, "O. R.". Not being "medically literate" as to the meaning of "O. R.".

REF: http://interactive.ancestry.com/1200/MIUSA1866_113947-00642/301388?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fdb%3dNationalHomes%26h%3d301388%26ti%3d0%26indiv%3dtry%26gss%3dpt%26ssrc%3dpt_t81387825_p40439674165_kpidz0q3d40439674165z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid&ssrc=pt_t81387825_p40439674165_kpidz0q3d40439674165z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid&backlabel=ReturnRecord

I contacted a health professional friend of mine. The answer I received from them was; "Own Responsibility". I also checked with "the web". Here is a very good description that I feel would describe Benjamin's case:

...." Explanation: Specific reference to 'responsibility' or 'liability' is unnecessary, due to the nature of hospital admission, under the terms of which medical responsibility is assumed by the admitting consultant.

If, therefore, the patient takes her own discharge, this is implicitly against the advice of the consultant and his/her team and the patient will, therefore, have to accept liability for the consequences of her having taken herself out of the consultant's care.

I believe it is standard practice to ask a patient, under such circumstances, to sign a self-discharge form, absolving both the hospital and the consultant from liability with regard to subsequent developments.'...

REF: http://www.proz.com/kudoz/german_to_english/medical_general/882075-entlassung_auf_eigene_verantwortung_krankenhaus.html

November 8th, 1902, 6 days after he was released from Hampton, Benjamin G. Hill does the **UNSPEAKABLE** ! He arrives in Washington, DC and goes to his house at # 315 Missouri Ave., NW. He enters the house about 6:00 PM; unseen. He enters the dining room where his wife, Carrie, her 13 year old daughter (by a previous marriage) and several other boarding people are eating dinner.

As he begins to walk around the dining table, he says, "Good evening ladies and gentlemen.". He continued to walk towards his wife Carrie, and says, "Hello Carrie.", as he pulls his pistol from his pocket. And thereupon immediately he began firing 3 shots at her. All 3 shots struck her inflicting mortal wounds upon her.

Benjamin then turns to her 13 year old daughter (by a previous marriage) and fired a shot her. The bullet did not hit her, but did hit the wall beside her head. He did then run out the back door of the house where he was soon apprehended in a shed at the nearby house of Mr. Michael Many. When he was caught, he was asked where the pistol was. He replied, "There it is." the pistol was lying on the ground beside him.

He then said to the officer, "That is what I killed the bitch with, and if I did not kill her, I made the biggest mistake of my life." As they walked Benjamin through the house and out in the front yard, he said, "Here I am, look at me; I did it, and if I did not finish her it is the saddest thing of my life."

It was later proven in the trial that Benjamin and Carrie were married about 6 years before. Form the time they were married, they never got along together. It was recorded that Benjamin created arguments and extreme cruelty to and upon Carrie.

REF:

<https://books.google.com/books?id=yURFAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA553&lpg=PA553&dq=Carrie+Theoda+Marsden&source=bl&ots=EynVxSLueR&sig=GKV50Uf8XxHRp044x9DP7lhEOHY&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CB8Q6AEwAGoVChMIpOnihLztxwIVyZeACh38sAlk#v=onepage&q=Carrie%20Theoda%20Marsden&f=false>

As it was reported in the "**ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE AND VIRGINIA ADVERTISER**" -- **November 10, 1902** -- Benjamin G. Hill, a city guide, fired three shots at his wife on Saturday night in Washington at the supper table at their boarding house."..... "Some of the guests during the excitement that followed were about to run. Hill declared that he would shoot the first one that moved.".....

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85025007/1902-11-10/ed-1/seq-2/#date1=1844&index=2&rows=20&words=BenjaminG+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=Virginia&date2=1905&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=22&x=9&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>

As it was reported in "**The Evening Star, November 13, 1902**"....."Benjamin G. Hill held by Corner's Jury." -- **STORY OF THE TRAGEDY --ACCUSED MAN'S EYES WITH TEARS AS HE LISTENS -- Woman Receives Three Pistol Shot Wounds While Seated At Dinner Saturday Evening. -- Benjamin G. Hill occupied a cell at the sixth police station this morning, having been brought from jail to be present at the inquest held over the body of his wife, Mrs. Carrie Marsden Hill. Hill shot his three times at their boarding house, 315 Missouri ave, Saturday night. **Death occurred about 9:15 o'clock last night at the Casualty Hospital, where the woman had been under treatment since she received the fatal wounds.****

Not more than fifty feet from the cell in which the prisoner was confined was the dead body of his victim. After the autopsy had been preformed by Dr, Glazebrook the prisoner was conducted to the morgue, where he took the last look at his wife's form. He said nothing but was unable to keep back the tears. Attorney R. Golden Donaldson was present at the inquest for the man charged with murder, while the government was represented by Assistant District Attorney Taylor." " After a number of witnesses had been examined the jury held the prisoner responsible for his wife's death, and directed that he be committed to jail.".....

....."Statement Made By Physicians. Dr. Grafton Bailey, who had been Mrs. Hill's attending physician, was the first witness examined. He told the jury that he had seen Mrs. Hill at the Casualty Hospital Saturday night, and found her suffering from the wounds. She was hysterical and suffering from shock. Witnesses described the three bullet wounds. There was one in the neck, he said, and two in the woman's left side. One of the bullets was found, but the others could not be traced. One of the wounds was near the left nipple, while the other penetrated the side of the body.".....

Another physician testified, then several witnesses who were at the dinner table also testified at this hearing. It was testified that Mrs. Hill managed to leave the dinning room and made her way into the parlor. She then started to go back into the dinning room and someone grabbed her. She told them, "I'm going back to let him finish me.". Mrs. Hill's thirteen year old daughter, Miss Bertha Marsden, (by a previous marriage) also testified.

As the hearing concluded, Deputy Corner Glazebrook was the final witness examined."He exhibited the bullet he took from the woman's body, and said that blood poisoning had followed the infliction of the wounds."

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1902-11-13/ed-1/seq-14/#date1=1892&index=0&rows=20&words=Benjamin+G+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=District+of+Columbia&date2=1905&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=7&x=15&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>

As it was reported in "**THE EVENING TIMES, WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1902**" -- FUNERAL OF MRS. HILL AT GERMAN CEMETERY -- Husband In Jail Awaiting Grand Jury's Action. -- The funeral of Mrs. Carrie Marsden Hill, who died on Wednesday of pistol shots wounds inflicted by her husband, was held from the residence, 315 Missouri Avenue northwest, this afternoon. Interment was made in the **German Cemetery**. (Prospect Hill Cemetery, Washington, DC)

Benjamin G. Hill, who admits that he killed his wife, is in the District Jail awaiting investigation by the grand jury. **He was photographed for the rogues gallery yesterday.** He made no statement at the inquest yesterday and said nothing when carried to the morgue and shown the body of his wife. He was visibly affected, however. He maintained a composed demeanor throughout the hearing.

It is said he was under the influence of liquor when he did the shooting in the presence of several boarders at the dinner table on Saturday evening. He is said to have expressed regret then that he had not killed her outright. He is about fifty years old, while Mrs. Hill was considerably younger."....

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84024441/1902-11-14/ed-1/seq-7/#date1=1862&sort=relevance&rows=20&words=Benjamin+G+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&index=12&state=District+of+Columbia&date2=1904&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=16&x=5&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=3>

As it was reported in "**THE WASHINGTON TIMES, SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 1903**"....."FULL DOCKET AWAITS MR. BEACHE'S ATTENTION -- Four Alleged Murders and Fifty-five Other Prisoners in the District Jail. -- The new District Attorney, will soon have the opportunity to show his ability as a prosecutor.

At present there are four prisoners in the District Jail on charges of murder. The case of one of these (William Matchett) will probably be called to trial in Criminal Court No. 1 on Monday, January 26, or in the week following."....."The next to be called to trial, if the time of the commission of the crime with which he is accused is taken into consideration, is Benjamin G. Hill, who is held for the murder of his wife on November 12, last at their home in Missouri Avenue.".....

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026749/1903-01-18/ed-1/seq-12/#date1=1862&sort=relevance&rows=20&words=Benjamin+G+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&index=11&state=District+of+Columbia&date2=1904&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=16&x=5&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=2>

As it was reported in "**THE WASHINGTON TIMES, THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1903**" -- "TRIAL DAY SET FOR B. G. HILL. -- the case for Benjamin G. Hill, who is under indictment for the murder of his wife, Carrie Theodora Hill, by shooting her,

November 8, 1902, has been set for trial on Monday, February 9, in Criminal Court No.1. Attorney C. G. Bradshaw will appear for the defendant.".....

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026749/1903-01-29/ed-1/seq-2/#date1=1862&sort=relevance&rows=20&words=Benjamin+G+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&index=3&state=District+of+Columbia&date2=1904&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=16&x=5&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=3>

As it was reported in "**THE WASHINGTON TIMES, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1903.**" -- HILL JURY SELECTED; TESTIMONY SARTED -- The jury for the trial of Benjamin G. Hill for the murder of Theoda Hill at 315 Missouri Avenue, was secured this morning at 11:30.

The jurymen are W. M. N. Tuckey, Frank B Jonas, John T. Wade, John F. Darcey, W. S. Richardson, Nobel J. Walker, W. Seymour McLeod, Frederick E. Green, Frank D. Hospital, George W. Fairfax, James Garvey and Richard J. Beall, jr.".....

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026749/1903-02-17/ed-1/seq-2/#date1=1862&sort=relevance&rows=20&words=Benjamin+G+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&index=0&state=District+of+Columbia&date2=1904&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=16&x=5&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=4>

As it was reported in "**THE WASHINGTON TIMES, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1903**"-- BENJAMIN G. HILL FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER --Under District Code Prisoner Must Be Sentenced to Hang -- A verdict of "guilty of murder in the first degree" was returned at 5 o'clock last evening by the jury in the Hill murder case.

Counsel occupied three and a half hours in argument, and the charge of Justice Anderson ended at 4:30 p. m. when the jury retired. After half an hour's deliberation, the jury reported to Justice Anderson, who had waited in the city hall to receive the verdict. Although the sentence was not imposed, the prisoner must hang for the murder of his wife, as no other penalty is permitted for this crime under the revised code for the District."....

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026749/1903-02-20/ed-1/seq-12/#date1=1862&sort=relevance&rows=20&words=BENJAMIN+G+HILL&searchType=basic&sequence=0&index=11&state=District+of+Columbia&date2=1904&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=16&x=5&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=3>

As it was reported in "**Evening Star. (Washington, D.C.) 1854-9172, June 28, 1903,**BENJAMIN G. HILL'S CASE -- Will Probably Be Forwarded to the President Today. -- The Department of Justice will probably forward to the President at Oyster Bay a number of pardon cases on which the Attorney General has acted.

Among these will be the application of friends of Benjamin G. Hill, the convicted murder, for commutation of the death sentence to imprisonment for life. The President will probably take up this paper along with others in a few days and act upon them.

The application for the communication comes from friends of Hill in Culpeper, Va. It is stated, however, that Hill was not a confederate soldier, as heretofore mentioned, but a federal soldier with a good record during the civil war, and is a pensioner.

(NOTE: This is not true, Hill was in Co. A, 7th VA Inf.)

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1903-06-28/ed-1/seq-2/#date1=1870&index=0&rows=20&words=Benjamin+G+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=District+of+Columbia&date2=1905&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=13&x=13&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=2>

As it was reported in "**The Washington Times. JULY 4, 1903**"....NATION'S BIRTHDAY AT DISTRICT JAIL"...."Independence Day is the same as any other day to the prisoners in the United States District Jail. There is no change in the daily routine of their prison lives which in any way reminds them that outside the jail walls all patriotic citizens are celebrating the anniversary of the nation's birth. Of the 383 prisoners imprisoned in the District Jail"....

...."There were, however, five prisoners in the District Jail for whom the day dawned as a day of liberty as well as a Independence Day."...."There are three other prisoners in the jail whose terms of imprisonment will expire tomorrow."..... "Benjamin G. Hill, who is under sentence to be hanged July 26, was also out with the other prisoners for exercise.

He is in a better frame of mind than he has been at any time since his conviction, or even since the night he murdered his wife at their home on Missouri Avenue."....;

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026749/1903-07-04/ed-1/seq-1/>

As it was reported in "**THE WASHINGTON TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 1903.**" -- JUDGEMENT AFFIRMED BY COURT OF APPEALS -- Benjamin G. Hill Under Sentence to Die on July 24 "Hill is under sentence to be hanged in the District Jail on July 24 for the murder of his wife, Carrie Theoda Hill at their home on Missouri Avenue, in November last."....."When placed on trail Hill did not testify in his own defense. His counsels, Messrs. Wells and Bradshaw, made a plea of insanity in his belief. (sp) The jury returned a verdict of murder i n the first degree.

Besides taking an appeal to the higher court, Hill's friends appealed to the President to commute his sentence to imprisonment in the penitentiary." After all appeals are exalted for Benjamin, he now is spending his last days in jail.

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026749/1903-07-23/ed-1/seq-2/#date1=1892&index=8&rows=20&words=BENJAMIN+Benjamin+G+HILL+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=District+of+Columbia&date2=1905&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=7&x=15&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=2>

As it was reported in "**The Evening Star., Saturday, July 18, 1903**", he will be spending his"last Sunday on earth tomorrow, unless a further postponement"....: Hill is to pay the extreme penalty of the law in the District Jail next Friday." Hill said ..." he save him, from the scaffold, he is prepared for the worst."

Benjamin's daughter came in from New York to see him; and returned home. She would return if he was not pardoned. It was also stated in the article, "**Three weeks ago Hill received word from Kentucky of the death of his son.**" ,,,

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1903-07-18/ed-1/seq-3/#date1=1901&index=5&rows=20&words=Benjamin+G+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=District+of+Columbia&date2=1904&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=17&x=18&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>

As it was reported in "**THE WASHINGTON TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1903**" --

BENJAMIN G. HILL'S DOOM DRAWS NEAR --Condemned Man's Execution Set For Friday. -- HIS FRIENDS YET HAVE HOPE -- Believe Executive Clemency Will Arrive in Time to Delay the Hanging--History of the Crime.

Unless executive clemency is extended to Benjamin G. Hill, within forty-eight hours he will be called upon to answer with his life on the gallows, Friday next, for the murder of his wife, Carrie Theoda Hill, on November 12, last at their home, 315 Missouri Avenue." "Hill Reticent --Hill was called to trial at the January term of court. -- He was represented by Attorneys Wells and Bradshaw, who made a plea of insanity as a defense. Hill did not testify in his own behalf. In fact from the time he committed the crime until the day he was called before the court for sentence he never discussed the circumstances surrounding the killing of his wife, with his counsel or anyone else.

When called to be sentenced, through his counsel, he appealed to Justice Anderson, presiding in the criminal court No. 1, for a delay of a few days in order that he might prepare a statement in writing of what he desired to say before sentence of death was imposed. His request was granted by the court, and four days later Hill appeared and read the statement he had prepared.

He denied having any recollections of the circumstances surrounding the killing of his wife. He further stated that he loved her and was always anxious to please her and do all he could for her happiness. Hill was greatly agitated while he read his appeal; his voice was tremulous and weak, and tears blinded his sight, often compelling him to stop." ,,,,

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026749/1903-07-22/ed-1/seq-2/#date1=1862&sort=relevance&rows=20&words=BENJAMIN+G+HILLS&searchType=basic&sequence=0&index=5&state=District+of+Columbia&date2=1904&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=16&x=5&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=4>

As it was reported in "**The Evening Star., July 23, 1903**" "**MERCY DENIED HILL - THE PRESIDENT DECLINES TO COMMUTE DEATH SENTENCE. -- EXECUTION TOMORROW -- GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT TO CONDEMNED MAN'S FRIENDS.**

They Had Expected Extension of Clemency --- Reported Recommendation of Officials.

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1903-07-23/ed-1/seq-12/#date1=1901&index=0&rows=20&words=Benjamin+G+Hill&searchType=basic&se>

quence=0&state=District+of+Columbia&date2=1904&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=17&x=18&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=2

As it was reported in "**THE WASHINGTON TIMES, THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1903**".....

....."When asked today if he intended to make any further statement, Hill said that he will not have anything to say when he is led to the gallows. Warden Harris said everything is in readiness for the execution of Hill tomorrow. According to the order of the court, Hill must be hanged between the hours of 12:00 noon and 2 p. m. Since Warden Harris has been in charge of the District Jail, however, all executions have taken place within a few minutes after the noon hour. The last white man hanged in the District was Frank Funk, who was convicted of the murder of William H. Brooks, also white, in June, 1898. Funk was hanged November 9, 1900."

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026749/1903-07-23/ed-1/seq-2/#date1=1892&index=8&rows=20&words=BENJAMIN+Benjamin+G+HILL+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=District+of+Columbia&date2=1905&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=7&x=15&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=2>

As it was reported in the "**THE EVENING STAR, THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1903**" -- Hill's Crime --The crime for which the extreme penalty to be paid is the murder of the condemned man's wife, Carrie Theoda Hill. The crime was committed November 8 of last year at 315 Missouri avenue where Hill lived with his wife and stepdaughter, Bertha Mardsen.

Several shots were fired at the wife and child, but the latter escaped. Mrs. Hill lived two days after she was wounded. Hill is sixty-two years old. He is a native of Virginia, having been born near Culpeper. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and was connected with Lincoln Post in this city. He drew a pension of \$8 a month.

The only relative who called to see the unfortunate man was a daughter, who came from New York. She had corresponded with him before coming here and had done her best to cheer him. In one letter to him she said: "Dad, if you have to die, die game." When it became certain that there was no hope for Hill the daughter was notified by Father Maguire, but she is not expected her before the execution.

Hill is an intelligent man and he feels more keenly his position than does the average man who dies upon the scaffold. The question of his liability to break down at the last moment has been thought over by him and only two days ago he inquired of the colored minister if he thought that he (Hill) would break down. The latter assured him that he thought he would not.

Despite the short time that he has to live Hill was in an apparently happy frame of mind at times yesterday. He discussed several narrow escapes he had during he war and at other times he laughed at some of his own stories. Today it was entirely different with him. His face showed a decided change since yesterday, and he appears to have lost all interest in earthly affairs.

He has directed that all his effects be turned over to his daughter, and this afternoon he will affix his signature to papers upon which he hopes his daughter will be able to get what pension money is due him. Arrangements have been made by members of Lincoln Post to care for the body and see that it is given a Christian burial. It is thought the body will be interred at Arlington,"..... (WRITER'S NOTE; The body was not buried there)
REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1903-07-23/ed-1/seq-12/#date1=1858&index=6&rows=20&words=Carrie+Hill+Theoda&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=District+of+Columbia&date2=1905&proxtext=Carrie+Theoda+Hill&y=20&x=16&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>

July 24, 1903 copy of President Roosevelt's letter not pardoning Benjamin G. Hill

..... "PERSONAL

Oyster Bay, N.Y.,
24 July, 1903.

My dear Mr. Knox:

After as careful, and I may add as solemn, thought as I have devoted to anything, I have decided not to interfere in the case of Benjamin Hill. I would to write you why it seems to me that this is a case I can not tract by myself. We are now passing through an era of lawlessness in this country. Lynching has become very common, and where the victims are colored men it takes the inhuman aspect of putting to death by torture - usually by burning alive. Among the causes that have produced this outbreak of lynching - I say only among them, and I do not know how prominent it should be put among them - is, in my judgment, unquestionably the delays of the law, the way in which clever criminal lawyers are able ofttimes to secure the acquittal, and almost always to secure long delay in the conviction of men accused of offences for which the penalty should be absolutely certain and the punishment as quick as possible. Every pardon of a murderer who should have been executed is to my mind is just so much encouragement to lynching, just so much putting of a premium upon lawlessness. In this case of Hill's, if instead of being a white man killing his wife, he had been a negro killing a white woman with whom he had quarreled, he would in all probability have been lynched out of hand, and very possibly have been burnt alive.

The only portion of the affidavit to which I thought the slightest attention should have been paid was that in reference to the alleged insanity of the man. Now, this alleged insanity was never brought up prior to or during the trial. It is to my mind inconceivable that such should have been the case, if it really existed in a degree that warranted my paying any heed to it whatever. Have you ever read Weir Mitchell's very interesting article on the responsibility of the insane? There are undoubtedly insane people who are entirely irresponsible; but most of the people on whose behalf the insanity plea is entered after they have committed some crime, are not one whit more insane than tens of thousands of others whom no one would dream of shutting up in an asylum, and who, if their insanity takes the form of the development of immoral tendencies, are controlled only as many putative criminals are controlled, that is, by fear of consequences.

Sincerely yours,

Hon. P. C. Knox
Beverly Farms, Massachusetts" ..

REF: <http://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/en/Research/Digital-Library/Record.aspx?libID=o185463&f=%2fAdvanced-Search.aspx%3fr%3d1%26st1%3d5%26t1%3d%2522Mental%2520illness%2522%26v%3dexpanded>

As it was reported in "**DeathPenaltyUSA -- Executions 1607-1976**"
....."HILL, BENJAMIN, 52, WHITE, MALE ?, MURDER, HANGING, JUL 24 1903
WASHINGTON DC WASHINGTON, D.C.".....

REF: <http://deathpenaltyusa.org/usa1/federal3.htm>

As it was reported in "**ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE AND VIRGINIA ADVERTISER. -- FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 24, 1903.**" -- "LOCAL NEWS -- **Hanging in Washington -- Benjamin G. Hill was hanged in the District Jail today for the murder of his wife, Carrie Theoda Hill , on November 12, 1902.** Hill was 65 years of age and was born in Virginia. Drop fell at 1:49, and Hill's death soon followed.

Hill lived with his wife and step-daughter, and on November 8 last year visited the house on Missouri avenue, entering unannounced while his wife and daughter were seated at the dinner table. Going around the table at which his wife was sitting, he said: "Hello, Carrie!" and without further words pulled a pistol from his pocket and fired three times at his wife.

Each shot took effect, and in a few minutes the woman fell dead at Hill's feet. The stepdaughter tried to interfere, and this further enraged Hill, and saying, "And, you, too." fired at the girl, but someone rushing in pushed her out of the way and saved her life.

Since Hill has been incarcerated he has embraced the Catholic religion, but ever since he has been convicted, he has denied the slightest recollection of the killing. He has been deserted by all his family, except one of his daughters who lives in New York, who has kept up a correspondence with him, and in her last letter she said: "If you have to die, die game."

The last man white man hung in Washington was Frank Funk, who was convicted of the murder of William H. Brooks, also white, in June, 1898. Funk was hung in 1900."

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85025007/1903-07-24/ed-1/seq-3/#date1=1858&index=1&rows=20&words=Carrie+Hill+Theoda&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=District+of+Columbia&date2=1905&proxtext=Carrie+Theoda+Hill&y=20&x=16&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>

As it was reported in "**The Evening Star, Saturday, July 25, 1903**" "**Benjamin G. Hill was executed for the murder of his wife.**"

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1905-02-09/ed-1/seq-13/#date1=1870&index=11&rows=20&words=Benjamin+G+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=District+of+Columbia&date2=1905&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=13&x=13&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>

As it was reported in the "**Hoosier State Chronicles / Indianapolis Journal 25 Jul 1903**"...." WASHINGTON, July 24. Benjamin G. Hill, who killed his wife last November at their home in this city, was hanged at the United States jail here to-day. Hill was a native of Virginia and a Grand Army veteran."...

REF: <https://newspapers.library.in.gov/cgi-bin/indiana?a=d&d=IJ19030725.1.4#>

As it was reported in "**The San Francisco call., July 25, 1903. - (San Francisco [Calif.])**"... "Washington, July 24. -- Benjamin G. Hill, who killed his wife last November, was hanged at the United States Jail to-day. Hill was a Grand Army veteran."....

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85066387/1903-07-25/ed-1/seq-9/#date1=1880&index=0&rows=20&words=Benjamin+G+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=&date2=1904&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=9&x=11&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=2>

As it was reported in "**THE WASHINGTON TIMES, SUNDAU, JULY 26, 1903**" **HILL LEAVES A NOTE IN LIEU OF A WILL**.....Wife Murder Remembers His Confessor and His Chosen Friend. Benjamin G. Hill, the wife murder who was hanged in the District Jail on Friday, made a disposition of his few personal effects, in a letter he wrote to Captain Haslam, a warm personal friend, by presenting to him his umbrella. The letter is as follows:

"U. S. Jail, July 21, '03.

"Capt. Haslam, Rescue Home, 119 Penn. Ave. n.w.;

"Dear Sir: You will please deliver the old trunk to Father Maguire, and accept my thanks for your kindness. Please let him know if there is any charges. He will settle, if there is.

"Your friendly visits were very much enjoyed by me. Father Maguire will explain the visit of my daughter, etc. My time is getting short. I am leaving all with God. If I should not see you again on earth, I hope to meet you again in heaven. As ever, your friend,

(signed) "Ben G. Hill."

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026749/1903-07-26/ed-1/seq-9/#date1=1892&index=11&rows=20&words=Benjamin+G+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=District+of+Columbia&date2=1905&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=7&x=15&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=3>

As it was reported in "**The Evening Star., July 27, 1903**", "The following deaths were reported at the health office during the forty-eight hours ending at noon today"...

"Benjamin G. Hill, age 59 years" Benjamin is now dead; by being hung.

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1903-07-27/ed-1/seq-5/#date1=1901&index=10&rows=20&words=Benjamin+G+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=District+of+Columbia&date2=1904&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=17&x=18&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>

As it was reported in "**The Evening Star., Monday, July 27, 1903**"

....."CITY AND DISTRICT" **The funeral of Benjamin G. Hill** who was executed at the District Jail Friday afternoon, was held Saturday afternoon from the undertaking establishment of W. S. Riley, 207 2d street southeast. The service was conducted according to the ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic, under the direction of Lincoln

Post, No, 3, Department of the Potomac, G. A. R. The interment took place at Arlington."...

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1903-07-27/ed-1/seq-16/#date1=1892&index=7&rows=20&words=Benjamin+G+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=District+of+Columbia&date2=1905&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=7&x=15&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=2>

As it was reported in the "**Iron County register., July 30, 1903 (Ironton, Iron County, Mo.)**" -- **Hanged For Wife murder** -- Washington, July 25. -- Benjamin G. Hill, who killed his wife last November, was hanged at the United States Jail here Friday. Hill was a grand army veteran, " ,,,,

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84024283/1903-07-30/ed-1/seq-6/#date1=1880&index=10&rows=20&words=Benjamin+G+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=&date2=1904&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=9&x=11&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>

As it was reported in "**HIGHLAND RECORDER -- MONTEREY, HIGHLAND COUNTY, VA., JULY 31, 1903**"....."Benjamin G. Hill, who killed his wife last November at their home, in Washington, was hanged at the Unites States jail."....

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn95079246/1903-07-31/ed-1/seq-1/#date1=1844&index=0&rows=20&words=Benjamin+G+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=Virginia&date2=1905&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=22&x=9&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>

As it was reported in the "**Barton County democrat., July 31, 1903**" (**Great Bend, Kansas**)....."G. A. R. Veteran Executed. Washington, July 25. -- Benjamin G. Hill, who killed is wife last November, was hanged at the United States jail here Friday. Hill was a Grand Army veteran,"....

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83040198/1903-07-31/ed-1/seq-6/#date1=1901&index=0&rows=20&words=Benjamin+G+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=Kansas&date2=1903&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=15&x=12&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>

As it was reported in "**The Tomahawk., August 6, 1903 (White Earth, Becker County, Minn.)**" -- "Benjamin G. Hill, who killed his wife last November at their home in Washington, D. C., was hanged at the United Staes Jail.".....

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn89064695/1903-08-06/ed-1/seq-2/#date1=1880&index=8&rows=20&words=Benjamin+G+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=&date2=1904&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=9&x=11&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>

As it was reported in "**THE WASHINGTON TIMES., AUGUST 25, 1904**"... "John Burley will hang in the Jail tomorrow -- Negro Driver Convicted of Criminal Assault Will Forfeit His Life Therefore--Crime Committed Over a Year Ago.".....

....."Given ample food. -- For several days he has been given three meals each day. In addition to this he has been allowed the privilege of ordering such food as he liked. He

took advantage of the kindness of the warden, and since Monday he has been enjoying a plentiful supply of fruit, extra meats, tea and coffee, with cream and sugar, toast and other edibles he likes.

All preparations for the execution of Burley are complete at the jail. The scaffold has been put in place and the rope prepared. It is said he will be hanged with the same rope with which **Benjamin G. Hill** was executed."....

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026749/1904-08-25/ed-1/seq-3/#date1=1862&sort=relevance&rows=20&words=Benjamin+G+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&index=4&state=District+of+Columbia&date2=1904&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=16&x=5&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=2>

A point of interest, I noticed regarding the hanging of Benjamin G. Hill, appeared in another Washington newspaper. It was an article about another hanging in February, 1905. Below, I will copy a part of the article: (This article was about a man named, "Shaffer" who was soon to be hanged. It tells about the District Jail, Warden Harris and the hanging procedures.)

As it was reported in "**THE EVENING STAR, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1905**" --"The District Jail was as quiet as the interior of a deserted church, and the guards and prisoners moved about noiselessly and without confusion.

A bag of sand, weighing 150 pounds, was employed this afternoon in testing the rope for tomorrows execution. It was given a fall of more than six feet and the rope stood the test well. It is the same rope with which Benjamin G. Hill was hanged in July, 1903. Hill shot his wife to death in her boarding house on Missouri avenue, and attempted to kill his stepdaughter.

Warden Harris today enforced an ironclad rule, which permit only members of Shaffer's immediate family to call upon him before he is executed."

REF: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1905-02-09/ed-1/seq-13/#date1=1870&index=11&rows=20&words=Benjamin+G+Hill&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=District+of+Columbia&date2=1905&proxtext=Benjamin+G.+Hill&y=13&x=13&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>

From the book, "Legal Executions in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia - A Comprehensive Registry, 1866-1962"; by Daniel Allen Hearn; "**Benjamin Hill** (white; age 58) *Murder*. The crime was committed 11/8/1902. Uxoricide (a man who kills his wife). Executed for the hand gun slaying of 41-year-old Carrie Marsden Hill (white). Motive: feelings of in-adequacy . Hill was hanged on July 24, 1903. Source: *Washington Post*, 11/9/02 (2:1) , 11/13/02 (2:2) and 7/25/03 (2:1). See also 1900 U.S. Census (Washington D.C.), which notes both parties.'.....

REF:

https://books.google.com/books?id=r0kjCgAAQBAJ&pg=PA19&lpg=PA19&dq=Carrie+Marsden+Hill,+washington,+D.+C.,+1897&source=bl&ots=rDRpxWLq_i&sig=TfHxaJ6kt2qDkrNp3Z1xLxoAM24&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CB4Q6AEwAGoVChMI5ae_bv5xw

IVRtgeCh3h7wGw#v=onepage&q=Carrie%20Marsden%20Hill%2C%20washington%2C%20D.%20C.%2C%201897&f=false

(Notations)

(1) While researching all of the above information, I did find some minor "differences". In some of the recorded ages of Benjamin G. Hill. He is listed as 65 years old the day he was hanged. However in other recorded articles, he is listed as 59 years old. It is recorded in Ancestry.com; Benjamin GH. Hill was, in fact, 59 years old the day he was hanged; 58 years old when he shot his wife.

(2) While researching Benjamin G. Hill's second wife, Carrie Theoda (Marsden) Hill, I discovered the following:

- a. Her maiden name was not "Marsden". She married her first husband and his last name was "Marsden". She had a daughter by him named Bertha A. Marsden; born 1889.
- b. When Carrie Theoda was buried in "Prospect Hill Cemetery", I could not find her name listed there. I called the cemetery and I discovered that she was buried by the incorrect name of "THEODORE CARRY HILL"; not "Carrie Theoda Hill".

(3) A comment was made in a copy of the; **"Evening Star. (Washington, D.C.) 1854-1917, June 28, 1903"**, It stated,**"It is stated, however, that Hill was not a confederate soldier, as heretofore mentioned, but a federal soldier with a good record during the civil war, and is a pensioner."**....

This statement is **NOT** true. Benjamin G. Hill **WAS** a Confederate soldier.

On March 1, 1862, at the Madison Court House, Virginia; Benjamin enlisted in, A Company, 7th Regiment, Virginia Infantry; (CSA).

- a. He fought in the Battle of Yorktown Siege (April-May, 1862)
- b. He fought at the Battle of Williamsburg (May 5, 1862)
- c. He fought at the Battle of Seven Pines (May 31-June 1, 1862)
- d. He fought at the Battle of "Seven Days Battles" (June 25-July 1, 1862)

On June 28, 1862, he was listed as a "Deserter" from "Co. A, 7th Virginia Inf. (CSA). He had fought for the Confederacy for about four months. And about two months later; on August 22, 1862, he enlisted in Co. K, 11th New York Cavalry. (Union Army) Benjamin G. Hill; **a**; Fought for the South; **b**. Fought for the North and **c**. He helped guard President Abraham Lincoln for a few months.

REF: <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/81387825/person/40439674165>

(4) In the "THE EVENING STAR, THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1903", ...**"it was reported that It is thought the body will be interred at Arlington,"**..

This was **NOT** the case. I have not found any records that would describe why his body was not buried in Arlington Cemetery. To the contrary, it is recorded on a **"Ancestry.com. U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012."** That Benjamin G. Hill was, in fact, buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Washington, D. C.

.....My Personal Thoughts of Benjamin Goggin Hill's Father.....

I mentioned earlier in this, "My Final Story of Benjamin G. Hill", that I have found no record of any kind of his mother (Malinda) ever being married. At this time I will relay my personal thoughts to you, my readers. I have done extensive research regarding the "father" of Benjamin G. Hill and I can not find any indication of Malinda E. (Elizabeth) Hill, ever marring ANYONE!

Malinda, by all records I have found, lived with her father, Richard Hill, and her mother Elizabeth "Betsy" Slaughter. Even after Benjamin G. Hill was born in 1844, they both were living with Malinda's parents.

In an 1870, census for Culpeper County, VA; Malinda (his mother) is listed as a "55 yr. old white female" whose occupation is listed as, "Keeping House". On this same census, Benjamin G. Hill is listed as a "26 yr. old white male" whose occupation is listed as a, "Living Hand". Even when Malinda was 73 years old, she was living with Benjamin, his wife and their family.

REF: <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/81387825/person/40439695705>

Therefore, I am beginning to form the opinion, (which is only **MY** opinion), that Malinda E. Hill had her son, Benjamin G. Hill, "out of wedlock". In the mid 1800's, that was definitely a shameful thing to happen. Because, in one of the records, Malinda claimed herself as a "widow". By doing this, no one would be the wiser, nor even question, that she had a child while not married.

As to Benjamin's middle initial of "G", after all of these years of researching him, I never knew what the initial "G." stood for; that was just until recently when I found the "Washington District Jail" death record for Benjamin Goggin Hill. And there it was; his middle name was "GOGGIN"!

My curiosity led me to the web. Just by chance, I wondered if there was even the slightest possibility of any families, at all, that had the name of "Goggin" in Virginia; during the early 1800's when Benjamin's mother was born. To my surprise, there were. I am "coping" part of a Campbell County, Virginia historical web page:

"Goggin

The Goggin family was of Anglo-Saxon ancestry. Their original name is said to have been De Cogan, and they were domiciled in South Ireland. Stephen Goggin, Sr., came to Virginia in 1742 from Queen's county, Ireland. He was a member of the Episcopal church. In 1759 he patented 204 acres of land on Flat creek, and in 1773 patented 452 acres lying on both sides of Flat creek. In 1791 Richard Goggin married Nancy Irvine; Richard was probably son of Stephen, Sr."....

REF: <http://files.usgwarchives.net/va/campbell/history/chronicles-families-goggin.txt>

It is beginning to add up, after all of my years of time and research. I am under a personal belief that Malinda E. Hill named her "illegitimate" son after the last name of a man she probably loved very much. I am only guessing, but I think his last name was "Goggin".

My final tribute to Benjamin Goggin Hill.

He was a man from Virginia, who I feel came from humble beginnings. He was somewhat, an "educated man" to some degree; most likely a man of medium stature and about six feet tall. He had a semblance of pride; enough to fight for what he believed in. Thus, he volunteered to fight for his "Southern Cause". I do not know, but I can somewhat understand, why he decided to leave his friends of the south, after about two months; to volunteer to join an army that he fought against!

Benjamin, somehow, survived the Civil War; we can only try to imagine in the deepest corners of our mind what horrors, misery, despair and deep depression he must have been feeling. Most likely, one of his happier times of his life was when he first went into D.C. to join the 11th NY Cavalry; where he met and became very good friends with a man named William F. Cost; who was also from Virginia. These two men sensed a bond between themselves. When Benjamin had to leave with the rest of the 11th NY, to go southward towards New Orleans and William was to stay in Washington, D.C.; they didn't know if they would ever see each other again.

It was at this time, I believe, William and Benjamin carved their names into the Burnside carbine that I now care for. Alas, they bid each other goodbye; never to see one another again. I envision the longing for those "happier times" led Benjamin back to Washington after the war. I think, and I can understand because I was stationed there in 1967. I have been back two or three times since then. Maybe, somehow, my sense of "longing for D.C." is somewhat akin to Benjamin's. Thus, one of the causes for my great interest in his life's story!

I visualize Benjamin meeting his wife; having a family and the proverbial "living happily ever after"; isn't that what we all long for in our hearts? Life deals everyone happiness and sadness in our lives. Maybe Benjamin had a little too much sadness; especially when his first child, a daughter, died when she was two years old and his wife died at thirty-six years old. Depression can change even the strongest people. How strong would you, as the reader of my story be at this point; if it were you; instead of Benjamin?

Benjamin is fifty years old at this time; he only has nine years left to live until his death. To someone in the late 1800's; alcohol is a cheap and easy relief from being down, depressed and miserable. Could Benjamin have fallen prey to its hold? But still, four years after his first wife dies, he meets a girl; a girl seventeen years younger than him. They fall in love; or lust? Which ever it might have been; they marry.

Now living in Washington, Benjamin finds work by being a "guide" for the many tourists who visited D.C. each year. He stays busy; his younger bride wants to do new and exciting things about town. (Records, reflect she was married before; but her first husband died; leaving her a widow.) The sadness in Benjamin's heart from all of his past; the younger bride, who seems to be too "demanding" strains his heart and deep is his soul. It is all getting too much.

Benjamin begins to display many signs of anger, resentment and is becoming flustered. He probably isn't making a lot of money in order to support a younger wife; who likes some of the better things Washington has to offer. The history of unhappy married men often reflects their inner anger. I believe this was now happening to Benjamin. Thus; it all now begins!

It is of record that his wife, Carrie, took him to court in 1901 for "assaulting" her and knocking her down. The judge gives him a choice of a \$40 dollar fine or 120 days in the "workhouse" jail. History records state, "he did not pay the fine". Could it be, he felt more comfortable being in jail; rather than at home with a wife he despised?

For the next year after Benjamin was released from jail, his life, to him, must have been nothing but heart aches and misery. I am sure he and Carrie argued constantly! Their happiness together would have been almost nonexistence. He can no longer stand it. He decides to buy a gun. On Thursday, November 8, 1902; he buys a pistol. Two days later, on a Saturday night, about six o'clock pm, November 12, 1902; he shoots his wife three times.

Even though he had already bought the pistol, he still had time to reconsider his deadly plan. But, could he have drank himself into a drunken stupor instead? Those next two days changed his life forever. Who knows what made his mind snap that night and he murdered his wife and tried to kill his thirteen year old step-daughter? Only Benjamin knew. He made no comment at his hanging and he took it to his grave; at fifty-nine years old.

Now, I bid my final good bye to Benjamin G. Hill. I have dutifully tried to be as accurate as I could possibly could be in all of my research of him. I am in hopes that his decedents might, at last, find some answers for their many questions they might have had about him.

Even though history records he was a murderer, he too, was a Civil War veteran; a Sergeant in the 11th New York Cavalry. He fought the fights that many did not return from. He endured more than most ever will. He was a survivor; many were not! He returned home! I honor Benjamin G. Hill for the goodness and honor that once was in him.

His life was a mixture of everything that was good and bad. He now rests eternally in history.....good bye Benjamin!

e-signed., September 24, 2015; by andy bryant