

## William Holmes

The Brunswick News; June 1927

Note: William Henry Holmes was the son of John Holmes and Mildred Palmer. he was born 25 Mar 1844 and died 6 June 1927. At the end of the article his sister "Mamie" Holmes is mentioned. Mary Ann Holmes' nickname was "Mamie". [Lee Collins, submitter]

SERGT. W. H. HOLMES PASSES AWAY TODAY--END COMES TO ONE OF ONLY TWO SURVIVING MEMBERS OF ORIGINAL RIFLEMEN

Sergeant William Henry Holmes, 83 years of age, one of the two surviving members of the original Brunswick Riflemen, the local military company which marched to the front from Brunswick in the sixties, passed away at his home, 1627 Bartow street at 10:30 o'clock this morning, after an illness which had extended over a period of several weeks.

General Holmes, as he was familiarly known among his many Brunswick friends, was taken ill while attending the recent Confederate reunion in Tampa, Fla. He returned to the city from Tampa, was at once confined to his bed, and never recovered. His condition gradually grew worse, and for the past few days little hope has been held out for his recovery.

Mr. Holmes marched away with the Riflemen early in the sixties as a member of the Twenty-Sixth Georgia Infantry, and he fought with that outfit throughout the civil war. Returning with it a few years later he was one of the several that survived the terrible conflict. One by one these veterans of the local company have passed away until today only one remains, J. J. Smith, who resides near the old cypress mills.

Mr. Holmes had spent all of his life in Brunswick. For years he was connected with Hilton & Dodge Lumber company at their large saw mill on St. Simons. In more recent years he was connected with the sanitary department of the city.

A gentleman of the old school, Mr. Holmes was probably known by more visitors than any other citizen of Brunswick. Every tourist automobile that rolled into Brunswick and was observed by him he stepped to the car and welcomed the visitors to Brunswick, answered all of their questions, and told them many interesting historical facts concerning this section.

He was the oldest Kiwanian in Georgia, having been a member of the local club for three or four years, and at the last convention held in Augusta was honored as the oldest member of the organization.

The deceased is survived by his widow, one son, George T. Holmes, of New York, who will arrive tomorrow, and one daughter, Mrs. R. L. Welsh, of Ft. Meyers, Fla., who has been in the city for several days. One sister, Miss Mamie Holmes, of this city, also survives.

Definite funeral arrangements had not been completed today, but it will be held probably tomorrow. Six members of the local Kiwanis Club will act as honorary pall bearers, while the Brunswick Riflemen will attend and fire the usual salute.

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WM. HENRY HOLMES PIONEER CITIZEN PASSES TO REST

William Henry Holmes, for 83 years a citizen of Brunswick, died at his home on Bartow Street Monday morning after an illness extending over several weeks.

"General" Holmes, as he was known to his thousands of friends, was one of the two surviving members of the Brunswick Riflemen of 1861-65 and he served throughout the civil war with that command. He was born in Brunswick and has made him [sic] home here continuously ever since.

He was a member of the Brunswick Kiwanis club and was ranked as the oldest Kiwanian in the state. He was one of the most popular attendants at the last state convention in Augusta.

Mr. Holmes' characteristics can best be summed up by the nickname he bore throughout his life and by which he was widely known "Gentleman" Holmes. The interment took place in Oak Grove cemetery with full military honors, the Brunswick Riflemen, his old command, attending in a body, also headquarters company of the 2nd Battalion 121st infantry.

The funeral services were conducted at the family residence, Rev. Royal K. Tucker, of St. Marks Episcopal Church, conducting the services.

Mr. Holmes is survived by his widow, one son, George T. Holmes, of New York, and one daughter, Mrs. R.L. Welsh, of Fort Myers, Fla., and one sister, Miss Minnie Holmes of Brunswick.