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WALTER CRENSHAW (ca. 1875-)

Walter CRENSHAW, son of Leroy A. CRENSHAW and Sarah B. SYDNOR, was born ca. 1875 in Richmond, Virginia. [1880 Census, Henrico County, VA, Richmond City, National Archives and Records Service, T-9, Roll 1737, p. 46, Monroe Ward, Dwelling 605, Family 747, 306 S. Fifth St.; "Marriage of Leroy A. Crenshaw and Sarah B. Sydnor," Elizabeth Coalter, Neva Thompson, comp., Marriage Notices in the Religious Herald, Vol. 1 (Richmond: Historical Records Survey, 1941), p. 141.]

Walter CRENSHAW was mustered into service in the Richmond Light Infantry Blues as a private in Company H of the 4th Regiment, Virginia Volunteers, on 24 May 1898. [Report of the Adjutant-General of the Commonwealth of Virginia, 1898-1899 (Richmond: O'Bannon, 1899), p. 346; John A. Cutchins, A Famous Command: The Richmond Light Infantry Blues (Richmond: Garrett & Massie, 1934), p. 340.]

The Richmond Light Infantry Blues reached Camp Cuba Libre at Jacksonville, Florida, on 7 June 1898, and became part of the Third Brigade, Second Division, Seventh Army Corps, under Maj. General Fitzhugh LEE. The regiments remained at Jacksonville until October, 1898, when they were sent to Savannah, Georgia. [Cutchins, A Famous Command, pp. 202-203.] CRENSHAW was discharged as a corporal on 22 November 1898, perhaps in Savannah, Georgia. [Report, loc.cit.] He was later discharged from service in the Blues on 19 March 1910. [Cutchins, A Famous Command, p. 364.]

Nothing further is known of Walter CRENSHAW at present.

Letter, 7 June 1898, to "Mother"

"Mother" is identified as Sarah B. (SYDNOR) CRENSHAW. "Uncle Bob" may be Robert T. SYDNOR, brother of Sarah B. (SYDNOR) CRENSHAW, and son of William B. SYDNOR of Hanover County, Virginia. [1850 Census, Hanover County, VA, National Archives and Records Service, M-432, Roll 949, p. 412, Dwelling 73.]

"Sister" may be Jessie D. CRENSHAW, sister of Walter CRENSHAW. [1880 Census, Henrico County, Richmond City, National Archives and Records Service, T-9, Roll 1737, p. 46, Monroe Ward, Dwelling 605, Family 747, 306 S. Fifth St.]

(Continued)

WALTER CRENSHAW (ca. 1875-)
(Continued)

Letter, 7 June 1898, to "Mother" - Continued

Since Leroy A. CRENSHAW, father of Walter, is not mentioned in the letter, it may be presumed that he is deceased by this time.

The remaining names mentioned in the letter (Sallie, Billy, Gertrude, Clara, Ellis ROY) are unidentified at present.

Letter, 11 June 1898, to "Mother"

"Gen. LEE" appears to be Major General Fitzhugh LEE, son of Sydney Smith LEE and Anna Maria MASON, who was born 19 November 1835 in Fairfax County, Virginia. A graduate of West Point in 1856, he served on the staffs of Generals Ewell and Johnston, and was later made lieutenant-colonel of the First Virginia Cavalry. Following the Civil War, he was elected governor of Virginia in 1885. In 1896, he was appointed consul-general to Havana, Cuba. Following his return to Washington in 1898, he was commissioned major-general of the volunteers, and was assigned command of the Seventh Army Corps. He was retired as brigadier-general of the volunteers in 1901. He died 28 April 1905 and was buried in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia. [Dumas Malone, ed., Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. XI (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1933), pp. 103-105.]

Other names in the letter (Sergt. SNEAD, Billy, Miss READY, Mr. SWEENEY) are unidentified at present.

The envelope for the letter is addressed to Mrs. L.A. CRENSHAW, 316 Lombardy Street, Richmond, Virginia.