

Biographical/Lineage ELIAS "DARLIN" PRESLEY LINE

LINE OF THOMAS PRESLEY, SR/SUSANNAH PRESLEY

Elias "Darlin" Preslar/Presley enlisted on 2/14/1863 at Union County, NC as a Private. On 2/14/1863 he mustered into "B" Co. NC 26th Infantry and was present and fighting on into the Gettysburg campaign where he was wounded. He recovered and was captured and taken prisoner in October of 1863. He died of disease as POW on 9/1/1864 at Point Lookout, MD. He was listed as: * Wounded 7/18/63 Gettysburg, PA; * POW 10/14/1863 Bristoe Station, VA; *confined 10/16/1863 Old Capitol Prison, Washington, DC (Estimated day); * transferred 10/27/1863 to Point Lookout, MD. {Sources used by Historical Data Systems, Inc.: - North Carolina Troops 1861-65, A Roster (c) Historical Data Systems, Inc. @ www.civilwardata.com}.

The fate of Darlin' Presley was more the fate of all the Presleys who served for the CSA during the War Between States. Few of them made it back home in good condition, if having survived at all. On the first day's battle at Gettysburg, July 1st, 1863, Darlin was with the 26th NC as they fought bravely against the Iron Brigade in the fiercest hand-to-hand brawling of that battle. The two units faced each other across a very brief span of Willoughby Run out by McPherson's farm, McPherson's Ridge. Presley was wounded on this day as his commander, Col. Henry King Burgwyn, the "Boy" Colonel, was killed by a sharpshooter while leading his men forward. Darlin's wounds may not have been severe as he participated the following day in Pickett's charge from where he was captured and taken prisoner.

However, Darlin's case is somewhat different, as is another Presley , Lawson Horton Presley, who also died at Point Lookout Prison in Maryland.

There was a Christmas exchange of prisoners during December of 1863. According to information put out by the Point Lookout POW Descendants Organization, founded by Patricia Beck, the Union did not record an estimated 11,000 prisoners in their system, and these were never accounted for. Darlin Presley was one of those who was left to die at the prison, having never been exchanged that Christmas. Horton Presley also perished at the prison.

Why were Darlin Presley and the other prisoners who died at Point Lookout after that exchange left alone and unaccounted for, made to purposely *die*? The Point Lookout POW Descendants Organization wants answers and so do family members.

Elias "Darlin" Preslar/Presley joined the 48th NC Infantry out of Mecklenburg and Union Counties in NC. When his term expired, he re-upped in the famed 26th NC Infantry regiment whose brave soldiers at Gettysburg , including two Helms kin, Ezekial and Noah, lost the most men during Pickett's grand charge and yet a survivor of the 26th carried the colors to deep within Union lines, the lone flag bearer, soonafter, captured.

Darlin Presley, a farmer from Mecklenburg County, NC, was newly married with three small children when he joined the service. He did not own slaves yet joined his fellow neighbors and kin to help protect their lands from invasion by these northern enemies. After her husband's death, Mary Presley worked the farm as best she could, until she could no longer, continuing to raise her children. Not long after she moved to Alexander County, NC, where she applied for a widow's pension.

Lineage of Elias "Darlin" Presley

Anna Helms, b. ca 1774- 75, was the daughter of **Susannah Presley** and John "Blackhead" Helms. Anna married Levi Preslar ca. 1797 in Anson County, NC. They had 10 children, the eldest being Sherrod, born 1799.

Sherrod Presley m. Sarah ? ca. 1820 in Mecklenburg County, NC (f/k/a Anson County) and they had 8 children: Elizabeth, **Darling**, Wyatt, Naomi, Anna, Alcey, Amos, and Hosea. According to the Union County, NC, 1850 census, Sherrod is listed as "Presley" and not "Preslar."

Elias "Darlin" Presley was born in Union County, NC, in 1825, married Mary Plyer, b. in 1832 in Lancaster, SC, on 28 November 1850 in Union County, NC. Darlin, a farmer, and Mary had 3 children:

Emily Presley b. 1853;

Rosannah Presley b. 1856;

Samuel W. Presley b. 1858.

The Kin of Rock and Roll graciously accepted in 2005, on behalf of the late Elvis Presley, two certificates from the Pt. Lookout POW Descendants Organization naming Elvis Presley as a posthumous member on behalf of his cousins, Elias "Darlin" Presley, and Lawson "Horton" Presley. The Aforestated information on the Pt. Lookout Descendant Organization for Darling Presley's incarceration comes to us courtesy of Patricia Buck, Founder and President of

the Point Lookout POW Descendants Organization. The organization now has well over 1300 members. Patricia was kind enough to pass along the prison service record for Darlin Presley.

If you have an ancestor who was imprisoned at Point Lookout, for more information on becoming a member, contributing to the memorial fund, or simply requesting information, please contact Patricia Buck at:

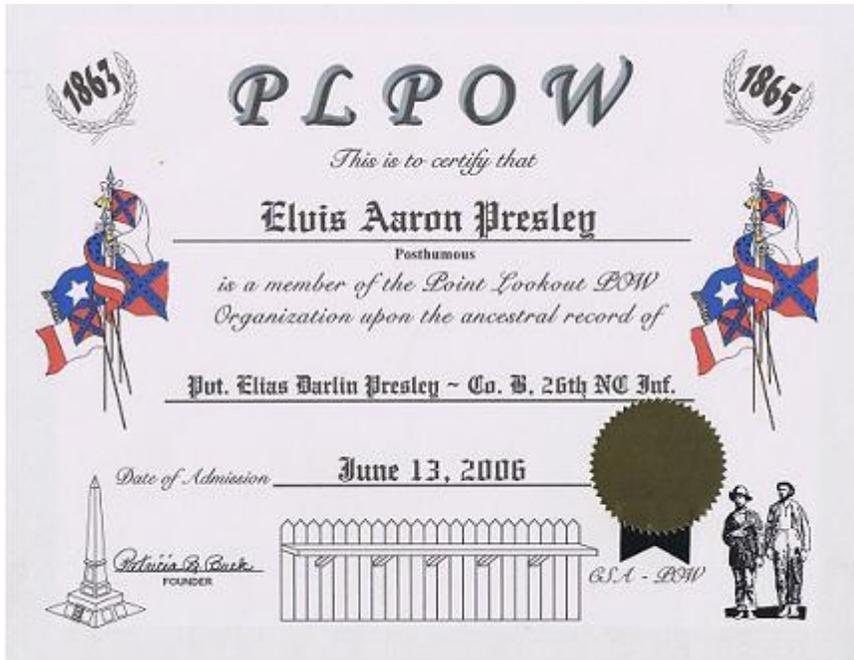
plpow@verizon.net



The 26th NC Monument at Gettysburg. This monument is situated deep inside "the angle."

During Pickett's fateful charge, men of the 26th made it clear to the wall, most falling dead or wounded there. One soldier of the 26th made it to the other side of the wall where he was then taken

captive. This man was the color bearer of the 26th North Carolina.



The certificate presented posthumously to Elvis Aaron Presley who was a 4th cousin 3x removed to Darlin Presley.