**Ellen Pennilton and William Dudley Biography**

Ellen Pennilton and William Dudley are a mother and son buried in Mt. Olive Cemetery. Ellen was the daughter of George Pennilton and Bettie Whithead and was born about 1868 in Robertson County, Tennessee. About 1881, Ellen entered into a relationship with Carter Dudley and together they had five children. No record of a marriage between them has been found, and Ellen never seems to have taken Dudley’s name. The relationship ended sometime between 1894 and 1900. Carter Dudley possibly died during this period but since death certificates were not regularly issued until 1916, his fate is unknown.

Ellen is listed in the 1900 Montgomery County, Tennessee census under her maiden name of Pendleton (the records list three different spellings of her name) as head of household with her three surviving children: John Dudley born in 1882, Rhen Dudley born in 1891, and William Dudley born in 1895. The family lived at 18 Commerce Street in a rented house with Ellen and eldest son, John, working as laborers in a tobacco factory.

By the 1910 census, John and Rhen are no longer members of the household. Ellen and William are now renting 348 Spring Street and are both working as sorters at the Dunlop & Hanratty Tobacco Factory on the southwest corner of Dunlop and Commerce Street. The census shows that Ellen had 10 children but only two were still living.

On March 6, 1916, William was playing pool at the Ventress Pool Room on Franklin Street near University Avenue. He got into an altercation with Marcus Carneal, a porter at the Arlington Hotel. The altercation grew heated enough that William threw a pool ball at Carneal who became enraged and attacked William with a knife. William received a wound just under the left arm and one in the throat which severed his jugular vein. He received medical attention and then was taken to his home. The next day, William died as a result of his injuries. Carneal was arrested and arraigned for murder. To date, no account of his trial has been found. William was buried in Mt. Olive Cemetery on March 9, 1916.

Ellen lived another four years and at some point, changed jobs and became a cook probably for a private family. This change in jobs was probably due to her age since working in a tobacco factory is physically taxing work. On February 24, 1920, Ellen died of general paralysis resulting from acute nephritis. Nephritis is a kidney disease. She was buried in Mt. Olive Cemetery on February 26, 1920. Currently no headstone has been found for either Ellen or William.