William Turner was born on January 17, 1841, in Patrick County. He died on January 15, 1926, in Washington, D. C. He was buried at the Cedar Hill Cemetery, in Suitland, Maryland. The Reverend Doctor James Shera Montgomery, Chaplain of the U. S. Senate, conducted William Turner’s funeral on his eighty-fifth birthday, 17 January 1926.

From December 31, 1861, to March 15, 1863, William served as a private with Company "H," of the 7th West Virginia Cavalry. He was wounded at the Battle of Cross Keys, in Rockingham County, Virginia, in June 1862 and discharged. In 1864, William Turner was commissioned as Captain of the Raleigh Count Home Guards, known as the Raleigh County Scouts, of the West Virginia State Troops. From February 11, 1864 to August 1, 1865, he served with the home guards.

William Turner and Martha Doliver "Mattie" Hinchman, born on April 11, 1848, in Logan County, were married on April 11, 1866, in Logan County. Martha died on October 20, 1937, and she was buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery, also.

Her parents were James Harvey Hinchman and Martha Pine "Mattie" Gore.

When I learned where Captain Turner was buried, I called the Cedar Hill Cemetery to confirm the fact and to get directions to the gravesite. The employee answering the phone was quite helpful and checked their files for me. Upon my arrival at the cemetery, she provided me with all the information in the cemetery's file on the Turner plot. Among the papers was a plat sheet showing that the Turner family plot was in section number 1, lot number 72, and that it consisted of 12 sites. Only three of the gravesites have been used for Captain Turner, his wife, and his daughter Louise. On August 27, 1921, William Turner of 453 Irvine Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., purchased the 12 sites. He paid $360 for the plot.
According to the records furnished me, William Wirt Turner wrote the cemetery on March 21, 1964, and again in April 1964, stating he was the sole survivors of Captain Turner's immediate family. He mentioned one nephew, Philip Turner King who was living in Arlington, Virginia, at the time. He mentioned his mother Martha D. Turner who had died on October 27, 1937. He named his brothers and sisters and stated they were now dead. Their names were Martha Ann Chambers, Sarah Alice Meador, Nancy Louis(e) Davis, James Dix Turner, Virginia Mankin, John Roscoe Turner, Princess King, and May Riach. On January 27, 1982, the Cedar Hill Cemetery wrote William W. Turner telling him that there were eight sites remaining in section 1, lot 72 and asking him if he or a local family member would be using the sites. (I believe the number of remaining sites would still have been nine.) There was no reply to this letter.

The Captain William Turner Family
Photo made July 9, 1910, at Huntington, West Virginia

Back row (left to right): Virginia, Nancy Louise, James Dix, John Roscoe, Princess, and Sarah Alice. Front row (left to right): Martha Ann, Captain Turner, May, Mrs. William (Martha Doliver Hinchman) Turner, and William Wirt

Photo courtesy of Mr. Ed Wade

Children of William and Martha:
Martha Ann Turner was born on June 23, 1867, at Matville. She died on July 18, 1939, in Huntington, Cabell County. Martha married Lee B. Chambers who was born on January 10, 1861, in Wyoming County, Virginia. Lee died on June 20, 1901, at Matville. Martha Ann and Lee were married on February 2, 1884, in Raleigh County. He was the son of Leroy B. Chambers and Demarius Farmer.
- Sarah Alice "Allie" Turner was born on March 27, 1869, at Matville. Allie married John H. Meador who was born on December 1, 1861, in Summers County. They were married on February 24, 1886, in Raleigh County. R. H. Hughes performed the marriage. John was the son of William and Catherine Meador.

- Nancy Louise Turner was born in August 26, 1872, at Matville, and died on November 8, 1927. Her burial was in the Cedar Hill Cemetery, Suitland, Maryland. Nancy married Peter Benjamin Davis, M. D. Doctor Davis was born on December 1867, in Raleigh County. He died on January 7, 1938, in Raleigh County. He was buried at the Calfee Cemetery, Mt. Tabor, Raleigh County. Nancy and Peter were married on February 10, 1895, in Raleigh County. His parents were William Davis and Lucinda O. "Cinda" Williams.

- James Dix Turner, M.D., was born on August 2, 1874, at Matville, and died in 1923 as a result of a car accident. Doctor Turner married Vivian Barrett who was born in April 1880. They were married on February 5, 1900, in Raleigh County. Robert E. Barrett and Araminta "Minta" Jarrell were her parents. This family was living in Raleigh County when the 1900 and 1910 census were taken. They were living in Logan County when the 1920 census was taken.

- Virginia Turner was born on April 24, 1876, at Matville. She married J. Ward Mankin, M.D. Doctor Mankin was born in 1874. They were married on March 7, 1893, in Raleigh County. James Anderson "Jim" Mankin and Marinda Agnes Callaway were his parents. Doctor and Mrs. Mankin settled in Thurmond, Fayette County, early in his professional career, establishing himself in medicine and surgery. He opened a drug store there, also. Later in life, they settled in Washington, D. C.

- John Roscoe Turner, Ph.D., was born on February 15, 1881, at Matville. He died on October 17, 1969, in Stockton, San Joaquine County, California. Doctor Turner
married Eleanor Effie Vertner who was born in 1887 in Ada, Ohio. They were married on August 23, 1905. I have located her mother’s name, Effie N. I do not know her father’s first name. John attended Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio. Dr. Turner received his Ph.D. from Princeton University. He was a professor of economics at Cornell University. He was former President of West Virginia University, and was Dean of New York City University.

- Princess Turner was born on August 4, 1884, at Matville. Princess married James Edward King who was born on March 1, 1884, near Hurricane, Putnam County. He died on March 29, 1934. His parents were Thomas Walker King and Sarah Catherine Shephard. James was chief engineer of the C&O Railroad.

- May Turner, M.D. was born on May 22, 1886, at Matville. She married a Mr. Reich, after 1914. William wrote, “Our youngest daughter, Dr. May Turner is a U. S. doctor in charge of a Red Cross Hospital at Belgrade, Serbia, 6,000 miles away. The U. S. pays her a salary of $7,000 a year and furnishes board, clothing, and transportation free, which equals $8,500.

- William Wirt Turner was born on November 27, 1889, at Matville. In 1914, he was living in South Bend, Indiana, where he was a teacher at Notre Dame University. At that time, he was single. Wirt married Grace Lee "Bobby" Robertson after 1914.

Left to right: Orval Davis, Leota Deering, Pierce Chambers, Bertha Eleanor Davis, Virgil Chambers, Dorothy Ann Chambers, Estelle Watson, William Wirt Turner, Martha Turner Chambers, Unidentified, Virginia Turner Mankin, and Paul Chambers. The Photo was made on April 9, 1939, in Huntington, WV.

Photo courtesy of Mr. Ed Wade
LETTER FROM WILLIAM TURNER TO HIS BROTHER,
JOHN B. TURNER JR.

March 14th, 1917
Washington, D. C.
453 Irving Street, N.W.

John B. Turner
Esau, W. Va.

My only surviving brother
Dear John,

Each of us are old now having well nigh done our do. Soon we shall pass out and, in time, be forgotten. So tis true “man at his best estate is altogether vanity.”

I sometimes abhor the thought of passing out to be remembered no more! Twas this thought that caused me to write out and have printed in booklet form a brief memoriam of our Grand Parents Rev. John Turner and his family of 13 children and a number of their grand children et als. Some future writer can refer to my brief for dates, names, ages, and localities. In this a Turner history can be perpetuated and traced. Take good care of yours. I sent you a copy, didn’t I? If not, I can send you one.

I am quite proud of my ancestry. The original Turner’s were a fine race of people. English Stock. Our Mother’s Stock was Dutch. John, I have you an alphabetical list of the names of the Military Company I had the honor to command from February 11th, 1864 to August 1st, 1865. Grand list of old boys. I loved them all. Native Virginians. At least 50% of them have past over to answer roll call on the other shore. I thought it would please you to have a list of their names.

John, our brief life history has been checkered and strange indeed. Our road from the cradle on thus far has been seasons of storm and sunshine. Our road way, very hilly in part, and in part smooth and very pleasant. So on the whole, we’ve little to complain of. This is the best world we were ever in. I’m in love with it. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above. The two worlds have many striking resemblances I think. “One family we dwell in Him.” Part of which has crossed the flood and part of crossing now. Out of the storm, into the house. I get lonesome sometimes. So many of my old chums have passed over. The passing of William H. Abbott, my dear old brother, he’s the gained, I doubt not.
1864 & 1865
All Privates:
Arnold, Jackson (1 month - not mustered)  McVey, James
Arnold, James (1 month)  Marshall, Oliver
Clay, Booker  Meadows, William T.
Davis, Allison S.  Miller, James W.
Dickens, Ralph K.  Mitchem, James A.
Dickens, Thomas  Morris, Lewis
Elkins, Isaiah  Newsom, William
Elkins, James R.  Pauley, Squire
Ellison, Charles  Perfater, John E.
Gallimore, Amos  Perry, Andrew J.
Graham, Anderson  Riddle, Thomas
Graham, Lewis  Rowe, John
Graham, Luke  Saulsbury, Allen P.
Graham, Luke Jr  Saulsbury, James W.
High, John H.  Saulsbury, Lafayette
Hendrix, Francis W.  Simpson, William L.
Hendrix, James K.  Stover, George
Hunt, Henry  Stover, Jubal
Harper, Hamilton  Surratt, Joseph A.
Jones, James  Sutphin, William
Jarrell, George  Tharp, Levi D.
Jarrell, Gibson  Totton, Charles
Jarrell, James  Totton, Parris
Jarrell, John  Turner, John B Jr.
Jarrell, William  Underwood, Samuel
Laferty, Alexander  Webb, William
Laferty, Marion  Williams, Ballard
Laferty, Ralph  Williams, Stephen
Laferty, Steel  Walls, Napoleon B.
Lambert, Hiram  Wilson, Robert W.
Lambert, Garrett P.  Wriston, Robert
Lambert, Phillip
Lester, Charles K.  
Lykens, John  
McMillion, Henry F.  
McMillion, Meridith  

Total  113 men discharged at Brownton, W. Va.
1st August 1865

Goodbye old Boys.
Wm. Turner