William Drumhiller, Captain, Co. B, 44 MO Infantry, U.S.

1837 July 26: Drumhiller was born in Northampton, PA to Charles and Sallie Drumhiller.

1850 September 28: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Washington, Sandusky County, OH showed 18-year-old William, a laborer, living with his mother and siblings.

1860 August 3: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in St. Joseph, Buchanan County, MO showed William, an auctioneer, living with a Sparks family.

1861 April 24: Married Emilie C. Mahan.

1862 Enlisted in the 5th MO state militia, the express purpose of the six-month service was to control the confederate guerrilla raids in Kansas and Missouri.
William Drumheller
Capt. Co. ______, 5 Reg’t Missouri S. M. Cav.
(1st Organization.)
Appears on Returns as follows:
May 1862. Present
May 8 to Apr. 28, 1862
Stationed at Liberty
until May 8, 1862. Assigned
to command at Platte
City, Mo. May 1, 1862
30.2847 N. 91. Dist. 41. Mo.
June, July 1862. Present.
May 1862. Present
May 1862. Present
May 1862. Present
Aug. 1862. Present
Sept. 1862. Present
Oct. 1862. Present
Nov. 1862. Present
Dec. 1862. Present
Jan. 1863. Present
Feb. 1863. Present
Mar. 1863. Present
Apr. 1863. Present
May 1863. Present
Blue Springs.

Book Mark: ________________________

M. Laughlin
Copist.
April 10:

December 1: Wife, Emilie died. She was buried at Mount Mora Cemetery.

1864

September 1: Mustered into the U.S. Army.

November 7: Promoted from Adjt. To captain of Co. B. 44 MO Infantry.

November 30: Fought at the Battle of Franklin.

Account of Drumhiller at the Battle of Franklin:

“Captain John Michel, one of the old Forty-fourthers, said last night that Major Drumhiller was one of the bravest men he ever knew. He was an ideal soldier. At the battle of Franklin, Drumhiller was captain of Company B, and was stationed on one side of the old Carter House. The company of Captain Michel was on the other side. The house was in line with the soldiers, who faced the Confederates in front of the building. The soldiers poured the burning shot and shell into each other with awful results.”


1865

January & February: Company Muster Roll. Present. Remarks: “Was absent sick at last muster—not absent with leave as then mustered.”


August 15: Mustered out of the U.S. Army.

1867

April 3: Married Evelyn Cowden in Buchanan County, MO.

1870

June 27: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in St. Joseph, Buchanan County, MO showed William, Recorders Court Judge, and Evely living with two of her sisters, India and Mary Cowden, both teachers.

1880

June 5: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Logan, Phillips County, KS showed William, a lawyer, living with his wife Evelyn.

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2 The Weekly Herald and Tribune, St. Joseph, MO Thursday 10 Apr 1862, pg. 4
3 St. Joseph Gazette-Herald, St. Joseph, MO Friday 15 Mar 1901, pg. 5
1892  June 29:

1897  July 7: Wife, Evelyn, died.

1898  December 15: Appointed post-master in Logan, Phillips County, KS.


1901  March 14: William Drumhiller died while on his way home from President McKinley’s Inauguration in Washington D.C. He fell off a train while walking between the cars.

March 15:

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4 The St. Joseph Herald, St. Joseph, MO, Wednesday, 29 Jun 1892, pg. 5
5 The York Daily, York, PA Friday 15 March 1901, pg. 5
Drumhillier's Fatal Accident.

This paper was able last week to give only a brief report of the accident which cost Major Drumhillier of Logan his life, but were not able to give any of the particulars. When Congressman Reeder returned home he furnished us the full particulars and we here give them for the information of our readers. On the morning of the accident the Major was feeling unusually well and was anxious to get home in order that he might tell his friends of one of the pleasantest trips of his life. He had procured a lot of presents for his little daughter in St. Joseph, Mo., and friends at home and was anticipating with pleasure the time when he could tell his friends all about an inaugural day at the National capital. He was sitting in the seat with Mr. Reeder, talking about his visit and their trip home. They were passengers on the Pennsylvania Central, and after the train had left Baltimore, Mr. Drumhillier got up from his seat, handed his cane to Mr. Reeder's little boy——, asking him to keep it until he came back, and then turning to his friends said he would go into the smoking car a few minutes. The smoking car was the next car in front of the one they were in. He had no trouble in going into the car and Mr. Reeder says he saw him close the door behind him, but for some reason he did not remain in the new car but a minute. Mr. Reeder says he saw him coming back and saw him come through the door of the smoking car and step out on the platform, and as he did so, he apparently stepped one side and was lost forever from the view of his friends. Mr. Reeder says he did not think anything

of his disappearance until the people on the train began raising the windows and heard somebody say “that old man has fallen off the train.” The conductor was notified, who stopped the train and backed up only to find their surmise too true. Just as he stepped on the platform the train made a sharp turn around a short curve and he was thrown headlong into the center of a parallel track. When the train backed up and help reached him they asked him who he was and the trainmen say that he spoke in a full round tone and said, “My name is William Drumhillier of Logan, Phillips county, Kansas, but Mr. Reeder was informed that soon after that he became unconscious and perhaps never realized his suffering after that. The accident occurred about 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday the 13th inst. It was just ten minutes when another train came along, going back to Baltimore. Mr. Drumhillier was put upon this train and taken back to Baltimore where he was taken to the Maryland General Hospital. H. P. Andrews was wired of the accident and in a very short time he reached the hospital. Everything possible was done to relieve the suffering and save the life of our friend and fellow-citizen, but to no purpose, and he died a few minutes after 4 o'clock that afternoon. His wife’s brother, Mr. Ray, at St. Joseph, was notified by wire of the accident and the remains were taken to St. Joseph, where on the 15th they were laid beside those of his wife who died only a few years ago.

Major Drumhillier was 69 years of age at the time of his death and was one of the prominent G. A. R. men of the state and was one of the most jovial of men. He was a great favorite in this county and will be greatly missed by his many friends and associates.

The accident was probably not the fault of anybody, but was the result of a feeble old man’s effort to do something entirely beyond his strength.

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6 The Phillipsburg Dispatch, Phillipsburg, KS, Thursday 21 March 1901, pg. 1