

WWI Fort Caswell Nurse Profile: Frances C. Boulware 1878-1941

By NORMA EKCARD AND AMY EKCARD

*Frances Cordelia Boulware
Laurens, SC
Army Nurse Corps
Served:
August 12, 1918 – March 23, 1919
Fort Caswell, US Army
Post Hospital:
August 12, 1918 – March 23, 1919*

Frances Cordelia “Fannie” Boulware was born and raised in Laurens County, S.C. There is a partial family tree in Family Search.

In the 1880 Census her father is listed as a farmer. There are two daughters and a son. Fannie, listed as three years old, is the second child and youngest daughter.

Her father passed away in 1895 [Source: Ancestry]. Several more children had been born. The 1900 Census shows a total of seven children were born, five (or six?) still living. Fannie is the oldest living at home, with three younger siblings.

Before her father died, the family was living on a large family farm in Cross Hill, SC, a rural community in Laurens County. The death of her father may have required a move into town. In 1900 they lived in the town of Laurens, S.C., and her mother was a landlady. The 1900 Census shows seven people boarding with them. Fannie, age 22, and her 17 year old sister, Jane, were dressmakers.

This 1912 Laurens City Directory lists three of the Boulware women. Frances

is listed as a nurse; Harriett, a milliner (maker of hats), and Mariah, their mother (she died later that year). [Source: Ancestry.com. U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995 [database on-line]. Provo, Utah, USA]

This excerpt from a 1915 article names Fannie Boulware as secretary of the Graduate Nurses’ Association of South Carolina.

“Graduate Nurses to Meet Here in April.” The Greenville News, 19 April 1915, p. 2.

On August 12, 1918, Nurse Boulware volunteered for WWI service.

The excerpt from a 1915 article names Fannie Boulware as secretary of the Graduate Nurses’ Association of South Carolina.

At nearly 40 years of age, Boulware did not meet the initial age requirements for U.S. Army nurses, between 25-35 years. As the war continued, these requirements were modified to include 21-45 years of age, as mentioned in the initial Fort Caswell nurse post. The clipping stated she was planning to serve overseas. Due to her late entry, her service overseas was probably no longer needed. Thus, she completed her service at Fort Caswell and was discharged. Her South Carolina WWI Service Card is listed below, as mentioned in the initial Fort Caswell nurse post. The clipping stated she was planning to serve overseas.

BOULWARE, FRANCES C. Residence: Laurens S.C. Born: Cross Hill S.C. Nov 25/79. Nurse Aug. 12/18 from Civilian life. Fort

Caswell N.C. to discharge. Honorable discharge Mch 23/19.

Source: South Carolina, General Assembly. The official roster of South Carolina soldiers, sailors and marines in the World War, 1917-18, volume 1, part 1. South Carolina State Library, 1929.

The 1920 Census shows she was back in Laurens, living with her sister Jane and her family. By 1930, she was living in Greenville, employed as the Head Nurse at the Furman University Infirmary [Source: various articles from Greenville newspapers reporting illness data]. It appears she remained in Greenville even when she was no longer able to work, as the 1940 Census shows.

Frances Cordelia Boulware passed away a year later, on Sept. 1, 1941. She had been in a Va. invalid’s home for nurses for 45 days. Her death certificate shows she had a bleeding stomach ulcer with possible liver cancer. Her obituary is shown.

Miss FRANCES BOULWARE LAURENS, Sept 1 – Miss Frances Boulware, widely known professional nurse of Laurens and Greenville, died today at Veterans’ hospital for nurses in Milledgeville, GA, after several years of declining health.

She was the daughter of the late Joseph R. and Maria Anderson Boulware

of Laurens. She received her education in schools here and graduated as a nurse at Roper hospital, Charleston. During recent years she had lived in Greenville. Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Fleming Smith and Mrs. Alva Weaver and a brother, David L. Boulware.

Funeral services will be at the Kennedy mortuary in Laurens at 11 a.m. Wednesday conducted by the Rev. L.P. McGee. Burial will be in Laurens cemetery.

Active pallbearers: W.R. and Jack Anderson, Lawrence Kennedy, L.C. Barksdale, E.O. Anderson, Everette Martin.

Honorary escort: R.E. and R.A. Babb, Dr. C.P. Vincent, Dr. T.L. Timmerman, H. Douglas Gray, L.G. Balle, M.L. Smith, Ralph Bobo, C.P. Roper, and Grover C. Peterson.

The Greenville News (Greenville, SC), 2 Sept. 1941, p. 6.

She was laid to rest in Laurens City Cemetery where her mother and later at least one sister were buried. No military service is shown.

If you would like to help us honor Frances Cordelia Boulware or another Brunswick County WWI veteran, please email the Friends of Ft Caswell Rifle Range: <ftcaswellrifle@gmail.com> or go to : www.caswellrifle.com



Photos contributed

Greenville News April 19, 1915

Miss Fannie Boulware left some time ago for Fort Caswell, N. C., where she entered the hospital service of the Red Cross preparatory to going overseas for duties as a nurse.

The Laurens Advertiser, Wed. Aug. 28, 1918.

Boulware Frances C Miss, nurse 557 e Main, h same Boulware Harriett R Miss, mlrn, h 557 e Main Boulware Mariah S, wid Jos R, h 557 e Main

There were only five trained nurses listed in the same City Directory of 1912.



Photo contributed from Findagrave

Headstone of Frances C. Boulware. Inscription: Frances Cordelia Boulware; November 25, 1879; September 1, 1941

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		State File No.
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH		24226
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS		
1. Place of Death	a. County	b. City or town
2. Date of Death	3. Sex	4. Race
5. Marital Status	6. Occupation	7. Education
8. Cause of Death	9. Duration of Illness	10. Usual Residence
11. Name of Physician	12. Name of Hospital	13. Name of Burial Place
14. Name of Informant	15. Informant's Address	16. Informant's Signature
17. Name of Registrar	18. Registrar's Address	19. Registrar's Signature
20. Name of Medical Examiner	21. Medical Examiner's Address	22. Medical Examiner's Signature
23. Name of Coroner	24. Coroner's Address	25. Coroner's Signature
26. Name of Undertaker	27. Undertaker's Address	28. Undertaker's Signature
29. Name of Funeral Home	30. Funeral Home's Address	31. Funeral Home's Signature
32. Name of Cemetery	33. Cemetery's Address	34. Cemetery's Signature
35. Name of Interment	36. Interment's Address	37. Interment's Signature
38. Name of Burial Place	39. Burial Place's Address	40. Burial Place's Signature
41. Name of Grave	42. Grave's Address	43. Grave's Signature
44. Name of Plot	45. Plot's Address	46. Plot's Signature
47. Name of Section	48. Section's Address	49. Section's Signature
50. Name of Row	51. Row's Address	52. Row's Signature
53. Name of Grave	54. Grave's Address	55. Grave's Signature
56. Name of Plot	57. Plot's Address	58. Plot's Signature
59. Name of Section	60. Section's Address	61. Section's Signature
62. Name of Row	63. Row's Address	64. Row's Signature
65. Name of Grave	66. Grave's Address	67. Grave's Signature
68. Name of Plot	69. Plot's Address	70. Plot's Signature
71. Name of Section	72. Section's Address	73. Section's Signature
74. Name of Row	75. Row's Address	76. Row's Signature
77. Name of Grave	78. Grave's Address	79. Grave's Signature
80. Name of Plot	81. Plot's Address	82. Plot's Signature
83. Name of Section	84. Section's Address	85. Section's Signature
86. Name of Row	87. Row's Address	88. Row's Signature
89. Name of Grave	90. Grave's Address	91. Grave's Signature
92. Name of Plot	93. Plot's Address	94. Plot's Signature
95. Name of Section	96. Section's Address	97. Section's Signature
98. Name of Row	99. Row's Address	100. Row's Signature

Death Certificate, Frances C. Boulware.