

Isolation & Tragedy

Cape Canaveral was very isolated during the Civil War. Because the light had been taken apart and didn't need tending, life was a little easier for the Keepers. Frances Burnham Wilson said that they "...lived better than ever before or since, as they had nothing to do but live." Wild game was all around, including bear, deer, birds and fish. They raised their own sheep, cows and chickens and had vegetable gardens.

They were not untouched by the war, however.

Head Keeper Mills Burnham's son, Mills O. Burnham, Jr., joined the Confederate Army in April 1862. He became sick and died a

month later. Henry Wilson, husband of Frances

Burnham Wilson, also left for the war in April 1862. He returned near the end of the war,

walking the last 200 miles to get home.



Mills Jr. just before going to war



Henry Wilson later in life