

EMILY RAINÉ WILLIAMS



Fort McHenry in 1919

EMILY RAINE WILLIAMS, WORLD WAR I NURSE

Many years ago there was a hospital all around Fort McHenry for treating the American soldiers who had fought in the First World War from 1917 to 1918. (The war actually started in Europe in 1914.) I used to work there as a nurse.

Hello, my name is Emily Raine Williams. I worked at this hospital - General Hospital #2 - from 1917 until 1922. This hospital was made up of over one hundred buildings, and they stood on the grounds that now form a park around the Fort.

Men and women from all over the country came to work at this hospital during the First World War. They came from states as far away as Florida, Kansas, and Louisiana. There were nurses who came from Baltimore too.

We treated men with all kinds of wounds, and men who had been blinded during the war. Some men had been gassed. Others had lost arms or legs. The doctors and nurses who worked at the hospital helped them all. Our hours were long and our work was hard, but our work was good. We were helping these soldiers to regain their health and well-being. I was very proud to be a part of that effort.