



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

Copyright © 2008-2011. All rights reserved.

Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Soloman Cate

Compiled by Michael Patterson
Copyright 2008-2011. All rights reserved.

Soloman Cate was a Union veteran in a Tennessee cavalry regiment who spent the last years of his life in northeast Tarrant County. He lies buried in Lonesome Dove Cemetery in Southlake. Solomon had a brother, Robert Cate, and a nephew, David Cate, who both enlisted in the Confederate Army from the Grapevine area.

Soloman was born on July 18, 1821. Some family sources say he was born in Big Foot, Rhea County, Tennessee. He was a son of Robert Cate (1789-1879) and his wife, Isabella (Carter) Cate (1801-1875). Records about his life placed at Ancestry.com by several descendants are somewhat contradictory. Soloman himself told recruitment officials during the Civil War that he was a native of McMinn County, Tennessee.



Soloman was married on November 19, 1846 in McMinn County, Tennessee to Louisa Dumont McCarroll. She was born in South Carolina on January 27, 1821.

The 1850 census taker found Solomon and his family living in District 7 of Rhea County, Tennessee. With him were his wife, Louisa, and two of their sons, William and James. Also with them was seven-year-old Sarah McCarroll.

Ten years later, in 1860, they were still in the same county and state in District 8. In that year, Solomon and Louisa had five children in their family: William, James, Sarah J., Mary E., and Nancy T. or F. Cate.

Soloman told the census taker in 1890 that he was a Union soldier in Co. E, 4th Tennessee Cavalry. He served from January 1, 1863 until July 12, 1865. He told the enumerator he had suffered a saber wound over his left eye. Family sources and pensions records indicate that during the war Soloman

was injured by a comrade during a drunken brawl. Solomon by his own account and witnesses he was just in the way during his rampage and was stabbed by the comrade thru the eye with a bayonet, this making him unable to do manual labor the rest of his life, drawing a disability pension until his death in 1900.

Mr. Cates's official records in the National Archives show that he enlisted January 1, 1863 at Louisville, Kentucky for a term of three years, and was mustered into the service at Nashville, Tennessee on February 10, 1863. He was in a convalescent camp in Nashville at some time during the first two months of 1864. During January of 1864 he was absent on furlough in East Tennessee, and in April of that year he was put on detached service away from the regiment. On April 22, 1864 he was placed on duty at brigade headquarters, where he remained through the end of June. In July 1864 he spent time serving as a nurse at the brigade hospital in Mooresville, Alabama. He was again sick in a convalescent camp in Nashville for a time during November and December of the same year. He was absent from the regiment on furlough beginning during March 1865 and continuing at least as long as April. He was mustered out of the service on July 12, 1865 at Nashville, and at the time of his release he was still due a one hundred dollar bounty for enlistment.

An original request for a furlough for Mr. Cate, dated at Decatur, Alabama on September 13, 1864, says: *"I have the honor to respectfully Request that a furlough be granted to Solomon Cate, private of Co E 4th Tenn Cav for (20) Twenty Days that he might go home which is near Smith X Roads Tenn for the following Resons---*

He has just received intelligence of the death of his wife who has left quite a large family small children entirely unprotected by any person and among Strangers, also destitute of any means of subsistence as all they had was taken by the Rebels when they evacuated that part of the country. He has now been absent from them nearly two years and has made a good soldier all the time.

I feel that rather than his orphan children should suffer that he should go and arrange some means of support and for them to be cared for---

I am Gen. Very Respectfully Your Obt Servt L. M. Blackman, Capt."

Soloman's and Louisa's children included William Marion Cate (born November 18, 1847-October 10, 1921); James Alonzo Cate (August 8, 1849-August 13, 1913); Sarah J. Cate (born about 1851); Jane Cate (born about 1852, married Wiley Ayers); Mary Elizabeth Cate (born about 1854, married Eli McCarroll); Ellen Cate (born March 1 or 3, 1857); James Alonzo Cate (born August 8, 1849), Nancy Cate (born March 3, 1857), Anderson Bartholomew Cate (December 2, 1861-January 2, 1945), and Ellen Texas Cate (March 1, 1869 in Arkansas-November 10, 1950 in Navarro County, Texas, married James C. Carroll).

Mr. Cate was listed in the 1880 census of Denton County, Texas. He lived alone in District 106, Precinct 4. He was a widower. His neighbors on each side in the census list were the families of his sons, William and James.

Soloman was pensioned for his Union Civil War service. In his application, he said he was a widower by May 4, 1898.

Shortly before Soloman's death, the census taker visiting Precinct 3 found him living with the family of his son, Anderson B. Cate. Soloman Cate died November 13, 1900 in Tarrant County, Texas, and was buried in Lonesome Dove Cemetery.

