



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

Copyright © 2008-2012. All rights reserved.

Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

William Cates

Compiled by Michael Patterson
Copyright 2008-2012. All rights reserved.

William Cates was a Confederate veteran who lived in the Minter's Chapel area of northeast Tarrant County. He entered the service in middle age, and lived less than twenty years after the War.

William was born January 5, 1820 in Tennessee. He and his wife, Matilda A., Martin, were married in Benton County, Arkansas on July 1, 1839 [from information given by Mrs. Cates in her Confederate pension application, but the record citing 1839 must obviously be in error]. Her headstone says she was born February 13, 1828.

William and Matilda Cates appear in the 1850 census of Mulberry Township in Franklin County, Arkansas. The oldest child, Sarah A. Cates, was either four or six years old and born in Missouri. Their other children were a three-year-old female whose name began with "M" and a daughter named Mahala, one year old, both born in Arkansas.

When Cates registered to vote in the summer of 1867, he said he'd been a resident of Texas, Tarrant County, and Precinct 2 for ten years, hence he must have arrived around 1857. In 1860, he owned 116 acres of the Amos Burgoon survey in Tarrant County.

William served the Confederacy in Co. K, Bowlin's Texas Regiment. His wife said in her pension application that he had served about two years, from the fall of 1863 until the end of the War.

William and Matilda Cates and their family appear in the 1870 census of Tarrant County; judging from the names of their neighbors they were living in the Minter's Chapel area. William's real estate was valued at \$5000 and his personal estate was valued at \$500. His birthplace was stated as Tennessee, while Matilda said she was born in Illinois. They had six children with them: N. E. Cates (a female born in Arkansas about 1855); J. R. (or A.) Cates (a male born in Arkansas about 1851); M. F. Cates (a female born in Texas about 1857); R. Cates (a male born in Texas about 1859); W. R. Cates (a male born in Texas about 1861); and S. C. Cates (a female born in Texas about

1866). They also had two other young men living with them: J. McKinney (born about 1849 in Arkansas) and J. W. Smart (born in Texas about 1862).

The family appears in the 1880 Tarrant County census. William “Cate” very clearly was recorded as having a middle initial “C.” His birthplace was shown in Tennessee, and his father and mother were shown as a North Carolinian and an Indianan, respectively. William was suffering from bilious fever at the time the census taker visited. They had only two children with them at the time, William R. Cates and Savannah C. Cate.

William died in Tarrant County, Texas on October 24, 1884. He lies buried in Minter’s Chapel Cemetery on the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport land south of Grapevine.

Mrs. Cates applied to the State of Texas for a Confederate pension in 1899. Her post office at the time was Muriel, Tarrant County, Texas. Ann Quayle and Henry Burgoon, both pioneers in the community in which she lived, vouched for her identification for not for her husband’s military service.

Mrs. Matilda A. Cates died December 16, 1901. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cates have readable headstones in Minter’s Chapel Cemetery.

One of their children was William Ramey Cate, whose death certificate shows he was born at Minter’s Chapel, Texas on December 3, 1861. He died October 8, 1951 at Arlington, Tarrant County, and was buried at Minter’s Chapel.

