



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

George W. Collins

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George W. Collins was a veteran of a Confederate Missouri cavalry regiment. He was living at Grapevine in northeast Tarrant County when he applied for a Confederate pension. No obituary for Mr. Collins is found in the Grapevine Sun newspaper's surviving copies.

The records for this George W. Collins are somewhat contradictory. The Mr. Collins who served in the 10th Missouri Cavalry is the same man who applied for his pension while living in Grapevine. We have found no one currently posting information on Ancestry.com which deals with this Mr. Collins. Neither has anyone made any postings on the Genforum Collins web page concerning him.

Mr. Collins completed his Confederate pension application papers on August 9, 1913. He said he left the service at Jackson Port, Arkansas on April 6, 1865 at which time his unit surrendered. He said he was to be seventy-nine years old on March 7, 1914; this yields a birth date of March 7, 1835. He said he was born in Sinclair County, Missouri. There is no Sinclair County... perhaps he meant St. Clair County. St. Clair County was formed in 1841 from Rives (later Henry) County, Missouri. He came to Texas about 1888, and had lived at Grapevine since about 1912.

He said he originally applied for a pension about 1910, but had not been in the state long enough to be eligible at that point. His first application was not preserved in the Texas archives. He had served about three years and six months in Co. D, 3rd Missouri Cavalry under Col. Emery McDonald. He claimed to have no real estate or personal property. Officials at the War Department determined that his service had actually been in Co. D, 10th Missouri Cavalry, under Col. Emmett Macdonald.

W. M. Garrett of Jackson County, Oklahoma made an affidavit for Mr. Collins in which he said he (Garrett) had served with Collins and had accompanied him to the surrender at Jackson Port, Arkansas. J. B. Walton of Jones County, Texas also served with Mr. Collins and made an affidavit for him. No other information on Mr. Collins appears in his 1914 pension file.

Mr. Collins' records in the National Archives are confined to a single muster roll covering the period September 1, 1863 to February 29, 1864. On it, he is shown having enlisted on October 1, 1862 in Bates County, Missouri for a term of three years. A notation at the bottom of the record abstract for Mr. Collins says "Late in 1862 an effort was made to raise a regiment of Missouri cavalry to be commanded by Colonel Emmett MacDonald. Five companies, A to E, were organized and designated MacDonald's Regiment Missouri Cavalry. The regiment failed to complete its organization and the five companies became Companies A to E, respectively, in the 11th (also called Young's) Battalion Missouri Cavalry, Companies F to H being added. About December 1863 two more companies were added and the organization designated 10th Regiment Missouri Cavalry.

When John B. Walton applied for a Confederate pension, G. W. Collins made an affidavit for him in which Collins said, "The first time that I saw J. B. Walton in the army of the Confederacy was at the battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas in 1862 and he was in this battle and participated in this fight. I saw him several times during the war after this battle and every time that I saw him he was in actual service. My recollection is that I saw him in the battle of Cane Hill Arkansas in 1862..."

No good candidates for this George Collins have been found in the 1850 or 1860 census indexes of Missouri.

Another...or possibly the same George W. Collins...married a second wife named Cynthia about 1865 in Arkansas and lived in Independence County, Arkansas in 1870 and 1880, and in Jones County, Texas in 1900 and 1910.

In the 1870 census, one G. W. Collins was living in White River Township in Independence County, Arkansas, in the area served by the post office at Sulphur Rock, Arkansas. His wife, Cynthia A., was born about 1849 in Arkansas. They had two children with them in that year: Malinda A. Collins who was born about 1864 and James M. Collins, who was born about 1868. A statement Cynthia Collins made to a census taker in 1900 indicates that Malinda Collins was from a first marriage of George W. Collins. In that year, Mr. Collins owned real estate worth one hundred dollars and personal property worth one hundred twenty-five dollars.

When the 1880 census was taken one George Collins headed a family in Greenbriar, Independence County, Arkansas. His wife was Cynthia, who was born about 1840 in Arkansas. There were two children with them: Malinda Collins, born about 1863 in Arkansas, and Tom Collins, born about 1875 in Arkansas. Malinda was probably from a first marriage of Mr. Collins.

The only likely candidate for this Mr. Collins in the 1900 Texas census index is one George W. Collins who lived with his family in Jones County, Texas. He was born in March 1836 in Missouri to two Missourians. His wife, S. A. or S.W. Collins was born in Arkansas in March 1846 to two Kentuckians. They had been married since about 1865. Mrs. Collins said she had given birth to five children, three of whom were still living. They had two children with them: Tom Collins, who was born in November 1876 in Arkansas, and Albert C. Collins, who was born in February 1884 in Arkansas. The nearest "J. B. Walton" to him was living in Abilene, Texas when the 1900 census was taken; this Mr. Walton was born in August 1837 and must have been the man who made an affidavit in support of the Grapevine George Collins' pension application.

This same Jones County George Collins lived at Hamlin, Jones County, when the 1910 census was taken. He was living with his second wife, Cynthia Collins, who was born about 1845 in Arkansas to two Kentuckians....apparently the same wife he had in 1910. He told the census taker he was a Confederate soldier. One G. Tom Collins appears on the same page of the census with them and is the correct age to have been the son Tom with the family in the census ten years earlier.

One man who may have been this Mr. Collins was a resident of the Confederate Home in Austin from 1916 until he died in 1923. State Cemetery records show that this man was born in 1834 in Missouri. He died November 29, 1923 and was buried in the State Cemetery the next day. He has a headstone there. Cemetery records say *“Collins was a farmer by trade until joining the Confederate Army. It is unclear as to when Collins joined the army, but he served in 4th Missouri Cavalry. The 4th Missouri eventually became the 8th Arkansas Cavalry. Collins served in Company D, McDonald's Brigade, Marmaduke's Division. The 8th Arkansas served in the Missouri Campaign and fought at the Battle of Shiloh. Collins moved to Plano, Texas in 1891 and farmed in the area until 1916. Collins was admitted to the Confederate Men's Home in Austin on October 4, 1916. Collins died seven years later on November 30, 1923 and was buried at the Texas State Cemetery.”*

Compiled military service records of the 4th Missouri Cavalry in the National Archives show no soldiers named George Collins in the regiment. Neither do records there of the 8th Arkansas Cavalry contain any soldier named George Collins.

The death certificate of the George Collins who died November 29, 1923 in the Confederate Home says he was born in 1834 in Alabama. He died at 11:20 p.m. from the effects of a fractured hip. He was a widower. He was buried the next day.