



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Moses Lafayette Cornelius

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Moses Lafayette Cornelius was a native of Alabama who served in a Confederate unit from his native state. He came to Texas during the 1870's, and settled for a few years in the Keller-Grapevine area just before 1900. He later moved to Jack County, Texas, where he died in 1904. He lies buried at Whitt in Parker County.

Mr. Cornelius was born in Blount County, Alabama on October 24, 1843. Family sources at ancestry.com say he was a son of Zacharia Cornelius and his wife, Elizabeth McGuire, who were married in Blount County, Alabama on May 7, 1834. When the 1850 census was taken, Moses lived with his parents and siblings in Subdivision 19 of Blount County. In this census he appears as Mosley Cornelius. His father did not own any real estate in 1850.

Ten years later when the 1860 census was taken, Moses' parents were listed in the eastern subdivision of Blount County, where Moses' father was working as a miller; he owned personal property worth one hundred fifty dollars. In this census, Moses is listed as "Lafayette" Cornelius.

Moses L. Cornelius and Phoebe Kesiah Glover were married in Blount County, Alabama on May 25, 1865. She told a later census taker that she was born in April 1850 in Alabama. Internet genealogists at Ancestry.com say she was a daughter of Isaac Glover and his wife, Dicey Ellis. Her parents lived in Blount County in 1850, so it seems likely she was born there. By 1860 Isaac Glover and family lived in Fayette County, Alabama. By the time the 1870 census was taken, the Glovers had moved back to Blount County.

M. L. Cornelius and his wife, F. K. Cornelius, lived in the east half of Blount County, Alabama when the 1870 census was taken. They had three children with them, all born in Alabama: a daughter whose initials appear to be N. C. M. L. Cornelius, who was born about 1866; a daughter whose initials were L. L. or L. D. Cornelius, born about 1868; and a son whose initials appear to be V. R.

Cornelius, who was born in January of 1870. None of these children appear with the family in the census in 1880, and it seems likely they had died by that time.

The census taker found the family in 1880 in Precinct 6 of Ellis County, Texas. Moses and Pheby Cornelius had three children with them: Emma, Ruth, and Ella Cornelius. Emma and Ruth were born in Mississippi, while Ella was born in Texas.

An entry for Mr. Cornelius was originally made in the 1880 agricultural census for Ellis County. Later his entry and all the others for citizens who did not own or rent land or work land on shares were lined through, as was Mr. Cornelius'. The entry shows that he owned livestock worth forty-three dollars, consisting of one horse, two hogs, and four chickens. He did not produce any crops or other farm produce in the year preceding the taking of the census.

Mr. Cornelius appears as "M. M. Cornelius" in the 1900 Tarrant County census in Precinct 3 in District 113. With him was his wife, Kesiah, who was born in April 1850. She told the census taker she had given birth to sixteen children, ten of whom were still living. Six of the children were with them in that year: Maggie, Eli, Addie, Dicie, Eula, and Virgie Cornelius. The Cornelius family was farming on rented land.

Mr. Cornelius was a member of the Stonewall Jackson Camp of United Confederate Veterans which was established at Grapevine in 1900. He told his comrades there he was a member of Co. C, 12th Battalion Cavalry, but he did not mention any state affiliation. In her pension application, his wife said he served in Co. B, 28th Alabama Cavalry and Infantry.

It is difficult to reconcile the statements Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius made about his service to the actual records which have survived in the National Archives. There were two Cornelius men who served in the 12th Alabama Cavalry. It seems likely one of them was our subject. One was M. Cornelius, who enlisted at Ladiga, [Calhoun County] Alabama on March 1, 1864 for the term of the War. He served in Co. G, "12th Battalion Alabama Cavalry." By the last half of the year, he was fourth corporal of the regiment. Blount and Calhoun Counties are not contiguous, but only one county separates them.

There was also one Marion Cornelius, who served in Companies B and D of the 12th Alabama Cavalry. He enlisted in Walker County, Alabama on July 28, 1862 for a term of three years, and became a private in Co. D, 1st Battalion Alabama Partisan Rangers, which subsequently became Company D of the 12th Alabama Cavalry. Another record shows he enlisted on the same day at Chapultepec [Madison County], Alabama. He was captured in East Tennessee on December 4, 1863. He was awol on June 3, 1864. This man also appears in the records of Company B and D of this regiment as "M. L. Cornelius."

Mrs. Cornelius in her pension application said her husband had been in the 28th Alabama Infantry. One Manly Cornelius was a member of E, 28th Alabama Infantry, but his records show that he died in service in 1863. It also appears there may have been another soldier in the regiment named Morris Cornelius in Co. D, but in some records he is shown as Cornelius Morris.

To add to the confusion there were a number of Cornelius men in 1860 in the contiguous counties of Blount and Walker: Manly Cornelius, born about 1823, in Division 1 of Blount County; Meradeth Cornelius, born about 1820, in the eastern subdivision of Blount County; Marion Cornelius, born about 1843, in the eastern subdivision of Blount County; Manley Cornelius, born about 1845, in the eastern division of Walker County; one Moses Cornelius, born about 1846, and a second Moses Cornelius, born about 1848, both in the eastern division of Walker County in 1860). Of course our subject, Moses Lafayette Cornelius, appears in that year in his father's family in Blount County as "Lafayette" Cornelius.

Unlike many people who died in rural areas early in this century, Mr. Cornelius has a death certificate on file in Austin, Texas. He died in Jack County, Texas, four miles north of Whitt, Texas on December 4, 1904. His grave is marked with an upright commercially-produced headstone with a sub-base and base.

When the 1910 census was taken, Mrs. Cornelius lived in Precinct 2 of Jack County, Texas, probably where Mr. Cornelius had died six years earlier. She told the census taker in this year that she had given birth to thirteen children, eight of whom were still living. Two of her daughters were living with her, Eula and Maggie, who was then the wife of Harvey M. Thomas.

Mrs. P. K. Cornelius of Gibtown, Jack County, Texas applied for a Confederate widow's pension in 1906. She said she and her husband had moved to Route 1, Gibtown, Texas about 1900. She said he had served in Co. B, 28th Alabama Infantry and Cavalry. At the time she applied for her pension she said she owned no real estate. She owned two horses worth about one hundred fifty dollars, two cows and calves worth fifty dollars, and three hogs worth \$22.50. She said that within the last two years the only property she had sold were two mules worth one hundred sixty dollars, in part payment for which she had gotten one horse.

Mrs. Cornelius' pension file contains a mortuary warrant which says she died in Mineral Wells, Texas at the home of her son-in-law, D.L. Austin, on September 13, 1921. No death certificate was filed for her. She was buried in Whitt Cemetery in Parker County. Her grave is unmarked.

The following list accounts for twelve of the sixteen children. As is so often the case, there is a great deal of confusing information about the Cornelius children posted on the internet. Some of the following dates are obviously incorrect. We have relied on public vital statistics records as far as they have been available.

N. C. M. L. Cornelius, a daughter who was born about 1866, was still with the family in 1870, but was absent in 1880.

L. L. or L. D. Cornelius, a daughter born about 1868, was still with the family in 1870, but was absent in 1880.

A son whose initials appear to be V. R. Cornelius, was born in January of 1870, but was not with them in 1880.

Emma E. Cornelius was born in March 1876. She married Christopher Columbus "Lum" McBrayer (1869-1937) in Tarrant County, Texas on July 26, 1893. Family sources say she died in 1901 in Tarrant County, Texas. She does not have a readable headstone in northeast Tarrant County.

Ruthie Artliza Cornelius was born, according to her death certificate, on March 2, 1878 in Mississippi. She was married to a Mr. Ricketts. She died at 5:35 p.m. on March 15, 1965 at Highland General Hospital in Pampa, Gray County, Texas. Her last permanent home was at 814 North Frost Street in Pampa. She was buried in Fairview Cemetery in Pampa, Texas.

Ella Ree Austin was born, according to her death certificate, in Tarrant County, Texas on May 30, 1879. She was married to Dolphie Lester Austin (1876-1944.). She died at her home at 300 S.E. Third Avenue in Mineral Wells, Palo Pinto County, Texas at 11:55 a.m. on January 3, 1963. She was buried beside her husband in Woodland Park Cemetery in Mineral Wells, Texas.

Maggie Mae Cornelius was born, according to her death certificate, at Midlothian, Texas on September 3, 1881. Her parents are shown as Lafette Cornelius and Kissy Glover. She married Harvey Monroe Thomas at Whitt, Parker County, Texas on April 9, 1905. They lived in Precinct 2 of Jack County, Texas with Maggie's mother when the 1910 census was taken. Her last permanent address was 2300 Princeton Street in Wichita Falls. Maggie died in the Bethania Hospital in Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas at 6 a.m. on June 22, 1956. She was buried in Crestview Memorial Park in Wichita Falls.

Eli Marvin "Bishop" Cornelius was born January 18, 1882 at Keller, Texas, according to his death certificate. He married Alice Deborah King (1883-1972). He died at Perrin, Jack County, Texas on December 23, 1924, and is buried there in Perrin Memorial Gardens.

Addie Oletha Cornelius was born, according to her death certificate, on November 27, 1887 at Keller, Texas. She married Jess J. Clower and then a Mr. Littlepage. When the 1930 census was taken she was again a widow, and was living with two of her Clower children at 1101 West Lamar Street in McKinney, Collin County, Texas. She died at 8 p.m. on May 10, 1948 at her home at 308 S. W. 5th Street in Mineral Wells, Palo Pinto County, Texas. She was buried in Whitt Cemetery in Parker County, Texas with a double headstone with James Jesse Clower (1883-1922).

Dicie Elizabeth Cornelius was born January 12, 1888. She married John Regan Lusk (1887-1953) about 1907. In 1910 they were farming in Precinct 4 of Young County, Texas. In 1920 and 1930 they were farming in Precinct 2 of Briscoe County, Texas. She died at Turkey in Hall County, Texas and is buried in Turkey in 'Dreamland Cemetery.

Eula Jemima Cornelius was born, according to her death certificate, at Keller, Tarrant County, Texas on June 15, 1895. She was still living at home with her mother in Jack County in 1910. She married John Floyd Hudson (1893-1936) in Jacksboro, Jack County, Texas on February 2, 1911. She died at 8:48 p.m. on June 16, 1968 at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Worth. Her last permanent home was at 5301 Nell Street in Fort Worth. She was buried in Emerald Hills Memorial Park in Kennedale, Tarrant County, Texas.

Virgie L. Cornelius was born in October 1896. She was with the family in 1900. Family information about Virgie is complicated and conflicting as presented on the internet genealogy sites. No one easily identifiable Virgie has been found in the Texas death records.



Moses L. Cornelius and Family



M. L. Cornelius, Whitt Cemetery