



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### James Madison French

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James Madison French was born July 23, 1843 in Marshall County, Alabama, a son of Lewis Pinckney French, who later became a pioneer in Navarro County, Texas. James served the Confederacy as a soldier in Co. I, 4<sup>th</sup> Alabama Cavalry. Official records say he enlisted at Guntersville, Alabama on August 1 1862, and is shown present for duty on a roll dated February 13, 1864.

His wife's name was Sarah Frances Walker; they were married on October 17, 1866 in Marshall Co., Alabama. She was born January 26, 1846 in Marshall County, and died January 24, 1937. In modern-day terms, in 1895 the French family lived on the A. J. Cash survey in Bedford at about the northeast corner of the intersection of Hospital Parkway and Tibbetts Drive. The widow was pensioned, and in 1921 said she had lived near Arlington for 48 years, thus they must have come here about 1873. She died in Dublin, Erath County, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. C. R. Wood.

James M. French died September 12, 1918. Mr. and Mrs. French lie buried near several of their family members in Bedford Cemetery.

They had at least eight children, including Delia F. French, William Bell French, Bettie Elizabeth French, James Henry French, Marquett Ann French, Nettie French, William Hugh French, and Maud French.

An newspaper obituary for Mrs. French has survived among the papers of her descendants: *“Last Rites Held At Bedford for Mrs. Sarah Frances French. Mrs. Sarah Frances French, known among her many friends here as “grandmother” French, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. C. R. Ward, Dublin, Route ?, at 7:00 Sunday morning. Her death followed a brief illness which put her to bed for four days preceding her death. This illness which at first was not thought to be serious developed into pneumonia. Mrs. French, had she lived until Jan. 26, 1937, would have been 91 years of age. Preparations had been made to have a family reunion and an afternoon reception in her honor. She was born in Marshall county, Alabama on January 26, 1846. In 1866 she was*

married to J. M. French, who served through the Civil War as a member of Forest's Brigade. In 1871, Mr. and Mrs. French came to Texas, being members of a large party of immigrants who made the trip in wagons. They settled at Bedford, in Tarrant County, making their home there until the death of the husband in 1918. Since that time, Mrs. French had been making her home with her children and had been here for the past two years with her youngest daughter. She possessed a wonderful memory and it was delightful to hear her tell of the early adventures of the pioneers who blazed the trail in this section. Of her nine children, six survive. These are W. B. French, Spencer, Oklahoma; Mrs. Delia Jameson, Fort Worth; Mrs. Bettie Scott, Hollis, Oklahoma; J. H. French, Hurst; Mrs. Maggie Arwine, Dallas; Mrs. Maude Ward, Dublin. Besides the children, there are 51 grandchildren and 51 great-grandchildren. Two of her nephews are pioneer citizens of Dublin. They are E. R. and W. H. Snead. She had been a member of the Baptist church since early young womanhood and was a charter member of one of Tarrant County's early churches. She was a remarkable woman, possessed of a keen sense of humor and a rare personality. Her life was a busy one and filled with kind deeds. Besides rearing her own family, she took four orphan nieces and nephews and sent them into the world as good citizens. The body was taken to Bedford Monday morning, where funeral services were held at 2 o'clock in the Bedford Church of Christ, conducted by the Rev. W. J. Cloud of Bunyan and an old time friend, M. H. Moore, superintendent of the Fort Worth School. Grandsons acted as pall bearers and granddaughters as flower girls. Funeral arrangements were in charge of the Higginbotham-Harrell Funeral home where the body lay in state and was viewed by many friends during Sunday afternoon."

