



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

James Martin Garrison

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James Martin Garrison was a Union soldier of a Missouri militia cavalry regiment. He settled in the White's Chapel area in the 1870's, and died in the 1920's in Eastland County, Texas. Several genealogists have placed material about Mr. Garrison and his family at Ancestry.com.

James Martin Garrison was born March 16, 1846 at Carthage, Hancock County, Illinois. He was the son of another of our Union veterans, John Flavel Garrison, and his wife, Margaret Washburn. James was four years old and living with his parents and siblings there when the 1850 census was taken in Hancock County.

About 1857 the family relocated to Lindsay Township in Benton County, Missouri. The census taker found them there in 1860 living in Town 43, Range 21, in an area served by the post office at Warsaw, Missouri. James was twelve years old.

James M. Garrison served the Union as a private in Co. A, Consolidated Detachment, 7th Regiment Missouri State Militia Cavalry. He enlisted July 19, 1863 at Warsaw, Missouri for the duration of the War. He told them he was eighteen years old. He was mustered into the federal service on the next day at the same place. At that time, his horse was valued at eighty-five dollars and his equipment was valued at fifteen dollars. He was five feet four inches tall, had a light complexion, blue eyes, light hair, was born in Illinois, and was a farmer.

He was placed on detached service for an unknown time beginning on August 8, 1864. A muster roll at that time says: "Furnished horse and horse equipments. From Feb. 29/64 to Aug. 31/64. Bridle 4.46—link .30—brush .75—comb .26—halter 1.90 = 7.67. His horse was valued at one hundred dollars.

On March 27, 1865 he was transferred from Co. E to Co. A of the same regiment. He was mustered out on July 11, 1865 at Benton Barracks, Missouri. At the time of his discharge he was still owed one hundred dollars in bounty money, as well as pay due for the risk of his horse from June 30 through October 12, 1864. He owed the government forty-one cents for a percussion cap box.

When the 1870 census was taken, James was a single man working as a laborer boarding with a family headed by a widow, Elizabeth Huff. They lived in Lindsey Township in Benton County, in the area served by the post office at Cole Camp, Missouri. Descendants report that Mr. Garrison married Annetta Belle Cochran in Henry County, Missouri on April 7, 1872. About 1875, the family moved from Missouri to Texas.

James M. Garrison lived in the White's Chapel area of northeast Tarrant County at the time the 1880 census was taken. His name appears in the agricultural census beside that of White's Chapel pioneer Stephen Blevins Austin. Mr. Garrison was working the land for a share of the produce. He was working twenty-five acres. The land he was working was worth two hundred fifty dollars. His farming implements were worth fifty dollars, and his livestock was worth two hundred dollars. He owned two horses. He owned three milk cows, and three cows kept for other purposes. He estimated he had produced one hundred pounds of butter in the previous year. He had five hogs, forty chickens, and estimated he had produced one hundred dozen eggs in the last year. He estimated at seven hundred dollars the value of all farm produce sold, consumed, or on hand for the previous year.

James M. Garrison and his family also appear in the population schedule for that year next-door to the family of S. B. Austin. James M. Garrison was thirty-five years old, born in Illinois to a Kentuckian father and an Ohioan mother. His wife, Annettie B. Garrison, was born about 1855 in Maryland, as was her mother. Her father was a native of New York. The Garrisons had five children with them: Ella C. (born about 1873 in Missouri), Eva G. (born about 1875 in Missouri), Albert C[harles] (born about 1876 in Texas), Margaret J. (born about 1878 in Texas), and Arthur J. Garrison (born in September 1879 in Texas). Also living with the family was Mrs. Garrison's mother, Bell Swykiffer, who was born about 1837 in Maryland to two Pennsylvanian parents. Family sources indicate this was Bell's maiden name; her married name was Cochran, and she appears that way in two later census records.

James M. Garrison applied for and received a federal pension based upon his Union Civil War service. He applied on July 12, 1882. We were not able to examine Mr. Garrison's pension file while this biography was being prepared.

When the 1890 Union veterans census was taken in 1890, James M. Garrison was living in Precinct 8 of Erath County, Texas. The census taker did not record the required information about each soldier.

The Garrisons appear in the 1900 census of Erath County, Texas. Mrs. Garrison said she was born in November, 1853. She had given birth to twelve children, seven of whom were still living. They had six of those children living with them: James A. (born in September 1879), Jessie D. (a daughter born in June 1886), Mattie L. (born in October 1887), Hettie A. (born in September 1889), Archie

L. (born in March 1897), and a married daughter, Willie P. Reed (born in May 1881). Willie's husband, Jesse L. Reed, was with them. Also in the family is one Isabel Cochran, "mother-in-law," who was born in October 1824 in Maryland to two parents born in the same place. She had given birth to only one child, who was still alive. Family sources also report the birth of a daughter, Emma Garrison, who was born in 1884.

Mr. Garrison and his family lived in the town of Dublin in Erath County, Texas, when the 1910 census was taken. Only one of their children, Archie L. Garrison, was still living at home with them. Mrs. Garrison's mother, Isabel Cochran, was still with the family. James was working as a house painter. He told the census taker he was a veteran of the Union army. Mrs. Garrison repeated the information that she had given birth to twelve children, seven of whom were still alive.

By 1920, Mrs. Garrison had died and James was living with his daughter, Jessie, her husband Everett Beecher (1879-1975), and their family in Precinct 5 of Knox County, Texas. The family included five of his Beecher grandchildren.

Mr. Garrison died at Ranger, Eastland County, Texas on March 28, 1927. He may have been living there with his daughter, Mattie McKeehan, and her family; they are present there in the 1900 census. He had lived five days past his eighty-first birthday. His death was caused by senility and arteriosclerosis. Mr. Garrison was a widower. He was buried in Cottonwood Cemetery at Dublin, Erath County, Texas. The informant for his death certificate was J. A. Garrison of Dublin.

Texas death certificates and cemetery records have been located for a few of the Garrison children.

John Arthur Garrison was born (according to his headstone) on September 5, 1880. About 1902, he married Texas Belle Huffman (1882-1971). Both lie buried in Victor Cemetery in Erath County, Texas.

Jessie Delilah Garrison was born in Erath County, Texas on June 15, 1886. She married Everett Beecher. Her last permanent residence was at Munday, Knox County, Texas. She died in the Knox County Hospital on January 16, 1965, and was buried in the Gillespie Cemetery in Knox County.

Mattie Laverne McKeehan was born October 18, 1887. She married Oshmann Pashaw McKeehan (1880-1951) about 1904, and in 1910 they lived with their children in Erath County. By 1920, they were living and operating a restaurant in Eastland County, Texas. In 1930 she lived with her husband and children at Ranger, Eastland County, Texas. Her last permanent address was 6405 Helmers in Houston. She died July 5, 1976 at Memorial Hospital Northwest in Houston, Harris County, Texas. She was buried in Brookside Cemetery in Houston.

Hettie Garrison McKeehan was born September 21, 1889. She died of influenza at her home at 3734 Spence Street in Dallas, Texas on December 21, 1918. She was buried in Oakland Cemetery in Dallas. Her father was the informant for her death certificate. A short notice of her death appeared in the Dallas Morning News on December 23, 1918. It names her surviving husband, Sergeant C. D. McKeehan; a daughter; her father, J. M. Garrison; and "several brothers and sisters." It seems likely her husband and daughter were Claud McKeehan and Josephine McKeehan, who appear in

the 1920 Dallas County census. Mr. McKeehan was a widower and was at that time working as a Dallas policeman.