



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

John McAnear

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John McAnear was a Confederate veteran who was living at Keller when he died. He lies buried with a military headstone in Bourland Cemetery. We are indebted to one of the McAnear descendants, Debbie Blanton McCoy, for correcting and adding much of the information previously posted on John McAnear.

Mr. McAnear was born in December, 1840 in Surround Hill Township, Monroe County, Arkansas. He was the son of Samuel F. McAnear, who appears in the 1840 census there. The family was still living in Surround Hill Township in 1850, where John appears in the census as a nine-year-old boy. His father, Samuel, was born about 1810 in South Carolina. The ages of the McAnear children in the census suggest that Frances McAnear, the mother shown in the 1850 census, may have been John's stepmother.

Several family genealogists who have posted information on the internet mistakenly claim this John McAnear to have been the son of Alexander McAnear (1803-1871) and his wife, Elizabeth (Blanton) McAnear (1810-1871), both of whom died in Johnson County, Texas. In fact, "our" John McAnear's father, Samuel, and the above Alexander McAnear were brothers. Alexander also had a son named John who was approximately the same age as the John McAnear who died at Keller, Texas.

John's father, Samuel McAnear, died in December, 1859 and appears on the 1860 Mortality Schedule of Surround Hill Township in Monroe County, Arkansas. The mortality schedule says he was a native of North Carolina.

By the time the 1860 census was taken, John McAnear and his siblings were living in Morgan County, Alabama with the family of William B. "McAneer," who was born about 1815 in Tennessee.

John was working as a farm laborer. He apparently soon moved to Texas, since he joined the Confederate Army from Hill County, Texas.

John McAnear was a soldier in Co. A, 12th Texas Cavalry. The company was also known as the Hill County Volunteers. His official records in the National Archives say he enlisted October 28, 1861 near Hempstead, Texas. He enlisted for twelve months. He brought with him a horse worth \$120 and equipment worth \$25. He traveled one hundred miles to the regimental rendezvous, and was mustered in the same day he enlisted at Camp Hobart near Hempstead. He was shown on the last surviving muster roll of the regiment, dated December 18, 1863, absent and furloughed at Magnolia, Arkansas for forty-six days.

John McAnear was married to Matilda J. Baker about 1864. She was born in April, 1839 in Illinois to two native Tennesseans. One of her descendants, Patricia Ross Parker, says she was first married to a Mr. Rich, ***“...by whom she had three children. She brought those three Rich children to her marriage to John McAnear, and he helped her raise them along with the children of their marriage. In addition, McAnear opened his home to many others from Matilda Baker's very large family, taking in dying sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, half-sisters, and step-brothers. He was obviously a generous man who did not turn away a relative in trouble. As my ancestors turned to him in need and were given his care, it is the kindness and generosity of John McAnear that I wish to applaud.”***

At the time the 1860 census was taken, Matilda and her first husband, John C. Rich (who was born about 1831 in Tennessee), were living in Hill County, Texas. They had two children with them, Mary A. and William Rich.

The family is found in the census of 1870 in Precinct 3 of Hill County, Texas. In that year, John “McInear” and his wife, Matilda, had a family which included two of Matilda’s children: Mary A. Rich (born about 1857 in Texas) and William A. Rich (born about 1860); and three of her children with Mr. McAnear: Henry McAnear (shown as Henry Rich in the census...born about 1866); Baker McAnear (born about 1868); and Matilda McAnear (born about 1860).

John McAnear and his family appear in the 1880 census of District 80, Johnson County, Texas. His wife, Matilda J. McAnear, was born about 1839. With them were six children, all born in Texas: Mary A., born about 1857; John H., born about 1866; Jasper B., born about 1868; Matilda A., born about 1870; Nancy R., born about 1872; and Louise E., born about 1875.

The McAnears moved to Belknap Street in Fort Worth about 1892, and ran a wagon yard there. When the 1900 census was taken, he and his family were living in Fort Worth at 311 Elm Street, and he was still working in the wagon yard. They had two children living with them at the time: N. R. McAnear (a daughter, born in August 1873), and N. G. McAnear (a daughter, born in January 1883). Mrs. McAnear said she had given birth to nine children, seven of whom were still living.

In 1909. Mr. McAnear applied for a Confederate pension, giving his address as 505 East Belknap in Fort Worth. In his application he said his regiment had disbanded in May 1865 in “Robinson” Co., Texas. Since there is no Robinson County, he may have meant Robertson County. Oddly, he

said he had come to Texas when he was “a year old,” thus about 1841; but the family is clearly enumerated in the census in Arkansas in 1850. A comrade, Thomas Reece, certified that that he and Mr. McAnear had enlisted together in Hill County, Texas. Another comrade, J. S. McKinney, said McAnear had enlisted in either February or March, 1864. This could indicate that McAnear had served two different terms and that official records of that service have not survived.

In 1910, Mr. and Mrs. McAnear were living at Keller, where he was working as a merchant. He told the census taker that year that his mother was born in Alabama. Mr. McAnear said he had been married only once; Mrs. McAnear said she had been married once before her marriage to Mr. McAnear. She said she had given birth to nine children, seven of whom were still alive. If this statement is correct, in her first marriage she was the mother of Mary A. Rich, William Rich, and one other child whose name has not been discovered. Her six children with Mr. McAnear were John Henry McAnear, Jasper Baker McAnear, Matilda Elizabeth “Mattie” McAnear, Nancy Rosa McAnear, Louise E. “Ellie” McAnear, and N. Geneva McAnear.

John McAnear died on Monday, December 2, 1918 in Keller at the home of his daughter, Geneva (Mrs. J. M.) Knox. Dr. T. A. Lowrey treated him during his last illness, and J. B. Merrell of Keller had charge of the funeral. Mr. McAnear died of Spanish influenza and pneumonia. He was buried in Bourland Cemetery.

John Henry McAnear lived for many years in Tarrant County. His death certificate says he was born in Texas on June 27, 1866. He married Mary Elizabeth Wright. The certificate shows him to have been a son of Henry McAnear. He died January 9, 1924 at his home at 604 Baltimore Street in Fort Worth, and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery there. He appears in the Tarrant County censuses of 1900, 1910, and 1920. In 1910 his family included an unmarried sister named Rosa.

Jasper Baker McAnear was born in Texas in January, 1868. By 1900 he was a single man working as a gold miner in Township 11, Kern County, California. By 1910 he and his wife, Hannah Leneta Rea McAnear, were living in Ducor, Tulare County, California. Ten years later, in 1920, they lived at Berkeley, Alameda County, California. He was alive as late as 1936 in Alameda County. Mrs. McAnear died October 29, 1949 in Alameda County.

Matilda Elizabeth “Mattie” McAnear (shown as Matilda A. in the 1880 census), was born February 12, 1869. She was married to Perry B. Johnston (1866-1918). She died September 25, 1942 at the Woodlawn Hospital in Dallas, Texas. She was buried in Grapevine Cemetery. The informant for her death certificate was J. P. Johnston of 7015 Toland Street in Dallas.

Nancy Rosa McAnear was born in August, 1873. She was living with her father’s family in District 1 of Fort Worth in 1900, and with the family of her brother, John H. McAnear, in Fort Worth in 1910.

Louise E. “Ellie” McAnear was born May 1, 1875. About 1898 she married Omar K. Turner and they began many years of moving from place to place. By 1900 he was working as a telegraph operator in Township 7 of the Chickasaw Nation of the Indian Territory. Within about one year they returned briefly to Texas, then again moved to Oklahoma around 1902. They lived in New Mexico

briefly around 1904, then settled in Yuma County, Arizona by 1906. They were still in Yuma County, Arizona in 1910 when Mr. Turner was working as a merchant in a general store. By 1920 the family had settled in Precinct 3 of Tyler County, Texas, where Mr. Turner was again a telegraph operator. Ten years later the family was still there, and Mr. Turner still had the same job. She died at her home in Route 3 in Henderson, Rusk County, Texas on October 12, 1947. The informant for her death certificate was her daughter Rosella (Mrs. W. J.) Trowbridge of Henderson. Ellie Turner's burial place as recorded on her death certificate appears to be "Wells, Texas."

N. Geneva McAnear was born January 13, 1883. She was married to Jasper Mark Knox (May 16, 1878-August 10, 1934). She died on February 1, 1926. She and her husband lie buried in Bourland Cemetery in Keller, Texas.

