



# TARRANT COUNTY

## TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Robert Eli McCain

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Robert Eli McCain was born June 9, 1836 in Alabama, a son of Eli McCain and his second wife, Sarah Huston. Robert married Melissa Jane Carr July 10, 1857. In 1860 they were living in Saline Township, Saline County, Arkansas.

Like many Confederate soldiers, his served at various times in more than one regiment, as the Confederacy's fortunes ebbed and reorganizations and consolidations were necessary. McCain enlisted first at Benton, Arkansas on July 19, 1861 as a private in Co. F, 11th Arkansas Infantry. His intent was to serve a twelve-month term, but his records show he was absent after the fall of Island No. 10 to the federals in early April, 1862. A record made while he was a drummer in Co. F, 11th Arkansas Infantry, also known as the "Saline Avengers," indicates that McCain was twenty-four years old, was 5'8" tall, had blue eyes, sandy hair, and a fair complexion. The rifle he furnished was worth fourteen dollars. He later became part of a [new] Co. E, 2nd Arkansas Infantry, which was formed from remnants of the 11th Arkansas Infantry after Island No. 10's fall.

He re-enlisted for two years on May 25, 1862, first becoming a corporal, and soon was elected to be the company's second lieutenant. He also appears as a private in latter 1862 and the first few months of 1863 in Co. F, 11th and 17th Consolidated Arkansas Infantry (Griffith's Consolidated Regiment). First Lieutenant Robert E. McCain appears on the roster of officers of Co. I, Wright's Regiment of Arkansas Cavalry, dated September 18, 1864 at Pocahontas, Arkansas, he having gained the office through election from his company. McCain's records which were captured after the war contain several interesting papers, some in his own handwriting.

Robert and his family came to Texas from Arkansas in late 1860's, and settled between present-day Keller and Grapevine. He was the father of at least three children: James Leonardis, Thomas Winfield, and Lenorah Jane. He died at the age of thirty-six on October 1, 1872. Within the past few years McCain's grave at Mt. Gilead Cemetery has been marked with a ground-level granite marker. His son, James Leonardis McCain, is the ancestor of a large family centered in present-day

Colleyville, Texas. McCain Road in Colleyville is named for James L. McCain's son, John McCain (1883-1969).

