



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Jerome Ransom Melton

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Jerome Ransom Melton was a Confederate veteran who lived in Precinct 3 north of Big Bear Creek when the 1880 census was taken. Jerome was born October 24, 1834 (or 1836) in Cole County, Missouri. Many of his old neighbors from Cole County also immigrated to northeast Tarrant County in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Family sources at ancestry.com say Jerome was a son of Yelverton Melton and his wife, Susan (Taylor) Melton. At the time the 1850 census was taken, Jerome was living with his mother and siblings in Cole County, Missouri.

Jerome Melton married Sarah Aurora Howard, a daughter of Lilburn Howard. She was born January 9, 1849 and died June 23, 1942. She lies buried beside her husband in Woodlawn Cemetery in Harrison County, Texas. They were married in Cole Co., Missouri on November 1, 1868.

Family sources at RootsWeb.com say that Jerome was the last of the Melton brothers to leave Cole County, Missouri. *"..He was still here in 1870, sold up and moved to Benton Co. Ark. He lived there a few years where a daughter was born. They moved on to Texas by 1876. In the probate of Wm N. (brother) Jerome is listed as Romulus instead of Jerome... He was a dentist. He practiced in Van Zandt county, Marion county, and Harrison county. He was in Mo. Confederate cavalry all through the war and was seriously wounded (Hunter and Younger brigades and under Shelby)."*

When the 1870 census was taken, Jerome and Sarah Melton were living in Moreau Township, Cole County, Missouri. They had not yet had any children. Jerome was working as a farmer.

When the 1880 census of Tarrant County was taken, Jerome and his family were living north of Big Bear Creek in Precinct 3. Mr. and Mrs. Melton had two of their children living with them at the time: Jerome's brother, Spencer P. Melton (born about 1836 in Missouri) was also living with the family. Jerome was still working as a farmer.

In 1900 he was living with his family in Hunt County, Texas, where he was still being a dentist. In that year, Mrs. Melton said she had given birth to eleven children, only six of whom were still living.

Melton applied for a Confederate pension in the summer of 1899 while living at Campbell in Hunt County, Texas. He said he had been living at Campbell, Texas since about 1887. He was at that time trying to work as a dentist, but was suffering from the effects of wounds and exposure he suffered during the war. He served in Co. B, 4<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry for four years. He said he owned three cows worth 30.00, one pony worth 10.00, one buggy worth 7.00, and household and kitchen furniture worth 50.00. A doctor's affidavit said Melton had injuries to the left hip, left leg near the ankle, right hand, and was partially deaf. Family sources say Jerome died with a minie ball in his hip. His daughter recalled that he dressed in a Confederate uniform each year and boarded a train to go to Fort Worth for a Confederate reunion.

Melton's headstone in Woodlawn Cemetery (formerly Bethany Cemetery), off Highway 59 on County Road 4019 (Memory Lane), says he was born October 24, 1834 and died February 12, 1912. No death certificate was filed for Mr. Melton.

His widow, Sallie Melton, applied for a pension in 1912 soon after his death. She said her husband died February 14, 1912 at Woodlawn in Harrison County, Texas, where he had moved about 1905. She said she was sixty-three years old, born in Pulaski County, Missouri. She said they had moved to Texas in October of 1875. Her file contains letters she wrote in 1933 and 1938 notifying pension officials that she would be out of Texas temporarily visiting her daughter, Mae (Mrs. W. R.) Carr, in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Gathered from various sources, a list of children for Mr. and Mrs. Melton would include: Sallie Melton; Nora S. Melton (born August 13, 1874 in Arkansas, died in 1950 in Hunt County, Texas); Florence E. Melton (born about 1879 in Texas); Emila L. Melton (born June 1882); Laura Melton (born August 1886); Minnie Melton (born March 1889); and Mary Melton (born March 1894).

Several family genealogists have posted information and queries at both RootsWeb.com and Ancestry.com. Many of his descendants still live in the area of Woodville, Harrison County, Texas.

