



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Samuel Peter Miller

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Samuel Peter Miller was a native North Carolinian who served the South in a Georgia cavalry regiment. He came to northeast Tarrant County in 1871, and lies buried in Southlake in Lonesome Dove Cemetery. He was the father-in-law of another of our Confederate veterans, Robert Franklin Jones.

Samuel Peter Miller was born June 4, 1826 in North Carolina. Family researchers at Ancestry.com say he was the son of Peter Miller and his wife, Sarah Cribbs. Some genealogists say he was born in Buncombe County, North Carolina. There was one Peter Miller in the 1830 Buncombe County census the correct age to have been Samuel's father; he had a son in his family the correct age to have been Samuel.

Samuel Peter Miller and his wife, Sarah Carolina Hay(e)s, were married about 1845 in North Carolina. She was born in North Carolina on July 23, 1827. Family internet sources are in disagreement as to the names of her parents, but all seem to agree she was born in Buncombe County.

The census taker in 1850 found the Miller family in Subdivision 33 of Gilmer County, Georgia. Samuel owned no real estate in that year. He and his wife had three children with them: James, Mary, and Jane; Jane was one year old and had been born in North Carolina. Thus they must have made the move from North Carolina to Georgia about 1849 or 1850.

The census taker in 1860 found the Miller family still living in Subdivision 33 of Gilmer County, Georgia. Mr. Miller owned real estate worth two hundred dollars and personal property worth four hundred dollars. He and Mrs. Miller had six children with them: James M., Mary L., Margaret [Harriet] J., Sarah E., Joseph H., and Martha E. Miller. This census indicates they made the move from North Carolina to Georgia between the births of Margaret [Harriett] and Sarah, thus about

1850. Peter Miller, born about 1799 in North Carolina and a preacher, lived two houses away with his family.

Samuel P. Miller was a member of the Stonewall Jackson Camp of United Confederate Veterans which was established at Grapevine in 1900. He told them he had served in the 4th Georgia Cavalry. He enlisted in Murray County, Georgia on October 4, 1862, for a term of three years. He became a soldier in Co. B, 4th (Avery's) Georgia Cavalry, which was also known as the 12th Georgia Cavalry. His records show that he left the regiment at Kingston, Tennessee on November 28, 1863. He was captured by the Union forces about that time, and records made during his time in Union hands confirm that he was a resident of Gilmer County, Georgia. One reference is made in his file to a document dated April 25, 1863 in which an act of gallantry was cited, but no other details are given. Nothing further is found in his National Archives file while he was a member of the 4th Georgia Cavalry.

Samuel P. Miller and his family appear in the 1870 census of District 1 of Wilson County, Tennessee. With Mr. and Mrs. Miller were five children: Martha, Sarah, James, Joseph, and J. W. Miller. It is obvious the census taker made some mistakes in transcribing his records, someone only partly familiar with the family gave the ages of the children, or some other mistake was made. The names are correct but the ages are several years off. One descendant's statement from the late 1970's says the Millers lived at Green Hill, Tennessee, which is a small town in Wilson County. Samuel's daughter, Harriett J. Miller, was married to Robert F. Jones in Wilson County, Tennessee on July 5, 1868.

One of the Millers' married daughters, Harriet Jones, recalled that the Jones and Miller families came to Texas together and settled near Grapevine in 1871. Family tradition states that they donated land for the Miller School, which met three miles north of Grapevine. It was a two-room frame building painted white; it sat about where the Oak Grove marina now sits beside Lake Grapevine. The Miller school was consolidated with the Grapevine school district in 1941.

By the time the Precinct 3 tax rolls were made in Tarrant County in 1875, Mr. Miller had settled here and purchased two tracts of land; he owned forty acres of the A. F. Leonard survey worth three hundred dollars, and thirty acres of the W.P. Herring survey worth one hundred dollars. Both tracts are directly north of the old downtown section of Grapevine and south of Denton Creek. He also owned two horses worth one hundred fifty dollars, six cattle, and other personal property.

The family appears in the 1880 census of Precinct 3 in the area north of Big Bear Creek. With Samuel and his wife were three of their children: James, Sarah, and John W. Miller; and two grandchildren: Elizabeth Colwell (born about 1872 in Texas) and Thomas Lidster (born about 1877 in Arkansas).

Mr. Miller appears in the 1880 agricultural census of Tarrant County. In that year he owned a farm consisting of sixty-nine acres of cultivated land, nine acres of permanent pasture, and seventy-eight acres of woodland. He placed the total value of his farm and buildings at seven hundred fifty dollars, of his farming implements at sixty dollars, and of his livestock at two hundred fifty dollars. He estimated the value of all his farm production for the past year at six hundred dollars. He owned one

horse, two mules, five milk cows, and eleven other cattle of other classes. Eight calves had been dropped on his farm in the past year, and he had sold a number of living cattle, but the numerals are not readable in the microfilm. His family had churned one hundred pounds of butter. He had eight hogs, fifty chickens, and one hundred fifty "other fowl." He estimated he had gathered one hundred dozen eggs in the past year. He had thirty-one acres in Indian corn which had produced nine hundred bushels, four acres of oats which made fifty bushels, and eighteen acres of cotton which had made eight bales. He had cut a number of bales of wood off his place; the numeral is difficult to read but may be "20."

Samuel P. Miller's home appears on Sam Street's December 1895 map Tarrant County. In modern day terms it was in the Grapevine city limits on land now owned by the Corps of Engineers at Lake Grapevine. It was at about the north end of Catfish Lane, a small access road to the lake which runs north off Park Road 7. The site can be easily viewed on Google Earth.

Samuel and his family appear in the 1900 census in Precinct 3 in Tarrant County, Texas. With him were his wife, his son, James M. Miller (born July 1845 in North Carolina and single), and a grandson, Thomas Lidster, born in Arkansas in February 1877. Mrs. Miller said she had given birth to ten children, only two of whom were still alive. However, we have found records of four who were still living in 1910.

Sarah Carolina Miller died November 8, 1902. Samuel Peter Miller died March 8, 1903. Neither have death certificates on file. Neither had obituaries printed in the Grapevine Sun or in the newspapers in Dallas or Fort Worth. They lie buried side by side in Lonesome Dove Cemetery in Southlake, Tarrant County, Texas.

According to Sarah C. Miller's statement, she was the mother of ten children. It seems likely that one of the daughters was married to a Colwell and another was married to a Lidster, and that both were dead by 1880. Samuel and his wife had grandchildren with those surnames living with them in 1880. Neither of the marriages is found in the records of Tarrant County from 1876 (the time of the court house fire) through 1880. Neither of the ladies has a readable headstone in any northeast Tarrant County cemetery. The following short paragraphs outline what we have learned about seven of the ten. There must have been three others who were born and died between the census cycles. Other than Mrs. Jones, none of the Miller children apparently have readable headstones in northeast Tarrant County.

James M. Miller was born in July 1845. He was apparently a lifelong bachelor. He lived with the family of his brother, John, in Palo Pinto County, Texas in 1910.

Mary L. Miller was born about 1847. She was still with the family in 1860, but was not with them in 1870. She was probably dead by 1900. One online researcher claims he is a grandson of Thomas W. Lidster, who drowned in 1924. He said Thomas Lidster's mother was Mary A. (Miller) Lidster. The death certificate of the T. W. Lidster who drowned in Vernon, Wilbarger County, Texas on June 13, 1924 says he was born in "L. A." and that his mother's maiden name was Fisher. This T. W. Lidster was born February 2, 1876. The Thomas Lidster who appears in the census records of 1880 and 1900 in the family of Samuel P. Miller was born in Arkansas about 1877.

Harriet (shown in some records as Margaret) Jane Miller was born May 29, 1849. She married Robert Franklin Jones in 1868 in Wilson County, Tennessee. They came to Texas with her parents in 1871 and settled north of Grapevine. She died at her home near Grapevine on January 1, 1929, and was buried the next day in Lonesome Dove Cemetery. Mrs. Jones' obituary in the Grapevine Sun does not mention any siblings among her survivors.

Sarah Elizabeth Miller was born April 15, 1851. She married Henry P. Jones in Tarrant County, Texas on June 16, 1887. She died of typhoid fever at her home near Bransford, Tarrant County, Texas at 1 a.m. on January 6, 1912. She was buried in Lonesome Dove Cemetery the next day. She has no readable headstone there. No obituary for her appeared in the Grapevine Sun. No one appearing to be this Sarah Jones appears in the 1910 Tarrant County census.

Joseph H. Miller was born about 1853. He was still alive with the family in 1870. He was probably dead by 1900.

Martha E. Miller was born about 1856. She was still alive with the family in 1870. She may have been the daughter who married a Mr. Colwell. If so, she was probably dead by 1880.

John William Miller was born June 3, 1869. He and his wife, Mary Permelia Lanford (1865-1939), were married December 19, 1897 and lived in Precinct 3 of Tarrant County when the census was taken in 1900. She was the daughter of another of our veterans, John A. Lanford. They buried two grandchildren beside John's parents, one in 1900 and one in 1902, in Lonesome Dove Cemetery. By 1910 they and their children, along with John's bachelor brother, lived in Palo Pinto County, Texas. In 1920 they lived and farmed in the Dove community in present-day Southlake. He died at his home along FRD number 2 in Frisco, Denton County, Texas on March 21, 1943 and was buried the next day beside his wife in Rowlett Creek Cemetery in Plano, Collin County, Texas.

