



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Rufus H. Scott

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Rufus H. Scott was a native of Missouri who served in a Missouri cavalry unit. In 1900 he lived in Keller. He later moved to Palo Pinto County, Texas, where he died in 1909.

Rufus H. Scott was born July 16, 1832, according to his own statement he made to pension officials in Texas. He told census officials in 1900 he was born in Missouri to a Kentuckian father and a Tennessean mother.

We have been unable to positively identify him in any census records, 1850 through 1880. It seems evident that he spent most of his early life in Missouri. When Mr. Scott applied for a Confederate pension, one man who made an affidavit in support of Scott's service, J. D. Howard of Jamestown, Moniteau County, Missouri, said he [presumably Howard] had known him [presumably Scott] all his [presumably Howard's] life. John D. Howard was born about 1844.

Enough facts about Mr. Scott's life can be verified that we can place him on the memorial. Statements he and his wife made in the process of obtaining their pensions, and his appearance in the 1900 Tarrant County census, are among the only bits of information we have found which can positively be attributed to him. Several facts and names he remembered at the end of his life do not seem to agree with the actual records. Even with these ambiguities, it seems evident he was the man who served in the 10th Missouri Cavalry.

Rufus H. Scott served the Confederacy as a private in Co.. C, 10th Missouri Cavalry. He enlisted at Abbeyville, Missouri on June 25, 1862 for a term of one year. Official records show he was captured at Ironton, Missouri on October 13, 1864, and arrived at Gratiot Street Military Prison in St. Louis, Missouri at some time in the five days ending on December 5, 1864.

In his pension application, Mr. Scott stated he was captured in the fall of 1864 at Pilot Knob, Missouri, and spent the rest of the War in prison. Pilot Knob is a geographical feature and community at Ironton, Iron County, Missouri.

On December 6, 1864 Rufus H. Scott was selected for exchange and was sent from the military prison in Saint Louis to the military prison at Alton, Illinois. On October 21, 1864 he was admitted with smallpox to the prison hospital. There is no record of his release from the hospital this time. He was admitted to the hospital again on February 1, 1865 with erysipelas, from which he was released on March 1. He remained in the prison until he was discharged upon taking the oath of allegiance on May 24, 1865. At the time of his release, he gave his residence as Moniteau County, Missouri, and asked for transportation from the prison to California, Missouri.

One J. D. Howard of Jamestown, Moniteau County, Missouri made an affidavit in support of Mr. Scott's pension application, saying that he and Mr. Scott served in the same regiment during the War. This was John D. Howard, who served in Cos. A and H, 10th Missouri Cavalry.

At some point in 1866 Mr. Scott broke his right elbow, and was disabled for the rest of his life because of it. It made it difficult for him to farm and support his family from that time forward.

In his pension application, Mr. Scott stated that he lived in Tarrant County, Texas during the years 1874-1878, at other locations in Texas from 1878 until 1894, and that he returned to Tarrant County in the spring of 1894. He appears in the 1875 tax list of Tarrant County in Precinct 3; he owned no real estate but had miscellaneous personal property worth thirty dollars.

According to her own statement, Mr. Scott and his wife, Mary E., were married in Denton County, Texas on November 18, 1879. The date was actually November 18, 1880, as recorded in the county records in Denton, and her name is shown as M. E. Morris. She said she was born about 1840 in Mississippi, and had been brought to Texas as a child when she was about one year of age. No one appearing to be Mary E. Morris appears in the 1880 census of Denton County, Texas.

On December 27, 1899, Dr. Henry Clay Gilbert of Smithfield, Tarrant County, examined Mr. Scott and, in addition to noting his crippled arm, said he was also partially crippled in one hip.

In 1900, Mr. Scott applied for and received a Confederate pension. His pension application shows his residence as Smithfield, Tarrant County. Another of our veterans, Rayford Autry of Smithfield, said he had known Scott for many years and knew that he could not support himself because of a crippled arm and old age. He said Mr. Scott had no valuable personal property or land.

When the 1900 census was taken, Mr. Scott was boarding with the Conkling family in the Keller or Smithfield area. The census in that year says he was living in Keller, while his pension application made in the same year says he was a resident of Smithfield. He was born in July 1832 in Missouri to a Kentuckian father and a Tennessean mother. Although the census says he was living there as a lodger with no other family members, it says he was a married man, and had been married ten years. He was working as a farm laborer.

In her pension application, Mrs. Scott said Rufus H. Scott died in Palo Pinto County, Texas on December 13, 1909. His wife applied for a pension the next year while she was a resident of Mineral Wells, Palo Pinto County.