



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Thomas W. Selby

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Thomas W. Selby was a Missourian who arrived in north-central Texas just before the War. He served in a local Confederate cavalry regiment and lived in the Grapevine area or a few years around 1880.

Thomas W. Selby was born about 1834 in Missouri. His wife, Amanda A., was born in Missouri about one year later.

Thomas was a son of Joshua and Hellena Selby, who were married March 4, 1832 in Boone County, Missouri. Family researchers at ancestry.com supply this date and say Hellena's maiden name was also Selby. Joshua Selby and his family lived at Cote Sans Dessein in Callaway County, Missouri when the 1840 census was taken. They were not slaveowners.

When the 1850 census was taken, Joshua Selby and his family lived in the 12th District of Callaway County, Missouri. They were farming on land which they owned worth one thousand dollars. Thomas was seventeen years old. His maternal grandfather, John Selby (who was born about 1776) was living with them.

About 1858 Thomas Selby and his wife, Amanda A., were married in Missouri. They moved to Texas and settled in Denton County about 1859.

By the time the census was taken in 1860, Joshua Selby and most of his children had settled in Denton County, Texas. Census data suggest the whole clan made the move about 1859. Thomas W. Selby and his wife, Amanda, owned no real estate but had personal property worth two hundred dollars. Thomas was working as a master carpenter. Their one-year-old son, John, had been born in Missouri before they made the move.

Thomas joined the Confederate Army on July 7, 1862 at Gainesville, Cooke County, Texas for a term of three years. He became a 4th corporal in Capt. James D. Young's Company, 1st Battalion Texas Partisan Rangers. He was mustered into the Confederate service the same day at Gainesville. He was twenty-seven years old. He rode thirty miles to the rendezvous on his own horse, valued at one hundred thirty dollars, and brought with him equipment worth thirty dollars. This company subsequently became Co. E, Martin's Texas Cavalry. On May 13, 1863 Mr. Selby was detached to serve with an artillery company by order of General Cooper. No further record of his service has survived.

In 1870 Thomas Selby headed a large mixed family which included his wife and children, his mother, and several of his younger siblings. They lived in Precinct 3 of Cooke County, Texas. He was carpentering and farming. He owned no real estate but had personal property worth five hundred dollars. His own children with the family were John H., Senath A., and Hellena Selby. His mother, Hellena Selby, was with them, as were five of her younger children: James B., Zachary T., Ephraim H., Julius R., and George M. Selby. Their next-door neighbors were families headed by two of her other sons, Isaiah and Robert Selby.

Thomas appears in the 1870 agricultural census of Precinct 3 in Cooke County. The farm on which he lived consisted of thirty acres of improved land and two hundred ninety-four acres of woodland. The farm was worth one thousand dollars. His farm implements were worth ten dollars. He owned four horses, two milk cows, two working cattle, and six cattle of other classes. He owned twenty hogs. His livestock was worth a total of three hundred six dollars. He had seventy bushels of Indian corn on hand when the census was taken.

By the taking of the 1880 census, Thomas and his family had moved to Precinct 3 in Tarrant County, and were living in District 94, north of Big Bear Creek. Four children were with them: John H., Sinatha A., Hellena C., and Willis A. Selby.

Thomas Selby appears in the 1880 agricultural census of Tarrant County. He was working on a rented farm consisting of forty acres of improved land, five acres of permanent pasture, and two acres of woodland. The farm was valued at two hundred dollars. Mr. Selby's farm equipment was valued at forty dollars, and his livestock had a value of sixty dollars.. He estimated the total value of all his farm production in 1879 at two hundred seventy dollars. He owned two horses, two milk cows, and four cattle of other classes. One calf was dropped on his farm in 1879, and he sold two live cattle. He estimated he had made ten pounds of butter in the previous year. He owned twelve chickens and eighty other fowl, from which he had gathered one hundred dozen eggs in 1879. He had seven acres in Indian corn from which he had gathered thirty bushels, and his seven acres of cotton had yielded four bales. He had dug fifteen bushels of sweet potatoes from his quarter-acre patch. During 1879 he had cut ten cords of wood, worth one and one-half dollars per cord.

We have not located headstones for Thomas or Amanda Selby. They do not have readable headstones in any northeast Tarrant county cemetery. Two of Thomas's brothers and one sister-in-law have readable stones in Cooke County. George M. Selby (1855-1888) lies buried in New Hope Cemetery at Mountain Springs, Cooke County. Robert H. Selby (1843-1902) lies buried in Indian Springs Cemetery near Gainesville. Isaiah Selby's wife, America Jane (Williams) Selby (1843-1901) is buried in Ozment Cemetery near Burns City in Cooke County.

Neither Thomas nor Amanda Selby have been located in the 1900 Texas census. Thus we have no statement of the number of children Amanda Selby had, nor how many were still living at that time. In the three censuses in which they have been found during their married life, only four children are mentioned: John, Sinatha, Hellena, James B. and Willis Selby.

John H. Selby was born about 1859. He was alive with the family in Tarrant County in 1880.

Sinatha (or Senath) A. Selby was born about 1860. She was alive with the family in Tarrant County in 1880.

Hellena C. Selby was born about 1861. She was alive with the family in Tarrant County in 1880.

Willis A. Selby was born about 1878. He was alive with the family in Tarrant County in 1880.