



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Thomas Jefferson Souder

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Thomas Jefferson Souder was a Union veteran in an Indiana infantry regiment. He lies buried in Hurst in Arwine Cemetery in Hurst.

Family sources at Ancestry.com say Thomas Jefferson “Jeff” Souder was born on December 26, 1840 in Somerset, Pulaski County, Kentucky, a son of Harrison Souder (or Sowder) (1810-1854) and his wife, Synthia Stogdill (born 1814). Jeff Souder’s paternal grandfather, Jefferson Sowder (1794-1854) was one of the pioneers of Lawrence County, Indiana.

At some time before the Civil War began, Jeff Souder joined several of his relatives in Lawrence County, Indiana. As Jefferson Souder, he enlisted in Co. G, 50th Indiana Infantry on November 27, 1861. The 50th Indiana Infantry served most of its time operating in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Arkansas. Souder was mustered out of the service on January 5, 1865. Jeff Souder received a pension from the federal government in recognition of his Union army service.

According to family sources, on March 25, 1865, Jeff Souder was married in Lawrence County, Indiana to Mary Ellen East. She was born at Bedford, Lawrence County, Indiana on May 19, 1845. She was a daughter of Neal East (1823-1859) and his wife, Elizabeth (Arwine) East (1826-1855), both of whom died in Lawrence County, Indiana. Mary Ellen East’s maternal grandfather was James Arwine, the father of Daniel Arwine, who founded the Arwine settlement in present-day Hurst, Texas. James



Arwine and six of his sons served in the Union army. Thus, Mary Ellen East was the wife of one Union soldier and the granddaughter of another...a very unusual situation.

Jeff Souder's home is shown on the 1895 Sam Street Map of Tarrant County. In modern-day terms, it sat in present-day Hurst along the north side of Bluebonnet Drive, between Bellaire Drive and Arwine Street.

When the 1900 census taker visited Jeff Souder's family in Tarrant County, Mrs. Souder said she had given birth to eight children, seven of whom were still alive. Her brother, David East, was living with the family in that year.

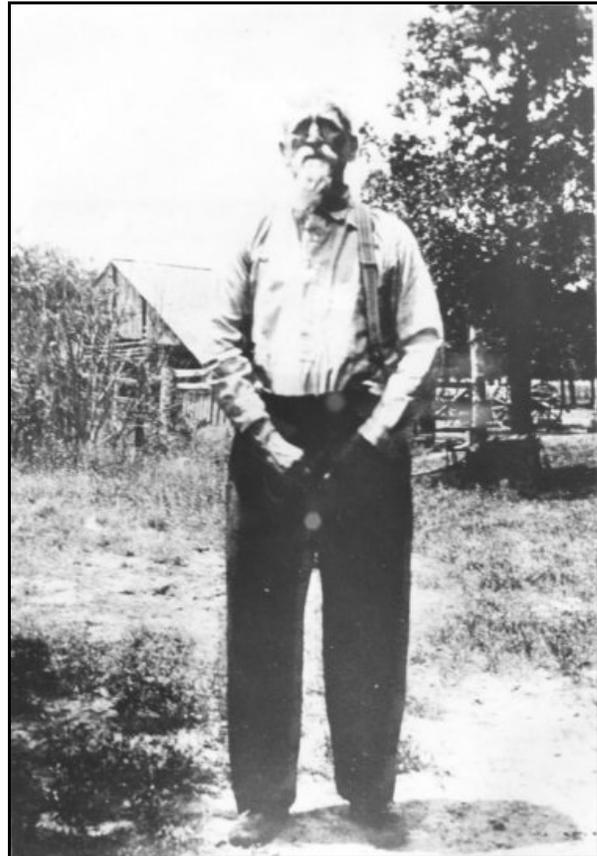


Jeff Souder and his wife, Mary, died only two days apart. She died on Wednesday afternoon, July 13, 1921, and he died the following Friday afternoon, July 15. Both died of "the flux." A notice of their deaths appeared on the front page of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on July 16, 1921: *"Death fails to Separate Couple Wed 60 Years. Even death failed to separate Jefferson Souder, 80, and Mrs. Mary E. Souder, 78, his wife for more than half a century. Side by side, they will be laid to rest in the same casket in the little cemetery at Hurst Sunday afternoon after the span of more than an average lifetime, during with they were never separated. Only a few days intervened between their deaths. Mrs. Souder passed away at the old home near Hurst Wednesday. Her husband's death followed Friday afternoon. Both were caused by infirmities incident to old age. They are survived by several children, twenty-four grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren. Both*

were taken ill about the same time and of the same malady. Souder and his wife were Tarrant County pioneers and widely known in the Hurst neighborhood. There were married sixty years ago, their eldest child being 58 years of age."

No death certificates were filed for either of them. A photograph was taken of them lying side by side in their double casket. Several copies of the photograph are in the hands of descendants today.

Jeff and Mary Souder were the parents of eight children. They included: Elbert Elsworth Souder (1866-1960, married Maryetta Robertson, who died in 1902, then to her sister Sarah Anna Robertson); H. N. Souder (1868-1898); James Milton Souder (1870- 1952, married America Belle Hurst); Perry Howard Souder (1872-1947, married Mattie Louise Lucas); Sarah Elizabeth Souder (1877-, married Bell French); Nellie Jane Sowder (1877-1954, married Enoch Sexton); William Curtis Souder (1879-1903, married Nola B. French); and Mary Essie Souder (1886-1975, married James Henry French).





FATHER MOTHER

JEFF	MARY E.
SOUDER	SOUDER
DEC. 26, 1840	MAY 19, 1845
JULY 15, 1921	JULY 13, 1921