



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### James Moses Tilley

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James Moses Tilley was a native of North Carolina who served in a local Confederate cavalry regiment. He and his father's family had settled in northeast Tarrant County by 1860. James died in northeast Tarrant County about 1878.

James M. Tilley was born in North Carolina about 1838. He was the son of Moses Tilley, who died in Tarrant County and lies buried in Bear Creek Cemetery in Euless, Texas. Family internet sources say James' mother was dead by 1850. We have not been able to locate the family in the 1850 census of North Carolina, although one researcher suggests that two of Moses' younger children were "farmed out" to the family of John Francis in Stokes County, North Carolina in that year.

In 1860 both J. M. Tilley and his father, Moses, appear in the 1860 tax list in Tarrant County. James owned no real estate but his father owned the entire William Anderson survey south of present-day Bedford. This survey, patented by Anderson in 1858, contained three hundred twenty acres and was one mile east-west by one-half mile north-south. In modern-day terms, the western part of the survey sits in Hurst and the eastern part is in the city limits of Fort Worth. This confusing state of affairs may only be understood by looking at a current map. Much of the survey's north boundary is now marked by Pipeline Road South as it runs east from Highway 10. Trinity Boulevard in the area of its intersection with Raider Drive runs along the survey's south boundary for a short distance. No modern-day streets lie along the survey's east or west boundaries.

Mr. Tilley married Ellender F. Morgan in Grayson County, Texas on January 30, 1861. She was born about 1838 in Tennessee. Descendants say she was a daughter of John and Sarah (Coleman) Morgan who were in Franklin County, Tennessee in 1850. Ellender appears with her mother and father in the census of 1860 in Grayson County.

Mr. Tilley joined the Confederate forces at Grapevine, Texas on March 4, 1862 for a term of twelve months. He became a private in Co. A, Alexander's Regiment of Texas Volunteer Cavalry. This

unit subsequently became Co. A, 34<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry. On a muster roll for the period February 28 through June 30, 1863 a notation is made that he was due nine dollars for the use of his own arms up to December 17, 1862. He was also due compensation for one hundred ten miles travel to the point of rendezvous.

On a muster roll for January and February 1864 it is noted that he was on detached service in Shreveport, Louisiana by order of the post commander. He was still on duty there in April 1865. On one muster roll he is referred to as Moses Tilley. The death certificate of one of his daughters also gives his name as Moses. No further details of his service remain in his compiled military service records file in the National Archives.

James M. Tilley and his family appear in the 1870 census in Precinct 2 of Tarrant County. He and his wife had four children with them: Mary J., James M., Sallie, and William A. Tilley. James' brother, John W. Tilley, who was born about 1850 in North Carolina, was also with them. James was a farmer who owned real estate worth six hundred dollars and personal property worth five hundred thirty dollars.

James also appears in the 1870 Tarrant County agricultural census. His farm included five acres of cleared land and one hundred twenty acres of woodland. The farm was worth six hundred dollars and his farming implements were worth two hundred dollars. He owned four horses and a number of hogs; the value of all his livestock was two hundred dollars. The schedule also lists two hundred fifty bushels of Indian corn and seventy-five bushels of oats produced during the past year.

In 1875, James owned ninety acres of the W. M. Anderson survey, worth three dollars per acre. In addition, he owned two horses or mules worth fifty dollars, eight cows worth forty dollars, and four goats or hogs worth five dollars. He also owned twenty dollars worth other personal property. In 1875 James was the guardian for the estate of someone not named in the tax list. That estate included one hundred sixty acres of the W. Lee survey and a considerable amount of livestock.

Mr. Tilley continues to be shown as a landowner through the tax list of 1878, when he owned one hundred twenty acres of the W. M. Anderson survey. He had died in Tarrant County by the time the 1879 tax lists were prepared. An entry appears in that year for the estate of J. M. Lilly, which included his real estate on the Anderson survey. There are no readable headstones for him, his wife, or any of his children standing in any northeast Tarrant County cemetery. In fact, the only readable Tilley headstone in the area is that of his father, Moses Tilley, who died in 1879 and was buried in Bear Creek Cemetery in present-day Euless. It seems reasonable to suggest that James M. Tilley also lies buried there in an unmarked grave.

We have discovered the names of only five of James M. Tilley's children, and have details about the later life of only two. They included Mary J. Tilley (who was born about 1862), James M. Tilley (who was born about 1865), Sallie Margaret Tilley, who was born about 1868, William A. Tilley, (who was born in December 1869) and Julia Tilley (who was born about 1875). There are some conflicting records regarding two of the daughters.

When the 1880 census was taken Sallie and Julia Tilley were living in the home of their brother-in-law, James F. Isham. Since their mother was not with them she probably died earlier.

Perhaps the curious entry in the 1875 tax list meant that James M. Tilley was already a widower and was serving as guardian of his children in the interest of their mother's part of his estate, or of someone else's estate in their interest.

The Tilley daughter who married James F. Isham is clearly shown in the 1880 census to have been "Margaret J. Tilley" but this was probably a simple mistake made by the transcriber. She had to have been Mary J. Tilley unless the Tilleys gave the name Margaret to two of their daughters while both were alive. Mary was eighteen years old at the taking of the census, and thus must have been born about 1862. Sallie Tilley appears in that family at the age of twelve and is shown as Mr. Isham's sister-in-law.

The Tilley daughter who married James F. Isham is named on her headstone as "Sallie Margaret, and her headstone gives her date of birth as January 19, 1867. She married James Freal Isham (1856-1923), the son of Tarrant County pioneer Rev. Washington Marion Isham. She died August 19, 1941 in Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas. Her last permanent address was 2206 Tenth Street in Wichita Falls. She was buried beside her husband in Restland Cemetery at Olney, Young County, Texas.

More research is needed to clear up this subject. To this researcher at least it seems most likely that Mr. Isham was first married to the elder Tilley daughter, whose name was Mary Jane Tilley. After her death in the early or mid-1880's, he must have married her younger sister, Sallie Margaret Tilley. Family internet sources show a marriage date in Tarrant County, Texas for Mr. Isham and Mary Jane Tilley on December 1, 1879, but they show the 1941 death date for the lady whose tombstone names her as Sallie Margaret Isham. The same source shows Mr. Isham being married to both sisters and gives the 1941 death date for both.