



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Zephaniah Ephraim West

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Zephaniah Ephraim West was a native of Georgia who was taken by his parents to Illinois when he was a boy. He grew to manhood there and married before moving to northeast Tarrant County during the 1850's. He was a member of a local Confederate rangers group. He died after 1880 and probably lies buried here in an unmarked grave.

Family sources at ancestry.com say Z. E. West was born about 1825 in Georgia, and was a son of John Francis West (d. 1848) and his wife, Mary "Polly" Elizabeth Fargarson (1804-1850), both of whom died in Union County, Illinois. They say John and Mary were married about 1821 in Henry County, Georgia. Census data in 1850 suggest that John F. West had moved his family from Georgia to Illinois by 1834.

Family sources say Mr. West married Louisa Jane Eaves in Union County, Illinois on April 2, 1850. She was born about 1832 in Kentucky. She was a daughter of Tarrant County pioneers Benjamin Hampton Eaves (1810-1860) and his wife, Nancy Williams (1811-1897). Two of her brothers, William R. Eaves and Carroll Bennett Eaves, are also Confederate veterans on our memorial.

When the 1850 census was taken Ephraim West and his wife, Jane, were listed in the western portion of District 2 in Union County, Illinois. Many of their neighbors were later residents of northeast Tarrant County, Texas. Mr. West was a farmer, and owned real estate worth one hundred dollars. They had no children with them. Their next-door neighbors were the family of his brother, James West, who settled here in Tarrant County and lies buried in Lonesome Dove Cemetery.

Mr. West and his family probably came to Tarrant County in the mid-1850's. One of the group of related families who settled here from Union County, Illinois died in 1855 and has a readable headstone in Hood Cemetery in Southlake. Mr. West's brother, James J. West, registered to vote in 1867 and said he [James] had been a resident of his present precinct for thirteen years, thus he must have arrived about 1854.

Z. E. West was a member of Captain William W. McGinnis's "Mounted Volunteers or Rangers," and his name appears on a roster made July 18, 1861. An original copy, signed by Capt. McGinnis, remains in the state archives in Austin. Many other northeast Tarrant County men were also a part of the group.

When another member of McGinnis's Company, E. J. Lipscomb, was applying for a pension from the State, a lady who lived in Grapevine at the time of the War made the following statement for Mr. Lipscomb: "...my brother, W. D. Hudgins, now deceased, was a member of this organization. I have seen them both [Hudgins and Lipscomb] in Confederate uniform during the war..." Also in Lipscomb's pension application an affidavit by B. R. Wall said, "...Col. McGinnis lived between here and Roanoke, Texas and died when I was a small boy. I have often heard the people speak of this organization as a cavalry troop which chased bushwhackers and deserters..." this in a letter written in 1931.

Mr. West and his family appear in the 1870 Tarrant County census in precinct 2. His initials are not legible, but the names of his children are clear and it is evident that this is his family. His wife is recorded as Lizzie in this year, and the birthplaces of the children suggest they made the move to Texas about 1853. The children with them are: Nancy, Mary Ann, Mary E., Margaret, Francis, Samuel, and James West. In that year, Mr. West owned real estate worth four hundred dollars and personal property worth the same amount.

We have not been able to locate Mr. West in the 1870 agricultural census of Tarrant County. Neither have we been able to locate several of his close neighbors; this suggests that perhaps part of the original records have been lost.

Z. E. West appears in the 1875 Tarrant County tax list as the owner of one hundred fifteen acres of the J. Freeman survey, worth five hundred seventy-five dollars. He also owned six horses worth twenty dollars each, three cattle, and other personal property. The John A. Freeman survey was patented by Mr. Freeman in 1857 and originally contained four hundred eighty acres. In modern-day terms, it sits in Southlake, with its entire northern boundary defined by Highland Drive East, and its entire eastern boundary defined by Kimball Lane. The survey may best be envisioned by imagining one square mile of land, minus a square one-half mile by one-half mile taken from its southwestern corner. The outside part of the west line follows Carroll Lane until about where it intersects Southcrest. From that point the survey heads east one half mile, then south one half mile, then east along Southlake Boulevard to Kimball.

Mr. West last appears in the federal census of Tarrant County in 1880 when the census taker found him living in Precinct 4, suggesting that he may have moved a short distance west in the past five years. The children with them in that year were Francis M., Samuel M., James J., and Lucy A. West.

Mr. West appears in the 1880 agricultural census of Tarrant County as the owner of forty acres of cultivated land and seventy-five acres of woodland, all of which was valued at five hundred seventy five dollars. His farming equipment was worth forty dollars, and his livestock was worth four hundred fifty. He estimated the value of all his farm production in 1879 at five hundred fifty dollars. He owned five horses, three milk cows, and five cattle of other classes. Two calves were dropped on his farm in 1879, and one animal had died, strayed, or otherwise been lost. He estimated his

family had churned one hundred pounds of butter in the past year. On June 1, 1880 he had two hundred thirty sheep. Sixty-five lambs had been born on his place in the past year, and one animal had been slaughtered for food. Dogs had killed thirty, while eight had died because of "stress of weather." During 1879 he had shorn one hundred sixty-four fleeces, which had produced three hundred thirty pounds of wool. He had thirty hogs and twenty chickens. His twenty-four acres of Indian corn had made four hundred bushels, and he made fifty bushels of oats from five acres. He had thirteen acres in cotton, which made five bales. He cut twelve cords of wood from his place in 1879, worth two dollars per cord.

Z. E. West was still alive in northeast Tarrant County as late as 1891. We have not searched for his name in any of the later lists. In 1891 he owned one hundred fifteen acres of the J. J. Freshour survey, worth six hundred dollars. He also owned five horses or mules worth twenty dollars each, five cows worth five dollars each, and two hogs worth \$2.50 each.

The Freshour survey contained three hundred twenty acres and was patented in 1857 by Timothy Jones. It was a rectangle, one mile east-west by one-half mile north-south. It is in present-day Southlake, with Johnson Road running along its southern boundary, with Pearson Lane on its west line and Randol Mill Road following its east line. No modern-day street now lies along its north line, but it runs parallel to and south of Florence Road.

There is no standing readable headstone for Z. E. West in any northeast Tarrant County cemetery. If he died here, it seems reasonable to suggest that he may be one of the many pioneers in unidentifiable graves in Hood Cemetery, Lonesome Dove Cemetery, or Mount Gilead Cemetery.

Some family genealogists say Louisa J. West left Texas after her husband's death and died in April 1903 in Cole County, Missouri. She does not appear in the 1900 census there. Our research has not indicated that any of her children moved there. There is no readable headstone for her in any northeast Tarrant County cemetery. No death notice appeared for her in the Grapevine Sun.

We have identified the following children of Z. E. and Louisa Jane West. As much as possible, we have relied on public records in writing these accounts. We have located only two censuses in which Mr. and Mrs. West had children with them, those being the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Tarrant County. They would have appeared in the 1860 census here also, but it was lost many years ago.

Nancy West was born about 1852. She was with the family when the 1870 census was taken, but was not with them in 1880.

Mary Ann West was born about 1854. She was with the family when the 1870 census was taken, but was not with them in 1880.

Mary E. West was born about 1856. She was with the family when the 1870 census was taken, but was not with them in 1880. The census clearly shows two children named Mary.

Margaret West was born about 1858. Descendants say her name was Manerva Isabelle West, and that she was born March 22, 1858. She was married in Tarrant County, Texas to James Marion Sandefer on December 30, 1879. She died May 31, 1947 at Cordell in Washita County, Oklahoma.

When the 1880 census was taken, there was only one household between Z. E. West's home and one headed by James M. Sandefer and his wife, Manerva [middle initial illegible] Sandefer.

Francis M. West was born about 1860. One internet source says he married Hattie Mae Bostick (1869-1928) about 1890 and had moved to Harris County, Texas by 1900.

Samuel Martin West was born July 31, 1863 according to his death certificate. He married Laura Ellen Sullens (1864-1947) on April 28, 1887. By 1900 he and his family moved to Wise County, where they still lived at the time the 1930 census was taken. He was a retired mail carrier. He died in Fort Worth, Texas at the corner of 15th Street and Gould Avenue of apoplexy at 7:20 p.m. on May 18, 1935. His last permanent address was 1620 Lincoln Street in Fort Worth. He was buried on May 19 in Eastside Cemetery in Bridgeport, Wise County, Texas.

James J. West was born about 1864. He was still with the family when the 1880 census was taken.

Lucy A. West was born about 1873. She was with the family when the 1880 census was taken.