



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Joseph H. Williams

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Joseph H. Williams was a Union veteran of an Illinois regiment. He lived near Grapevine after the War, and is buried in Lonesome Dove Cemetery. Only a few fragments of his headstone remain.

Joseph H. Williams was born in Illinois on January 3, 1832. Some family genealogists have suggested that Joseph H. Williams was a native of Union County, Illinois. This sounds logical, since many Union County people migrated to northeast Tarrant County in the years surrounding the Civil War.

Interestingly, in 1850 in Union County, Illinois there was one Joseph Williams exactly the correct age, born in Illinois, living next-door to the family of Benjamin and Nancy (Williams) Eaves, who left Union County and settled here in the Southlake area in the 1850's.

The Joseph H. Williams who settled in this community served the Union in Co. B, 11th Illinois Infantry. His official records show that he lived at Farmington, Illinois when he enlisted on September 2, 1861. He was discharged September 30, 1865 at Memphis, Tennessee. The high cost of obtaining copies of Union military records and pension files precludes their use in our study.

There were two towns named Farmington, Illinois...one in Kane County and one in Fulton County. Both are a considerable distance from Union County. No one appearing to be this Joseph H. Williams appears in the 1860 census for either Fulton County or Kane County. Perhaps Joseph had gone to one of those two counties to find work.

Joseph's first wife, Harriett Vik, died November 15, 1876 and was buried at Lonesome Dove. Her birth date was shown on her headstone as June 9, 1837.

We have been unable to find Joseph H. Williams and his family in the 1860 census. This may simply be a function of the unreadability some of the census records and hence the indexers' inability to work with them.

When the 1870 census was taken, Joseph H. Williams and his wife, Harriett, were living in Anna Township of Union County, Illinois. Harriett was shown as a Tennessee native, born about 1840. They had four younger Williams children with them: Samuel R. Williams (born about 1855); Angeline Williams (born about 1860); Susan Williams (born about 1866); and Charles H. Williams (born about 1852). Since Charles was listed last in the family, and Harriett would have been an early teenager at the time of his birth, it seems possible that he may not have been one of her children. By 1873, Joseph and his family had made the move from Union County, Illinois to northeast Tarrant County, Texas.

One of the Williams daughters, Susan E. Williams, was buried in Lonesome Dove Cemetery after she died on December 23, 1873.

Not long after Harriett's death, Joseph was remarried to a widow, Mrs. Texanna (Drew/Drue) Barcroft, the widow of Gabriel Barcroft. Texanna's maiden name appears on the death certificate of her son, Walter Williams. Family sources at Ancestry.com show her to have had a sister named Museleete Drew, and there was a Museleete Drew in this community, about Texanna's age, who married another of our veterans, George Coleman Piersall.

Joseph filed an application for a veteran's pension on August 19, 1879. After his death, his widow continued to receive it. The Williams family appears in the neighborhood of Lonesome Dove at the time the 1880 census was taken. With Mr. Williams in that year were his second wife, Texanna, a daughter from his first marriage (Sarah A. Williams, born about 1873); and two daughters from his second marriage (Ada, born about 1878, and Joanna, born in January of 1880). Also with them was Texanna's daughter by her first marriage, Ceolah Barcroft. In 1880, Joseph's son, Samuel R. Williams (born about 1855) and his family were living next door.

Joseph H. Williams appears in the 1880 Tarrant County agricultural census. He owned a farm consisting of forty acres of tilled ground and forty acres of woodland. The total value of his land, fences, and buildings was eight hundred dollars. His farming implements were worth twenty-five dollars, and his livestock was worth seventy-five dollars. He estimated the value of all his farm production in the past year to be worth four hundred dollars. He owned two horses, one milk cow and one other bovine. In the past year he had sold two head, and one had died, strayed, or otherwise been lost. He estimated the family had churned three hundred pounds of butter in the past year. He owned ten hogs. He had ten acres in Indian corn which had made one hundred bushels. He had ten acres in cotton from which he picked four bales. He had a one-acre peach orchard with seventy-five trees, from which he had picked seventy-five bushels, worth a total of fifty dollars. He cut more ten cords of wood off his place, but the exact number is not readable in the microfilm.

Joseph H. Williams died in Tarrant County on November 14, 1885, and was buried at Lonesome Dove Cemetery. His headstone is now broken, but was still readable as late as the 1970's.

His widow, Texanna Williams, filed for her widow's pension on February 2, 1886. She appears in the 1890 special veterans' census at Grapevine in Tarrant County, Texas. She did not remember any of his dates of enlistment or discharge.

Texanna Williams died November 15, 1899 at the age of fifty and is buried in Mount Gilead Cemetery, near her first husband, Gabriel L. Barcroft (born about 1846, died April 24, 1873) and two Barcroft children, who were born in 1869 and 1871.

A fuller sketch of Mr. Williams' life could be made using his compiled military service records and his and Texanna's pension application files, but the prohibitive cost of copies from the National Archives precludes their use in this project. Any descendant who already has copies is requested to share them with us.

We have discovered the names of several of Joseph Williams' children from both marriages: Samuel Randolph Williams, Angeline Williams, Susan E. Williams, Sarah Elizabeth Williams Murrell, Ada Williams Speer, Ida Williams, Joanna Williams, Mary D. Williams Brown, and Walter James Williams. There may have been others. The following paragraphs are included to help descendants make a connection to Joseph H. Williams. Much of this data was generated during a search for a direct descendant to help us in obtaining a new marker for Mr. Williams from the Veterans Administration.

Samuel Randolph Williams was born in February 1855 in Illinois. On January 29, 1878 he was first married to Miranda E. Foster, a daughter of Jarrett Foster of the Lonesome Dove Community. Samuel was a minister of the Gospel for many years. By 1900 they had moved to Jack County, Texas and had a number of children, as shown in the census there that year. Miranda died in 1903 in Jack County, Texas. One family source says she lies buried there in the Jacksboro Baptist Cemetery, but we have been unable to identify that cemetery. Mr. Williams was remarried and spent much of the rest of his life in Oklahoma. His last pastorate was at Temple, Oklahoma. He died suddenly on January 14, 1923, shortly after returning home from a service at the First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. His last home was in that city at 119 E. 4th Street. He was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Oklahoma City. Samuel R. Williams' obituary mentions a number of survivors, including James Oscar Williams of Cushing, Oklahoma; Mrs. T. W. Lutthner of Oklahoma County; Mrs. William Perryman of Oklahoma City; Claude W. Williams of Chicago; and Lea and Florence Williams of Phoenix, Arizona.

Angeline Williams was born about 1860. She was still with the family in the 1870 census in Illinois.

Susan E. Williams was born about 1866. She came to Texas with the family, and died December 23, 1873. She lies buried in Lonesome Dove Cemetery beside her mother. Her headstone contains no age or date of birth.

Sarah Elizabeth Williams was born on February 7, 1874. She married James Monroe Murrell (1854-1907) on August 9, 1891 in Tarrant County. She was married a second time after Mr. Murrell's death. She died at 1:12 p.m. on February 18, 1946 at her home in Kleberg, Dallas County,

Texas, on a Seagoville, Texas mail route. Her last permanent address was 3412 Pecan Street in Fort Worth. She was buried in Shiloh Cemetery at Flower Mound in Denton County, Texas.

Ada Williams, a twin, was born January 1, 1878. She married James T. Speer and was living with her husband and two daughters in Keller, Tarrant County, when the 1900 census was taken. Her last permanent residence was at 6306 Ellsworth in Dallas. She died at 7:10 p.m. on April 8, 1944 at 3623 McKinney in Dallas. She was a widow. The informant was her daughter, Mrs. R. C. Blake, of the Ellsworth address. Mrs. Speer was buried two days later in Oakland Cemetery in Dallas.

Ida Williams, a twin, was born January 1, 1878 and died September 28, 1878. She is buried at Lonesome Dove.

Joanna Williams was born February 5, 1880. She died September 10, 1889, and was buried at Lonesome Dove.

Joseph and Texanna Williams had two children born after the taking of the 1880 census. They are named in an older sister's 1944 obituary. They were Mary D. Brown and Walter Williams, both of Fort Worth.

Walter James Williams, a son of Joseph H. Williams and Texanna Drew according to his death certificate, was born August 18, 1884. When he registered for the draft in 1918, he and his wife Ellie were living in Lubbock, Texas, where he was working as an electrical engineer. He died at 2:33 p.m. on November 20, 1965 in the Lake Worth Hospital in Lake Worth, Tarrant County, Texas. His last permanent residence was at 2600 NW 28th Street in Fort Worth. He was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery. He was a retired electrical engineer. His wife, Ellie N. Williams, lived until September 20, 1977.

There was one Mary D. Brown who died at 10:30 p.m. in the Lakeview Convalescent Home in Lakeside, Tarrant County, Texas on July 31, 1968. She was a widow. Her last permanent residence was at 1953 Columbus Street in Fort Worth. Her father's name appears on her death certificate as J. W. Williams. Her birth date appears as December 5, 1884. *If this is Joseph H. Williams' child, then her birth date, or Walter's, or both, must be incorrect.* Mary D. Brown was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery on August 2. The informant for the death certificate was Mrs. E. F. Benton.





Erected on August 18, 2012 by members
of the E. W. Taylor Camp #1777,
Sons of Confederate Veterans

