



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

William Thomas Martin

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William Thomas Martin was a Georgia cavalry veteran who lived for many years in Tarrant County's Precinct 3 north of Big Bear Creek. He moved to Newark in Wise County about 1895 and died there.

Mr. Martin was born in Tennessee in June, 1830. When the 1850 census was taken, he was living in Hamilton County, Tennessee's District 27 with his widowed mother and two siblings. His mother, Mrs. Ann Martin, was born about 1796 in Tennessee. Her children still with her were Margaret (born about 1827); Adoline (born about 1830); and [William] Thomas (born about 1831). Adoline Martin later married John Mahan, lived for many years in Walker County, Georgia, and finally settled in Smithfield, Tarrant County, Texas, where she and her husband lie buried.

William T. Martin and his wife, Martha, were married about 1851. She told a census taker many years later that she was born in Tennessee in April 1829.

When the 1860 census was taken, Mr. Martin and his wife, Martha, were living in Walker County, Georgia in the area known as the Upper Cove, served by the post office at Cedar Grove. They had two children living with them, both born in Georgia: Adeline (born about 1852) and Rhoda E. (born about 1854). Living next door to them was the family of John Mahan, who married Mr. Martin's sister, Adoline. The Martins' mother, Annie Martin (born about 1793 in Tennessee) was living with the Mahans.

William Thomas Martin served the Confederacy in Co. A, 3rd Confederate Cavalry. Mr. Martin's records in the National Archives indicate that he enlisted on May 8, 1862 at Running Water Spring, Tennessee for a term of two years and five months. He became a private in Captain F. M. Corn's Company, Howard's Battalion of Confederate Cavalry. Mr. Martin said he was thirty-one years old.

He was mustered into the Confederate service on June 19, 1862 at Camp Kirby, Tennessee. Corn's Company subsequently became Co. A, 3rd Confederate Cavalry.

Other records show that he enlisted at Whiteside [Marion County], Tennessee on May 7, 1862. He was absent on sick leave at some point during the last four months of 1862. He was captured on December 15, 1863. No further record of his service has survived.

When the 1870 census was taken, the Martin family was living in Walker County, Georgia in the area served by the Frick's Gap post office. He and his wife, Martha, had five children with them, all born in Georgia: Adaline (about 1854), Rhoda A. (about 1856), William L. (about 1861), John C. (about 1864), and Palestine (born in October 1869).

Mr. Martin does not appear in the 1880 Tarrant County tax list with any real estate. He and his family appear in the census in that year in District 94...that part of Precinct 3 north of Big Bear Creek. Judging from the names of his neighbors, he must have lived in the White's Chapel area. He said he was born about 1831 in Tennessee; he did not know his father's birthplace, but his mother was born in Tennessee. His wife, Martha, was born about 1830 in Georgia to a North Carolinian father and a Georgian mother. They had three children with them, all born in Georgia: William A. (about 1861); John C. (about 1867); and Francis P (about 1870).

Mr. Martin applied for a pension in 1899 while he was a resident of Newark, in southern Wise County, Texas. He said he was sixty-nine years old, and had lived at Newark for five years. He said he was poor and feeble, from age, lung trouble, and having had his feet frozen. He said he served in Co. A, 3rd Confederate Cavalry, for a term of one year and nine months. He owned two ponies worth forty dollars, two cows, two calves, and one yearling worth seventy-five dollars, and two pigs worth two dollars.

Mr. Martin's pension application file contains two affidavits made by two of our other veterans, George Guess and William H. Evatt, both of whom said they had known Mr. Martin for thirty-eight years. Guess and Evatt said they served in the same company and regiment with Mr. Martin. They must have met Mr. Martin about 1861. Dr. S. G. Tankersley said Mr. Martin had an "infeebled" constitution, apparently from his age, weak lungs, and another condition which is not legible on the form.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin appear in the census of 1900 in Election Precinct 26, Wise County, Texas. They lived alone. He said he was born in June 1830; she was born in April 1829. She said she had given birth to six children, four of whom were still alive. They lived in the Newark area.

Neither of them has a standing readable headstone in either Tarrant or Wise Counties. Neither of them has a death certificate in Texas. Mrs. Martin did not apply for a Confederate pension. We have been unable to locate any of the death certificates of any of the Martins' children.