



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

Copyright © 2011-2012. All rights reserved.

## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### James Philip May

Compiled by Michael Patterson  
Copyright © 2011-2012. All rights reserved.

James Philip May was a native Tennessean who served the Confederacy in an Arkansas infantry regiment. He came to Texas shortly before 1880. He died in 1907 and lies buried in Lonesome Dove Cemetery in present-day Southlake.

Family genealogists at [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) say Mr. May was born in Dickson County, Tennessee on January 31, 1835, and was a son of William F. May and Mary Anna (King) May, both of whom died in Arkansas.

Mr. May was a fifteen-year-old boy when his father's family was recorded in the 1850 census Spadra Township in Johnson County, Arkansas. James had attended school within the past year. The family was farming on land it owned which was worth nine hundred dollars. This census record suggests the family may have made the move from Tennessee to Arkansas sometime between 1837 and 1843.

Mr. May was first married to Malinda Price in Johnson County, Arkansas on November 28, 1858. She was born about 1845 in Arkansas.

The 1860 census taker found James P. and Malinda May living in Riley Township in Yell County, Arkansas. James owned real estate valued at three thousand dollars and personal property worth one thousand dollars. They had a one-month-old (the census was taken July 12) son with them named William F. May, and a twelve-year-old girl named Paralee May with them as well... probably James' younger sister who was staying with the family to help out with the new baby. The area in which they lived was served by the post office at Parkersburg, Arkansas. The Mays were not slave owners.

Mr. May entered the Confederate service in Yell County, Arkansas on December 18, 1861. He became a lieutenant in Co. F, 17<sup>th</sup> (Lemoyne's) Arkansas Infantry. He enlisted for a term of twelve months. A reconsolidation of some of the Arkansas forces saw him in later service as a 3<sup>rd</sup>

Lieutenant in Co. E, 21<sup>st</sup> Arkansas Infantry. He was discharged May 20, 1862 but no reason for the discharge is shown in his records. His file in the National Archives in Washington contains two original signed vouchers for his pay as an officer. No other records of his service have survived.

By the time of the 1870 census the family had moved to Clark Township in Pope County, Arkansas, in the area served by the post office at Dover. The 1860's had been very hard on the Mays...by 1870 they had no real estate and personal property valued at only six hundred dollars. James and his wife had four children living with them in that year...William F., Hannah L., Mary A., and Stephen D. May. Also living with the family were a laborer named Thomas Watkins and a stonemason named John W. Willis, both apparently single men.

Census records suggest that at some time about 1876 Mr. May and his family left Arkansas and moved to Colorado for a short time. One of his children was born there about 1878. Mr. May probably went there to take advantage of the opportunities silver mining seemed to offer.

By 1880 they came to Texas, where the census taker in that year found them living in Precinct 8 of Eastland County. Melinda May had died in the last two years and James was left with six children at home: William F., Mary A., Stephen D., James P., Sarah J., and Claude D. May.

The family appears in the 1880 agricultural census of Eastland County, and it appears obvious they were struggling. He was paying a fixed rent per year rather than cropping on shares. In that year, he was farming forty cultivated acres of rented land. He estimated the value of all his farm production in 1879 was two hundred twenty-five dollars. He owned three horses and two milk cows. Two calves had been dropped on his farm in the past year, and he had sold both of them. One cow had been lost through death, straying, or some other cause. He owned no chickens or hogs. He said his eighteen acres of Indian corn had made eighteen bushels, his five acres of wheat had made forty-six bushels, and his eighteen-acre cotton patch had made three bales.

Family sources say Mr. May married his second wife, Ella Mary McGehee, about 1885. She was born in January 13, 1871 in Tennessee, and was a daughter of Milton McGehee.

The census taker in Tarrant County in 1900 found Mr. May and his family living in the area of present-day Southlake. With him were his second wife, Ella, and three of their children: Ellie, Maud, and Fred May. The Mays were farming on rented land. Mrs. May said she had given birth to four children, only three of whom were still living.

James Philip May died December 15, 1907. He lies buried in Lonesome Dove Cemetery in present-day Southlake, Texas. His grave is marked by a small ground-level granite marker which appears to have been placed several years after his death.

By the time the 1910 census was taken, Mrs. May was living in the Rosen Heights section of Fort Worth at 2901 28<sup>th</sup> Street and was working as a garment maker in a factory. With her were two of her sons, Fred and King May.

Mrs. May was later remarried to James Walter Cook (1866-1932), a native of West Virginia. She died at 2:20 a.m. on June 22, 1953 in the Pennsylvania Avenue Hospital in Fort Worth. Her last permanent address was 2600 N.W. 28th Street in Fort Worth. She was buried beside Mr. Cook the next day in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth.

William F. May was born June 16, 1860. He died of influenza at his home at Whitney in Hill County, Texas on December 26, 1939. He lies buried beside his wife, Appie May (1872-1956) in Fort Graham Cemetery near Whitney, Hill County, Texas.

Hannah L. May was born about 1862. She was alive in 1870 but was not with the family in 1880.

The following five of the May children were still with the family at the time of the taking of the 1880 census: Mary A. May (born about 1867), Stephen Decatur May (born about 1868), James P. May (born about 1870), Sarah J. May (born about 1874), and Claude D. May (born about 1878).

Ellie N. May was born in October 1887. Her headstone gives her date of birth as 1890. About 1903 she married Walter James Williams (1882-1965), the son of a Union veteran buried at Lonesome Dove in Southlake. She died in Tarrant County on September 20, 1977 and was buried beside her husband in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth.

Maud May was born in June 1890. She was still with the family in 1900.

Fred Luther May was born March 16, 1894. He worked as a self-employed general contractor. He was dead on arrival at Guadalupe Valley Hospital in Seguin, Guadalupe County, Texas, after suffering a heart attack on July 4, 1964. He was buried in Sunset Memorial Park in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. His last permanent address was in San Antonio at 3737 Fredericksburg Road, no. 212A.

Family sources show the birth of a daughter named Ida May about 1900, but she does not appear in the census of either 1900 or 1910. Mrs. May told the census taker in 1900 that she had lost one child, and Ida may be the one to whom she was referring.

King Dennis May was born August 26, 1903. He died in San Diego County, California on December 1, 1975.



Ella remarried to a Mr. Cook  
(photo courtesy of TeaFor2.com)