



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Peter J. Medlin

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Peter J. Medlin could rightfully claim to be a true pioneer in Tarrant County, having arrived here in 1844 with his parents and siblings. He served in a local Confederate regiment. He died in northeast Tarrant County before 1880, but no readable headstone has been found for him here.

Peter J. Medlin was born in Indiana (according to the 1870 census) about 1837. According to family genealogists, he was a son of William Owen Medlin, who was born about 1801 in Georgia, and his wife, Elizabeth E. Medlin, who was born about 1804 in North Carolina. Peter's grandparents were Lewis and Rachel Medlin, who married in Bedford County, Tennessee and were living there when the 1830 census was taken.

During Peter's early childhood, he was taken to Platte County, Missouri, where his father is found in the county records in 1839 and in the federal census in 1840. By July 1, 1844, Peter and four of his siblings had been brought to northeast Texas by his parents. Peter's family appears in the 1846 tax list of Denton County, Texas. Family matters and sickness caused William Owen Medlin to move the family to Arkansas within a short time.

By 1850 William Owen Medlin and his family were living in Monroe Township in Sevier County, Arkansas. The birthplaces of the Medlin children show how often the family was moving in the 1830's and 1840's...Peter J. was born about 1834 in Mississippi, Mary was born about 1838 in Indiana, and Malinda J. Medlin was born about 1841 in Missouri.

It may be that William Owen Medlin was dead by 1853, when his widow and daughters joined the Lonesome Dove Baptist Church near Grapevine. Peter himself taught Sunday School at Lonesome Dove for a time.

In 1860 in Tarrant County Peter J. Medlin and his wife, Elizabeth E. Cunningham were married. Some later records show her name to have been Emmeline E. Medlin. She told census officials she was born in Mississippi in May, 1837 to a Mississippian father and an Alabamian mother. She said in 1900 she had given birth to five children, only two of whom were still alive.

In the 1870 census of Tarrant County in Precinct 2, P. J. Medlin was thirty-three years old and a native of Indiana, and his wife, Elizabeth E., was a twenty-six-year-old Mississippian, The three children with them in that year were Martha (age7), William O. (age 4), and John H. (age 1). Next door was H. Decker, age fifty-four, in whose household lived Peter's mother, E. Medlin (born about 1803 in Tennessee) and Mrs. Medlin's daughter, M. J. Medlin, who was born in Mississippi about 1846. Decker's other next-door neighbors in the census were the family of Ransom L. Dean, so they were probably living in the Grapevine area.

Peter J. Medlin died in Tarrant County, Texas on May 10, 1877 or 1879...the handwriting on the pension application is very poor. In an affidavit Mrs. Medlin's brother, R. M. Cunningham, made for her, Cunningham said Mr. Medlin died in Tarrant County in 1877 or 1878. No readable headstone for Peter J. Medlin has been located in Tarrant County, Texas.

Mrs. E. E. Medlin of Purves, Erath County, Texas, applied for a Confederate widow's pension in 1899. She said she was sixty-three years old and had lived in Erath County about one year, having come there from another county whose name is not legible...though it looks somewhat like "Borger..." which is a Texas town but not a county.

Mrs. Medlin said her husband has served in Co. A of Gano's Regiment, which raised in the Grapevine area and in which many other men of this community served. Mr. Medlin's name has not been found on Gano's rolls, but the pension board approved her pension based upon the word of men who swore to his service.

Mrs. Medlin's brother, R. M. Cunningham, of Stephens County, Texas, made an affidavit for her in support of her claim. He claimed to have known Peter J. Medlin since he (Cunningham) arrived in Texas in 1848. He was present at the marriage of his sister and P. J. Medlin. R. M. Cunningham was fifty-three when he made his affidavit, hence he must have been born about 1846.

In 1900, Mrs. Emiline E. Medlin was living at Purves in Erath County with the family of her son in law, Joseph H. Langley, who was born about 1866. Langley's wife was Malinda O. (Medlin), who said she was born in July 1872. Emiline Medlin said she had given birth to five children, only two of whom were still living. She said she was born in Mississippi in May 1837, to a Mississippian father and an Alabamian mother.

Census records have disclosed the names of four of Peter J. Medlin's children: Martha Medlin, William O. Medlin, John H. Medlin, and Malinda O. Medlin.