



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

James W. Randolph

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James W. Randolph was a Tennessee Confederate veteran who lived in the Smithfield community when the 1900 census was taken. He later moved to Fort Worth, and later still to the Confederate Home in Austin, where he spent the last ten years of his life.

Mr. Randolph was born in October 1839. He told Texas pension officials he was born in Oxford, Mississippi. Census records in 1850 in Lincoln County, Tennessee suggest he *may have been* a son of Jonathan E. Randolph (born about 1811) and his wife, Matilda P. Randolph (born about 1812), both natives of Tennessee. Jonathan Randolph's family lived in Mississippi in the late 1830's, before moving to Tennessee by about 1841. By about 1843 the family moved to Arkansas, where they were still living about 1848. By 1850 they had arrived in Lincoln County, Tennessee. Several descendants of Jonathan Randolph have posted queries and other material at ancestry.com, and one researcher says Jonathan's son, James W., was married to a lady named Therman. Our James W. Randolph was a resident of Lincoln County, Tennessee during the Civil War.

Mr. Randolph served the Confederacy as a private and sergeant in Co. D, 41st Tennessee Infantry. His official records in the National Archives say he enlisted December 2, 1861 at Camp Trousdale, Tennessee for a term of twelve months. He was absent sick at home for a period of time during his first month of service. He was captured at the fall of Fort Donelson, Tennessee on February 16, 1862, took an oath to obtain a parole at Camp Morton, Indiana in June, 1862, and was released August 21, 1862 by Gov. Campbell of Tennessee. He was absent sick in a Confederate hospital during July or August 1864. He left the service after taking a final oath of allegiance to the Union at Nashville, Tennessee on January 26, 1865. At the time he lived in Lincoln County, Tennessee, had a fair complexion, light hair, blue eyes, and was 5' 6" tall. His file contains one handwritten receipt for pay which he signed for two months' service in the fall of 1863.

About 1866, Mr. Randolph married Susan Thurman. Her parents were Elias Thurman, (born about 1805) and his wife, Dolly (born about 1811). James and Susan Randolph lived for some time after

their marriage in Illinois during at least the mid-1880's. They came to Tarrant County, Texas in 1886.

When the 1900 census taker visited the Smithfield area in Tarrant County, he found Mr. Randolph living with a wife named Susan D. Randolph, born in March 1855 in South Carolina to two native South Carolinians. She said she had given birth to five children, three of whom were still living. They had two children living in their household at that time, Ed Randolph (born in March 1884 in Illinois) and Rosa Randolph (born in March 1887 in Illinois).

By 1910 Mr. and Mrs. Randolph had moved to 129 Pendry Street in Fort Worth, where they were living when he applied for a Confederate pension from the State of Texas in 1914. In 1910 he made his living operating a "job wagon." By that year, only one of Mrs. Randolph's children was still living.

In his pension application, Mr. Randolph said "*...I was at home on a Disable & sick Furlough in April & May 1865 when the war ended...*" He said he served from July 1861 until 1865 in Co. D, 41st Tennessee Infantry. Two Tarrant Countians, J. H. Haralson and T. A. Steadman, made affidavits saying they knew that Randolph was sworn in at Fayetteville, Tennessee in July of 1861, that he was wounded at Resaca, Georgia, and was at home when the War ended.

Susan Randolph died at her Fort Worth home at 1517 East Belknap Street on May 27, 1918. Her death certificate says she died on that date at 9 a.m. of acute uremia. She was buried the next day in Smithfield Cemetery. Her birth year was given as 1849. Her father is shown as E. Thurman and her mother as a Miss Freeman, both born in South Carolina. She now has no readable gravestone at Smithfield.

On July 16, 1920, Mr. Randolph entered the Confederate Home in Austin, Texas, and died there at 5 a. m. on August 13, 1930; his death was caused by exhaustion and old age. Confederate Home records say he was a member of the Methodist Church. He was buried the next day in the State Cemetery in Austin. He has a readable headstone there.



Headstone in the State Cemetery in Austin, Texas