



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Alfred Fitzgerald

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Alfred Fitzgerald was a native Tennessean who served in a Confederate infantry regiment raised in his state. He came to northeast Tarrant County in the late 1870's and died here not long after. He probably lies buried in the Bedford area in an unmarked grave. Several family genealogists have placed material on Mr. Fitzgerald at ancestry.com and the completeness of their records suggests that a family Bible has survived among his descendants.

Family sources say Alfred Fitzgerald was born in Monroe County, Tennessee on August 19, 1831. He was a son of Rev. Archibald Fitzgerald (1774-1858) and his wife, Caroline or Carris. The elder Fitzgerald was born in Virginia, then moved to Georgia, then to old Franklin County, Tennessee in the Duck River area, then to Vandenberg County, Indiana, then back to Tennessee about 1823, settling in Monroe County. Descendants say he died in Whitfield County, Georgia and lies buried there.

Alfred Fitzgerald lived with his father's family in Bradley County, Tennessee's subdivision 26 when the 1850 census was taken. He was a nineteen-year-old farmer, and was the only child still at home.

On January 21, 1854 in Meigs County, Tennessee Alfred Fitzgerald married Martha E. Francisco. She was born November 26, 1838 in Tennessee. Family sources at ancestry.com say she was a daughter of George Francisco (1799-1859) and his wife, Francis L. Thurman (1801-1884), both of whom died in Meigs County, Tennessee. One of Martha's siblings later settled near Roanoke in Denton County; another settled in Wise County, Texas.

Alfred's sister was Mary Fitzgerald, who married Isaac Newton and moved to northeast Tarrant County about 1862. Their presence here may have influenced Alfred to move. Several of Alfred's Newton kinsmen were also Confederate soldiers who settled here and are included on this memorial.

Alfred and his family are found in the 1860 census in the Ninth District of Bradley County, Tennessee. They had three children in their household: Nancy C., Archibald, and Susan E. Fitzgerald. No data was recorded in the census to show the worth of his real estate or personal property. None of the Bradley County Fitzgeralds were slaveowners.

Alfred Fitzgerald served the Confederacy as a private in Co. A, 36<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry. Two other Fitzgeralds enlisted in the same company on the same day from the same place, and traveled seventy miles to the place of rendezvous in Knoxville. Both the other men appear in the 1860 census of Bradley County.

Alfred's records preserved in the National Archives are very sparse. He enlisted and was mustered into the service on December 11, 1861 for a term of twelve months. Alfred was thirty years old. He became a private in Captain William D. Smith's Company of Tennessee Volunteers. This company subsequently became Co. A, 36<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry. He traveled seventy miles from his home to the place of rendezvous. The present easiest road distance from Georgetown, Tennessee to Knoxville, Tennessee is eighty-six miles. Eleven miles of that distance is in traveling southeast to the main highway at Cleveland, thus the straight-line distance is probably in the area of seventy miles. No other records specific to Alfred's service have survived. This regiment served in the Department of East Tennessee and took part in operations about Cumberland Gap. It was dissolved in June, 1862 and many of its members were transferred into other Tennessee units.

Alfred appears in the 1862 U. S. Tax Assessment lists for District 9 in Bradley County. He is shown as the owner of two hundred forty acres of land worth one thousand eight hundred 1800 dollars. On this property he was assessed \$6.30 in taxes which he finally paid on December 25, 1865.

Alfred and his family appear in the census of 1870 in District 9 of Bradley County, Tennessee. He owned real estate worth \$3750 and personal property worth one thousand eight hundred dollars. Six of their children were with them in that year: Archibald, Susan, Ellen, Monroe, Mary, and Jesse Fitzgerald.

Alfred and his family are listed in the 1880 census in Precinct 3 of Tarrant County, in the area of the precinct south of Big Bear Creek. The children with them in that year were Susan, Ellen, Monroe, Jesse, Mary, Sarilda, Sarepta, Sarine born in Tennessee, and Lee, born in January 1880 in Texas. His next-door neighbor was his older brother, Archibald Fitzgerald, who was born about 1814.

In the 1880 agricultural census, Alfred appears as the owner of a farm consisting of seventeen acres of improved land and two hundred ten acres of woodland, worth a total of twelve hundred dollars. His farming implements were worth seventy dollars and his livestock was worth three hundred seventy-five dollars. He estimated that his farm production in 1879 was worth one hundred twenty-five dollars. He had a one-acre mown hay field from which he harvested one ton of hay in 1879. He owned four mules, eight milk cows, and sixteen cattle of other classes. Six calves were dropped on his place in 1879, and one of his cattle had died or strayed in the past year. He had produced two hundred pounds of butter in the last twelve months. He owned ten hogs and thirty chickens; his hens produced seventy dozen eggs in 1879. He had eight acres in Indian corn which made one hundred bushels. He made two bales on nine acres of cotton. He had one-quarter acre

in Irish potatoes, which made eight bushels, and one-quarter acre in sweet potatoes which produced six bushels. In the past year he cut ten dollars worth of cord wood off his place.

Alfred Fitzgerald appears in the 1880 tax list of Tarrant County. He owned one hundred acres of the D. M. McQueen survey worth three hundred dollars, one hundred nineteen acres of the A. Fitzgerald survey worth three hundred fifty-seven dollars, and one hundred sixty acres of the J. W. Shakely survey, worth four hundred eighty dollars. He also owned one carriage or wagon worth twenty-five dollars, farming implements worth fifteen dollars, one horse or mule worth twenty dollars, seventeen cattle worth one hundred two dollars, ten hogs worth one dollar each, and miscellaneous personal property worth ten dollars.

These large tracts of land (which may have been contiguous) all lie in present-day Bedford north of Pipeline Road, generally west of Central Drive, east of Brown Trail, and mostly south of Bedford Road. Extensive deed research would be necessary to delineate the property in terms of modern-day landmarks.

Alfred died in Bedford on March 22, 1882. It seems likely both he and his wife lie buried in unmarked graves in Bedford Cemetery. Even though they lived closer to Arwine Cemetery in Hurst, it was the general practice in the community that no one who served in the Confederate Army would be buried there. While many Union soldier graves are to be found there, not a single Confederate grave has been identified in it. There are no readable Fitzgerald headstones in any pioneer northeast Tarrant County cemetery.

Mrs. Fitzgerald's home appears on Sam Street's 1895 map of Tarrant County, Texas. In modern-day terms it sat in Bedford along the north side of Pipeline Road about where Gettysburg Place enters it from the north. Mrs. Martha E. (Francisco) Fitzgerald died at Bedford on March 18, 1900. She did not apply for a Confederate widow's pension based upon her husband's service.

Family internet sources list eleven children for Alfred and Martha Fitzgerald: Nancy Caroline Fitzgerald, Archibald Fitzgerald, Susan Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Lois Ellen Fitzgerald, Jessie Fitzgerald, Monroe Fitzgerald, Mary Izelia Fitzgerald, Sarelda Jane Fitzgerald, Serepta Emiline Fitzgerald, Sarena Fitzgerald, and Luther Lee Fitzgerald.

Nancy Caroline Fitzgerald was born November 5, 1855. Family sources say she died in 1871. She was not with the family in the 1870 census.

Archibald Fitzgerald was born March 5, 1857. Family sources say he died October 18, 1917 in Tarrant County. He has no death certificate on file in Texas. Family sources online have him marrying in Bradley County, Tennessee in 1869, but that seems unlikely since he would have been only twelve at the time.

Susan Elizabeth Fitzgerald was born August 28, 1859. About 1881 she married David Crockett Keenan (1847-1930), who was a pensioned Confederate veteran. She received a pension after his death. She died November 23, 1938 at Edith in Coke County, Texas. She was buried in November 25 in Robert Lee Cemetery in Coke County.

Lois Ellen Fitzgerald was born April 23, 1861. She was a lifelong spinster. Her last home was in the Drasco Community in Runnels County, Texas. She died at Winters, Runnels County, Texas at 4 p.m. on December 30, 1939. She was buried the next day in Pumphrey Cemetery.

Jessie Fitzgerald was born in December 1865. He died December 28, 1898 at Bedford.

Monroe Fitzgerald was born October 20, 1866. He died at Bedford on October 22, 1882.

Mary Izelia Fitzgerald was born December 12, 1867. She was married to Bluford Cunningham Lee (1864-1955). She died on August 7, 1944 and was buried in Pumphrey Cemetery at Pumphrey, Runnels County, Texas.

Sarelda "Shellie" Jane Fitzgerald was born September 13, 1871. She married Jessie C. Lee (1863-1945), and by 1900 they were living in Denton County. In 1910 they were in Baylor County, and by 1920 had moved back to Denton County. In 1930 they lived in Runnels County, Texas. She died at 9:20 a.m. on October 7, 1958 at the Talley Rest Home at Pilot Point, Denton County, Texas. Her last permanent home was at Keller in Tarrant County. She was buried on October 9 in Fairview Cemetery in Winters, Runnels County, Texas. Her headstone shows her name as Shellie E. Lee.

Serepta Emiline Fitzgerald was born April 2, 1874. Family sources say she died in 1876, but she is with the family in the 1880 census.

Sarena Fitzgerald was born February 14, 1876. Her name appears as Sarean on her death certificate and Serene on her headstone. She was the wife of George N. Brown (1879-1969). She died at 6 p.m. on July 9, 1966 in the Twilite Acres Nursing Home at Rising Star, Eastland County, Texas. Her last permanent address was at Rising Star. She was buried in Amity Cemetery in Comanche County.

Luther Lee Fitzgerald was born January 15, 1880 (his headstone says 1879, his draft registration says 1880). When he registered for the World War I draft, he and his wife, Lorissa Priscilla Williams, lived at Hollis, Oklahoma. He died in 1950 in Hollis, Harmon County, Oklahoma and lies buried there in Fairmount Cemetery.