



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

James Miles Ladd

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James Miles Ladd was a native of Kentucky who served in a local Confederate militia unit. He came to Texas about 1859, settling first in Parker County. He died during the War, probably in northeast Tarrant County. His widow first appears in Tarrant County in the 1863 tax lists.

James M. Ladd was born in Kentucky about 1821. He and his family were living in District 1 of Christian County, Kentucky when the 1850 census was taken. His wife and three of their children were with him: John F., Frances C., and James William M. Ladd. Mr. Ladd was farming on his own land which was valued at two hundred dollars.

About 1843 James was married to Adaline Simpson, who was born in Kentucky on April 10, 1822.

About 1859 the family moved to Texas and settled first in Parker County. The census taker in 1860 found them living there in Beat 5 in the area served by the post office at Gamma, Texas (which was only in existence 1858-1861). The Ladds were farmers, and owned land worth six hundred dollars and personal property worth five hundred dollars. They had the same three children with them as in Kentucky ten years before. In addition, there was a six-month-old girl named M. Brown with them.

By 1860 depredations by Comanches and Kiowas were becoming very commonplace along the Parker/Wise/Palo Pinto County frontier, and the Ladds decided to move east for their own protection. James's son, John B. F. Ladd, told a voter registrar that he had settled in northeast Tarrant County about 1861. Since James Ladd enlisted along with his son in a militia company made up primarily of northeast Tarrant men, it seems likely James died while living here.

James M. Ladd's name appears with his son's on a muster roll dated July 1861 of Captain William W. McGinnis's Company of "Mounted Volunteers or Rangers" as part of the 20th Brigade of Texas Militia.

A note about McGinnis's Company appears in the Confederate pension application of Edward J. Lipscomb of Grapevine, who served in it with the two Ladd men. Grapevine resident B. R. Wall said in 1931 in an affidavit in Lipscomb's file, "*Col. McGinnis lived between here and Roanoke, Texas and died when I was a small boy. I have often heard the people speak of this organization as a cavalry troop which chased bushwhackers and deserters....*" J.. S. Lipscomb said of his brother, Edward: "*He rode a bright sorrel horse named Quantrell, [and] was engaged in hunting deserters.*"

Mrs. Adaline Ladd is found in the 1863 and 1864 tax lists of Tarrant County, Texas. She was the owner of forty acres of the J. A. Dunham survey, which lies just southeast of Mount Gilead Cemetery. Her son, J. B. F. Ladd, owned the tract in 1875.

A rough idea of the location of Mrs. Ladd's real estate is as follows. The J. A. Dunham survey was a rectangle one mile north-south by one-half mile east-west and containing three hundred twenty acres. Its northwest corner is at the present-day intersection of Johnson Road and Keller-Smithfield Road North. Johnson Road now lies along the survey's north line. The survey's northeast corner is at about the intersection of Johnson Road and Bobbi Court. No other modern-day streets lie along its other boundary lines.

After James M. Ladd's death, Adaline Ladd was remarried to John Thomas Hill (1806-1881). She died in Tarrant County on August 5, 1886 and was buried in Mount Gilead Cemetery at Keller.

We have discovered the names of only three of the children of James M. and Adaline (Simpson) Ladd. All three children were with them in both the censuses of 1850 and 1860.

John Benjamin Franklin Ladd (1844-1924) is also a part of this memorial project. A separate biography of him maybe found at this website.

Frances Elizabeth Ladd was born November 12, 1846.. She married Joshua Garrett King (1827-1908) about 1865. They were in Precinct 2 of Tarrant County in 1870 and in Precinct 4 in 1880. She died November 8, 1891 at Whitt in Parker County, and lies buried there beside her husband. In 1900 her husband and several children lived in Precinct 2 of Jack County. Joshua G. King filed an extensive claim against the U. S. government and the Comanche tribe for stock stolen from him during the days of the Indian depredations. He was partially successful in getting a cash settlement. The documents he filed are available in one of the "Texas Indian Papers" collections.

James William M. Ladd was born about 1849. In 1870 he lived in Precinct 2 of Tarrant County with his wife, E. E. Ladd, and their two children. He was a widower with children in Precinct 4 of Tarrant County in 1880. His wife, Elzira E. Ladd (1853-1880) is buried at Mount Gilead with a readable stone.