



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Thomas William McCain

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Thomas William McCain was a Confederate veteran of a Texas regiment who spent the last years of his life near Keller. He was the brother of another of our veterans, Robert I. McCain, and probably lies buried in either Mount Gilead or Bourland Cemetery in Keller in an unmarked grave.

Thomas W. McCain was born in Alabama about 1828. Family sources at Ancestry.com say he was born in St. Clair County to Robert McCain and his wife, Mahala Jane McClellan.

Thomas W. McCain's younger brother, Robert I. McCain, was also a Confederate soldier in the same regiment as Thomas. Robert also later moved to the Keller area and lived very near to Thomas. The McCain's were in Chickasaw County, Mississippi when the 1850 census was taken...apparently Thomas and his wife Adeline, with three of Thomas's younger siblings.

Family sources at ancestry.com indicate that Thomas and Robert McCain married sisters, daughters of Simeon Caswell Fowler (1791-1862) and his wife, Leticia "Letty" McGowan (1801-1882), who were married in 1818 in Madison County, Alabama. Thomas's wife was Adeline Elizabeth Fowler. She was born in Alabama on November 28, 1829.

In 1860 Thomas W. McCain and his family appear in the census of Wood County, Texas. Their children were Mary J. McCain (born about 1851 in Mississippi), Letta P. McCain (born about 1853 in Mississippi), Eliza P. McCain (born about 1855 in Mississippi), and Dora E. McCain, born about 1858 in Texas. The McCains' next door neighbors were the family of Mrs. McCain's parents, Simeon and Letta Fowler.

Thomas W. McCain served the Confederacy in the (2nd) Co. D, Bates' Regiment, Texas Volunteers. This organization was known at various times as Captain Hamilton's Company; Company L; (2nd) Co. D, Bates' Regiment Texas Volunteers; and (2nd) Co. D, 13th Regiment Texas Infantry.

Reorganizations within the regiment as the war progressed are extremely complicated. McCain enlisted July 14, 1862 at Tyler, Smith County, Texas for the duration of the War.

On September 14, 1862, he received a thirty-five day furlough, which was to end on October 19. McCain's file in the National Archives contains one original paper, dated November 29, 1862, which details McCain's and a comrade's receipt of money for their subsistence while on duty at Columbia, Texas, away from their regiment. He was admitted to the hospital of the 13th Texas Regiment for "continued fever" on February 6, 1863 and was dismissed on March 2, 1863. He was again admitted to the same hospital with "Rubeola" on May 29, 1863. His name appears on a list in July 1863 as being absent without leave, having been furloughed at "Orange Texas Hos."

Another record shows he received the furlough on June 4, 1863. On a list dated Velasco, Texas, October 25, 1863, the notation is made: "Absent without leave. Furloughed from Hospital at Orange, Texas." On a company muster roll for November and December, 1863, the following notation was made: "Deserted having failed to report after expiration of his furlough for thirty days he therefore became a deserted in Wood Co., Tex. 31 Dec 1863." The same information appears on a morning report dated at Velasco, Texas, on the last day of 1863. One muster roll shows him "Sick in Wood Co. since Nov. 2/63."

He spent February 10-February 16, 1864 in the 13th Texas Regiments hospital for treatment of a "Fatty Tumor." A regimental return for the month of December, 1864 shows Mr. McCain "... With leave Wood Co. 5 Dec 1864 for 50 days."

When the 1870 census was taken, Thomas and his brother, Robert, were sharing a home west of the Brazos River in McLennan County, Texas. Thomas had no wife with him, but he had five children: Priscilla (born about 1855 in Mississippi), Eliza (born about 1857 in Mississippi), Medora (born about 1858 in Texas), Ardema (born about 1863 in Texas), and Robert (born about 1867 in Texas). The McCain's next-door neighbors were the family of James Fowler (born about 1833 in Alabama), who had brought his family to Texas from Mississippi in or after 1865.

Thomas W. McCain was still alive as late as 1895, when his home appears on Sam Street's Map of Tarrant County, Texas. In modern-day terms, it sat north of downtown Keller, west of the railroad and Highway 377, perhaps somewhere in the neighborhood of the intersection of Sugar Maple and Sweet Leaf Court.

He has no readable headstone in any northeast Tarrant County cemetery. He has no Texas death certificate.

There is a gravestone in Bourland Cemetery which may be that of a second wife of Thomas W. McCain. It is that of Maggie L. McCain, who was born September 22, 1838 and died January 15, 1919. No remarriage for Thomas William McCain is to be found in the records of either Johnson County or Tarrant County, Texas.

One of the children was Robert J. McCain, who was born in 1866. He died in 1923 and was buried in Bourland Cemetery in Keller. His wife, Isora A. (Keller) McCain (1870-1939) lies buried beside him. They were married in Tarrant County on October 26, 1887.

One of the children was Madera Elizabeth Cunningham. She was born March 14, 1878. She died in Throckmorton County, Texas on May 28, 1911. Her parents are shown on her death certificate as Thomas McCain and Addeline Fowler, both natives of Mississippi. She was buried in Throckmorton Cemetery.

