



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Joseph H. Williams

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Joseph H. Williams was a Union veteran of an Illinois regiment. He lived in at Grapevine after the War, and is buried in Lonesome Dove Cemetery

Joseph H. Williams was born in Illinois on January 3, 1832. He served the Union in Co. B, 11th Illinois Infantry. His official records show that he lived at Farmington, Illinois when he enlisted on September 2, 1861. He was discharged September 30, 1865 at Memphis, Tennessee. A good overview of the regiment's activities during the War may be found at:

http://www.civilwarlandscapes.org/cwla/per/unit/union/il/il_11_3yf.htm

There were two towns named Farmington, Illinois...one in Kane County and one in Fulton County. No one appearing to be this Joseph H. Williams appears in the 1860 census for either Fulton County or Kane County. Perhaps Joseph had gone to one of those two counties to find work.

Some family genealogists have suggested that Joseph H. Williams was a native of Union County, Illinois. This sounds logical, since many Union County people migrated to northeast Tarrant County in the years surrounding the Civil War. Interestingly, in 1850 in Union County, Illinois there was one Joseph Williams exactly the correct age, born in Illinois, living next-door to the family of Benjamin and Nancy (Williams) Eaves, who left Union County and settled here in the Southlake area in the 1850's.

When the 1870 census was taken, Joseph H. Williams and his wife, Harriett, were living in Anna Township of Union County, Illinois. Harriett was shown as a Tennessee native, born about 1840. They had four younger Williams children with them: Samuel R. Williams (born about 1855); Angeline Williams (born about 1860); Susan Williams (born about 1866); and Charles H. Williams (born about 1852). Charles obviously could not have been one of Harriett's children. By 1873,

Joseph and his family had made the move from Union County, Illinois to northeast Tarrant County, Texas.

Joseph's first wife, Harriett, died November 15, 1876 and was buried at Lonesome Dove. Her birth date was shown on her headstone as June 9, 1837. One of the Williams daughters, Susan E. Williams, was earlier buried there after she died on December 23, 1873.

Not long after Harriett's death, Joseph was remarried to a widow, Mrs. Texana Barcroft. Two of their daughters are buried near Joseph: Ida Williams (January 1, 1878-September 28, 1878) and Joanna Williams (February 5, 1880 - September 10, 1889).

Joseph filed an application for a veterans pension on August 19, 1879. After his death, his widow continued to receive it. The Williams family appears in the neighborhood of Lonesome Dove at the time the 1880 census was taken. With Mr. Williams in that year were his second wife, Texanna, a daughter from his first marriage (Sarah A. Williams, born about 1873); two daughters from his second marriage (Ada, born about 1878, and Joanna, born in January of 1880). It appears that he and Texana may have a set of twins named Ada and Ida. Also with them was Texana's daughter by her first marriage, Ceolah Barcroft.

In 1880, two of Joseph's children were living on either side of his family. Cordelia A. Williams (born about 1856) and her husband, Lafayette Chivers and their children were on one side; while Samuel R. Williams (born about 1855) and his family were on the other. An inventory of Lonesome Dove Cemetery done many years ago shows a stone for Cordelia Williams (1862-1884).

Joseph H. Williams died in Tarrant County on November 14, 1885, and was buried at Lonesome Dove Cemetery. His headstone is now broken, but was still readable as late as the 1970's.

His widow, Texana Williams, filed for her widow's pension on February 2, 1886. She appears in the 1890 special veterans census at Grapevine in Tarrant County, Texas. She did not remember any of his dates of enlistment or discharge.

Texana Williams died November 15, 1899 at age 50 years and is buried at Mount Gilead Cemetery, near her first husband, Gabriel L. Barcroft (born about 1846, died April 24, 1873) and two Barcroft children, who were born in 1869 and 1871. A fuller sketch of Mr. Williams' life could be made using his compiled military service records and his and Texanna's pension application files.





SOME YE BLESSED

TEXANA WILLIAMS
DIED
NOV. 15, 1899
AGE 50 YEARS.

Rest in peace