



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

Copyright © 2009. All rights reserved.

Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Thomas Lafayette Williams, Jr.

Compiled by Michael Patterson
Copyright © 2009. All rights reserved.

Thomas Lafayette Williams, Jr. was a Confederate veteran of a Mississippi regiment who lived in eastern Tarrant County in the vicinity of present-day Euless for a few years around 1910. He told the census taker in that year that he was a veteran of the Confederate Army. He later moved back to his old home in Kaufman County, and was buried there in the City of Forney. He was also known as “Fate” and “Lafayette” Williams.

Thomas Lafayette Williams, Jr., was born in Mississippi on April 25, 1839. Family sources say he was born at Tupelo in Pontotoc (now Lee) County, Mississippi. He was a son of Thomas Lafayette Williams (1812-1863) and his wife, Lucinda Cowles (1811-1871). When the census was taken in 1850, “Lafayette” Williams was living in Pontotoc County, Mississippi with his parents and four siblings. His father owned eleven slaves in that year. The family’s next-door neighbors were Thomas Jr.’s paternal grandparents, David and Jane Williams. Family sources say that Thomas’s mother, Lucinda (Cowles) Williams, died in Kaufman County, Texas.

Thomas’s wife, Sarah Louise Newberry, was born October 9, 1842. She died March 5, 1910, and was buried in Hillcrest Cemetery in Forney, Kaufman County, Texas. She has no death certificate, so we do not know if she died in Tarrant or Kaufman County. Descendants say that Thomas L. Williams and Sarah Louisa Newberry were married on July 15, 1858, in Itawamba County, Mississippi. Some family researchers say she died at Hurst, in Tarrant County, which is about where her husband and children were living when the 1910 census was taken. She was a daughter of George Newberry and Mary Elizabeth (Barlow?) Newberry, and was a sister to Margaret Elizabeth (“Lizzie”) Newberry, who married Erasmus Meredith Williams, brother to Thomas Lafayette Williams, Jr.

When the 1860 census was taken, Thomas L. Williams and his wife, Louisa, were living in Pontotoc County with one son, Thomas H. Williams, who was born about 1859. Their next-door neighbors

were Thomas's parents, Thomas and Lucinda Williams. The elder Thomas owned seventeen slaves in that year, while Thomas L. Jr. owned two.

Family traditions say that Thomas Lafayette Williams, Jr., served with his father and his brother, Erasmus M. Williams, in the Confederate Army. "Thomas L. Williams" [Jr.] appears as a 4th Sergeant in Burton's Company, having enlisted at the same place, on the same date, and for the same term as his father... October 1, 1861 at Iuka, Mississippi for a term of three years. The company was mustered into the Confederate service at that place on that day. Burton's Company subsequently became Co. I, 26th Mississippi Infantry. Thomas L. Williams said he was twenty-two years old. Like his father, he was captured at the fall of Fort Donelson, Tennessee and exchanged at Vicksburg, Mississippi on February 16, 1862 and September 16, 1862, respectively. During that interim of time, Thomas Jr. was received as a prisoner of war at Camp Chase, Ohio on July 4, 1862, where he remained until being sent to Vicksburg on September 1. The surviving records of the 26th Mississippi Infantry contain nothing more about Thomas Williams, the younger.

Thomas L. Williams, Sr.'s file in the National Archives contains an original, handwritten and signed letter of resignation dated Jackson, Mississippi on November 2, 1862, saying "**...He is old and for the last few months has grown quite feeble being nearly fifty two years of age....He has a large family without any male person on the place, he has two sons and two sons in law all in the army and all with families in the same condition....**" The reverse side of the letter contains several endorsements up the chain of command.

When the 1870 census was taken, Thomas and Louisa Williams were living in Township 11 of Pontotoc County, Mississippi. They had only two children with them: Samuel (born about 1861) and Thomas (born about 1868).

Kathy Kelley Hunt, who has done extensive work on the families of Kaufman County, Texas, and who has contributed heavily to the material on the county TXGenWeb site, has graciously shared her information on Mr. Williams. She writes that Thomas L. Williams came to Texas with his brother, Erasmus M. Williams. Both Thomas and Erasmus had college educations when they arrived in Texas. Their mother, sister Isabella, and brother John Williams came later.

Thomas appears as "Lafayette" Williams in the 1880 census of Kaufman County in Precinct 2. With him were his wife, Louisa, and eight children: Benjamin (born about 1863); Samuel (born about 1865); Jefferson (born about 1869); Cora (born about 1871); Josephine (born about 1873); Minnie (born about 1875); Charles (born about 1877); and John W. (born in March of 1880). This census shows that Jefferson was born in Texas, thus they may have come to Texas soon after the taking of the 1870 census; Thomas (Jefferson?) appears in the census in 1870 while they were still living in Mississippi.

An interesting item appeared on Sunday, July 24, 1884 in one of the Kaufman County newspapers concerning Mr. Williams: "**While Mr. Fayette Williams, living near Forney, was digging a well Monday it caved in on him, covering him up with three feet of dirt. Rescuers began work immediately to dig him out, but it was two hours before they got down to his head. When found**

he was still breathing, but unable to speak or move. He was several hours in the well, and when moved to his home he was unable to sit alone. The well was eighteen feet deep."

When the 1900 census was taken, Thomas L. Williams and his family were living in District 72 of Precinct 2 of Kaufman County, Texas. Mr. Williams said he was born in April of 1839 in Mississippi to two Tennesseans. His wife, Sarah L. Williams, was born in Alabama in October of 1842 to two South Carolinians. She said she had given birth to fourteen children, seven of whom were still alive. With them in that year were five children: Samuel (born in June 1865 in Mississippi); Josie (born in May 1874 in Texas); Minnie (born in December 1875); Charlie (born in November 1878); and Lula (born in June 1882). Also with them in that year was C. H. Newberry, Mrs. Williams' brother, who was born in January 1855 in Alabama.

By April 21, 1910, Thomas and his remaining family had moved to Tarrant County, where they were living in Precinct 3, between the Fort Worth and Dallas Road and the West Fork of the Trinity, probably between present-day Highway 10 and the river. With him in that year were his daughter, Lula; his son Charlie and Charlie's wife, Maude; and a hired man named Harvey or Harry McDonald. Mr. McDonald and Mr. Williams both told the census taker they were Confederate veterans. ***Any researchers who have any information about this Mr. McDonald are asked to contact this compiler, Michael E. Patterson.***

By the time the 1920 census was taken, Thomas had returned to Kaufman County and was living in the household of his son-in-law, William A. Moore. Thomas's son, S. E. Williams, was also living with the family. At the end of his life, Mr. Williams lived about five miles south of Forney in the Markout community.

Thomas Lafayette Williams, Jr. died March 30, 1924 near Markout, Kaufman County, Texas, six days after suffering a stroke. He is buried in Hillcrest Cemetery in Forney, Kaufman County, Texas. He has no death certificate on file. No obituary for him has been located in any of the several newspapers which were operating in Kaufman and Dallas Counties at that time. He did not apply for a Confederate pension from the State of Texas. There is no reference to his service engraved on his headstone.

A list of Thomas L. Williams' children furnished by a direct descendant, Travis Williams, includes: Thomas H. Williams, Alice E. Williams, Benjamin Franklin Williams, Samuel E. Williams, Tillman Williams, J. L. (initials only) Williams, Carrie Adonia Williams, Josephine "Josie" I. Williams, Minnie Lee Williams, Charles Erasmus Williams, John W. "Jack" Williams, Louise "Lula" Williams, Mary Etta Williams, and two children who were stillborn. Mrs. Williams made a statement to the census taker in 1900 that she had given birth to fourteen. Family records show there were two stillborn children, which would make a total of fifteen.

Thomas H. Williams was born April 23, 1859, and died March 10, 1861, both in Pontotoc County, Mississippi.

Alice E. Williams was born January 10, 1861. She married L. V. Huffman of Crandall, Kaufman County, Texas. She died February 7, 1881, and was buried near Forney in Kaufman County. She had two children, Tom and Annie; Annie died in 1898 or 1899 at the age of twelve.

Benjamin Franklin Williams was born July 16, 1863, in Tupelo, Mississippi. He married Lutie Haggerton in Kaufman County, Texas on August 7, 1885. Benjamin died April 11, 1947, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He lies buried in Madill, Oklahoma. Benjamin and his family moved from Forney, Texas to Davis, Oklahoma about 1902 or 1903, and from there to Madill, Oklahoma in 1904. He had two sons who died in childhood, and six daughters, all of whom grew to adulthood, married, and had children.

Samuel E. Williams was born January 18, 1865, probably in Tupelo, Mississippi. He was a lifelong bachelor, and died April 29, 1923; he lies buried in Hillcrest Cemetery in Forney, Texas.

Tillman Williams was born February 18, 1867 and died September 19, 1867. He was ruptured at birth, and died after a few months. He may have been born and buried in Tupelo, Mississippi.

J. L. (initials only) Williams, was born September 18, 1869 and died January 8, 1881. The 1870 census of Pontotoc County, Mississippi clearly shows a son named Thomas, born about 1868, in this family. In the 1880 census listing for this family in Kaufman County, Texas, there is an eleven-year-old son named clearly named Jefferson between Samuel and "Cora."

Carrie Adonia Williams was born May 10, 1871 at Markout, near Forney; in Kaufman County, Texas. She married William A. Moore, Sr. She died April 17, 1946 at Forney; and was buried in Hillcrest Cemetery in that city. She and her husband had one son, Will Jr., who is buried near his parents in Hillcrest Cemetery.

Josephine I ("Josie") Williams was born May 25, 1873, in Markout, Texas. She was never married. She died of typhoid fever in Haskell, Texas on October 12, 1906. She lies buried in Hillcrest Cemetery in Forney.

Minnie Lee Williams was born December 17, 1875 in Markout, Texas. She married William Henry Newbury about 1901 or 1902, probably in Ranger, Texas. She died in the Refugio County Hospital in Refugio County, Texas on March 13, 1958. Her usual residence was in Woodsboro, Texas. She was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Corpus Christi, Texas. Mr. Newbury was born February 16, 1867 and died March 9, 1940 in Refugio, Texas, and was buried in Corpus Christi, Texas. He was a son of John Barlow Newberry, who was a brother to Sarah Louisa Newberry, who was married to Thomas Lafayette Williams, Jr.

Charles Erasmus Williams was born November 21, 1877 in Markout, Texas. He was married on January 2, 1908, in Tarrant County, Texas, to Maude Lee Hollums. Maude was born January 2, 1892 and died November 4, 1978, in Crandall, Kaufman Co., Texas. She was a daughter of John Hollums and his wife, Mary Carolina Hunt Hollums, of Atlanta, Georgia. Maude lies buried in Fort Worth. Charles Erasmus Williams died of a broken neck after falling from a wagon being pulled

by two mules on November 20, 1942 near Crandall, Kaufman County, Texas. He lies buried in Hillcrest Cemetery in Forney, Texas.

John W. (Jack) Williams was born March 16, 1880 in Markout, Texas. He died from injuries he received after he was thrown from a horse. He died near Forney on August 25, 1894, and was buried in Hillcrest Cemetery in Forney.

Louise (Lula) Williams was born June 26, 1882 in Markout, Texas. She was never married. She died November 1, 1910 in Palo Alto [Palo Pinto?] County, Texas, and was buried in Hillcrest Cemetery in Forney, Texas.

Mary Etta Williams was born January 27, 1886. She died of pneumonia on December 6, 1887, and was probably buried near Markout, Texas. Mr. and Mrs. Williams were the parents of two other children who were stillborn.





LOU,
WIFE OF
T. L. WILLIAMS
BORN
OCT. 9 1842
DIED
MAR. 5, 1910.