



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

Copyright © 2008-2014. All rights reserved.

Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

William Franklin Calahan

Compiled by Michael Patterson
Copyright 2008-2014. All rights reserved.

William Franklin Calahan was born November 13, 1841 in Tennessee. When the 1880 census was taken, the Calahans lived in Precinct 3 south of Big Bear Creek.

Calahan's file in the National Archives in Washington says he was a private and sergeant in Co. H., 17th Tennessee Infantry. He enlisted May 28, 1862 at Nashville, was twenty years old, 5' 10" tall, had black eyes and hair, and a dark complexion. He was a farmer, living at Lewisburg, Marshall County, Tennessee. He was a prisoner of war sent from Camp Douglas, Illinois to Cairo, Ill on September 29, 1862 to be exchanged. He was received by the federal army near Vicksburg on November 1, 1862 for exchange. Some records show him to have been discharged at Tupelo, Mississippi on July 16, 1862. He was a member of the R E Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans at Fort Worth, but he apparently gave them no details of his service when he joined.

A short reminiscence of Mr. Calahan appeared in Mamie Yeary's classic book, *Reminiscences of the Boys in Gray* (1912): "*W. F. CALAHAN, Woodson, Texas—Born Nov. 13, 1841, near Lewisburg, Tenn., where I enlisted in the Confederate Army May 28, 1861, as private in Company H, Seventeenth Infantry, Gen. Zollicoffer's Brigade, Gen. Hardee's Division and Gen. Bragg's Corps. My First Captain was R. H. McCrary, and first Colonel was Tass W. Newman. Was under Beauregard and Bragg at the siege of Corinth and was afterwards under Hood in his raid through Tennessee. Was never wounded. Was captured in Alabama by the Third Michigan Cavalry and sent with others to Camp Douglas, Ill., and exchanged at Vicksburg, Miss. When the regiment was reorganized near Nashville I was made Quartermaster Sergeant. Our first battle was at Barbersville, Ky., then at Wild Cat and Fishing Creek, where we lost Gen. Zollicoffer. Then Shiloh and the siege of Corinth. After my return from prison I went into Forrest's Cavalry and was in several battles.*"

When the 1870 census was taken, William Calahan and his family were listed in District 11 of Marshall County, Tennessee. At the time, they had two children with them: Margaret Calahan (born about 1866) and James Callahan (born about 1868). William was working as a dry goods merchant.

By the time the 1880 census was taken, the Calahans had moved to northeast Tarrant County. Their children with them were Margaret Calahan (born about 1867); James T. Calahan (born about 1870); William Calahan (born about 1871); Annie D. Calahan (born about 1876 in Tennessee); and Joseph A. Calahan (born about 1879 in Texas).

The Calahans' home appears on the 1895 Sam Street map of Tarrant County, in present-day Euless, along the north side of Harwood Road, west of North Main Street and east of Denton Drive, approximately one-third of the distance east of Denton Drive toward North Main Street.

The 1900 census of Tarrant County says Calahan was born in November 1841 in Tennessee to a North Carolinian father and a Tennessean mother. Priscilla was born in February 1846; she and both her parents were natives of Tennessee. In 1900 they had three children living with them: Annie Calahan (born in December 1875 in Tennessee); Joseph Calahan (born in April 1879); Mabel Calahan (born in November 1881); and Albert B. Calahan (born in June 1884). He owned his farm in the Euless area in 1900. His wife, Priscilla T. Calahan, and she had given birth to ten children, seven of whom were still living in 1900.

Priscilla Calahan of Woodson, Throckmorton County, Texas was pensioned for her husband's service, having applied in 1940. A note on her file says the pension board was notified on her death on August 31, 1944. She was the widow of William Franklin Calahan. She said he died January 26, 1920 in Throckmorton Co., Texas. They were married January 13, 1855 or 66 in Murray County, Tennessee. They came to Texas in 1878. She was born February 22, 1845 or 6. She said they had lived at Woodson, Texas since 1901. Her husband was a private in Co. H, 17th Tennessee Infantry. She believed he lived at Lewisburg, Tennessee when he enlisted.

Gravestones in Throckmorton Cemetery show Priscilla Calahan (February 22, 1846-July 31, 1944) and W. F. Calahan (November 13, 1841-January 8, 1920).

There is a great deal of information, including excerpts from a diary Mr. Calahan kept, to be found in James Knox Trigg, [Trigg History](#), Knoxville, Tenn: Tennessee Valley Publishers, 1994.