



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Joseph Allen Gahagan

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Joseph Allen Gahagan was a Confederate veteran who spent a few years here in northeast Tarrant County during the early 1880's. When the 1880 census was taken, he and his family were living north of Big Bear Creek in Precinct 3.

Joseph Allen Gahagan was born in Tennessee on February 17, 1842, a son of Joseph and Oma Gahagan. The census taker in 1850 found Mrs. "Omy" Gagahan a widow with her children living in the Southern Division of Tishomingo County, Mississippi. She was born about 1805 in North Carolina. The eight children with her in 1850 were born between about 1831 and 1848. Using the stated birthplaces of the children as a reference, the family apparently lived in Georgia about 1831, and moved from there to Tennessee by about 1833. There they remained until about 1843 when they spent some time in Georgia. By about 1846 they had settled in Mississippi, probably in Tishomingo County. The elder Joseph Gahagan must have died in the late 1840's or in the year 1850.

When the 1860 census was taken, "Aomy Gahagan" was still living as a widow with children in Tishomingo County, Mississippi. She told the census taker in this year that she was born in South Carolina, and gave some differing birthplaces for her children. Joseph, it is recorded, was born in Georgia.

Mr. Gahagan said in his pension application that he was a soldier in Co. G, 26th Mississippi Infantry for four years. A brief history of this regiment and its activities during the Civil War may be seen at: <http://www.26thmississippi.com/history.html>

Mr. Gahagan's military records file in the National Archives is fairly extensive. The record shows that he enlisted at Marietta, Mississippi on June 8, 1861 for the duration of the War. He was mustered into the Confederate service at Iuka, Mississippi on August 16, 1861. His name appears on all the surviving muster rolls of his company. He was appointed corporal November 1, 1864.

A record made at Petersburg, Virginia on March 20, 1865 shows him to have been a single farmer from Marietta, Mississippi, who was seventeen at the time he enlisted. He was present throughout the battle at Fort Donelson, Tennessee in 1862; at Coffeeville on December 5, 1862; the skirmish at Willow Springs on May 3, 1863; Baker's Creek on May 16, 1863; at Jackson, Mississippi on July 9-16, 1863; Gaines Mill on July 5-13, 1864; in front of Petersburg July 5 to August 17, 1864; the Weldon Railroad on August 18-19, 1864; in front of Petersburg, Virginia on August 20-Sept. 29, 1864; Fort McRae on October 1, 1864; the skirmish on October 2, 1864; Hatcher's Run on October 27, 1864; Jarratt's Station on December 10, 1864; and Hatcher's Run on February 6, 1865. He was captured at Fort Donelson, Tennessee on February 16, 1862 and sent to Camp Morton, Indiana as a prisoner, where his name appears on a list of prisoners made in June, 1862, and on another list made August 24, 1862. On January 27, 1865 he was admitted to the Confederate General Hospital at Howard's Grove at Richmond, Virginia, from where he was returned to duty on February 7, 1865. On March 6, 1865 he was in the hands of the Army of the Potomac and was sent to Cairo, Illinois, via City Point, Virginia.

Family sources at ancestry.com report three marriages for Mr. Gahagan. According to them, he was married twice, first to Mary A. Millican about 1866 in Tishomingo Co., Mississippi; secondly to Clarisy Catherine Foster in Booneville, Prentice Co., Mississippi on January 2, 1878. The third marriage listed at ancestry.com took place in 1885 in Mississippi while Mr. Gahagan was living in Texas, and while his second wife, Clarisy, was still alive with him in Texas.

He lived north of Big Bear Creek in Precinct 3 in Tarrant County in 1880. In that year his wife, Clarisy C. was living with him, along with one of his sons, Thomas C., born about 1868 in Mississippi, and a sister-in-law, Lettie A. Foster, born about 1841 in Mississippi.

The census taker in 1900 found Mr. and Mrs. Gahagan and the sister-in-law, Lettie Foster, living in the village of Bryson in Jack County, Texas. Mrs. Clarissa Gahagan said she had given birth to two children, but neither of them had survived. She was born in Mississippi in October, 1842. They had been married twenty-one years.

Mr. Gahagan applied for a Confederate pension in 1902 while he was a resident of Bryson, Jack County, Texas. He said he was fifty-nine years old, and he came to Texas in 1879. He said he had measles during the Civil War. He had lived at Bryson, Texas since about 1885. His property in 1902 consisted of eighty acres of land worth \$3 each, two horses worth \$20 each, and one wagon worth \$30.

Joseph Gahagan died in Jack County, Texas on October 25, 1906. He lies buried in Winn Hill Cemetery in Jack County. Mrs. Clarissa C. Gahagan died January 5, 1923 in Floyd County, Texas.

A brief tribute to Mr. Gahagan appeared in the Jacksboro Gazette January 3, 1907: "*Resolutions of Respect By Camp R. E. Lee to the Memory of Comrade Joseph Gahagan of Senate, Jack County, Texas. The subject of this sketch, Comrade Joseph Gahagan, was born in Tennessee, 17 February 1842 and died 26 October 1906.*"

“Comrade Joseph Gahagan enlisted in the Confederate services early in the war between the states and always expressed a patriotic devotion to our cause which he had so bravely defended until all hope had vanished, therefore be it.

“Resolved, by the brotherhood of Camp R. E. Lee, that in the death of Comrade Joseph Gahagan we have lost one of our most worthy members, our county, one of its best citizens and his wife, a devoted loving companion. To her and the relations we extend our heartfelt sympathy. May God give them grace and strength to bear this sad ordeal.

*“J.F. Middlebrooks, J.A. McCoy, W.C. Groner
Committee”*



Dear Mr. Patterson,

Please recall that you did a fairly extensive article on a civil war soldier who lived in N.E. Tarrant by the name of Joseph A. Gahagan and that I responded to it because Joseph was my great gpa, his son Thomas H. my gpa.

Joseph first married Mary Armstrong Millican whom I now know died in 1879 on a farm near Bedford, Tx. I am trying to locate her grave and that of her dad, John p. Millican who was also a civil war veteran. He may have come to Tx. from Prentiss County, Ms. at about the same time and may be buried near daughter Mary.

My gpa, Thomas H. was born on that farm near Bedford and his dad left Mary and probably Thomas and went back to Ms. and mrd a lady named Clarissy Foster in 1878.

Joseph apparently retrieved Thomas after Mary died in 1879 because the 1880 census has them together again in Tarrant county.

Joseph's mother and bros were still in Ms. Joseph moved to Jack County some time after 1880 and started farming. He left Clarissy and again went back to Ms. to marry, this time to Margaret Jane Johnson, the youngest sis of my other great gpa on my dad's side, this in 1885.

Son Thomas was in Ms. in 1889 and mrd my gma Lula Johnson in and my dad Luther was brn in 1901 and soon after Thomas disappeared never to return.

I have searched for Thomas most of my adult life. Have always wondered what happened to him. Have always gotten the feeling that most of my Johnson family knows but won't tell.

On Friday evening past I typed Old Tom's name into the Google search for the 100th time and found him in 1904 living just 20 miles east of where I have I have lived for more than 25 yrs.

I was brn and raised in Ms. and he in Tx.; no connection. The lead was a profile of Tom in a book. He was at 33 yrs old a coal miner and labor activist and member of the UMWA. He admitted in the profile to being involved in the mine unrest in Co., Wy. Wa. and Mon. The writer stated that he strongly supported the miner's positions even in the construction of untoward events.

Tom stated that he had worked tending cattle for 2 years for the Diamond Y cattle co. when 14 yrs old. Saved his money and went to school in Ft. Worth until the money ran out then went to Ala. to work in coal mines. Said his dad and gpa were from the North of Ireland and had come into America through Va.

He had 3 "certificates of proficiency" as mine foreman from Missouri. He transferred into the Marion, IL. local in Aug. of 1904 on a card from Mayview, Mo. where my dad was brn in 1901 while Tom was working there as a miner. 1900 census him and my gma, Tom as a miner.

This is the only lead to his whereabouts that we have ever had.

If you have the time and inclination to look into Mary's and John's burials hopefully in N.E. Tarrant it might prove helpful; at least fill in some gaps.

Sorry I rambled on, I'm just a little consumed right now. Feel free to use any or all if you need it for anything.

Thank you very much

Tom Gahagan