



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

James L. Holden

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James L. Holden, a Confederate infantryman from Georgia, spent the last years of his life at Bedford. He was born January 17, 1836 in Spartanburg District, South Carolina.

Holden served the Confederacy as a private in Co. A, 39th Georgia Infantry. His official records at the National Archives say he enlisted March 10, 1862 at Spring Place, Georgia for three years or the duration of the War. His name appears on a roll of bounty payments on which it is shown that he received \$50 at Camp McDonald on March 28, 1862 for re-enlisting.

He was captured at the fall of Vicksburg on July 4, 1863, and was paroled four days later. An original parole which he signed (with an X) after the Battle of Vicksburg remains in his file. His name appears on a list of men furloughed about July 22, 1863 at Enterprise, Mississippi. He signed an amnesty oath at Chattanooga, Tennessee March 26, 1864. At the time, he listed his residence as Murray County, Georgia. He was six feet tall, had sandy hair, a sandy complexion, and blue eyes. In 1870 he and his family lived in Pickens County, Georgia. His wife, Catherine L., was born about 1843 in North Carolina; children with them were Anna P. 1865, William A. 1867, and John A., 1869.

According to family sources at Ancestry.com, Holden and his wife, Catherine Lucinda Long, were married in Pickens County, Georgia on February 8, 1864. She was born January 10, 1843 in Rutherford County, North Carolina and died May 15, 1925 in Bedford, Tarrant County, Texas.

A statement Mr. Holden made at the time he applied for a Confederate pension would suggest that the family came to Texas about 1872. This is confirmed by census data which shows his son, Walter, was born in Georgia in 1871 while his son, Joseph, was born in Texas in 1873.

In 1880 they were living in Precinct 6, District 154 of Erath County, Texas with the three above-named children, as well as two more, Walter, born about 1873 in Georgia, and Joseph, born

about 1874 in Texas. A statement in James's pension file places his arrival in Tarrant County about 1896.

James and his wife were listed in the 1910 census of Tarrant County in Ward 9 of Fort Worth. By the time the next census was taken in 1920, they were living in the Bedford area of northeast Tarrant County.

James Holden of Tarrant County applied for a pension in 1919, but his application was rejected. He said he had been taken prisoner and paroled at Vicksburg, MSP. He said he had been in Texas forty-seven years and in Tarrant County twenty-three years. His address at the time was RR3 Arlington, near Bedford. He said his command was organized in Murray County, Georgia, and that he served nearly two years. He served in Co. A, 39th Georgia Infantry, under Capt. Sam Garner. His application file contains affidavits by T. J. Quarles and C. L. Holden, both of Erath County and both of A, 39th Georgia Infantry.

James L. Holden died at his home on Sunday, January 2, 1921. No death certificate was filed for him. An obituary for James L. Holden appeared in the Fort Worth Record on January 3, 1921: *"TARRANT PIONEER DIES AT BEDFORD. James Holden, 85, pioneer resident of Tarrant county, died Sunday afternoon at his home at Bedford. He is survived by his wife and one daughter and four sons who are Mrs. Annie Allison of Fort Worth, Joe and W. E. Holden of Fort Worth, John of Bedford, and Walter of Springtown. Funeral will be held this afternoon at 2 o'clock from the late residence, with interment in Birdville."*

James's widow, Catherine L. Holden, died May 25, 1925 and was buried beside her husband in Birdville Cemetery.

Family records posted at ancestry.com show the following children for Mr. and Mrs. Holden: Annie Pauline Holden (born November 5, 1865-December 1, 1856, married James Allen Allison); William Andrew Holden (born August 4, 1867-May 3, 1935, married Enice Jones); John Alfred Holden (born July 20, 1869-November 20, 1959); Walter Francis Holden (August 27, 1871-July 26, 1963, married Avo Slagle), and Joseph Lafayette Holden (October 17, 1873-December 22, 1959, married Angie Kinnard). Mrs. Holden told the census taker in 1910 that she had given birth to six children, only five of whom were still living. Judging from the birthdates of these children, it seems likely that the sixth child was a twin or was born after Joseph in 1873.

