Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Thomas Edward McMurry

Compiled by Michael Patterson
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Thomas Edward McMurry was a Confederate private in a Georgia regiment who settled in Tarrant County soon after the War ended. He married the daughter of another of our veterans, Rufus C. Whitley, and died in his late forties.   He lies buried at Smithfield. His brother, Dr. John B. McMurry, was also one of our Confederate veterans.

A considerable amount of information on this family has been posted online at ancestry.com. Thomas Edward McMurry's father was William C. McMurry, who was born in Caswell County, North Carolina on April 2, 1801. He died January 18, 1891 at Carnesville, Franklin County, Georgia, and was buried in the Cross Roads Baptist Church Cemetery at Carnesville. John's mother was Eletha Ann McMurry, who was born in South Carolina about 1808 and who died in Carnesville, Georgia on June 1, 1890. She was buried beside her husband. Family internet sources say that Thomas's mother's maiden name was McMurry, and that she and her husband were cousins.

Thomas Edward McMurry was born July 6, 1845, probably in Anderson County, South Carolina, where he was a four-year-old boy living with his parents and siblings in 1850. The McMurrys were a landed, comfortable, slave owning family.

Thomas E. McMurry appears in the 1860 census of Franklin County, Georgia, in an area served by the post office at Carnesville, the county seat. He was fourteen years old, and a native of South Carolina. His youngest sibling, aged nine, was also born in South Carolina before they made the move to Georgia. The elder McMurry owned four thousand dollars worth of real estate and nine slaves in 1860.

McMurry's records in the National Archives show him to have been a private in Captain Knox's Company of Franklin County Georgia Cavalry. He enlisted on August 1, 1863 (one record says August 4) at Carnesville, Franklin County, Georgia for a term of six months under Captain William

Knox. He brought with him a horse worth three hundred dollars. He was mustered into the service on August 20, 1863 at Carnesville, Georgia.

This unit subsequently became Co. E, Third Regiment Cavalry, Georgia State Guards. Captain William Knox's Company was "…for local defense, to serve within the limits of the 6th and 9th Congressional Districts of Georgia and in the counties of Lincoln, Wilkes, Columbia, Warren, and Richmond." Thomas's name appears "present" on a roll for the period September 15, 1863 through January 31, 1864, with a notation: "Company called into active service and pay commenced Sept. 14, 1863."

When Thomas registered to vote in Tarrant County on November 26, 1869, he said he was a native of Georgia and a resident of Precinct 4 in Tarrant County. He said he had been in Texas three years, and in Tarrant County and Precinct 4 for two years.

About 1869, he married Mary L. Whitley, a daughter of another of our veterans, Rufus C. Whitley. Mary Lain Whitley was born June 10, 1853 in Tazewell County, Virginia. She died on May 10, 1883. She and Thomas McMurry lie buried in Smithfield Cemetery near four of their children who did not live to adulthood.

A descendant of the Whitley family wrote a few years ago: *"Elizabeth and Rufus C. Whitley had four children. Mary Lain was born in 1853 in Tazewell, Virginia and married T. E. McMurry in 1869 in Smithfield, Texas. Eight children were born to them. Four are buried with her and E. T. in the Smithfield Cemetery. I believe that four lived to adulthood. They all moved away and I have never known what happened to them…"*

The census taker in 1870 found the family living in Precinct 3 of Tarrant County. They had one child with them, a daughter named Ladora H. McMurry, whom they said had been born in March of 1870.

Ten years later in 1880, Thomas and his family were living in Precinct 4 of Tarrant County. With them were three children: Ladora H. McMurry (ten years old), Louis C. McMurry (seven years old), and Rufus (middle initial illegible) McMurry (two years old).

In the 1880 tax records of Tarrant County, T. E. McMurry is shown as the owner of one hundred seventy-two acres of the John Edmonds survey, worth $750. He also owned one carriage, buggy or wagon worth ten dollars, two horses or mules worth forty dollars, and eight cattle worth forty-eight dollars.

The 1880 Tarrant County mortality schedules list the death of one of their children, Thomas E. McMurry, who died in March 1880 at the age of one. He died of inflammation of the lungs. It seems likely he is buried at Smithfield without a readable headstone.

The Tarrant County records contain a marriage record of T. E. McMurry to Annie C. White on September 5, 1886. This _**may**_ indicate a second marriage for this veteran after the death of his first wife in 1883. Thomas Edward McMurry died February 28, 1892 in northeast Tarrant County and

was buried in Smithfield Cemetery near his wife and several of his family members. He and his wife have readable headstones there.

Other headstones at Smithfield for children of Thomas and Mary L. McMurry include William H. McMurry (April 25, 1878-January 7, 1880); Viola O. McMurry (Octobe 27, 1875-……1877); Johnnie McMurry (March 1-14. 1874); Oscar McMurry (August 25, 1878-August 15, 1895); and Mary E. McMurry (March 10, 1883-May 27, 1883). It is obvious from the two birth dates in 1878 that there are one are more mistakes within this list.

One of the children was Lewis C. McMurry, who was born February 9, 1872 in Tarrant County. When the 1900 census was taken, he was working as a barber in Mangum Township in Greer County, Oklahoma. He lived the last part of his life at Bowie in Montague County, Texas. He died in the Wichita General Hospital in Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas on February 18, 1939, and was buried in Bowie, Texas. The informant for the death certificate was J. Thomas McMurry of 2405 9th Street in Bowie. He was a barber for forty-six years.