



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Solomon Edward Millican

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Solomon Edward Millican was a veteran of a Mississippi infantry regiment who arrived in the Grapevine area area in the early 1880's. He and his wife lie buried in Grapevine Cemetery.

Solomon Millican was born in Grainger County, Tennessee on February 7, 1829. He was the eldest son of Benjamin F. Millican and his wife, Rebecca (Howell) Millican. In the 1830 census of Grainger County, Solomon's father appears with only himself, his wife, and a single son less than five years old...Solomon. They owned no slaves.

Solomon's brother, Francis M. Millican, told a biographer in the early 1890's that he [Francis] "*...was born in Grainger county, Tennessee, October 6, 1832, but was reared in Jackson county, Alabama.*"

Several interesting facts about Solomon may be gleaned from printed biographies of two of his brothers, Benjamin and Francis, which were published in the Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas County, Texas, by the Lewis Publishing Company in 1892. We learn from it that Solomon was: "*... a son of Benjamin F. and Rebecca (Howell) Millican. The father, a native of Tennessee, removed to Alabama when a young man, settling in Jackson county, where he died in 1840, at the age of thirty years. He was a blacksmith and gunsmith by trade, and followed the same all through life.*

"The paternal grandfather, Solomon E. Millican, was a native of Ireland, and came to America when a young man, settling first in Indiana and afterward in Tennessee, where he subsequently died. Our subject's mother, Rebecca Howell, was a native of East Tennessee and a daughter of Caleb Howell, an early settler of that State. She died in Jackson county, Alabama, in 1856, at the age of forty-seven years.

“Mr. and Mrs. Millican's children are: Solomon E., a resident of Tarrant county, Texas; Caleb, who died in infancy; Susan, also deceased in infancy; Francis Marion, our subject; Nancy, deceased in infancy; Benjamin F., whose sketch appears in this work; George who died a few years ago in the Creek nation; and Mary, the wife of Joseph Milam, of Sebastian county, Arkansas.”

Solomon appears in the 1850 census of Pontotoc County, Mississippi as Solomon Milligan. With him were his wife, Margaret, who was born about 1827 in Alabama, his son, Fenley, who was born about 1847 in Alabama, and his daughter, Margaret, who was born about 1849 in Mississippi. Thus Solomon must have made the move from Alabama to Mississippi about 1848. Fenley's death certificate, made in 1919, says his mother's maiden name was Morris.

When the 1860 census was taken, the Millican family was shown in the area of Pontotoc County which was served by the Ellistown Post Office. Mr. and Mrs. Millican had seven children living with them, including two sets of twins: Fendley C. (born about 1847 in Alabama), Margaret A. (born about 1850 in Mississippi); Benjamin F. (born about 1851); Harriett F. and Wiley O. (twins born about 1854); and John L. and Francis M. (boy twins born about 1857).

Solomon Millican's records in the National Archives in Washington say he served in Co. K, 31st Mississippi Infantry. He enlisted May 12, 1862 in Pontotoc County, Mississippi for a term of three years. He was absent on furlough at some point between March and September of that year. He was left sick at Jackson, Mississippi on February 23, 1863, where he remained during March and April. One later muster roll adds the detail that he enlisted at the town of Saltillo. He was captured at Ellistown, Mississippi [where he was then living] on November 26, 1863, and was sent to Memphis, Tennessee, where he arrived on December 5. From there, he was forwarded to a federal prison at Alton, Illinois on December 10 or 11, 1863. He arrived at Alton on December 18, 1863 and remained there until he was sent to Fort Delaware, Delaware on April 4, 1864. He arrived at Fort Delaware on April 8. He spent the rest of the war there, and took an oath of allegiance to the United States government on June 11, 1865. In it, he is described as a resident of Pontotoc County, Mississippi. He had a light complexion, light hair, blue eyes, and was five feet ten inches tall. He was released from federal custody on the day he took the oath.

On August 4, 1865, S. E. Millican of Pontotoc County signed an Amnesty Oath. In December, 1863 and again in March, 1864 President Lincoln had offered amnesty to those persons who had participated in the "rebellion" that was the Civil War. There were few takers. In May, 1865, President Andrew Johnson issued his own amnesty proclamation, which was offered as a way to get the South settled down and get it's people back to work. It restored property rights except as to slaves to those people who would sign the oath. There were fourteen classes of people who were excepted from this amnesty.

The actual wording of the oath which Mr. Millican took is as follows: *“I, _____, do solemnly swear, (or affirm,) in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the union of the States thereunder; and that I will, in like manner, abide by, and faithfully support all laws and proclamations which have been made during the existing rebellion with reference to the emancipation of slaves. So help me God. “*

The 1880 census of Union County, Mississippi lists Solomon Millican and Margaret Millican living with their grandson, Joel Millican, who was born in Mississippi about 1874. Joel's parents' birthplaces are not given. Thus it seems most or all of Solomon's children had either died or married while their parents still lived in Mississippi.

Solomon and Margaret may not have moved between 1865, when they still lived in Pontotoc County, and 1880, when they appear in the Union County, Mississippi census. Union County was formed in 1870 from parts of Pontotoc and Tippah Counties, and was named for the "union" of the parts.

By 1885, Solomon had moved to the area of Grapevine, Tarrant County. His wife, Margaret W. Millican, died October 23, 1885 and was buried in Grapevine Cemetery. Her date of birth given on her headstone is July 27, 1827. Solomon died December 24, 1893. Solomon and Margaret are buried on the extreme north end of the cemetery, only a few feet from its boundary.

Two other Millicans buried beside Solomon and Margaret are Julia A. Millican, wife of J. L. Millican, October 11, 1858-May 18, 1887 and David L. Millican, March 27, 1887-July 3, 1918. It seems possible that this "J. L." Millican could be John L. Millican, one of the twins born about 1857.

One of Solomon Millican's children was Finley Cowan Millican, who also served in the Confederate Army and whose biography will be included in this series. Finlay Millican was born in 1847 and died in 1919. He lies buried in Minter's Chapel Cemetery south of Grapevine.

