



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Samuel Erskine Williams

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Samuel Erskine Williams was a native of Missouri who served in a Union cavalry regiment raised in his native state. He lived in northeast Tarrant County for several years during the 1870's and 1880's. His brother, James Henry Williams, was another of our Union veterans. Samuel died in 1922 in Canyon, Texas and was buried there.

Mr. Williams was born in Lawrence County, Missouri on April 9, 1844. Several genealogists have posted information on Mr. Williams at ancestry.com and other internet sites. Family genealogists report that he was a son of Samuel Smith Williams (1805-1875) and his wife, Elizabeth "Betsy" (Cocke) Williams (1812-1891), both of whom died in Lawrence County, Missouri. James's paternal grandfather, John Williams (1782-1864) is recognized as the first permanent settler in Lawrence County, having settled there in October, 1831. The Williams Family Cemetery dates back to the 1840's and is a historical landmark at Mount Vernon, Missouri.

The census taker in 1850 found Samuel E. Williams as a seven-year-old boy living with his parents and siblings in District 47 of Lawrence County. They lived on a farm owned by his father which was worth two thousand five hundred dollars. Samuel S. Williams owned one slave in 1850.

Ten years later in 1860 the family is found in the census of Mount Vernon Township in Lawrence County. Samuel was fourteen, and he and his family were working on their farm valued at four thousand dollars. They also owned four thousand dollars worth of personal property. Samuel's father, Samuel S. Williams, owned four slaves in 1860.

Samuel E. Williams' records in the National Archives show that he served first in Co. B, Seventh Enrolled Missouri Provisional Militia Cavalry, which organization later became Co. B, 15<sup>th</sup> Missouri Cavalry. He enlisted on November 1, 1863 at Mount Vernon, Missouri. He claimed to be twenty years old and a farmer. He was six feet tall, with gray eyes, dark hair, AND a fair complexion. His enlistment was credited to Lawrence County in the 4<sup>th</sup> Militia District. He furnished his own horse

for three hundred five days of his service. His horse was valued at one hundred twenty-five dollars and his saddle and other horse equipment were worth twenty-five dollars.

He was mustered out at Springfield, Missouri on July 1, 1865. He owed the government fifty-six cents for small musket tools and accoutrements he had lost. It seems likely all his service time was spent in the same company and regiment with his brother, James.

The regiment spent its time on scout and patrol duty in the District of Southwest Missouri until April, 1865, after which it served in North Missouri until July, 1865. It took part in actions at Mt. Vernon on September 30, 1864; Moreau Bottom and Jefferson City on October 7; Booneville on October 9-12; and Big Blue or State Line on October 22. They were in an engagement at the Marmiton, or Battle of Charlot, on Mine Creek, Little Osage River, and Marias des Cygnes, all on October 25. They were in action at Newtonia on October 28. Their last action was an affair near James Creek on April 27, 1865. The regiment was mustered out July 1, 1865.

Family sources at ancestry.com say Samuel was married twice. He was married first to Mary H. Chambers (1843-1867) on November 10, 1866. They had one daughter, Mary Olivia Williams, who was born in 1867. Mrs. Williams has a readable but broken headstone in the Williams Cemetery at Mount Vernon, Indiana. The stone is broken across her death date.

Mr. Williams was next married on November 19, 1868 to Sarah Winifred Ross. She was born in Hardin County, Tennessee on August 22, 1841. Her death certificate says she was a daughter of Samuel Ross and Elizabeth Williams. Sarah and Samuel Williams had ten children.

By 1870 Samuel and his family had settled in northeast Tarrant County, Texas. Judging from the names of his closest neighbors, he may have lived in the Mosier Valley area on the north side of the West Fork of the Trinity, perhaps in the area of present-day Euless. He owned real estate in 1870 worth four hundred dollars and personal property worth three hundred dollars. He and Sarah had two children with them...Olivia born about 1867 and Charles, born about 1869, both born in Missouri.

Samuel E. Williams appears in the 1870 agricultural census on a farm of eighty acres of woodland worth one dollar per acre. He owned three horses worth thirty dollars each.

They also appear in the census of Precinct 3 of Tarrant County in 1880. They lived in that part of Precinct 3 which lies south of Big Bear Creek. Samuel and Sarah had eight children with them: Mary O., Charles S., Elmira, Alice B., George M., William C., Joseph W., and Golie Williams, a son born in January 1880.

Samuel Williams appears in the 1880 Tarrant County agricultural census. He owned a farm which consisted of twenty acres of woodland and forty-two acres of woodland. His farm was worth six hundred dollars. His farming implements were worth twenty dollars and his livestock was worth one hundred ten dollars. He estimated that the value of all his farm production in 1879 was fifty dollars. He owned one horse, three milk cows, and five cattle of other classes. Four calves had been dropped on his place in the past year. He had sold two cattle and slaughtered three. He estimated he had made one hundred fifty pounds of butter in the past year. He had four hogs and twenty-four

barnyard fowl. He had ten acres of Indian corn which had made one hundred fifty bushels. He had fifteen acres of cotton, but it appears that a "0" has been placed in the column for bales produced. He produced a considerable amount of firewood; the number of cords is difficult to read but may be "30."

The 1880 tax list shows S. E. Williams as the owner of eighty acres of the Kitty House survey, valued at four hundred dollars. He also owned one carriage or wagon worth ten dollars, one horse or mule worth twenty-five dollars, and six cattle worth thirty-six dollars. The House survey sits in present-day Euless with its north edge defined by Pipeline Road east of Highway 10. The northeast corner of the survey sits at about where Highway 10 and Pipeline Road intersect, with Pipeline Road stretching west from that point. This land is in the general area suggested by Mr. Williams' neighbors in the census records of both 1870 and 1880.

Samuel G. Williams of Co. B, 15<sup>th</sup> Missouri Cavalry was listed in the 1890 Veterans Census. At the time he was living at Estelle in Dallas County, just outside the Tarrant County line and very near the Minter's Chapel community where his brother, James H. Williams, lived. He claimed to be suffering from rheumatism at the time.

By the time the 1900 census was taken, they had moved to Precinct 3 in Floyd County, Texas. Mr. Williams owned his own farm and was working as a stock raiser. Mrs. Williams said she had given birth to ten children, eight of whom were still alive. The children with them in that year included William C., Joseph W., Golie B., and Edna May Williams.

Ten years later, in 1910, they lived in the same place, but only Golie and Edna were still at home with them. They also had a seventeen-month-old granddaughter named Alta G. Williams in their home. Mr. Williams told the census taker he was a Union veteran.

By 1920 the family had moved to Canyon, Randall County, Texas. Mr. and Mrs. Smith had only their granddaughter, Alta, with them in that year. She was eleven. Their next-door neighbors were their daughter, Edna, her husband Austin T. Smith, and their children.

Samuel E. Williams died at 3:50 a.m. on December 30, 1922 at Canyon, Randall County, Texas. His death was caused by cystitis. He was buried in Dreamland Cemetery in Canyon. He has an upright headstone furnished by the Veterans Administration.

Sarah W. Williams died at 10:20 p.m. on March 1, 1935 in Canyon. Her death was caused by senility, a general breakdown of her health, and hypostatic pneumonia. She was buried beside her husband on March 3, 1935.

Family sources all agree that Samuel Williams was the father of eleven children in two marriages. The following accounts of their lives were taken from family sources at ancestry.com, census records, Texas death records, and headstone records.

Mary Olivia Williams was born March 9, 1867. She married Daniel Edgar Dillow (1863-1956) in Dallas County, Texas on August 4, 1885. When the 1900 census was taken they lived in Cooke County, Texas where Daniel worked as a carpenter. By 1920 they had settled in Hansford County,

where he still worked as a carpenter. She died of heart failure at 5 a.m. on February 6, 1923 at Spearman in Hansford County, Texas. Her death certificate lists influenza as a contributing cause of death. She was buried in Hansford Cemetery six miles west of Spearman. Her grave is unmarked.

Charles Samuel Williams was born August 21, 1869. On November 20, 1892 he married Emma E. Splawn (1866-1930), the daughter of one of our Confederate veterans, Simon Crockett Splawn. In 1910 the family was living and farming in Floyd County. She lies buried in Floydada Cemetery in an unmarked grave. Family sources say Charles S. Williams died about 1929 in Texas.

Martha Elizabeth Williams was born December 23, 1870 and died January 21, 1871; family sources say both events happened at Grapevine, Tarrant County, Texas. No readable headstone exists for her in any northeast Tarrant County cemetery.

Elmira Jane Williams was born January 20, 1872. She married Thomas Benjamin Mitchell (1862-1943) on December 22, 1892 in Floyd County, Texas. She died October 26, 1948 in Hughson, Stanislaus County, California.

Alice Belle Williams was born December 1, 1874 (some family records say 1873). She married Samuel Charles Sluder (1869-1934) in Floyd County on August 10, 1893. She died August 20, 1948 at the West Texas Hospital in Lubbock, Texas. Her last permanent address was 3211 Avenue L in Lubbock. She was buried in Olton Cemetery at Olton, Lamb County, Texas on August 22.

George Marion Williams was born December 6, 1875. Family sources say he died at Grapevine, Texas on August 29, 1889. His father appears in the 1890 veterans census at Estelle in far western Dallas County, just south of the Grapevine area. No readable headstone now exists for him in any northeast Tarrant County cemetery.

William Calloway Williams, a twin, was born November 22, 1877. He married Lavada Tottie Brown (1882-1975) in Floyd County, Texas on December 21, 1902. He worked for many years in the retail grocery business. He died at Floydada, Floyd County, Texas on June 8, 1942 of a cerebral hemorrhage. He was buried at Floydada.

Joseph Winkett Williams, a twin, was born November 22, 1877. He married Katie Bee Crabtree (1882-1965) at Fairview School House, Texas on January 6, 1901. He died May 12, 1964 at Temple City, Los Angeles County, California.

Golie Byrd Williams was born January 26, 1880. Family sources say he was married twice; once to Pearl Foster on December 24, 1905 in Floyd County; after her death in 1910 he married Eulia Sands. He died August 20, 1915 at Floydada, Floyd County, Texas.

Lucy Fernetta Williams was born May 19, 1881. She married Joseph Samuel Poole (1864-1939) on April 12, 1899. Her last permanent address was 5513 Andrews Street in Amarillo, Texas. She died in the LaCasa Convalescent Home in Canyon, Randall County, Texas on April 7, 1965, where she had been for about one week. She was buried the next day in Dreamland Cemetery in Canyon.

Edna May Williams was born March 9, 1886. Her name appears in some records on ancestry.com as Sarah E. Ana Williams, but she appears in several census records as Edna. She married Austin Texas Smith (1876-1958) on April 30, 1913. Family sources say she died in Livingston, Polk County, Texas in 1983.



Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Smith Williams  
Parents of Samuel Erskine Williams

