



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

John J. Applin

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John J. Applin was a native of Arkansas who served in a Texas Cavalry regiment. He married a northeast Tarrant County native, Margaret Elizabeth Barnard, during the War. For a time in the late 1860's he lived on his deceased father-in-law's land somewhere near where today's Highways 360 and 183 cross at the south end of the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. They later moved further south in Texas, where Mr. Applin died in 1903. His wife died in the Confederate Home in Austin, and lies buried there in the State Cemetery.

The Ap(p)lin family was established in Conway County, Arkansas Territory by 1830, and it seems likely that John Applin, the founder of the family there, was probably John J. Applin's paternal grandfather. The Ap(p)lin family was living at Fouche Lafave in Conway County, Arkansas by the time the 1840 census was taken. John's father, William Applin, was not a slaveowner in that year.

It seems evident that the Applins and Barnards were closely associated, probably related, in Conway County, Arkansas before they began settling in Texas.

When the 1850 census was taken in Point Remove Township, Conway County, Arkansas, John appears as a thirteen-year-old boy with his father and siblings. John's father, William Applin, was born about 1817 in Tennessee. John's mother had apparently died between 1845 and 1850. Most of the other persons listed on that page of the census are Barnards. By 1860 several members of the Applin family had moved from Arkansas and settled in Milam County, Texas.

John J. Applin joined the Confederate service in Milam County, Texas on October 7, 1861. He was mustered into the Confederate service on September 16, 1861 at the regiment's camp near San Antonio. He said he was twenty-five years old. He became a private in Captain Charles M. LeSeur's Company, 1st Regiment, Sibley's Brigade Texas Mounted Volunteers. He enlisted for the term of the War. He rode one hundred forty miles to the rendezvous, and presented himself for service riding a horse worth one hundred forty dollars and with equipment worth twenty-five dollars.

This company subsequently became Company D, the San Adres Light Horse Cavalry, 4th Texas Cavalry. Absent sick since January 12, 1864. Absent sick on regimental return for February 1864. When Mrs. Applin applied for a pension in 1909, two men made affidavits for her, saying they had known her husband at San Anders Crossing in Milam County before the War.

John J. Applin married Margaret Elizabeth Applin on March 9, 1863, as recorded in her Confederate pension application. It seems likely they were married in Tarrant County, but no public record of it would have survived the court house fire in Fort Worth in 1876. She was one of the true pioneers of Tarrant County, having been born here on February 28, 1846. She was the daughter of Peters Colonists Abraham Barnard and his wife, Sarah Lackey (as shown on Mrs. Applin's death certificate). When the 1865 Tarrant County tax list was prepared, Mr. and Mrs. Applin owned one hundred eighty-six acres of the Abraham Barnard survey in northeast Tarrant County, worth two hundred eighty dollars. It seems likely this is the land Mrs. Applin inherited from her father. They also owned four horses worth one hundred dollars and sixteen cattle worth one hundred twenty-four dollars.

The family appears in the 1870 census of McLennan County, Texas, in the section of the county east of the Brazos. Mr. Applin is shown as thirty-five years old. They had three children with them: John A., Benjamin, and Mary Jane Applin, who was born in October 1869. Also living with them was one Joseph W. Applin, who was born about 1845 in Arkansas.

John J. Applin and his family appear in the 1880 census of Precinct 3 of Atascosa County, Texas. They had four children with them in that year: Mary Jane, Sarah J., Frances, and Mary Elizabeth Applin, who was born in April 1880.

Mr. Applin also appears in the 1880 agricultural census of Atascosa County. He was working forty acres of cultivated land, and had one hundred twenty acres of brushland. His farming implements were worth forty dollars, and his livestock was worth thirty dollars. He owned two horses and thirty chickens. He estimated his chickens produced two hundred dozen eggs in 1879. His fourteen acres of cotton had produced five bales. He had one acre in sweet potatoes which had produced one hundred three bushels.

We have been unable to locate the family in the 1900 Texas census. Family internet sources say Mr. Applin died in Comanche County, Texas in March 1903. When Margaret applied for a widow's pension on January 18, 1909, she lived in Gatesville, Coryell County, Texas, where she said she had been living for four years.

Margaret Elizabeth Applin died on June 27, 1928 in the Confederate Women's Home at 3710 Cedar Street in Austin, Travis County, Texas. Her death occurred as a result of "senile changes." She was buried in the State Cemetery in Austin on the same day.

Census records have disclosed the names of six Applin children. We have been unable to find the family in the 1900 census. If it can be located, it may show additional children born after 1880, and might included a statement by Mrs. Applin showing the total number of children born to her and the number who had survived until 1900.

John A. Applin was born about 1863. He was alive in 1870, but was not with the family when the 1880 census was taken.

Benjamin Applin was born about 1866. He was alive in 1870, but was not with the family when the 1880 census was taken.

Mary Jane Applin was born in October 1869. She was still alive with the family when the 1880 census was taken.

Sarah J. Applin was born about 1873. She was still alive with the family when the 1880 census was taken.

Frances Applin was born about 1877. She was still alive with the family when the 1880 census was taken.

Mary Elizabeth Applin was born in April 1880. She was still alive with the family when the 1880 census was taken.



Margaret E. Applin's headstone in the State Cemetery in Austin, Texas