



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Perry Robert Cline

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Perry Robert Cline was a native North Carolinian who served in unit from his home state. He came to Texas about 1901 and lived for a time after 1910 in Hurst. He died in Fort Worth in 1916 and lies buried there in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

Mr. Cline was born February 17, 1843 in Catawba County, North Carolina. Several descendants have posted information on Mr. Cline and his family at Ancestry.com. Some family internet sources say he was a son of William Cline and his wife, Susannah Starr. His death certificate records his father's name as Henry Cline. Several researchers online have commented on confusion about his parentage, and researchers are cautioned to look at the primary documents before coming to a conclusion. No one appearing to be Perry Robert Cline appears in the 1850 census index of North Carolina, (including no one in the family of William and Susannah Cline in Catawba County). Neither has he been located in the index of the 1860 federal census. William Cline left a will in which he names his children, and Perry is not among them.

Perry R. Cline served the Confederacy as a private in Co. A, 12th North Carolina Infantry. His compiled military service records file in the National Archives is unusually lengthy for a private in the Southern army.

One record shows him enlisting as an 18-year-old private on April 27, 1861 at Newton, North Carolina in Captain John Ray's Company, (the Catawba Rifles), 2nd North Carolina Volunteer Infantry. He was a laborer at the time of his enlistment. He was mustered into the service at Raleigh, North Carolina on May 18, having traveled two hundred miles to the rendezvous.

This company was successively designated as Captain Ray's Company and Companies K and G, 2nd Regiment North Carolina Infantry (Volunteers) and Company A, 12th Regiment North Carolina Infantry (State Troops).

The 12th North Carolina Infantry, as part of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, took part in some of the fiercest engagements of the War, including the Seven Day's Battles, Cold Harbor, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Bristoe Station, and Appomattox.

He was wounded at one point, but the notation is not readable [this record abstract was done by that notorious left-handed copyist, W.W. Someone-or-other, hired by the War Department, whose flourishing penmanship has frustrated researchers for these many decades]. Luckily, another copyist found another record indicating that Pvt. Cline of Catawba County was wounded at Malvern Hill. That battle, the last of the grouping known as the Seven Days Battles, took place on July 1, 1862.

Mr. Cline's name appears on a list of payments made to the soldiers for the period July 1 through October 31, 1862. He received a payment of \$44 (eleven dollars per month), but wasn't actually paid until December 23. On that same day he was admitted to the C.S.A. General Hospital at Charlottesville, Virginia as a convalescent. He left the next day without being formally discharged.

Mr. Cline's file contains one original paper, a receipt for commutation of rations for a period of thirty-five days in the summer of 1862 at twenty-five cents per day. He was on a leave of absence at that time, probably to recuperate from his wounding at Malvern Hill. He was paid the \$8.75 due him on March 31, 1863. The document contains an original signature of Mr. Cline.

The records indicate that he deserted on the night of August 3, 1863, but muster rolls show he was back with the regiment within a short time.

His records in the National Archives make reference to a court martial proceeding dated December 26, 1863, but no specific details are included. A notation is made to General Orders No. 109-1. This is probably in connection with his desertion on August 3. Another record is made to Special Orders No. 115/2 with the notation "unexecuted portion of sentence remitted."

Back with the regiment, he was captured near Washington, D.C. on July 12 (or 13), 1864. He therefore must have been with Jubal Early's forces who threatened Washington on the two days they were close enough for Abraham Lincoln to stand on the parapet at Fort Stevens and watch them. Mr. Cline was sent to Elmira Prison in New York on July 23, 1864. He arrived there on July 25.

On September 15, 1864 his name appeared on a list of prisoners at Elmira "...desirous of taking the Oath of allegiance to the United States..." with the notation that he was "...a wheelwright and anxious to engage in government work..."

He was paroled at Elmira Prison on March 14, 1865 and was transferred for exchange.

After the War, Mr. Cline settled in Illinois. He first married Leona "Leanna" Harmon Cruthis on June 7, 1869 in Bond County, Illinois, and their marriage appears in the official records there. She was several years his senior, and it seems unlikely they had any children together. [Curiously, a marriage for William Cruthis and Leanna Harmon on May 30, 1883 appears in the online transcription...almost certainly a typographical error].

He appears as twenty-nine-year-old Robert Cline in the 1870 census of McCord Township, Bond County, Illinois. He was a farmer. With him are his wife, "Laura" who was fifty-nine years old, William and Henry Cruthis (eighteen and sixteen years old, respectively), and Emily Wilson, who was nine years old. Mr. Cline's real estate was worth \$22,500 and his personal property was worth \$1200.

Mr. Cline appears in the 1880 census of New Douglas Township, in Madison County, Illinois. His age is shown as thirty-seven years. The census shows he was born in the month of February [the census taker did not understand what information was being called for...to our benefit]. His wife, "Leanna" Cline, is clearly shown as sixty-five years old [twenty-eight years his senior] and born in the month of March. There is a six-year-old boy named Henry Cruthis living with them. He was doubtless the same Henry Cline who appeared in the 1870 census as a sixteen-year-old. The census taker in 1880 made the notation that he was Mr. Cline's grandson.

Mr. Cline was married second, on December 18, 1887 in Texas County, Missouri, to Margaret Nevada Jane Shaw. She was born in Illinois on March 13, 1865. Family sources at Ancestry.com say she was a daughter of James B. Shaw, with whom she was living in 1870 in Jersey County, Illinois.

When the 1900 census was taken the family lived in Licking, Sherrill Township, Texas County, Missouri. He owned his own land and was working as a blacksmith. Mrs. Cline said she had given birth to seven children, six of whom were still alive.

When the 1910 census was taken, Mr. Cline and his family were living in Precinct 4 of Glasscock County, Texas. They were living on rented land. Mrs. Cline told the census taker she had given birth to eight children, six of whom were still living. All six of them were with the family in that year.

His death certificate says Mr. Cline died at his home at 617 N. 1st Street in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas at 7 p.m. on January 18, 1916. His death certificate says he died of angina pectoris. He had been living at that address for five months, and had previously lived at Hurst, Texas. He was a retired blacksmith. He was buried on January 20 in Mount Olivet Cemetery. A short obituary for Mr. Cline appeared in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on January 19, 1916 on page 6. It mistakenly named him as T. R. Cline: "*Cline—T. R. Cline, 73, died Tuesday night at 617 East First street. Funeral arrangements have not been made. Cline moved here recently from Hurst, Texas. Surviving him are his wife, three daughters, Mrs. J. W. Long of Waco, and Misses Helen and Verna Cline of Fort Worth, and three sons, Morgan Cline of Baird, Joseph Cline and Jennings Bryan Cline of Fort Worth.*" This obituary must be in error about the sons as well. Joseph Cline was not with the family when the 1910 census was taken, while James Cline (who is not mentioned in the obituary) lived until 1957.

Mrs. Margaret N. Cline first applied for a Confederate widow's pension in 1919, while her address was 102 Hemphill Street in Fort Worth. She said she was born at Fieldon, Jersey County, Illinois, and had lived in Texas since the fall of 1899. She had lived on Hemphill Street since about 1914. Mrs. Cline was very vigilant in keeping the pension authorities informed about her whereabouts,

whenever she moved or took trips. There are several letters in her file in Austin, and she even sent the commissioner picture post cards of the places she had visited.

At the time Mrs. Cline originally applied, her application was denied because of her age. To be eligible, Confederate widows at that time had to have been born prior to January 1, 1862. The law was later changed, with the cutoff date being extended backwards five years.

She reapplied in 1929, and was placed on the pension rolls. At that time her address was 1615 Sylvania Avenue. She said she had been a resident of Texas for twenty-eight years, hence they must have moved here about 1901. This is more probably correct than her earlier statement, since they appeared in the census in Missouri in 1900.

Mrs. Margaret Nevada Cline died of congestive heart disease at the home of her son-in-law, Fred Neaves, at Elm Mott, McLennan County, Texas on April 21, 1957. Her death certificate says only that her father's surname was Shaw, and gives no information at all about her mother. An original itemized invoice from Mrs. Cline's funeral service, presented by Compton Funeral Home in Waco, Texas, remains in her file in Austin. The state paid two hundred dollars toward the cost of her funeral. She was buried beside her husband in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth.

The following paragraphs give short accounts of the lives of the eight Cline children.

Goldie Gertrude Cline was born January 7, 1887 in Illinois. She was first married to J. W. Long. She later married Fred Robert Neaves (1894-1961). They owned a grocery store in Elm Mott, Texas. She died at 2:30 p.m. on April 2, 1969 at the West Haven Rest facility in West, McLennan County, Texas, where she had been living for about three months. Her last permanent residence was in Elm Mott, McLennan County. She was buried on April 4 beside her husband in White Rock Cemetery in Ross, McLennan County.

Helen Linton was born July 15, 1888 in Licking, Texas County, Missouri. She married William P. Linton (1879-1953). In 1930 they lived in Dallas where her husband was an electrician for Powerhouse Construction. She died in Elm Mott, Texas on January 12, 1980. She is buried there in White Rock Cemetery.

Morgan Alexander Cline was born in Missouri on December 17, 1889. He married his wife, Maybelle, about 1918. When the 1930 census was taken Morgan was working as a fireman on a Texas and Pacific locomotive. He suffered a heart attack on February 1, 1963 and died at 5:30 a.m. after a four-hour stay in the Callahan County hospital in Baird, Callahan County, Texas, and is buried in Ross Cemetery at Baird. His last permanent address was at 204 Arch Street in Baird.

Perry R. Cline, Jr. was born in June, 1892, and was still living with the family in 1900. He was not with the family in 1910, and if Mrs. Cline's statement to the census taker is correct, he must have been dead by that time.

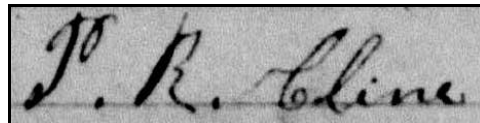
James William P. Cline was born June 24, 1894 in Licking, Missouri. His wife was Clara R. Cline (1899-1999). He was a veteran of World War I. His last permanent address was 3918 West 7th

Street in Fort Worth. At the time for his death he worked as a foreman at a trucking company. He died between 9 and 10 p.m. on April 20, 1957 at All Saints Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas. He was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

Jennings Bryan Cline was born December 7, 1896 at Licking, Texas County, Missouri. He married Grace Wiginton (1902-1962). His last permanent address was 1615 North Sylvania Street in Fort Worth. He died at the end of 2900 Yucca Street in Fort Worth at 1 p.m. on June 7, 1945 in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas. He died from the effects of sunstroke while working for the Gulf Oil Company. He was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery there.

Verna (or Vernon) Mae (or A.) Cline was born in May, 1899 in Missouri. By 1920 she had married W. Eugene Bandy, a theater musician, and they were living at 1204 East Weatherford in Fort Worth. When the 1930 census was taken they still lived in Fort Worth.

Joseph Cline must have been born not long after the taking of the 1900 census. He was not with the family in 1910. If Mrs. Cline's statement to the census taker was correct, must have been dead by that time.



The Confederate States

Gen. P. R. Cline

5.

For commutation of rations while absent on 35 days
furlough from the 7th July to the 7th Aug 1863 making
35 days at 25 cts per day

\$8.75

I certify that the above account is correct that the
said P. R. Cline returned at the expiration
of his furlough
because of the public service it being impracticable
to take rations in kind

W. M. Gilman
Capt. Co. 9 12th Regt. Ill.

I certify that the above account is correct that the commutation
was made by my order and was necessary for the public service
it being impracticable to take rations in kind

R. P. Chester
Adj. Gen.

Received of the Treasurer of the State 31st March 1863 from Major as per order
Eight Dollars and Seventy five cts in full of the above account
P. R. Cline

William S. Davis
C. S. 9, 10 Dec 9