



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

Copyright © 2008-2010. All rights reserved.

## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Martin Van Buren Elsea

Compiled by Michael Patterson  
Copyright 2008-2010. All rights reserved.

Martin Van Buren Elsea was a Union veteran who lies buried in Lonesome Dove Cemetery in present-day Southlake. Many of Martin Elsea's descendants are actively interested in his family history and have posted information at [genforum.genealogy.com](http://genforum.genealogy.com), and at [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com). Much of this biographical sketch was taken from those sources taken from those sources.

Martin Elsea was born September 10, 1840, according to his headstone. Family sources report he was born in Washington County, Tennessee, and was a son of John Elsea and Nancy Jane (Cox) Elsea. He was still living there, in District 4, with his parents when the 1850 census was taken.

When the 1860 census was taken, Martin was still living with his parents, John and Nancy Elsea, in District 11, Hamilton County, Tennessee.

Elsea served in the Union Army as a private in Co. C, 5<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry. He enlisted on November 11, 1861 at Sale Creek in Hamilton County, Tennessee for a term of three years. He was mustered into the service on March 29, 1861 at Barboursville, Kentucky. He is shown present on all the surviving muster rolls of the regiment. He was discharged on December 22, 1864 at Spring Hill, Tennessee, his term of service having expired.

Family sources report that Elsea and his first wife, Nancy Ann Iles, were married in Hamilton County, Tennessee on September 11, 1865. She was born January 28, 1840 in Pikeville, Bledsoe County, Tennessee, to James Iles (1802-1868) and his wife, Ellender (Knight) Iles (born in 1811).

When the 1880 census was taken, Elsea and his family lived in Tarrant County in Precinct 3 north of Big Bear Creek. Birthplaces of their children as listed in the census suggest that they emigrated from Tennessee to Texas after about 1875.

Martin's first wife, Nancy Ann Elsea, died in 1889, and lies buried in Lonesome Dove Cemetery beside her husband. If Lucy Ann Elsea, Mr. Elsea's second wife is buried there also, her grave is unmarked.

Although the regular census schedules for 1890 were destroyed, the census of Union veterans has survived. In it, Martin Elsea appears as a resident of Roanoke, Denton County, Texas.

Martin Elsea and his second wife, Lucy Ann House, were married in Denton County, Texas on December 7, 1895. She was born in Tennessee on March 18, 1849 and died in Tarrant County on November 20, 1920.

He appears in the Denton County census records for both 1900 and 1910. The 1900 census says that Martin and his wife, Lucy A. Elsea, had been married about 1869, and that she had given birth to nine children, only five of whom were still living.

However, in the 1910 census Lucy A. Elsea said she and Mr. Elsea had been married only fourteen years, yielding a date of approximately 1896. She said in this year that she had given birth to seven children, only four of whom were still living. This census also discloses that both Mr. and Mrs. Elsea had been married one time previously.

Many years before his death, Martin V. Elsea was granted a federal pension for his service in the Union Army during the Civil War. He died on September 26, 1926. His death certificate says he died of bilious fever and a strangulated hernia in Denton County near Grapevine. His mother's maiden name was Lizzie Cox. The informant was J. H. Long of Coppel.

A death notice for Mr. Elsea appeared in the Grapevine Sun: *"Another Old Settler Gone. Martin V. Elsea was born September 10, 1840 in Washington County, Tenn., he moved from Washington County to Hamilton County, Tenn. at the age of 6 years. He was married to Miss Nancy Ann Iles, September 15, 1865. To this union were born 11 children, five of whom survive him, being four sons and the only daughter, the wife of Mr. J. H. Long, at whose home he died. Mrs. Nancy Ann Elsea died Nov. 14, 1889, thus preceding her husband to the realms beyond a*



*period of some 37 years and near nine months. On December 1, 1895, Brother Elsea married Mrs. Lucy Manire, on November 21, 1920 she died leaving him again without a bosom companion. Brother Elsea professed faith in Christ at about the age of 30 years and united with the Missionary Baptist Church at Mt. Vernon, Tenn., and at the time of his death he was a member of the Missionary Baptist Church at New London, Clay County, Texas. Brother Elsea was a devoted Christian and served his church as deacon for many years, he was an unassuming man and was of a firm, fixed, kind, Christian character.”*

Family sources report that Martin Elsea and his first wife, Nancy Ann, had the following children: Nancy E. Elsea (born about 1867); William A. Elsea (1868-1951); James Calvin Elsea (1869-1945); Elenora A. Elsea (1871-1893); Tennessee Annie Elsea (1872-1939); Rufus A. Elsea (1875-1959); Ema Elsea (1881-); Martin Van Buren Elsea, Jr. (1883-1954); Ella Elsea (1885-), and Ernest Elsea (1888-).

