



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Francis Marion Hoffman

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Francis Marion Hoffman was a Texas Confederate veteran who lived in the Smithfield area in 1900. He was the son of a Texas Revolutionary veteran, and moved about Texas a great deal during his more than eighty years of life. His final home was in Anson, Jones County, Texas where he died. He was known throughout much of his life as Frank Hoffman.

Francis M. Hoffman was, according to his death certificate, born in Louisiana on September 11, 1842. His parents were Michael S. Hoffman (1807-1877), a native of Tennessee, and Pheraby Wilson (1818-1886), who was born in Alabama. Both Francis's parents are buried in Cope Cemetery in Johnson County, Texas. His mother's name on her headstone is "Pherara." Francis told his comrades in the R. E. Lee Confederate Veterans Camp in Fort Worth that he was born at Sabine Pass, Louisiana.

When the 1850 census was taken, Francis M. Hoffman was living with his parents and siblings in Tyler County, Texas. Francis's father was working as a millwright. Judging from the birthplaces of the children in the family, Michael Hoffman must have brought his family from Louisiana to Texas about 1847.

In 1860 in Ellis County, Texas's Division 7, Francis was one of ten children living in his parents' home. Francis was seventeen years old and had attended school within the year.

When Mr. Hoffman joined the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth, he told them he enlisted in 1861 at Hempstead, Texas in Co. A, 18th Texas Cavalry. He was never exchanged but got home in May, 1865. He was awarded the Southern Cross of Honor in 1908. He also spent some time in the Confederate Home in Austin.

Hoffman's records in the National Archives with the 18th Texas Cavalry say he enlisted at Hempstead, Texas on October 28, 1861 for a term of one year. His name appears on a muster roll for September and October, 1863 with the notation that he was in a hospital recovering from a wound, but the location of the hospital is not given. He was still in the hospital during November and December. He was back with the regiment by January, 1864. He was among the many Confederate soldiers captured at Fort Hindman in Arkansas on January 11, 1863. By February 8, 1863 he was a prisoner at Camp Douglas, Illinois. He was paroled at Camp Douglas on April 1, 1863 and was sent to City Point, Virginia on April 7 for exchange. He was captured near Atlanta, Georgia on July 22, 1864 and was forwarded two days later to the Provost Marshall General of the Department of the Cumberland at Louisville, Kentucky, where he arrived by July 29, 1864. He was sent to Camp Chase, Ohio on July 30, 1864, and arrived there on August 1. He was paroled from Camp Chase on March 2, 1865 and was sent to City Point, Virginia for exchange.

Mr. Hoffman married Rebecca Ella (or Elizabeth) Hudson in Ellis County, Texas on August 29, 1867. She is buried in Cahill Cemetery in Johnson County, Texas. According to her headstone there, she was born August 8, 1848 and died on _____ 19, 1887.

By the time the 1880 census was taken, Francis and his family were living in District 116 of Cooke County, Texas. His wife, Rebecca E., said she was born about 1848 in Alabama, as were both her parents. They had five children living with them in that year: James S. (born about 1869); Ida L. (born about 1872); Mary A., (born about 1874); Quila C. (born about 1876); and William F. (born about 1878).

About 1890 Frank was remarried, this time to a lady whose name was Mary J.; she was born in Kentucky in April 1848.

When the 1900 census was taken in the Smithfield Precinct of Tarrant County, Frank M. Hoffman and his wife, Mary, were there, with a Union veteran (George W. George) their next-door neighbor on one side and a Confederate veteran (John W. Mickle) on the other. Frank and Mary J. Hoffman had no children with them, but Mary said she had given birth to nine children, four of whom were still living. It seems likely most of all of these children were from a former marriage of Mrs. Hoffman's.

While living in Tarrant County, Francis applied for and was granted a Confederate pension. When the State of Texas microfilmed the Confederate pension files many years ago, the file folder containing Frank Hoffman's papers was out in the hands of a researcher and did not get filmed. Unfortunately, the only paper which now remains in his file is the mortuary warrant his heirs submitted.

Frank Hoffman was living in 1920 in Ward 1 of Cleburne, Johnson County, Texas. He was again widowed, and was living in the home of his son, J. S. Hoffman.

Francis M. Hoffman died at eleven o'clock (his death certificate does not say a. m. or p. m.) on January 14, 1925 at Anson, Jones County, Texas. The cause of death was listed as senility. He was buried on January 17 in "K Hall Chapel" Cemetery in Johnson County, Texas. This refers to the Cahill Cemetery in Johnson County, Texas where his first wife, Rebecca Hoffman, lies buried.

Frank and Rebecca Hoffman were the parents of at least five children: James Shepler Hoffman, Ida Lenora Hoffman, Mary A. Hoffman, Aquilla C. Hoffman, and William Franklin Hoffman.

James Shepler Hoffman was born at Cahill Chapel, Johnson County, Texas, on October 27, 1868, according to his death certificate. He was a public account, and married Laura Morris. He died in Cleburne, Texas on March 12, 1941 and was buried there.

Ida Lenora Hoffman was born in February 1871. She married Ben Hill Vance and had a number of children. Family sources report that she died in 1914.

Mary Elizabeth Hoffman was born in Johnson County, Texas on August 11, 1873. She married George R. Boyd. They moved to the area of Crosbyton, Crosby County, Texas in 1918. She died in Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas on May 30, 1952 and was buried in Crosbyton Cemetery.

Aquilla Cahill Hoffman was born October 25, 1875 in Johnson County, Texas. He was a real estate salesman. He died in Memphis, Hall County, Texas on April 7, 1946 and was buried there.

William Franklin Hoffman was born in Johnson County, Texas on May 20, 1878. He was an insurance broker. He died on July 11, 1956 in Paducah, Cottle County, Texas and was buried in the Garden of Memories Cemetery there.