



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Joseph Ignatius McDonald

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Joseph Ignatius McDonald was a veteran of a Kentucky Confederate cavalry regiment. He died in Keller, Texas and was buried in Calvary Cemetery (within Oakwood Cemetery) in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas.

Mr. McDonald was born November 24, 1837 in Washington County, Kentucky. Researchers who have posted material at ancestry.com say he was a son of William Chandler McDonald (1804-1856) and his wife, Frances F. Slack (1814-1881).

Joseph I. McDonald's father appears in the 1840 census of Washington County. They were fairly well-to-do for the time, and worked their farm with the help of nine slaves.

Joseph appears in the 1850 census of Washington County as an eleven-year-old boy in his father's family. They owned a farm worth eight thousand dollars in that year and had the help of five slaves to work it.

According to a statement Joseph McDonald made to the members of the R. E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans at Fort Worth, he originally enlisted in the Southern service at College Grove [Williamson County], Tennessee and scouted and recruited for some time before enlisting in the regular Confederate service with Buckner's Guards.

Records of Joseph's Confederate service have survived in the National Archives in Washington D. C. In some records his middle initial is shown as "J" while in other places it is shown as "I." He is shown as a private in Capt. C. F. Sanders' Company, of Buckner Guards Kentucky Cavalry (Maj. Gen. Cleburne's escort). His enlistment in this unit was recorded as January 12, 1863 at Tullahoma, Tennessee for a term of three years or the duration of the war. At one point in July or August 1863 he was confined sick in a hospital. On a muster roll for January and February 1864 his horse was shown with a valuation of five hundred dollars. He was with his command until the end, and was

paroled at Greensboro, North Carolina on April 26, 1865. He later said he took part in many battles in Tennessee, North Carolina, and Georgia.

By 1870 Joseph had moved to Texas, married, and settled in Precinct 4 of Dallas County, Texas. He was listed there with his wife, Ann M. McDonald. He owned personal property worth \$2200 but no real estate. Ann was born in Texas about 1844. They had no children with them. About 1871 they moved to Tarrant County.

When the 1880 census was taken Joseph was living in a boarding house in Ward 1 of Fort Worth and working as an agent for a sewing machine company. He had no wife or children with him. In that year, his wife and two of their children, John and Jefferson McDonald, were living in the household of her brother-in-law, Theodore Prigmore, in Wise County, Texas. Theodore's wife, Penelope, was a sister of Mrs. Ann M. (Moore) McDonald. Mr. and Mrs. Prigmore later settled in Tarrant County and are buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth.

When the 1900 census was taken Joseph and his wife, Ann, lived in the city of Fort Worth in Precinct 1 of Tarrant County. They had no children with them, but Ann said she had given birth to five children, only one of whom was still living at that time. Joseph was listed as a farmer who owned his own land. There are no standing readable headstones in Wise County which can be identified as minor children of Joseph and Ann McDonald.

Mrs. Anna Maria McDonald died on February 8, 1909. An obituary for her appeared the same day in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram: *"Mrs. Anna Maria McDonald, wife of Joseph McDonald of Riverside, died early Monday morning from the infirmities of old age. Deceased was 65 years of age and has been a resident of Tarrant county for the past thirty-eight years. She is survived by her husband and one son, John McDonald of Keller, Texas. The funeral will be held from St. Patrick's church at 10 o'clock Tuesday morning, with interment in Calvary cemetery."*

When the census was taken in 1910 Joseph was living as a widower in a family headed by his son, John McDonald. John was born about 1873 in Texas; his wife's name was Jennie and she was born about 1876 in Mississippi.

Joseph I. McDonald has a death certificate on file. It shows that he was born in "Spring Field," Kentucky on November 24, 1837 and that he died at Keller, Texas at 9 p.m. on January 27, 1918. He had lived in Keller for one year and in Texas for sixty years. The cause of death was pneumonia with old age as a contributing factor. He was buried in Calvary Cemetery in Fort Worth. He and his wife lie buried along the cemetery's western boundary, south of the iron-arch sign at the cemetery's entrance. He has a ground-level bronze marker. Her grave is unmarked.

We have been unable to find a newspaper obituary for Joseph McDonald. Neither have we been able to find the names and approximate birthdates for the other three McDonald children. John C. McDonald and Jefferson McDonald are the only two of the children we have been able to identify.

John C. McDonald was born March 23, 1873. His death certificate says he was born at Farmer's Branch, Texas, and that his mother's name was Ann Moore. His wife's name was Jennie G.

McDonald, and she was born February 16, 1875; she died July 1, 1973. John C. McDonald died October 25, 1931 at his home at 2526 Lucas Drive in Dallas, Dallas County. He and his wife are buried in White's Chapel Cemetery in Southlake, Tarrant County, Texas.

Jefferson McDonald was born in September 1879 in Texas. He was alive with his family when the 1880 census was taken, but we have found no other records concerning him. He does not have a standing readable headstone in any Wise County cemetery.

No one appears in the 1880 mortality schedules who may have been one of the McDonald children.

