



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Jonathan Taylor Prather

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Jonathan Taylor Prather was a son of pioneer Tarrant County gospel preacher, Jeremiah Prather, who died in 1859. Jonathan was born in Adair County, Missouri on May 17, 1847. He came to Tarrant County with his parents and siblings on November 17, 1857.

Jonathan enlisted in the Confederate army in Tarrant County in May 1862 and served until his company was discharged in 1865. He told pension application officials he served in Company F, Waller's Battalion, Walker's Division, under Captain Joseph Terrell. He said he served his entire enlistment in the same command. He was discharged at Bryan Station in Brazos Co., Texas, on the Houston Central Railway in May, 1865, at which time his company disbanded.

He and his wife, S. Ellen McGinnis, were married in Tarrant County on July 4, 1875. She was a daughter of Tarrant County pioneer and Confederate soldier William W. McGinnis. When she applied for her pension in 1923, she said she was 72 years old and a native of Missouri. She said she had lived in Texas for sixty-four years. She had lived in Tarrant County for the last sixty years, so she must have come to Texas with her parents about 1863.

Jonathan and his wife had only two children, both of whom died young, and both of whom have headstones in Bedford Cemetery. There was one young man whom they unofficially adopted, and who grew to manhood with them.

When he entered the R. E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth, he wrote that he fought in no general engagements but had been in several skirmishes in Louisiana. He also wrote, "*...I had been out with a dispatch and on my return I met one of my Lieuts. in Tarrant Co. who told me to go home as the war was over.*"

Jonathan first applied for a Confederate pension in 1909, at which time he was living at Smithfield. In 1912 he reapplied, this time giving his address as 2141 Main Street in Fort Worth. Jonathan died at his home in Smithfield on August 20, 1923. He had no death certificate on file. Ellen Prather

died at the Tarrant County Poor Farm near Fort Worth on February 5, 1928. A veterans marker for Mr. and Mrs. Prather was placed in Bedford Cemetery beside the graves of their children in 2007 by Jimmy Reynolds and Mike Patterson.

An obituary for Mrs. Prather appeared in the Grapevine Sun on February 9, 1928: "*DIED. Mrs. Ellen McGinnis Prather was born about August 28, 1850 in Lincoln Co., Mo. She came to Texas with her parents when a child, and lived most of her life near Smithfield. She was married to Jonathan Prather, who which union were born two sons, Willie and Dee, both dying at a tender age. Her husband also preceded her in death some five years ago. Mrs. Prather obeyed the Gospel and for several years lived a faithful Christian and was a member of the Church at Center Point, a few miles west of Grapevine. She later moved to Smithfield. She had been failing in health for the last few years and for the last several months had been very sick. Mrs. Prather died last Sunday afternoon, leaving one brother, Mr. Scott McGinnis of Denton, and other relatives in this and nearby communities. The funeral services were conducted by Elder Jesse Powell of Fort Worth at Bedford last Monday afternoon and the body was laid to rest in Bedford cemetery.*"



Jonathan T. Prather headstone at Bedford



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. T. Prather". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.