



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

John W. Stateham

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John W. Stateham was a Texas Confederate veteran who settled in Tarrant County near the beginning of 1867. He was shot to death in 1869 and lies buried in an unmarked grave in Lonesome Dove Cemetery.

J. W. Stateham was born about 1832 in Georgia. He came to Texas about 1852, and by 1860 was living in Rusk County, Texas. With him in that year were his wife, Catherine, who was born about 1840 in Tennessee. By that time, they had one daughter named Laura Stateham, who was born in Texas about 1858.

Descendants report that John W. Stateham's wife was Susan Catherine Pruitt. She was born about 1841 in Bedford County, Tennessee. They also report a marriage date of August 25, 1855.

Descendants report that Mr. Stateham served the Confederacy in at least two different regiments. He enlisted in Rusk County, Texas on April 28, 1862 at a private in Captain M. V. Smith's Company of Randal's Regiment of Texas Lancers. This subsequently became Co. D of Randal's Texas Regiment, also known as the 28th Texas Cavalry. Mr. Stateham was mustered into the Confederate service at Marshall, Texas on June 30, 1862 for a term of three years. At some point during May or June he was at home on a furlough because of sickness, and was soon discharged.

He also served in Co. H, 13th Texas Volunteers (which was made up of infantry, cavalry, and artillery). This regiment, some companies of which served as infantry, some as cavalry, and some as artillery, had a very confusing...even for the Confederate army... organizational history. Co. H originally was made up of cavalry. He was admitted to the hospital of the 13th Texas Infantry on July 29, 1864 with "continued fever," and stayed there until he was discharged from the hospital on August 7, 1864. One records shows that on November 29, 1863 he received a leave of absence to go to Smith County, Texas, where it appears he remained until at least November of 1864. Another record says he was granted the leave to go to Smith County on October 10, 1864. He was an

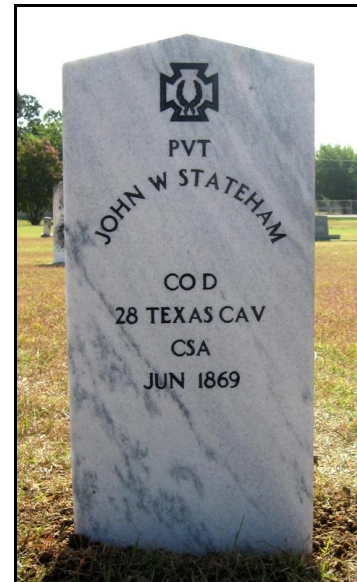
ambulance driver in March, 1865. He last appears in the regimental records in April, 1865 as an ambulance driver. No further records of his Confederate service have survived.

J. W. Stateham registered to vote on August 22, 1867 in Tarrant County. He said he was living in Precinct 2, where he had been living for the past seven months. He had been in Texas for fifteen years. Mrs. Catherine Stateham joined the Lonesome Dove Baptist Church in present-day Southlake in 1868.

The 1870 mortality schedules of Tarrant County show that John W. Statham, born about 1835 in Georgia, a farmer, died in June 1869, after being shot. His wife, Catherine, born about 1840 in Tennessee, died in February of 1870, of intermittent fever. Descendants report that they were buried in Lonesome Dove Cemetery, but now there are no readable headstones for them.

[Blue text represents new information.]

Mr. George M. Stateham of New Bern, North Carolina, graciously shared this very interesting additional information on his direct ancestor, John W. "Jack" Stateham. Along with Mr. Stateham we are presently (June 2012) in the process of obtaining a grave marker for John W. Stateham from the Veterans Administration.



New stone erected 1/28/2012
by members of the
E. W. Taylor Camp
Sons of Confederate Veterans

John W. Stateham's shooting was confirmed by an article in the Austin, Texas, Daily State Journal on, Wednesday, August 17, 1870, which reads as follows:

"We have reports of anything but a cheerful state of things from Fort Worth in Tarrant County. William Gillum deliberately murdered Jack Stateham, and made his escape to Smith County. The next victim was a half breed from the Indian nation, named Joe Cox, whom certain parties accused of horse stealing and shot, leaving him for dead. Ascertaining afterwards that he still lived, another party went to the wounded man and shot his head to pieces. No arrests were made. The next case was a colored woman, who was shot by a Mr. Baker. On the 2nd of August, a dentist was chased through the streets, and fired on by rowdies, in the presence of the deputy sheriff, for the crime of being a newcomer. The deputy did nothing. An attempt was made to kill a freedman named Rucker which failed as Rucker had fled to Waco to save his life from assassins. Altogether it looks as though a strong dose of the militia law would be a wholesome thing for Tarrant County."

"It is, perhaps, beyond the scope of this family history, but there is an interesting story behind the last sentence of the article. At that time, the Reconstruction Government in Austin, the state capitol, was trying to sell the idea of forming a state militia. The citizens of Tarrant County were opposed to that idea. Apparently the article was written either in attempt to sell the idea or to ridicule the people of Tarrant County for their opposition.

According to Susie Stateham, Yarnel, Arizona, wife of Lawson Stateham, who was son of Sam Stateham, nephew of my grandfather Lawson Stateham, and grandson of Jack Stateham, Jack Stateham was shot by a jealous husband, because Jack had become too friendly with the husband's wife. Her information came from Sam Stateham, one of Jack Stateham's four sons. This story was confirmed by Ladell Stateham of Arlington, Washington, a grandson of Sam Stateham. I believe this story is probably true, because Susie Stateham and Ladell Stateham were so confident of the veracity of the story and the close agreement of their stories.

John Stateham's wife, Sarah Catherine Prewett, had a sister named Louisa. According to probate records of Judy Pruitt's estate(Sarah and Louisa's mother), Louisa was married to a man named Gilham. Smith County marriage records show the name to actually be Gilliam. It is interesting to speculate that Gilliam (Gilham) and the murderer, William Gillum, are one and the same. The cavalier attitude toward the spelling of names that existed at that time certainly makes this possible. If so, the woman involved with John Stateham in Susie and Ladell's story was his wife's sister Louisa, and I believe this to be true."

The Statehams left four orphan sons who were living with the family of another Confederate veteran, Garlington C. Dial, by the summer of 1870. As shown in the 1870 Tarrant County census are D. Statum (born about 1860); L. Statum (born about 1862); Samuel Statum (born about 1867), and J. Statum (born about 1869).

Using census clues and data placed on Ancestry.com, the five children of the Statehams were Laura Stateham, Michael D. Statum, Lawson Stateham, Samuel L. Stateham, and John William Stateham. No record of Laura Stateham has been found apart from the 1860 census of Rusk County, Texas.

Michael D. "Mike" Stateham was born August 13, 1860, probably in Rusk County, Texas. At the time of the 1880 census, he was boarding with the family of James V. Bradley in Precinct 4 of Tarrant County. He married Rosie Boone in Tarrant County, Texas on March 22, 1888. In 1910 he lived in the Rosen Heights section of Fort Worth. He died in Tarrant County, Texas on February 11, 1914.

Lawson Stateham was born August 9, 1862. He was a retired merchant. He married Rebecca Jane Price. He died in Keller, Tarrant County, Texas on March 29, 1848 and was buried in Bourland Cemetery in Keller. Oddly, the physician who signed his death certificate, H. E. Wyss, M.D., is the doctor who delivered this compiler.

Samuel L. Stateham was born June 27, 1867 in Rusk County, Texas. In 1880 he was living in Precinct 4 of Denton County with the family of R. B. Kelsey. He married Estella R. Griswold (1875-1955). At some time between 1900 and 1910 he moved to Brushy, Grady County, Oklahoma. He died in Altus, Oklahoma on April 8, 1939.

Descendants report that John William Stateham was born January 8, 1869 in Tarrant County. They also state that he died in Dallas County, Texas on March 25, 1938. Some of the information on his death certificate is obviously incorrect. In 1880, he was "bound" to work for J. W. Creed in Precinct 2 of Wise County, Texas. John W. Stateham and his wife, J. Etta Stateham, lived at 1713 Exposition

Street in Dallas in 1930. He worked for many years for the Dallas street department. He was buried in Laurel Land Cemetery in Dallas.