



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

James E. Turner

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James E. Turner was born in Marion County, Missouri on October 23, 1842. He was a son of William Turner and his wife, Mary E. (Mallory) Turner. Both his parents were native Virginians, and after living for several years in Missouri they settled in Dallas County, Texas in 1846. In 1856, they settled permanently in Tarrant County in the Smithfield community.

While still young James learned the blacksmith trade, and for thirty years he operated a smithy on his property at Smithfield. In addition to that, he farmed extensively and operated a hardware business at Smithfield. He told his biographer in 1906 that he had served four years in the Confederate Army, and his obituary mentions that he enlisted from Tarrant County.

On May 20, 1866, Turner married Mary E. Pascall, a native of Weakley County, Tennessee, who had settled in Kaufman County, Texas with her parents in 1856. In 1871, Turner settled on the farm at Smithfield on which he was still living in 1906. He was a member of the Methodist Church at Smithfield.

He died October 20, 1917. His wife, M. E. Turner, was born February 1, 1844. She died March 24, 1928, and was buried beside James in Smithfield Cemetery.

Mrs. Turner told the census taker in 1910 that she had given birth to five children, all of whom were still living. They were: Charles E. Turner; Mary A. (Mrs. J. H.) Clark; Sarah E. (Mrs. W. S.) French; William J. Turner, and Lucy R. (Mrs. Walter) Crane. An excellent biography of Turner, probably written from material he supplied, appeared in B. B. Paddock, History and Biographical Record of North and West Texas, 1906.

A lengthy obituary mentioning his Civil War service appears in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on the day after he died. A shorter one with no additional information appeared the same day in the Fort Worth Record. The Star-Telegram obituary said: "*TURNER FUNERAL AT SMITHFIELD AT 2 P.M. Funeral services for J. E. Turner, who died at his home in Smithfield Saturday morning, will*

be held at the residence at 2 p.m. Sunday, interment in the Smithfield Cemetery. Turner was 75 years old and had lived in Tarrant County for sixty-seven years, settling in Dallas County with his parents when he was 8 years old. After living in that county for six years the Turners moved to Birdville, where he was sent to school. Mr. and Mrs. Turner were married in Terrell fifty-four years ago. Since his marriage he has been living on a farm near Smithfield. He left his farm to fight in the War Between the States, enlisting in Tarrant County. Surviving are his wife, two sons, C. E. of Mineral Wells and W. J. of Smithfield, and three daughters, Mrs. J. H. Clark and Mrs. W. L. Crane of Smithfield, and Mrs. U. S. French of Republic, Mo."

