



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Leonidas Evans

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Leonidas Evans was a Confederate officer of a Georgia infantry regiment who settled in far-eastern Tarrant County shortly after the end of the War. He worked for much of his life as a blacksmith. He apparently died here before 1880.

Mr. Evans was born about 1826. His wife, Elizabeth, was born about 1832. Both were natives of Tennessee.

By the time the 1850 census was taken, they had married and were settled in Dade County, Georgia. An index prepared of the 1850 census of Dade County shows Leonidas, Elizabeth, and two of their sons, John and George, both of whom were born in Georgia about 1849 and 1850, respectively. Leonidas was a blacksmith.

Ten years later in 1860 the family was living Dade County, Georgia in the 1038th Militia District, served by the post office at Rising Fawn. The children with the family in that year included John (born about 1849), George (born about 1850), America (born about 1853), James (born about 1855), Mary (born about 1857) Abraham (born about 1858), and Tennessee (born in July 1859). There was also an individual surnamed Wood (born about 1843 in Georgia) living with the family.

Mr. Evans enlisted in Dade County, Georgia on July 10, 1861 as a member of Co. H, 21st Georgia Infantry. On the regimental rolls for November and December, 1861 he is shown as a first sergeant. He appears on a roll having sick leave at Manassas on January 30, 1862. Another roll shows him sick in Dade County, Georgia on the same day.

Rolls for November and December 1862 show him as a second lieutenant in General Trimble's Brigade. His name appears on a roll of officers present near Port Royal, Virginia in December, 1862.

Leonidas Evans appears as a second lieutenant on a roll made for March and April, 1863, with a notation that he had gone on furlough on April 17, 1863.

He was arrested on October 10, 1863 for having overstayed his furlough. After having received due process, he was dropped from the rolls on November 12, 1863. His file in the National Archives contains several original signed papers, including a pay voucher, a request for clothing and supplies, and several papers related to his being dropped from the service for failure to return to his regiment.

Mr. Evans brought his family to northeast Tarrant County in the late 1860's. In 1869 Leonidas Evans owned seventy-six acres of the Abraham Barnard survey (worth \$232) and one hundred acres of the L. Evans survey (worth \$160). We have not been able to identify the L. Evans survey in Tarrant County. He also had two horses or mules worth seventy-five dollars, and fourteen cows worth eighty-eight dollars.

In modern-day terms, much of the Abraham Barnard survey is included in the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport property in far-eastern Tarrant County, north of the West Fork of the Trinity River. Most of the survey today is kept as empty rangeland which serves as a barrier around the airport, or serves as highway right-of-way. Highway 183 roughly parallels the survey's southern boundary, and the intersection of Highway 360 and 183 lies within its southwestern corner. Bear Creek (after the confluence of Big and Little Bear Creeks) crosses its northeast corner (NW to SE), and Dobkins Branch crosses it west to east. The pioneer family cemetery of Alexander Dobkins is the only historical cultural feature which remains on the survey today.

Leonidas Evans and his family appear in the 1870 census of Tarrant County's Precinct 2. They had nine children with them: John (born about 1849), George (born about 1850), Nancy (born about 1851), James (born about 1853), Mary A. (born about 1855), Abraham (born about 1858), Tennessee (born about 1859), Louisa (born about 1866 in Tennessee), and Julia Evans (born in Texas in March 1869). The first seven children were born in Georgia.

Next door to his family in 1870 was the family of his brother, John Evans, who was born about 1832. In his household in addition to his wife and children was one Mary Evans, born about 1812, who was probably their mother. They had come to northeast Tarrant County about 1867 from Bedford County, Tennessee. John Evans was married to Elizabeth Jane Shoffner of Bedford County, who was probably a close relative, possibly a sister, of another of our veterans, Wilson C. Shoffner.

Neither Leonidas nor Elizabeth Evans appears in the 1880 census of Tarrant County. In 1880 four of Leonidas Evans' children...Nancy, Louisa, Julia, and William, were living in Precinct 3 of Tarrant County with the family of their older brother, George Evans. A fifth one of the children, Abraham Evans, was making his home nearby with the family of Leonidas's younger brother, John Evans.

No headstones which appear to be those of Mr. or Mrs. Leonidas Evans are now readable in any cemetery in northeast Tarrant County.