



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Robert Samuel Flatt

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Robert Samuel Flatt was born at Saltillo Springs, Hardin County, Tennessee on August 31, 1843. He was a son of Steven William Flatt and his wife, Rebecca (Stinnett) Flatt. Throughout most of his life he was known as Sam Flatt. After the death of his father about 1855, Robert's mother moved about 1859 with her children to Titus County, Texas to be nearer a number of her relatives.

Flatt enlisted in the Confederate Army at Daingerfield, Texas on May 6, 1862 and became a soldier in Co. G, 19th Texas Infantry; his enlistment term was three years. He traveled thirty miles to the rendezvous. He is shown present on all the regiment's surviving muster rolls for 1862 through 1864, with the exception of one period in November 1862 when he was too sick for duty. He was shot through both thighs at the Battle of Mansfield, Louisiana on April 8, 1864, and carried the bullets in his body to his grave. After he recovered enough for further service, he herded cattle for the Confederate army, which duty he was performing in April, 1865 when the War ended. He told pension authorities many years later that he was discharged near Hempstead, Texas about the month of April in 1865.

Family sources say he was married April 25, 1867 at Pittsburg, Texas to Mary Elizabeth Ryan, a daughter of Harris and Sarah Ann (Smith) Ryan. She was born at Cason, Morris County, Texas on December 31, 1847. They lived for a time in Grayson County, Texas in the 1870-1872 time period, and moved to Parker County, Texas in 1874. They came to Parker County in covered wagons and lived in their wagons until their cabin could be completed. Their dog turned around and appeared three months later back at their old home in Grayson County. He was a member of the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans at Fort Worth.

Mary Elizabeth died at Springtown on August 13, 1886, and Sam Flatt finished raising their children with the help of a neighbor couple. Flatt was remarried in Parker County, Texas on February 7, 1900 to Lilly Belle Tatum (born October 14, 1857), an accomplished pianist. They had no children.

About 1907 he left Parker County and settled in northeast Tarrant County, where he remained until about 1919. In 1910 he owned part of the W. W. Wallace survey south of Smithfield along the Fort Worth and Bedford Road. About the month of February in 1919 Mr. and Mrs. Flatt moved to Longview, Gregg County, Texas, where he applied for a Confederate pension in 1920.

Flatt died October 29, 1921 at Longview, Gregg County, Texas, and was buried at Springtown, near his old Agnes home. An obituary for Robert S. Flatt appeared in the Weatherford, Texas Weekly Herald on November 3, 1921: "*FORMER CITIZEN IS BURIED AT SPRINGTOWN. The remains of R. S. Flatt, who died at Longview Saturday afternoon, was received in this city Monday morning and taken to Springtown, where funeral services were held by Rev. C. A. Thorpe with burial in the Springtown Cemetery. Mr. Flatt was 78 years of age, and a former citizen of this county. He lived many years at Agnes. He left there in 1907 and located in Fort Worth, where he resided until two years ago when he moved to Longview. He is survived by his widow and five children, as follows: W. H. Flatt, Fort Worth; Mrs. M. M. Neal, Duncan, Okla.; Mrs. T. R. Wallace, Fort Worth; Mrs. R. L. Elbs, Dallas; and Mr. W. J. Sides, Burkburnett.*"

Mrs. Flatt applied for a pension in 1925. She said she was sixty-seven years old and a native of Somerville, Tennessee. An affidavit in her pension file gives details about some moves she made between Tennessee and Texas in the period 1887-1925. She said she had been living at 202 S. High Street in Longview since 1923. In 1941 Mrs. Flatt was living in Fort Worth with Mrs. Frances M. Green at 2516 Lincoln Avenue. She died August 15, 1942.

Sam Flatt and both his wives are buried in the Springtown Cemetery in Parker County. His children included William Harrison Flatt; Mary Mayhally (Mrs. Alfred F.) Neill; Nancy Eugenia (Mrs. Thomas Benton) Wallace; Sarah Anne (Mrs. Robert C.) Elbs; Ada Rebecca (Mrs. William Juan) Sides; George Washington Flatt; and Robert Millican Flatt.

An excellent biography of the Flatt family researched and written by a descendant may be found in the History of Parker County, published by the Parker County Historical Commission in 1980.

