



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Robert I. McCain

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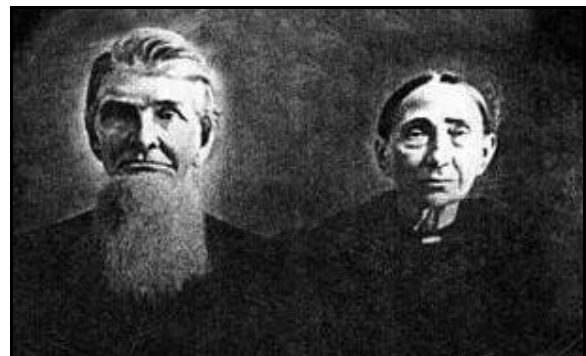
Robert I. McCain was a Confederate veteran who lived the last few years of his life near Keller. He lies buried in Keller's Bourland Cemetery. His headstone says he was born March 25, 1831.

Family sources at Ancestry.com say he was born in St. Clair County, Alabama on March 25, 1831, and was a son of Robert McCain and his wife, Mahala Jane McClellan.

Robert I. McCain's older brother, Thomas William McCain, was also a Confederate soldier in the same regiment as Robert. Thomas also later moved to the Keller area and lived very near to Robert. The McCain's were in Chickasaw County, Mississippi when the 1850 census was taken...apparently Thomas and his wife Adeline, with three of Thomas's younger siblings.

Family sources at Ancestry.com indicate that Thomas and Robert McCain married sisters, daughters of Simeon Fowler (1791-1862) and his wife, Leticia "Letty" McGowan (1801-1882), who were married in 1818 in Madison County, Alabama. Thomas's wife was Elizabeth "Eliza" A. Fowler.

In 1860 Robert I. McCain was living in Wood County, Texas with his wife, Eliza A. They had two children by then...Robert C., born about 1858 in Mississippi and Thomas D., born about 1860 in Texas. Next door to them was Thomas W. McCain, born about 1828 in Alabama, with his family.



Mrs. & Mrs. Robert I. McCain

A short account of Robert's Confederate service appeared in Mrs. Mamie Yeary's 1912 book, Reminiscences of the Boys in Gray, 1861-1865: ***"R. J. McCain, Keller, Texas--Born near***

Talladega, Ala. Enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1862, at Starville, as Corporal in Company F, Bate's Regiment, W. S. Henderson, first Captain and Bates, first Colonel. We changed from Company C., to Company F, but remained in the same Regiment. Was in the ranks when Gen. Lee surrendered. Was in the battles of Velasco, Galveston, and many others. Surrendered at Velasco. I was true to the cause and glad to know we were right."

This regiment was Bates Regiment, 13th Texas Infantry. The mistakes often seen in showing his middle name as "J" are probably a result of the similarity of handwritten capital I's and J's. His gravestone very plainly says "I", while Mrs. Yeary probably mistook it for a J, especially since the middle initial I is extremely unusual in Anglo-American given names.

McCain's official records in the National Archives say he enlisted at Tyler, Texas on July 14, 1862 for the war's duration. His name appears on a list of men absent from the regiment at Velasco, Texas dated October 25, 1863; having been furloughed from a hospital in Houston on August 20, 1863. In June 1864 at Velasco, Texas he was transferred from Co. C to Co. H of Bate's Regiment. During the month of August, 1864 he was absent with leave in Wood County, Texas; his leave was for fifty days and was issued on August 15, 1864. With those exceptions, he was present on all the surviving muster rolls of the 13th Texas Infantry for the time in which he was a part of the regiment.

By the time the 1870 census was taken, Robert and his family had moved to McLennan County, Texas, and had settled west of the Brazos River. In that year, his family included his wife, Eliza (born in Mississippi), Robert McCain (born about 1857 in Mississippi); Thomas McCain (born about 1860 in Texas); and Leona McCain (born about 1866 in Texas). Living in the same household were Robert's brother, Thomas (no wife is shown in the census), and five of Thomas's children.

The McCain's next-door neighbors were the family of James Fowler (born about 1833 in Alabama), who had brought his family to Texas from Mississippi in or after 1865. The death certificate of one of the children indicates that R. I. McCain was living in Johnson County, Texas in 1874

The census taker in 1880 found R. I. McCain and his family living in District 5 of Johnson County, Texas. His next-door neighbors on one side were the family of D. C. McCain, and on the other side the family of his son, Robert C. McCain (wife Mary, born about 1862).. R. I. McCain's children with his family were Thomas McCain (born about 1860), L. McCain (a female, born about 1866), William McCain (born about 1868), Oscar McCain (born about 1874), Lulu McCain (born about 1876), and Lenora (born about 1878).

Robert I. McCain's daughter-in-law, Mary E. McCain, died on March 17, 1885 (or 1886) and was buried in the far-northeast corner of Mount Gilead Cemetery in Keller. She was the wife of R. I. McCain's son, Robert C. McCain. Two other McCain family members were later buried there: Robert I. McCain's son, Thomas, who died December 3, 1899; and Thomas's wife, who died July 8, 1913. Her headstone very clearly says she was the wife of "T. I. McCain."

Robert I. McCain's home is shown on the 1895 Sam Street Map of Tarrant County, Texas. In modern-day terms, it sat on unincorporated county land, north-northwest of old downtown Keller, west of Highway 377 and the railroad, a short distance SW of the intersection of Jennifer Court and Highway 377.

According to the 1910 Tarrant County census, Robert was born in Alabama to two Tennesseans. He and his wife, E. A. McCain, had been married fifty-five years, hence about 1855. She was born in Mississippi to an American father and an Alabama mother. She had given birth to ten children, five of whom were still alive in 1910.

Robert I. McCain died August 4, 1910 at his home near Keller, and was buried in Bourland Cemetery there. Mrs. Eliza A. McCain was born October 20, 1838 and died February 23, 1912, according to her headstone at Bourland Cemetery. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. McCain has a death certificate on file in the Texas vital statistics office. Neither of them filed an application for a Texas Confederate pension.

Robert I. McCain's ten children included Leona (Lee Anna, Leanna) V. McCain, Thomas I. (or D. or E.) McCain, Oscar W. McCain, Lenora Alice McCain, William L. McCain, Robert C. McCain, and Lula Cordelia McCain. There were three others whose names we have not discovered.

Thomas I. (or E. or D.) McCain was married in Tarrant County on February 3, 1881 to Margaret "Maggie" Bates. His headstone in Mount Gilead Cemetery says he was born December 6, 1859 and died December 3, 1899. His wife, Maggie, is buried beside him with a headstone which shows her dates of birth and death as October 26, 1865 and July 8, 1913 or 1918.

Robert C. McCain married Addie King on December 31, 1885. His mother's statement to the census taker seems to suggest Robert had died prior to 1910. There is a headstone in Mount Gilead Cemetery which says, "M. E. McCain, wife of R. C. McCain, Born Sept. 18, 1861, Died March 17, 1885 or 1886.

One of his children was Leona (or Leanna) V. McCain, who was born in Fannin County, Texas (according to her death certificate) on August 4, 1866. She married Robert V. Keller (1862-1939) in Tarrant County on November 29, 1882. She died at Keller, Texas on December 15, 1935, and was buried in Bourland Cemetery.

One of his children was Oscar W. McCain, who was born in Johnson County, Texas on March 4, 1874. He was married to Manerva Brooks. He died at 1415 Commerce Street in Fort Worth (his usual residence was Lake Worth, Texas) on September 1, 1938. He was buried in Bourland Cemetery. He was crushed to death by a falling wall while on duty as a fireman.

One of the children was Lula Cordelia McCain, who was born in Johnson County, Texas on August 16, 1876. She married J. E. Bourland (1876-1947) in Tarrant County on December 18, 1898. She died at her home in the River Oaks section of Fort Worth at 1019 Roberts Cut-Off on December 18, 1950. She and her husband lie buried in Bourland Cemetery in Keller.

One of the children was Lenora "Nora: Alice McCain Price, who was born March 23, 1878. She died at Keller on July 20, 1955, and was buried in Bourland Cemetery. She was married to Joseph Wiley Price in Tarrant County of November 15, 1896.

There is buried in Bourland Cemetery one James William "Billie" McCain, who was born December 25, 1871 and who died December 14, 1943. His wife was Mollie Alice Warren (1872-1929), and

they were married in Tarrant County on December 18, 1890. His death certificate says he was the son of R. S. McCain and Louisa Fowler, and that he was born at Antioch, Texas, a small community near Grandview in Johnson County, Texas. He was a retired policeman. He may have been the William L. McCain who was listed with Robert's family in 1880 as having been born about 1868. He was not listed with Robert's family when the 1870 census was taken. We have been unable to locate the family of Thomas William McCain, Robert's brother, in the 1880 census to see if this James William McCain appears with them.

