



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Samuel H. Stafford

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Samuel H. Stafford was an officer in a Tennessee infantry regiment. He came to Tarrant County from Lincoln County, Tennessee in the 1870's, and settled in the northern part of present-day Bedford.

Samuel H. Stafford was born about 1824 in Tennessee. He and his wife, Elizabeth Chapman, were married in Lincoln County, Tennessee on August 5, 1849. She was born about 1829 in Tennessee, and was a sister of another of our veterans, Thomas A. Chapman.

Samuel appears in the 1850 census of Subdivision 2 of Lincoln County, Tennessee as a farmer. He and his wife, Elizabeth, had no children living with them.

Ten years later, in 1860, still in District 2 of Lincoln County, Samuel and his wife, Elizabeth headed a family which included two sons, Cullum and Thomas Chapman. Samuel was serving as a constable in addition to farming for a living.

Samuel H. Stafford served the Confederacy as a First Lieutenant in Captain J. L. Moore's Company of Newman's Battalion Tennessee Infantry. This company subsequently became Co. E, 23rd Battalion Tennessee Infantry. He enlisted at Lynchburg, Tennessee on November 8, 1862 for a term of three years, and was appointed First Lieutenant on the same day. On November 16, 1862 he was mustered into the Confederate service at Winchester, Tennessee by R. M. Cox, the Assistant Inspector General. Mr. Stafford said he was thirty-nine years old.

A signed original of Mr. Stafford's resignation remains in his file in the National Archives. It is dated July 16, 1863. In it, he said "My reasons are that I do not wish a report in my case before an examining board to go to the war department..."

Mr. Stafford resigned his commission on August 3, 1863, but apparently remained in the service as an enlisted man. His name appears on a roll of prisoners of war paroled by the U. S. Provost Guard at Fayetteville, Tennessee on August 8, 1863.

On February 3, 1865 at Tullahoma, Tennessee, Mr. Stafford signed an oath of allegiance to the federal government. He gave his place of residence as Lincoln County, Tennessee. He had dark hair, eyes, and complexion. He was six feet tall. He was a “family man.”

In the 1870 census of Lincoln County, Tennessee, S. H. Stafford and his wife, Elizabeth, still had only two children with them, sons W. L. C. Stafford and T. A. C. Stafford. Family historians who have placed material on the internet say Stafford and his family moved from Moore County, Tennessee to Texas by 1874.

In 1880 Thomas and Elizabeth lived alone in the Bedford area of Tarrant County. Their son, Thomas, and his family were their next-door neighbors. Three houses away was the family of their son, Cullen Stafford.

In 1880 Samuel Stafford owned sixty acres of the L. L. McLain survey worth four hundred twenty dollars and twelve and one-half acres of the L. J. Teeters survey, worth sixty dollars. He owned farming implements worth five dollars, one horse or mule worth ten dollars and two cows worth twelve dollars.

In modern-day terms, these two adjacent surveys lie in the extreme northern part of Bedford. Each survey is one mile north-south by one-half mile east-west. The surveys' north lines are today's Cheek-Sparger Road, and their south lines lie along Harwood Road for most of their lengths. McLain Road runs north-south through the McLain survey. The point at which Forest Ridge Drive intersects Cheek-Sparger Road is the northeast corner of the McLain survey and the northwest corner of the Teeters survey. The intersection of Hillwood Way with Cheek-Sparger Road is the approximate northeast corner of the Teeters survey.

We have found no records of Samuel H. Stafford or Elizabeth (Chapman) Stafford after the 1880 census. Neither of them has a readable headstone in any northeast Tarrant County cemetery. Neither of them was pensioned for Samuel's Confederate service. Neither of them has a Texas death certificate. Both their sons, Cull and Tom Stafford, have living descendants.

William Cullen Stafford was born in January 29, 1853 (according to his death certificate. He and his wife, Elizabeth Melton Stafford, appear with two of their children in the 1880 census of Tarrant County, in the Bedford area. He spent much of his life working as a horse and cattle trader. By 1900, Elizabeth Stafford had died, and Mr. Stafford had moved to Erath County, Texas. With him was his second wife, Johnnie Brown Stafford (1877-1929). Cull Stafford died March 21, 1931 in Stephenville, Erath County, Texas, and was buried there in West End Cemetery.

Thomas A. Curry Stafford was born about 1855. When the 1880 census was taken, Thomas was living in Precinct 3 of Tarrant County with his wife, Nancy Priscilla (Hensley) Stafford (born 1859), and their son, Thomas Gilbert Stafford (1879-1964). Nancy was the daughter of another of our

veterans, James Hensley, of the Pleasant Glade Community. The death certificate of one of Thomas A. C. Curry's children says he (the child) was born at Gainesville, Cooke County, Texas in 1886. By 1900, Thomas A. C. Stafford had moved to Erath County, Texas and was living near his brother, Cull Stafford, where both men worked at stock traders. About 1891 Thomas had been remarried to a widow named Manda. At the end of his life, Thomas Curry Stafford lived in Childress County, Texas with the family of his son, Walter. Thomas Curry Stafford died April 3, 1929 in Childress County, Texas, and was buried in Childress Cemetery.