Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

James Jasper Cannon

Compiled by Michael Patterson
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James Jasper Cannon was a Tennessean who served in both armies during the Civil War, first as a Confederate, then as a Federal. By 1880 he had joined several other family members here in northeast Tarrant County. His brother, Wiley Green Cannon, was a pioneer of Bedford and is also included on this memorial. James died in Dallas County and lies buried there.

James J. Cannon was born in Bedford County, Tennessee on January 7, 1840 and was a son of Almon Cannon who died in Bedford County.

At the time of the 1850 census, James was eleven years old and was living with his parents and siblings in District 23 of Bedford County. His father and older brothers were working as tenant farmers.

James J. Cannon of Bedford County joined the Confederate Army on November 26, 1861 and became a private in Capt. Littleberry Logan's Company of Tennessee Volunteers. This company subsequently became Co. K, 41st Regiment Tennessee Infantry. The regiment was surrendered at Fort Donelson, Tennessee on February 16, 1862 and was released at Vicksburg, Mississippi about September 20, 1862. It was immediately re-organized and was declared exchanged at Aiken's Landing, Virginia, on November 10, 1862. The men not captured at Fort Donelson were assigned to other commands.

Mr. Cannon was "left at Camp Trousdale sick" on December 23, 1862 and did not rejoin his regiment until December 1, 1863. Muster rolls of the regiment show he left the Army on November 27, 1863 during the retreat from Missionary Ridge. It seems likely he was actually captured by the Union army because he was forwarded to the military prison in Louisville, Kentucky on December 13, 1863. He took the oath of allegiance to the Union five days later and was sent north of the Ohio River and released. When he took the oath he was described as having a fair complexion, sandy hair and blue eyes, and was five feet nine inches tall.
On December 14, 1863 he joined the Union army at Louisville, Kentucky and agreed to serve a term of three years. He became a private in Co. F, 20th Kentucky [Union] Infantry. At enlistment he was paid a bounty of twenty-five dollars, a premium of twelve dollars, a thirty-five dollar commutation fee, and thirteen dollars in advance pay. His enlistment was credited to the Fifth Kentucky Enrollment District. On January 17, 1865 Mr. Cannon was transferred to Co. B, 5th Kentucky [Union] Cavalry. He was with Sherman during the march across Georgia to the Atlantic, and after that north into the Carolinas. He was mustered out of the service at Louisville, Kentucky on September 6, 1865, at which time he owed the U. S. army $8.87 for some articles of clothing or equipment. He was still owed eighty dollars of the original three hundred dollar enlistment bounty due him.

On October 24, 1867 in Bedford County James J. Cannon married Mary Susan Haley. She was born September 26, 1846, and was the daughter of Edward Taylor Haley (1819-1894) and his wife, Mary Ann (Coats) Haley (1822-1886), both of whom died in Tarrant County, Texas and lie buried in Bear Creek Cemetery in Euless. Mr. Haley and his wife had arrived here from Bedford County by 1875.

At some point in the late 1860’s the Cannons moved for a short time to Missouri. Family sources say one of the children was born in 1870 in Phelps County, Missouri. They do not appear in the 1870 census there. The Missouri birthplace is confirmed by their entry in the 1880 census.

By the time of the taking of the 1880 census James Cannon and his family had settled in northeast Tarrant County, Texas. James’ family’s next-door neighbors were the family of his father-in-law, Edward T. Haley. The Cannons had six children living with them: Samuel, Mary, Cora, Rutha, Elizabeth, and Sophronia.

James J. Cannon appears in the 1880 Tarrant County agricultural census. He was sharecropping on a farm of thirty-six acres of improved land. He owned farming implements worth fifty dollars and livestock worth one hundred. He estimated all his farm products in 1879 were valued at one hundred eighty dollars. He owned two horses, two hogs, and thirteen chickens. His twenty acres of Indian corn had produced one hundred bushels in the past year. He had made four bales of cotton from his sixteen-acre field.

We have been unable to locate this family in any Dallas County, Texas census. They spent the last years of their lives there. On February 13, 1904 Mr. Cannon filed an application for an invalid’s pension based upon his service in the Union army. It was granted, with an additional amount being approved in 1907 because of his advanced age. His pension files were not consulted in preparation of this sketch because of the prohibitive cost of obtaining copies from the National Archives. His application number was 1,308,796 and his certificate number was 1,083,048.

Mrs. Cannon died on November 27, 1905 and was buried in Oakland Cemetery near downtown Dallas. A short mention of her death appeared in the Dallas Morning News the next day: “Mrs. J. J. Cannon, aged 57 years, died four miles east of Dallas. Interment was made yesterday.”

On March 9, 1910 one of Mr. Cannon’s sons-in-law, J. P. McAllester, thirty-four years of age and a resident of Dallas County, made an affidavit saying that he had copied the Cannon family register
from an old family Bible showing James J. Cannon’s date of birth among a group of children born to Almon Cannon. McAllester said he remembered that the Bible was printed in the 1830’s but he did not recall the exact date. This affidavit was made in connection with the pension of J. Cannon of Co. B, 6th Regt. Ky. Cav.” Mr. Cannon himself wrote that he had borrowed the family Bible from his brother, Zachariah T. Cannon, who had owned it for about ten years. James then mailed it back to his brother.

Mr. Cannon died of apoplexy on November 3, 1911 and was buried beside his wife. A notice appeared in the Dallas Morning News on November 5: “James J. Cannon died early yesterday morning at Grand Prairie and was buried in Oakland Cemetery yesterday afternoon. The body was received by George W. Loudermilk and taken to the residence of a son-in-law, J. P. McAllester, 2201 Peabody avenue, where the funeral was held at 4:30 o’clock, Rev. W. R. Covington, officiating.” His death certificate says he died on November 3 and was buried November 4. The Cannons’ graves are marked with a double upright engraved granite headstone.

Family sources have a family Bible which names eleven children for James and Mary Cannon. They include Samuel Edward Cannon, Mary Tennessee Cannon, Carrie Irene Cannon, Ruth Ann Cannon, Elizabeth Other Cannon, Safronia Edith Cannon, Mina Fannie Cannon, James Walter Cannon, Willie Susan Cannon, Leslie Cannon, and Ollie Green Cannon. The birthplaces in the following accounts were taken from material placed on ancestry.com by Cannon descendants.

Samuel Edward Cannon was born August 13, 1868 in Bedford County, Tennessee. He died on February 4, 1939 at his home at 611 North Elm Street in Arlington, Tarrant County. He was buried in Oakland Cemetery in Dallas.

Mary Tennessee Cannon was born May 6, 1870 in Phelps County, Missouri. Her death certificate gives her date of birth as May 5, 1871 in Shelbyville, Tennessee. She married Edward Walter Turck (1870-1950). She died at 9:20 p.m. on November 9, 1954 at her home at 701 Hill Street in Grand Prairie, Texas. She was buried in Southland Cemetery in Grand Prairie.

Carrie Irene Cannon was born March 20, 1872 in Bedford County, Tennessee. She married Jake Simpson Bobo (1863-1908), a son of Bedford pioneer Weldon Wiles Bobo. Her death certificate says she was born on March 25. She died at 6 a.m. on August 21, 1953 at her home at 1135 South Waverly Street in Dallas. She was buried in Restland Cemetery in Dallas.

Ruth Ann Cannon was born March 31, 1874 in Bedford County, Tennessee. She worked for many years as a seamstress at a clothing manufactory. She married James Polk McAllister (1876-1917). She died at 9:15 p.m. on July 15, 1954 in the IOOF Home at Ennis, Ellis County, Texas. Her last permanent home was at 6833 Joyce Way in Dallas, Texas. She was buried in Oakland Cemetery in Dallas.

Elizabeth Other Cannon was born August 16, 1876 in Bedford County, Tennessee. Her death certificate gives her name as Lizzie Opal Lynn. She married Hugh Lynn (1874-1942). She died at 9:45 a.m. on March 8, 1961 in Vernon, Wilbarger County, Texas. Her last permanent home was in
the northeast part of the town of Chillicothe, Hardeman County, Texas. She was buried in Chillicothe Cemetery.

Safronia Edith Cannon was born December 24, 1878 in the area of Bedford or Euless, Tarrant County, Texas. She was married first to Henry Willie Tatum (1867-1908), and later to James Davis. Her death certificate says she was born in 1879. She died July 19, 1949 at her home on rural route 3 out of Arlington, Texas, and was buried in Parkdale Cemetery in Arlington.

Mina Fannie Cannon was born November 16, 1880 in the area of Bedford or Euless, Tarrant County, Texas. She died June 16, 1881 and was buried in Bear Creek Cemetery in Euless, Texas.

James Walter Cannon was born June 14, 1882 in Grand Prairie, Dallas County, Texas. He married Myrtle Lavonia Culbertson (1886-1973) on July 25, 1909 in Grand Prairie, Texas. They lived many years of their lives in Johnson and Mitchell Counties, Texas. He died in Cedar Hill, Dallas County, Texas on December 12, 1956.

Willie Susan Cannon was born October 26, 1884 in Tarrant County, Texas. She married John Earl Anderson (1868-1925). Descendants say she died December 10, 1978 in San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas.

Leslie Cannon was born January 20, 1887 in Tarrant County, Texas. His headstone says he was born January 25. He died May 29, 1891 and was buried in Bear Creek Cemetery in Euless, Texas.

Ollie Green Cannon was born January 6, 1889 in Tarrant County, Texas. His death certificate says he was born at Bedford. His wife was Winnie Davis Daugherty (1892-1965). He was employed in the parts department at Ford Motor Company. He died at 8 a.m. on May 31, 1955 at his home at 723 Hollywood in Dallas, Texas. He was buried in Laurel Land Memorial Park in Dallas.