Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

James Madison Frogge

Compiled by Michael Patterson
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James Madison Frogge was a Confederate veteran and one of the pioneers of modern-day Southlake. He settled here in the 1850’s and spent the rest of his life here.

According to information posted at Ancestry.com, James was born May 27, 1831, and was a son of John Frogge (died in Union Co., Illinois on January 8, 1844) and his wife, Priscilla Williams (born March 27, 1803, died in Union County about 1870). James M. Frogge’s mother, Priscilla Williams, was a sister to Mrs. Keziah (Williams) Martin, the wife of Southlake pioneer Urias Martin, who died in present-day Southlake in 1855.

The same source gives James M. Frogge's marriage in Union County, Illinois to Mary Martin Piersall on March 21, 1850. She was born May 8, 1834. She lies beside James in the Hood Cemetery in Southlake. James and Mary appear in the 1850 Union County census, District 2, with no children.

In 1860, James owned one hundred twenty acres of the J. M. Frogge survey, worth $480. The Texas General Land Office does not have records of any patent or survey in his name in Tarrant County.

James M. Frogge originally enlisted in the Confederate company commanded by William Quayle. Later, he served as a Corporal in Co. A, 9th Texas Cavalry. His official records in the National Archives say he enlisted on October 14, 1861 at Camp Reeves, Grayson County, Texas, for a term of one year. He traveled one hundred fifty miles to the regimental rendezvous, and brought with him a horse worth $115 and equipment worth $18. He is shown as a First Corporal on the regimental roll for November and December, 1861. He was at Fort Gibson [Oklahoma] on December 31, 1861. The records show him still at Fort Gibson and sick in camp at some time during March or April 1862. He is shown present on all rolls through the end of 1862, with the exception of some point during November or December when he was absent at Middleburg, Tennessee after an engagement with the enemy.
Later records show him to have been taken prisoner there on December 22, 1862. Union prisoner or war records say he escaped from the federal prison at Cairo, Illinois in the spring of 1863, and that he had “still not been heard from.” He continued to be shown as a prisoner on his own regiment’s rolls as late as June, 1864. One note in his file says he is a prisoner, and references “manuscript no. 3074, page 3,” but contains no further information pertaining to him.

The census taker in 1870 found James and his family in the Southlake area of Tarrant County. One of his next-door neighbors was Captain William W. McGinnis, whose biography also appears in this series. James was born about 1831 in Tennessee. His wife, Mary, was born about 1833 in Kentucky. They had one child living with them in 1870, Martha Frogge, who was born in Missouri about 1855.

Headstones in Hood Cemetery in Southlake show that James died December 27, 1878, at the age of forty-seven years and five months. His wife, Mary, died August 27, 1890. Two of their children are also buried beside them, George W. Frogge (September 15, 1852-October 1, 1867), and John C. Frogge (born December 20 or 30, 1863; the death date on his stone is obliterated, but he was dead by 1870).

When the 1880 census was taken, James’s widow, Mary M. Frogge, was living in Tarrant County’s Precinct 2 north of Big Bear Creek. She was boarding with the family of James J. West, and had none of her own children living with her. Mrs. West was Martha E. Frogg (August 1, 1855-November 11, 1915). She and James J. West were married December 13, 1877. They and one of their children are buried beside Mr. and Mrs. Frogge in Hood Cemetery.

Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Frogge lived long enough to apply for a Confederate pension from the State of Texas.
MARY M. FROGGE
BORN
MAY 8, 1834
DIED
AUG. 27, 1890.