Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

James Knox Polk Hammond

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James Knox Polk Hammond was a Confederate veteran and pioneer in the Bedford community. He buried his wife at Bedford in 1919, and eventually went back to Arkansas where he died.

J. K. P. Hammond was born November 19, 1844 in Randolph County, Alabama. Family sources report he was a son of Elijah Hammond. When the 1860 census was taken, J. K. P. Hammond was still living with his father, step-mother, and siblings in the southern district of Randolph County, Alabama.

Mr. Hammond served the Confederacy as a soldier in Co. A, 7th Alabama Infantry. His official records in the National Archives say he enlisted at Montgomery, Alabama on March 22, 1861 for a term of twelve months...thus he enlisted several days before the firing on Fort Sumter in South Carolina. He was mustered in at Barancas, Alabama on April 7, 1861. His name appears “present” on a muster roll for the regiment for the period April 7 through June 30, 1861. On a roll for the period of July 1 through August 31, 1861, Mr. Hammond was absent on a twenty-day furlough from August 23 by order of General Bragg. Nothing further is found of his military service in his official records. In his pension application, Mr. Hammond said he left the service on March 27, 1865.

Mr. Hammond was married three times. He and his first wife, Malinda Youngblood, were probably married soon after the Civil War in either Alabama or Texas. They were in Tarrant County, Texas by the time the 1870 census was taken, and had been there some time, since they had a two-year-old daughter who was a native Texan. Lu Ella Hammond, Lee(roy) Morgan Hammond, born November 15, 1869, died February 10, 1962, buried at Bedford. Walter T. Hammond,(born December 25, 1871, died February 14, 1962 in Tarrant County, buried at Rose Hill in east Fort Worth (Handley).
His second wife, Ann L. Cook, was born April 1, 1853 in Texas and died October 29, 1919. She lies buried near two of their children in Bedford Cemetery in northeast Tarrant County, Texas. Their children included Robert P. Hammond (born January 1876), Polk Wright Hammond (Apr. 19, 1880-Sept. 26, 1911), Judd Elijah. Hammond (Sept. 25, 1884-Oct. 26, 1961, a physician, buried at Bedford) Charley Hammond (Feb. 8-Oct. 23, 1887, buried at Bedford); Dora Hammond (Feb. 16, 1878-Aug. 6, 1883 or 1888); Lonnie Hammond (born August 1888); Winnie Hammond (born January 1891); Grace Hammond (born August 1893); and Mabel Hammond (born August 1896). When the census was taken in 1900, Mrs. Hammond said she’d given birth to eleven children, eight of whom were still living. If that is correct, then there are two missing from this list, one of whom was alive but living apart from the family.

Mr. Hammond told pension officials he moved from Texas back to Arkansas about 1902. After he returned to Arkansas, he was known as the Old Fiddler, and wrote a tune called the “Hammond Waltz.”

He was married to his third wife, Nannie, after his return to Arkansas not long after Ann L. (Cook) Hammond’s death. When the 1930 census was taken, Mr. and Mrs. Hammond had a thirty-six-year-old single female living with them named Johnnie Pumphrey, listed as Mr. Hammond’s step-daughter.

On June 9, 1920 Mr. Hammond applied to the State of Arkansas for a Confederate pension. At the time, he was living at Zinc, Boone County, Arkansas. Dr. R. S. Crebs said Hammond was seventy-five years old, suffered from senile decay, was totally blind in his right eye and was half-blind in his left eye.

Mr. Hammond died March 17, 1936. His Confederate pension file contains his funeral bill, for a casket for $55 and burial garments for $17.50. Hammond’s widow, Nannie, was born March 15, 1869 and died in the month of September, year unknown to this researcher. Mr. Hammond lies buried in a marked grave in the Davidson Cemetery in Zinc, Boone County, Arkansas.

One of Mr. Hammond’s sons was Lee Hammond, an educator and one of the two founders of what is now the University of Texas at Arlington. The other founder, also from the Bedford community, was William M. Trimble, a son of another of our Confederate veterans, Green Berry Trimble.