Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Jeremiah D. Keating

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Jeremiah D. Keating was a native of Ireland who told the census taker in 1890 that he had served time aboard a Union gunship. He died near Watauga in 1917 and was buried in Smithfield Cemetery.

Jeremiah was born April 4, 1842 in Ireland. He came to the United States during the Civil War, probably in either 1863. Jeremiah Keating and his second wife, Mary Doody, both of Poplar Bluff, Butler County, Missouri, got their license to marry on April 17, 1884. She was born November 28, 1864, according to her headstone. She was a native of Illinois. Her death certificate shows the date as November 29.

Jerry “Kating” appears in the 1880 census of the village of Sandoval in Marion County, Illinois. Jeremiah’s first wife had recently died. His household consisted of his sister, Mary (who was born in Ireland about 1861) and three of his children: Debbie (born about 1871), Daniel (born about 1873), and Thomas (born about 1878). All three of the children were born in Illinois, and their mother was a native of Ireland. Jerry was working as a railroad section boss.

When the census of Union veterans of the Civil War was taken by the U.S. Census bureau in 1890, Mr. Keating was listed as a resident of Tarrant County. He said he had served time as a seaman on Union gunboat number 28, had enlisted in 1864, and was released from the service on August 15, 1865, but gave no further details. The records of the Union navy are not available online and have not been examined by this compiler.
Mr. Keating’s home appears on the Stanley survey near the Watauga community on the Sam Street Map of Tarrant County, made in December 1895. In modern-day terms, his home sat in the north part of present-day Haltom City, south of Western Center Boulevard, east of Haltom Road, at about the spot now occupied by Spicer Elementary School.

In 1900, J. D. Keating owned one hundred thirty-seven acres of the G. B. Stanley, worth one thousand six hundred and fifty dollars. He also owned six horses or mules worth one hundred eighty dollars, six cows worth eighty dollars, two carriages or wagons worth twenty dollars, and farming implements worth eighty dollars. In terms of modern-day landmarks, this property.

Jeremiah Keating appears in the 1900 census of Smithfield, Tarrant County. With him were his wife, Mary, and children Thomas, Geoffrey, Jeremiah, Mary, Maurice P., Ellen, Lenora, and twin sons Stephen and Richard.

Ten years later, in 1910, the Keating family appears in the Smithfield Precinct’s census. Mary Keating said she had given birth to eleven children, all of whom were still alive. Jeremiah Keating told the census taker he was a naturalized citizen, and that he had arrived in the United States in 1865 [date is difficult to read and may be earlier]. Ten of the eleven were with them: Jeremiah Jr., Mary, Maurice, Ellen, Lenora, Stephen, Richard, John, Julia, and Valentine Keating.

Jeremiah Keating died August 24, 1917. A short obituary for him appeared in the Fort Worth paper: the day after he died: “Jerry D. Keating. Jerry D. Keating, 75, died at the family residence near Watauga at 2 o’clock Friday afternoon. He had been a resident of Tarrant County for many years and formerly was roadmaster for the Texas and Pacific railroad and later for the Fort Worth and Denver City. He is survived eight sons and four daughters, and also by three sisters in the United States and one in Ireland. Funeral service will be held in Smithfield on Sunday. The body will be taken to Smithfield overland by the Fort Worth Undertaking company.”

Mary Keating and eight of her children appear in the 1920 census at their home in Precinct 4 of Tarrant County. Mary D. Keating died at her home near Watauga at 11:25 a.m. on January 6, 1928 (her headstone says January 8) and was buried beside her husband in Smithfield Cemetery. Her death was caused by nephritis and chronic paralysis. Her parents’ names are given on her death certificate as David Doody and Miss Brenham, both natives of Ireland.

The following list includes one of Jeremiah Keating’s children in his first marriage, and all eleven of his children in his marriage with Mary Doody. It seems likely these are the twelve children mentioned as his survivors in his 1917 obituary.

Thomas F. Keating was born May 16, 1878 in Illinois. He was living with his father’s family at Smithfield in 1900. The census says both his parents were natives of Ireland. He died December 4, 1907 and was buried in Smithfield Cemetery.

Geoffrey Keating was born May 11, 1886. He worked as a steam fitter. He died from a gunshot wound along Sylvania Avenue in Fort Worth on September 9, 1927, and was buried in Smithfield Cemetery.
Jeremiah D. Keating Jr. was born August 9, 1888. He worked as a telegraph operator for the Texas and Pacific Railroad. He died in St. Joseph’s Hospital at 6 a.m. on November 15, 1945. His last permanent address was along Route 2 on Lower Birdville Road in east Fort Worth. He was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

Mary Keating was born April 19, 1891 at Clarendon, Texas. She was never married. She worked as a seamstress at Leonard Brothers store in Fort Worth. She died in St. Joseph’s Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas on April 25, 1969, and was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth. Her last permanent address was 3320 Caddo Trail in Lake Worth Village in Tarrant County.

Maurice Patrick “Pat” Keating was born May 8, 1893. He was still living with his father’s family at Smithfield in 1910. He was living single with his mother and siblings in 1920. He died on December 2, 1979 in Fort Worth and was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery beside his wife, Evelina A. Keating (1899-1971).

Ellen Keating was born in December, 1894. She was living with her father’s family at Smithfield in 1900. She was still living single with her mother in 1920.

Lenora “Nora” Keating was born October 9, 1896. She died at 11 p.m. on October 24, 1918 at her home near Watauga. Her death certificate lists her cause of death as lobar pneumonia. She was buried in Smithfield Cemetery.

Richard Morgan Keating, a twin, was born July 25, 1899. He worked as a butcher for Swift and Company. He died at the City-County Hospital in Fort Worth at 8:40 p.m. on November 20, 1940. His headstone says he died on November 23. His last permanent address was 3729 Lawnwood in Fort Worth. He was buried at Smithfield Cemetery.

Stephen James Keating, a twin, was born July 25, 1899. He was dead on arrival at 3:20 p.m. at St. Joseph’s Hospital on February 23, 1966. He worked as a crane operator for a construction company. He died from a heart attack he sustained while trying to resuscitate a person who had been electrocuted. He was buried in Bluebonnet Hills Memorial Park in Colleyville, Texas.

John Paul Keating was born on January 28, 1901. He worked as a blacksmith for Swift and Company. He married Margaret Penelope Reding (1904-1995). He was dead on arrival at Harris Hospital in Fort Worth on the morning of June 11, 1958. His last address was Route 1, Box 60, Keller. He was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

Julia Margaret Keating was born June 12, 1905. She was with her mother’s family in the 1920 census. She married Walter Carl Schertz (1897-1960), a veteran of World War II, and gave birth to a child in Tarrant County in 1940. She died in Tarrant County on May 11, 1995; her headstone gives her date of death as May 31, 1995. She and her husband lie buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

Valentine Keating was born February 14, 1910. He was with his mother’s family in the 1920 census. He worked as a truck driver for Tarrant County. His last permanent address was 1210 Clarence Street in Haltom City in Tarrant County. He died in St. Joseph’s Hospital in Fort Worth on June 13, 1968
and was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery. His wife, Margaret DeQueen Cummings Keating (1910-1993) lies buried beside him.