Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

John Milton Taylor Pipkin

Compiled by Michael Patterson
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John Milton Taylor Pipkin was a Union veteran of a Tennessee regiment who spent the last years of his life at Keller. He lies buried in Bourland Cemetery.

He was born January 9, 1849 in Monroe County, Kentucky (or Macon County, Tennessee), a son of William Harvey Pipkin (1828-1863) and his wife, Elizabeth J. Patterson (1830-1857). The were married on October 14, 1846 in Monroe County, Kentucky. Monroe County, Kentucky and Macon County, Tennessee, are contiguous counties, even though they are in two different states. Some members of the Pipkin family remember that one family home actually sat astraddle the state line.

William Harvey Pipkin and his family are found in the 1850 census of Macon County, Tennessee’s District 5. Both parents and both of the children are shown as natives of Tennessee. They were not slave owners.

Ten years later, the family was in Simpson County, Kentucky, where William H. Pipkin was working as a school teacher. William was married to a second wife, Nancy Walker, in 1859, after his first wife’s death in 1857. Eleven-year-old John M. Pipkin is shown as a Kentuckian, while both parents and John’s next-youngest brother, Samuel, were Tennesseans. The birthplaces of John’s siblings seem to indicate they may have lived in Tennessee until about 1856, after which they returned to Kentucky.

Family members at Ancestry.com say that John M. T. Pipkin’s father, William H. Pipkin, also served in the Union Army and died in service at Jamestown, Barren County, Kentucky on October 9, 1863.

John M. T. Pipkin served the Union as a private in Co. A, 8th Regiment Tennessee Mounted Infantry. His service records in the National Archives are very sparse. He gave officials an inflated age of eighteen years when he enlisted for a one-year term of service at Carthage, Tennessee on
November 22, 1864. He was five feet eight inches tall, and had a dark complexion, dark hair, and dark eyes. He said he was a native of Macon County, Tennessee.

The 8th Tennessee Mounted Infantry was organized at Nashville and Carthage, Tennessee in November, 1864. It was attached to the District of Middle Tennessee, Department of the Cumberland, until February, 1865. It was then attached to the 4th Sub-District, District of Middle Tennessee, until August, 1865. The regiment served on duty at Nashville and Carthage, Tennessee until June, 1865. Afterwards it served at Clifton and Savannah, Tennessee, and in the District of Middle Tennessee until August. It was mustered out August 17, 1865.

John M. T. Pipkin was married on November 19, 1871 to Mary Eleanor Bray in Macon County, Tennessee. Her death certificate lists her date of birth as February 27, 1852. She was born in Macon County, Tennessee. Her father, James Bray, was a native of Clay County, Tennessee and her mother, Catherine Lewis Tuck, was a native of Virginia.

John and Mary Pipkin appear in the census of 1880 at Sarcoxie, Jasper County, Missouri, in District 62. John said he was born in Kentucky; his wife, Mary, said she and their daughter, Mary, were born in Tennessee. Their daughter, Nora, was born in Missouri.

John M. T. Pipkin was pensioned for his service in Co. A, 8th Tennessee Mounted Infantry in the Union army. His index card in the National Archives shows that he died April 15, 1924 at Keller, Texas.

The home of J. M. “Pipkins” appears on the Sam Street Map of Tarrant County made in December, 1895. It sat in the eastern part of Keller’s residential district, on the Samuel Needham survey. In modern-day terms, it was located south of FM1709/Keller Parkway, east of Highway 377/Main Street, probably at about the northwest corner of the intersection of Cindy Street and East Vine Street.

John and Mary Pipkin appear in the 1900 census of Tarrant County, Texas in the Keller community. He said he was born in January, 1849 in Kentucky to a Tennessean father and a Kentuckian mother. It says Mary Pipkin was born November 1851 in Tennessee to a North Carolinian father and a Virginian mother. They had been married twenty-nine years, and Mrs. Pipkin said she had given birth to seven children, six of whom were still living. The children with them in that census were Nora A. (born in March 1877), Freddie (born in September 1880), Bert (born in February 1882), George B. born in August 1884), Mary E. (born in August 1887), and William (born in August 1889). All the children were born in born in Missouri. Nora was working as a stenographer.

The Pipkins appear in the 1910 Tarrant County tax list as the owners of eighty acres of the Permelia Allen survey, one hundred twenty-two acres of the Samuel Needham survey (on which survey most of “downtown” Keller sat), sixty acres of the W. H. Slaughter survey, and fifty acres of the S. K. Elliott survey. They also owned nine horses or mules worth $450, two cattle worth $50, fifteen hogs worth $70, two carriages or buggies worth $40, and five hundred dollars worth of “manufacturer’s tools, implements, and machinery.”
Mary “Ellen” Pipkin died at Keller, Texas on March 10, 1918. The cause of death was listed as organic heart disease and old age. She was buried in Bourland Cemetery. Family genealogists with postings on the internet say John M. T. Pipkin died at Keller, Texas on April 24, 1924. The Pipkins’ headstones give only the years of their births and deaths.

The following list of the Pipkins’ children was compiled from internet genealogy sources, headstones, and Texas death certificates. It accounts for all their children but one, who probably died young.

Lenora Alice Pipkin Hall was born in Joplin, Missouri on March 3, 1877. She died in Baylor Hospital in Dallas on May 30, 1953. She was buried in Grove Hill Memorial Park in Dallas. She was a widow at the time of her death. The informant for the death certificate was Miss Helen Hall.

Frederick Taylor Pipkin was born September 30, 1880, and died May 8, 1950 in Tarrant County, Texas.

John Burton Bert Pipkin was born in Missouri on February 7, 1882. He died at Keller, Texas on May 13, 1938 and was buried in Bourland Cemetery there.

George Bray Pipkin was born in Tennessee on August 25, 1884. He died at his home in Fort Worth at 2523 Lorraine Street on August 8, 1947. He lies buried in the Garden of Memories Cemetery (Mt. Olivet) in Fort Worth.

Mary Ellen Pipkin was born Aug 13, 1887. She died October 6, 1978 in Dallas County, Texas.

William Wilson Pipkin was born at Keller on July 15, 1891. He died August 14, 1956 at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Keller and was buried in Bourland Cemetery.

Several family genealogists have posted biographical data on Mr. Pipkin at Ancestry.com.
Photo made at Keller about 1895. Parents are seated. Father is holding Bill Pipkin. Mary Ellen is between them. Kids standing behind parents l-r are Burt, Lenora, Fred & George.