

Meece Biographies:

Reminiscences of the Boys in Gray, 1861-1865

THEOPHILUS FRANKLIN MEECE, Livingston, Texas-Born June 11, 1840, about six miles west of Springfield, Tenn. Enlisted in the Confederate Army on Sept. 9, 1861, at Liberty, Texas, as First Corporal Company K, Fifth Texas Infantry, Hood's Brigade, Whiting's Division, afterwards Hood's, Jackson's and later Longstreet's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. My first Captain was Isaac M. N. (Ike) Turner, and first Colonel was John J. Archer of Maryland. I remained with the same command during the war.

Was severely wounded in the elbow at Second Manassas. Was severely wounded in the right arm and slightly in left groin at Gettysburg, Pa., on July 2, 1863, and at Second White Oak was shot in the neck, the ball lodging against the upper posterior portion of the shoulder blade, cutting the windpipe and swallow. I breathed through the wound until closed by lint. Was hit several times by spent balls but not seriously hurt.

Was taken prisoner at Gettysburg, where I remained with a badly wounded brother who died a few days later. I was sent to David's Island hospital. Was never in prison as I was paroled and returned to Richmond to await exchange. Was furloughed and went home where I remained till exchanged in May following. In the early part of 1862 was promoted to Fifth Sergeant and in July, 1864, was advanced to First (Orderly) Sergeant

Was in the battles of Eltham's Landing, Seven Oaks, Gaines' Farm, Malvern Hill, Freeman's Ford, Thoroughfare Gap, Second Manassas,

Gettysburg, New Market or Darbytown, Second White Oak, and various skirmishes. Was at the defense of Stanton Bridge June 25, 1864, as we were going to the command at Petersburg.

No one thought I could possibly live when I was wounded in the neck but was well and could have gone back to the command in thirty days. Took furlough for thirty days and went home and missed the battle in which Gen. Gregg was killed.

Was one of a committee of three to procure the transfer of Hood's Brigade to the Trans-Mississippi Department or furlough home to recruit same but Gen. Lee replied that he could not spare it.

I have always been proud of my service in the Confederate Army, believing that it was my duty, also a privilege to respond to the call to my country's defense. I came home during the existence of my parole and returned on being notified of my exchange, getting back to my command just one year from the time I was wounded. I had numerous opportunities to go into the service on this side of the river, but told them that I proposed to go back to my old associates. On my way back I walked nearly 300 miles before reaching transportation and had to walk from Danville, Va., to Petersburg after defending the railroad bridge across the Staunton River. Here I had a close call as a ball from a sharpshooter passed between my arm and body, cutting both the sleeve and body of my coat. I did not know of this till next day. I thought the ball knocked the dirt against me by hitting the bank in front of me.

HON. THEOPHILUS F. MEECE, LIVINGSTON

The Hon. Theophilus F. Meece (lawyer) of Livingston represents in the Twenty-seventh Legislature the counties of Polk and San Jacinto, which

compose the 35th legislative district. He was born in Maury County, Tennessee, June 11, 1810. His father, William Carroll Meece, a farmer, also a native of Maury County, born December 14, 1814, came to Texas, arriving at Livingston, Polk County March, 20, 1856. He settled on a farm near Livingston and lived there more than a quarter of a century, dying December 11, 1881. His mother, prior to her marriage, was Miss Hannah Bennett Fields. She was born in North Carolina. July 24, 1805, was married to Mr. Meece, Sr., May 31, 1838, and died at the Polk County, Texas, home, October 28, 1866.

Mr. Meece was educated at the Livingston Academy, Livingston, Texas. From the time of his leaving school till he had reached his twentieth year he employed himself on his father's farm, after which, prior to the breaking out of the Civil war. He worked about a year as a merchant's clerk in a business house at Livingston. He then enlisted as a Confederate soldier, becoming a member of Company K, Fifth regiment Texas volunteer infantry. He entered the service as first corporal, was promoted to fifth sergeant in 1862, and in July, 1861, was made first sergeant of his company. He saw much active service, as is evidenced by the following list of engagements participated in by him: Eltham's Landing, Seven Pines, Gaines Mill, Malvern Hill, Freeman's Ford, Thoroughfare Gap, Second Manassas, Fort Nansemond, Gettysburg, New Market (or Darbytown Road), and Second White Oak, besides participating in the defense of Stanton River, Bridge, June 25, 1864. He was wounded at Second Manassas, again at Gettysburg, and still again at Second White Oak. He was one of the remnant of the Army of Virginia surrendering with General Lee at Appomattox Courthouse.

After the war he returned to Livingston, Texas, and was engaged in the different vocations, on farm, in store, at carpenter's trade, etc., up to

1870, when he was appointed sheriff of Polk County. He served as sheriff until November, 1873, from which time till 1881 he was in the county clerk's office. In 1885 he was appointed county judge of Polk County, vice Judge T. T. Crossan resigned. He was elected to that office at the ensuing election, serving till 1888, since which time he has been engaged in law, land and insurance business at Livingston.

He has participated in political affairs to the extent of frequently attending both local and State conventions: of the latter, notably may be mentioned the Hogg-Clark convention at Houston. In 1895-96 he was chairman of the county Democratic executive committee of his county. In his race for the Twenty-seventh Legislature he was nominated without opposition and without solicitation on his part, but he was opposed in the general election by a Populist candidate, whom he defeated by 501 votes.

He was married in Polk County, Texas, May 13, 1869, to Miss Amelia Brown. They have lost one child, Willie U. a daughter of 15 years. They have living George F. Mary I. Mattie M., James H. Bennett A. Luther M. Thomas E. Charles S. Annie. C., and Brown L. He is a member of the Baptist church, is a Mason, and a Knight of Honor. He is a charter member of the Ike Turner camp of Confederate Veterans, and was appointed without his solicitation aid de camp by K. M. Van Zandt, major- general commanding Texas division, with the rank of major. He serves on committees as follows: Roads. Bridges and Ferries. Penitentiaries, Irrigation, and Railroad Commission.

Mr. Meece possesses much positiveness of character, but is yet of a quiet and unobtrusive disposition, and at the close of his two years'

service in the capacity of representative, his record will show to his constituents that they have chosen well.

T. F. MEECE

1840 - 1914

1st Sgt., Co. K, 5th Tex. Inf.

Confederate States Army

AMELIA, wife of

T. F. MEECE

July 8, 1843

May 13, 1916

WILLIE UZELL, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. T. F. MEECE Feb. 11, 1870 Jan. 21, 1885

Theophilus Meece was born June 11, 1840, near Springfield, Maury Co., Tenn., the son of William C. and Hannah Meece. The family came to Polk County in 1856. After completing his studies at the Livingston Academy he engaged in farming and clerking until his enlistment in the Confederate Army. Following his discharge after the surrender, he returned to his job as a clerk. In 1870 he was appointed Polk County Sheriff; elected County Clerk, 1873; District Clerk, 1884; County Judge, 1885-1888. He was licensed to practice law in 1897 and served in the 27th Texas State Legislature. He built and operated the Meece Hotel in Livingston. He was a charter member of the Ike Turner Camp, UCV, and an officer in the Texas Division UCV. He was a member of the Trinity

Masonic Lodge #14, the Knights of Honor, and the Livingston Baptist Church.

In 1869 he married Amelia Antoinette "Annie" Brown, born in Troup County, Ga., the daughter of Dr. Uzel M. and Amelia Brown. (Dr. Brown practiced medicine in Moscow).

Children:

Willie Uzel (above)

George Franklin 1871

Mary Inez 1873

Mattie Minerva 1875

James Henry 1877

Bennett Amelia 1879

Luther Marshall 1881

Thomas Epperson 1884

Charles Stewart 1887

Anne Corrine 1889

Brown Louis 1891

T. F. MEECE,

Born to William C. and Hannah B. Meece, Maury County, Tennessee, June 11, 1840; immigrated to Texas, arriving at Livingston March 18, 1856; educated in common schools and Livingston Academy; employed on father's farm until 20 years old, merchant's clerk one year.

Enlisted with Captain Ike Turner 1861, elected first corporal, promoted fifth sergeant 1862, and first sergeant July, 1864, which position he filled with satisfaction until the surrender of Lee's army at Appomattox Court House, Va., April 9, 1865; engaged in ten or more battles, severely wounded twice, and slightly three or more times; never absent from company until wounded at Second Manassas, August 30, 1862; captured at field hospital, Gettysburg, Pa., July 4, 1863, and paroled at David's Island hospital, near New York, about September 13, 1863; having been exchanged, returned to company at Petersburg, Va., July 4, 1864; member of committee of three, one from each regiment, to procure furlough for recruiting purposes or transfer to Trans-Mississippi Department, which was declined with regret by General Lee because could not dispense with valuable services of brigade; complimented by Major Littlefield, quartermaster, with making most equitable distribution of supplies to company, of any officer to whom he issued such supplies; after surrender returned home via New Orleans-Galveston in June, 1865; engaged in farming, in store and carpenter's trade until appointed sheriff 1870, elected district and county clerk November, 1873, holding to November, 1884, appointed county judge April, 1885, held to November, 1888; licensed as attorney at law June 1, 1897, elected representative Thirty-fifth District and served in Twenty-seventh Legislature, one regular and two special sessions. Charter member of Ike Turner Camp Confederate Veterans and presided over organization thereof, April 8, 1893, member of Monument Committee, Historical Committee, and with Comrades Hill, Alexander and Green has prepared for publication such historical data as has been available. Was on May 24, 1900, appointed aide de camp to Major General K. M. Van

Zandt, commanding Texas Division United Confederate Veterans, with rank of major.

One of the members of the Ike Turner Camp who helped assemble information about the organization's members, all veterans of the Civil War, was T.F. Meece, who distinguished himself both during the war and after. Born to William C. and Hannah B. Meece on June 11, 1840 in Maury County, Tenn., he came with them to Livingston in 1856.

He enlisted with Captain Ike Turner in 1861 as first corporal. He was promoted to sergeant in 1862 and to first sergeant in 1864. He took part in ten or more battles including the Second Manassas Aug. 30, 1862 was slightly wounded several times and twice seriously.

On July 4, 1863, when the Union Army of the Potomac advanced on Gettysburg following Gen. Lee's retreat, He was taken prisoner at a field hospital. He spent three months in prison at David's Island hospital near New York before he was paroled from there. He was returned to his company in a prisoner exchange exactly a year after his capture.

After the surrender he returned home and in 1869 was married to Annie Brown. He farmed and also worked as a carpenter and in a store until he was appointed sheriff in 1870. He was elected district clerk and county clerk in November, a position he held for a year. In April 1885 he was appointed county judge, and he served in that capacity until 1888.

He was licensed as an attorney in 1897. He was elected state representative and served in the 27th Legislature. He was a charter member of the Ike Turner Camp Confederate Veterans, presiding over its initial organization on April 8, 1983. He was a member of the historical committee and the monument committee, which did the

planning of the Civil War Veteran's monument that stands on the court house lawn today.

On May 24, 1900, with the rank of major, Meece was appointed aide de camp to Major Gen. K.M. Van Zandt, commander of the Texas Division of the United Confederate Veterans.....

MEECE, CALVIN WOOD

Moved to Texas 1856. Died June 15, Born 1843, Tennessee. 1864.

Buried Confederate section, Finn's Point National Cemetery, Salem, New Jersey [name appears with all others on a large monument-individual graves are not marked]. Enlisted April 29, 1861, Livingston, Texas, as a private, COMPANY B, 1st TEXAS INFANTRY. Residence-Liberty County, Texas. Occupation-farmer. Transferred to COMPANY K, 5th TEXAS INFANTRY March 1, 1863. Wounded and captured at Gettysburg, Pa., July 1863. Con- fined at Fort Delaware, Del., on Pea Patch Island. Died of illness while a prisoner of war.

MEECE, JAMES PINKNEY

Born 1845, Maury County, Tenn. Moved to Texas 1856. Died July 1863, Buried Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Va. [grave not identified).

Recruited March 21, 1863, Livingston, Texas, as a private, Company K, 5th Texas Infantry, Hood's Brigade.

Residence-Livingston, Polk Co., Texas. Occupation-farmer. Wounded and captured at Gettysburg, Pa., July 2, 1865. Died a few days later in a Federal field hospital near the battlefield. [Reinterred in Virginia after the war].

MEECE, MONROE DAWSON

Born June 24, 1847, Maury County, Tenn. Moved to Texas 1856. Died May 3, 1926. Buried Bold Springs Cemetery, Polk Co., Texas. Enlisted in J. W. Dunnam's POLK COUNTY MOUNTED RESERVES 1864. Residence Livingston, Polk Co., Texas. Occupation-student. Part of this unit was merged into COMPANY D, D.S. Terry's STATE CAVALRY TROOPS. Stationed at Cold Springs, Polk Co. spring of 1864. On the Texas coast later in the war. NA records do not show this unit. "Was at home on furlough when the surrender came." [Pension application, TA].

MEECE, THEOPHILUS FRANKLIN

Born June 11, 1840, Springfield, Tenn. Moved to Texas 1856. Died May 18, 1914. Buried Old City Cemetery, Livingston, Texas. Enlisted Sept. 9, 1861, Livingston, Texas, as 2nd Cpl. COMPANY K, 5th TEXAS INFANTRY, HOOD'S BRIGADE. Residence-Livingston, Polk Co., Occupation-carpenter's apprentice. Promoted to 1st corporal. Sick in camp, Richmond, Va., Aug. 1861. Feb. 10. 1862, promoted to 5th Sgt. Wounded in elbow, Manassas, Va. Aug. 30, 1862. Treated at Staunton Hospital. Dec. 11, 1862, promoted to 4th Sgt. June 22, 1863, promoted to 3rd Sgt. Wounded in arm and leg, and captured at Gettysburg, Pa., July 3, 1863. at the field hospital while helping with the wounded. Released at DeCamp U. S. General Hospital, David's Island, New York Sept. 13, 1863. Returned to company. Furloughed late spring 1864. [While on the way back to command, helped defend the Staunton River Bridge, Va., June 25, 1864) Rejoined company at Petersburg, Va., July 4, 1864. Wounded severely in neck and left lung at White Oak Swamp, Va., Aug. 1864. Sent to Howard's Grove Hospital Richmond, for treatment. Hospital pass shows 6' tall, grey eyes, dark hair, florid complexion. Surrendered by R. E. Lee, Appomattox, Va., April 9, 1865. Paroled April 12, 1865.

At the Second Battle of White Oak Swamp, T. F. NEECE recalled, "I was shot in the neck, the ball lodging against the upper posterior portion of the shoulder blade, cutting the windpipe and swallow. I breathed through the wound until closed by lint...No one thought I could possibly live but was well and could have gone back to the command in 30 days.