

Reverend Marion Zellner (1817-1895)

Author unknown (probably Shirley Zellner Gall or Mary Owens & Zeni (Zellner) Batte)

By the time he was 2 or 3 years old, his family had moved from Georgia to Giles County, Tennessee and then to Maury County prior to 1840.

Not much is known about Marion's early childhood, but when he was 20 years old he married his first wife, Helen Whitney, in Maury County on 10 June 1837 and the marriage produced one daughter, Margaret Helen. She was born in Tate County, Mississippi. The mother died in childbirth.

Two years later, Marion married again. This time to Martha Adeline Alexander, daughter of William McRee and Catherine ("Katy") Alexander, who were first cousins. The marriage took place in Hernando, DeSoto County, Mississippi. The first two children from this union were born in Mississippi.

By 1847 when the third child was born, Marion moved his family to Tennessee and settled near Hickory Withe, Fayette County.

Marion is noted in the 1850 Fayette Co. census, the father of five children, counting his daughter by his 1st wife. By 1860, all children were born, making a total of four sons and six daughters.

In 1850 census Marion is listed as a blacksmith and in the 1860 census as a Baptist clergyman. When the Civil War broke out, Marion became apart of it. The records show that he enlisted October 11, 1862, in Shelby County, Tennessee, as a private of Company E, 1st Regiment Tennessee Partisan Rangers, which became Company E, 12th Regiment Tennessee Cavalry, C.S.A. His name appears on the company muster roll dated October 11, 1862, (the only roll of the company on file), which shows that he was present, with remark, "Chaplain." The records further show that he was appointed from Tennessee as chaplain of the 12th Tennessee Cavalry, to rank from February 14, 1863, but no later record of him as such has been found. There are no rolls of the field and staff of that organization on file, according to the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

Marion has not been located in the 1870 census but further research should show his presence in Fayette County since he was again listed in the 1880 Fayette County census when he was 62 years old. His two yougest daughters, Fannie (age 26) and

Annie (age 24) still lived at home in that year.

Marion lived to be 78 years old and his wife, Martha died a few months short of her 100th birthday. They are buried side by side in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery at Hickory Withe, Tennessee. Several months before Martha's death, an unusual ceremony took place in Arlington, honoring her being the mother of a Civil War soldier.

Many direct descendants from Marion and Martha Zellner still reside in the Shelby and Fayette Counties area. Marion plays an important part in the story of the Zellner history. Marion Zellner, the third son of Arnold Zellner I and his first wife, Margaret Holmes was born 23 July 1817 in Lincoln County, GA.

He purchased 1500 acres of land & later sold part of the land to the railroad.

References:

1. Maury County TN Marriage Records 1807 - 1837. Compiled by Virginia Wood Alexander and Rose Harris Priest, Columbia, TN, 1962.
2. Civil War Centennial Commission. Tennesseans in the Civil War: A Military History of Confederate and Union Units with Available Rosters of Persons. Vol. 2, Nashville, TN: Historical Commission, 1964.
3. Burrow, Rachel Herring Kennon, Arlington, A Short Historical Writing of the Town., E.H. Clarke & Brother: Memphis, 1962

On his tombstone it say's, Chaplain 12 Tenn. Cav. C.S.A. - 1895
Someone stole Rev. Marion Zellner's original tombstone, it was marble.

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