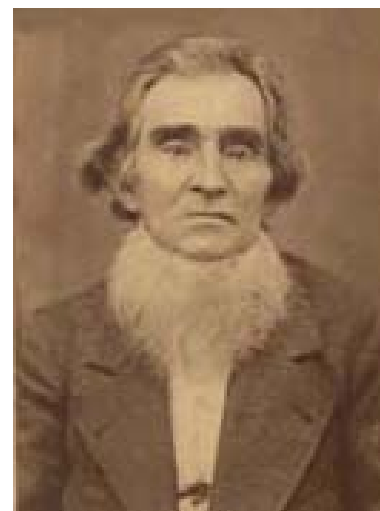


Francis Edward Zellner July 11, 1812 - December 18, 1894

by Michele H. Mills

FRANCIS EDWARD ZELLNER was born July 11, 1812 in Lincoln County, Georgia.^{1, 2} Francis' parents were Arnold ZELLNER (1790-January 20, 1852) and Margaret "Peggy" HOLMES (December 1789 - March 31, 1823). Arnold ZELLNER was the son of George Peter ZELLNER and Mary CAPEHART³. Arnold ZELLNER and his family lived in Lincoln County, Georgia in 1818⁴, and in Giles County, Tennessee in 1820⁵ and 1830.⁶

On April 17, 1837, Francis enlisted in Company B of the Texas Rangers, then called the Battalion of Rangers of the North West Frontier. Francis served a year, and participated in the Indian Wars, North Western Frontier of Texas. He was honorably discharged April 17, 1838, at Fort Houston. Francis was paid \$23 a month, earning \$138.00 for each of his six-month terms. In addition, in November of 1837, Francis was given 640 acres of land in Milam county as incentive to stay in Texas.⁷ For his service in the Texas Rangers he was given a service bounty land grant of 1,280 acres on Cow Creek, 16 miles from Milam (Land Warrant #3031), September 25, 1838.⁸ This patent is also listed at the Texas General Land Office as patent # 4, Vol. 1, January 9, 1841.¹⁵



Francis lived in Jefferson County in 1838 and 1839.⁹ Francis married Sirena MYERS December 22, 1839 in home of her father Charles MYERS in Jefferson County, Texas.¹ Sirena was born December 25, 1821 in Louisiana.^{1, 10, 11} We do not know why Francis was in Jefferson County, or how he met Sirena Myers. In 1840, Francis signed a petition to State of Texas to form Milam County.¹²

However, Francis is listed on Tax Rolls for Jefferson County, Texas for 1840 and 1846.⁹

Children of Francis and Sirena^{1,2,14,16,17}:

1. Margaret ZELLNER, b. October 08, 1841, Texas
2. Mary Jane ZELLNER, b. November 08, 1842, Texas
3. Marion Zellner, b. January 31, 1845, Louisiana
4. Elizabeth Frances ZELLNER, b. March 13, 1847, Texas
5. Martha ZELLNER, b. October 09, 1849, Milam County, Texas
6. Parthenia ZELLNER, b. January 08, 1852, Texas
7. Eliza ZELLNER, b. January 24, 1853, Milam County, Texas
8. Alice Emeline ZELLNER, b. November 27, 1855, Milam County, Texas
9. Laura Ann ZELLNER, b. April 27, 1858, Texas
10. Henry Bascom ZELLNER, b. June 16, 1860, Milam County, Texas
11. Francis Edward Alexander ZELLNER, b. August 22, 1864, Milam County, Texas
12. Charles Arnold ZELLNER, b. October 04, 1867, Milam County, Texas

All of Francis and Sirena's children married and had many children, with the exception of Parthenia, who was blinded as a child ¹³, and Henry Bascom who had "an unusually large head" and died at the age of seven years.¹

Francis and Sirena either lived in Louisiana in 1845, or Sirena was visiting her family there when their son Marion was born.¹⁴ February 10, 1846 a land patent in Grimes County was granted to Joseph T. Robinson, patentee F. Zellner, for 4428.40 acres.¹⁵ In 1847 Francis and Sirena were listed as members of the new Salem Methodist Church, of Salem Community, Milam County, Texas.¹⁶ They lived in Cameron a few years and moved out about 3 miles South West of Cameron in 1848 or 1849 and lived in a tent while building his house. Their fifth child Martha was born in the tent Oct. 9, 1849. June 27, 1848 Francis sold land in Milam County to William Armstrong.⁸ In October of the same year he bought land in Milam County from Francis T. Duffan (or Duffau).⁸ November 27,

1850, Francis was granted 640 acres of land in Coryell County for military service.¹⁵

Francis is listed as a farm on the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 census records for Milam County. In 1850 Francis listed his property as worth \$3,000. In 1860 his land was worth \$3,563, and his personal property \$5,000, and he had one female slave, age 22. In 1870 he listed his land as worth \$3,840 and his personal property as \$6,865.

Sirena died November 21, 1893. Francis died December 18, 1894 in Cameron, Milam County, Texas ¹. Francis' will left everything to his wife Sirena, should he precede her in death, and then to their daughter Parthenia, who was blind.¹⁷ Francis and Sirena are buried in Salem-Wilson Cemetery, in the old Salem Community, south of Cameron, Milam County, Texas ^{10, 11}. Francis and Sirena share a tombstone (below). Five of their children, Margaret Zellner Hasty, Eliza Zellner Nabours, Parthenia Zellner, Francis Edward Alexander Zellner, and Henry Bascom Zellner, are also buried in [Salem-Wilson Cemetery](#) .

Sources:

1. [Zellner family bible](#)
2. 1880 Texas Census, Milam County, precinct 1, p. 25
3. [Will of George Peter Zellner](#)
4. Georgia 1792-1819 Tax Lists Index, p. 82
5. 1820 Tennessee Census, Giles County, p.11
6. 1830 Tennessee Census, Giles County, p. 137
7. Gifford White. 1988. 1840 Citizens of Texas, Vol. 1, Land Grants. Austin. Reprinted in 1994 by Ericson Books, Nacogdoches. p. 319.
8. Mrs. John T. Martin and Mrs. Louis C. Hill. 1968. Milam County, Texas Records, Vol. II. Waco, Texas. pp. 89, 97, 130.

9. Texas Tax List Index, 1840-1849
10. Perry C. Holder. 1938. Salem-Cameron Cemetery. p. 469.
11. Tombstone in Salem-Wilson Cemetery, Milam County, Texas
12. Gifford White. 1984. First Settlers of Milam County, Texas. From the originals in the General Land Office and the Texas State Archives, Austin, Texas. p. 10.
13. 1880 Texas Census, Milam County, p. 151
14. 1860 Texas Census, Milam County.
15. Texas General Land Office. Abstracts of all original Texas Land Titles comprising Grants and Locations. Austin, Texas.
16. Lelia M. Batte. 1956. History of Milam County, Texas. The Naylor Company, San Antonio, Texas. p. 202.
17. [Will of Francis E. Zellner](#)