

Twelfth in a Series—Biographies of our Ancestors

**Moses Gamble—Ancestor of
McTeer Member Roy Gamble**

Moses A. Gamble was born on 2 August 1832 on the family farm in Blount County, Tennessee, the son of Alexander Breckenridge Gamble and Elizabeth Ransberger. He married Angeline F. Thompson (1832—1916) and had two children, Alexander B. Gamble (1860—1946) and Elizabeth L. Gamble (1863—1945).

He was mustered into Company A of the 3rd Tennessee Cavalry Volunteers on 18 September 1862 for a period of three years. He served his regiment well during the war but, as luck would have it, died on 27 April 1865 near Memphis, Tennessee, lost on the steamboat Sultana as it exploded and sank into the dark Mississippi River.

His brother A. M. Gamble, a school teacher, enlisted at the commencement of the war, in the Sixth Tennessee Infantry USA, being afterward given command of a company, and was then steadily promoted to major general, which rank he held until the end of the war. Upon his return from the war, he resumed school teaching and later served Blount County in numerous elective offices.

There is another interesting story about Moses Gamble. In 1861, there was a case brought to trial, the United States vs. Moses Gamble for treason. Under an Act of the Legislature, Governor Harris had appointed Gamble as an agent in Blount County to seize and bring in to the Confederate authorities all arms belonging to the people. This act was designed for the purpose of disarming Union men. Gamble was a Union man but likely only accepted this office to avoid being suspected by his Confederate neighbors. He attempted to discharge his duties with gentleness and kindness but had to take some arms from his neighbors, which gave offense to some Union men. So, he was brought before the court charged with aiding the enemy. His defense was led by Oliver Perry Temple, who relied upon the law as expounded by Chief Justice Marshall in the case of the United States vs. Aaron Burr. The trial judge gave instructions to the jury in this manner and Gamble was found not guilty of all charges.