



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Nathan L. Ballard

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Nathan L. Ballard was a veteran of a Texas Confederate cavalry regiment who moved to Grapevine about 1908. Family members report that he died at Rowlett in Dallas County in 1927.

Nathan Ballard was born in Kentucky in August, 1844, and came to Texas with his parents and ten siblings in 1849, according to his own statement. Nathan may have been born in Calloway County, Kentucky, where his father appears in the 1840 census. Reuben and his family were among the Mercer's Colonists that originally settled in Kaufman County in the area which was cut away in 1873 to form Rockwall County. The family is found in the 1850 Kaufman County census. Nathan's parents, Reuben Ballard (1807-1887) and Eliza (Butler) Ballard (1814-1878), lived next-door to Eliza's parents, Nathan and Sarah Butler, in that year.

In the Lewis Publishing Company's Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas County, Texas..., printed in 1892, a biographical sketch appears of Andrew B. Kirby (who married Nathan Ballard's sister) which includes a short reminiscence of the Ballard family's trip to Texas: "...*They moved to Texas in 1847 and settled in Dallas county, making the journey with wagons and being six weeks en route. Mrs. Kirby, being seven years of age at that time, remembers vividly the hardships they endured. Their whole diet at first was wild game. All their bread stuff had to be hauled from Paris [Texas]. After they raised corn they ground their meal in a hand mill...*"

At the time of the 1860 census, Nathan Ballard was living with his parents and siblings in District 5 of Dallas County, Texas.

In his 1909 pension application, made at Grapevine, Mr. Ballard claimed to have served in Co. I, 22nd Texas Cavalry for about two years. He said he enlisted early in 1863 and surrendered in the spring of 1865. No record has survived in the original records of that regiment which include Mr. Ballard's

name, but he must have been able to prove with affidavits that his service was genuine because his pension was granted.

About 1869, Nathan Ballard and his wife, Matronia Casander. "Mattie" Miller, were married. She was born September 22, 1850. Her death certificate reveals that she was born in Calloway County, Kentucky, and was a daughter of Jack C. Miller and Virginia Hardy, both native Kentuckians. She died at Grapevine at 10:50 a.m. on May 21, 1922 of uremic poisoning and chronic nephritis, and was buried the next day at Flower Mound.

Nathan and his family have not been located in the census of 1870. The schedules for that year for Kaufman County are no longer in existence, and it seems logical to believe they may have been there in that year.

The 1880 census taker found Nathan and his family living in District 30 of Rockwall County, Texas. Mr. and Mrs. Ballard had three children with them at the time: Lemuel, Ida, and Louren.

When the 1900 census was taken the family was living in Precinct 3, of Denton County, Texas. Matronia Ballard said she was born in Kentucky in September 1850. She had given birth to five children, all of whom were still living and with them in that year: Lemuel (born in March 1870); Ida L. (born in September 1875); Lauren L. (a son, born in July 1878); Theodore I. (born March 1886), and Orville O. (born in 1888).

Nathan applied for a Confederate pension in 1909, at which time he lived in Grapevine. He said he had been living continuously in Texas since 1849, and had moved to Grapevine eighteen months before he made his application. He and his family appear in the 1910 census at Grapevine.

A notation on Mr. Ballard's record folder in the Texas Archives says "Dead 5-9-27," thus he must have died in April or early May. He and his wife, Matronia, lie buried in Flower Mound Cemetery in southern Denton County, Texas. They have readable headstones.

Mr. and Mrs. Ballard's children included Lemuel N. Ballard, Ida Ballard, Lauren Lynboyd Ballard, Theodore Ira (or Isaac) Ballard, and Orville Orlander Ballard. Lemuel N. Ballard was born March 15, 1870. He died January 13, 1904 and is buried near his parents in Flower Mound Cemetery.

Ida Ballard Burch was born in Rockwall County, Texas on September 18, 1875. She died September 22, 1951, and was buried in Old Shiloh Cemetery in Denton County, Texas.

Lauren Lynboyd Ballard, who was born July 26, 1878, lived at Route 3, Grapevine when he registered for the draft in World War I. He died at his home in Grapevine on December 17, 1960 and was buried in Flower Mound Cemetery in Denton County.

Theodore Ira (or Isaac) Ballard, who was born March 4, 1886, lived at Route 3 Grapevine when he registered for the draft in World War I. He said his father, N. L. Ballard, was still living at Grapevine at the time. Theodore died at his home in Grapevine on September 24, 1967 and was buried in Flower Mound Cemetery.

Orville Orlander Ballard, who was born July 8, 1888, registered for the draft in World War I at Route 3, Grapevine, Tarrant County, and stated he had been born at Rockwall, Texas. He died December 12, 1964 at his home in Lubbock, Texas. He was buried there in the Lubbock City Cemetery.

