



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

William Cooper Coleman

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William Cooper Coleman was born September 1, 1828 at Atlantas Hill, Hancock County, Tennessee. Sources at ancestry.com say he was the son of Thomas P. Coleman (1783-1833) and his wife, Esther McClary (1785-1863).

Cooper Coleman's first wife, Elizabeth Ann Sims, was born August 10, 1829 in Virginia, and died at Grapevine on January 23, 1879. They were married in Hancock County, Tennessee on May 31, 1855.

Coleman served in Company B, 25th Virginia Cavalry. He signed the visitors register at the 1902 reunion of Confederate veterans in Dallas, stating his company and regiment. He also applied to the state of Texas for a Confederate pension in 1908. In his application he stated that he enlisted in February, 1863 in Lee County, Virginia and served until the end of the war in Co. B. under Capt. Pat Larrimore and Col. Edmundson, then Col. Hoffman, in the 25th Virginia Cavalry. He stated he had lived in Texas since 1870.

When the 1870 census was taken, the Colemans were living in the 14th District of Hancock County, Tennessee.

Mr. Coleman's second wife, Julia A. (Barber) Archibald, was born September 10, 1837 in Choctaw County, Alabama. She told the 1900 census taker that she had given birth to four children, only one of whom was still alive. She and Mr. Coleman died on the same day in a tragic accident in Grapevine in 1910.

Family sources at Ancestry.com list his and Elizabeth's children as Kathryn Coleman; Lucy J. Coleman (1856-1856); Calvin F. Coleman (1857-1936); Martha C.



Julia and William Cooper Coleman

Coleman (1859-1952); James Thomas Coleman (1861-1942), and William Cooper Coleman (1869-1896).

By the time the 1880 census was taken, the Colemans were living in Tarrant County. Cooper Coleman's home appears on Sam Street's 1895 Map of Tarrant County, Texas. In modern-day terms, it sat in present-day Grapevine within the limits of the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, between State Highway 114 and Airfield Drive, west of International Parkway. In a modern-day 2005 Mapsco map directory of Tarrant County, the house sat in Map 28, in the south part of sector Q, about where the "[copyright] Mapsco, Inc." is printed.

At the time Coleman applied for his Confederate pension, W. H. Fitts of Montague Co. TX said he'd known him in Hancock County, Tennessee. Coleman's pension claim was disapproved.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Coleman died July 12, 1910, victims of a horrible accident in Grapevine. They lie buried in Grapevine Cemetery. The informant for both certificates was C. F. Coleman of Grapevine. Her death certificate simply gives the cause of death as "killed instantly."

Mr. Coleman's death certificate says he lived forty minutes after the train crash, and that he died at 6 p.m. It also says he had been a resident of Texas for thirty-seven years, thus he must have come about 1875.

Using the description of the accident in their obituary and the 1895 map as guides, it seems possible that the accident may have taken place about where Dooley Street crosses the railroad track today, in the southeast part of downtown Grapevine.

An account of their deaths appeared in the Grapevine Sun on July 16, 1910: *"Aged Couple Killed. Train Crashes into Buggy. Community Shocked. "Uncle Cooper" Coleman and Wife Meet Death. Were Old Pioneers and High Respected People--Coming to this Community Many Years Ago. Mr. Cooper Coleman and wife, aged and respected couple of this community, were killed at 5:40 o'clock last Tuesday afternoon at a railroad crossing in this city east of the depot, where the westbound Cotton Belt passenger train struck the buggy in which they were driving on their way home, some two miles south of town. Mr. Coleman, who was affectionately known as "Uncle Cooper," was in the 82nd year of his age, and his wife was 72 years old. Both had lived in this section for many years, coming here about 1870. These good old people had spent the day with friends in Grapevine and shortly after five o'clock they started home. When crossing the Cotton Belt tracks they evidently failed to hear the whistle of the approaching train, and the locomotive struck the buggy, knocking it several feet off the tack. Mrs. Coleman, who was on the side of the buggy nearest the approaching train, was killed instantly, her skull being crushed like an egg-shell. Her husband, whose skull was also crushed, lived a few minutes after the accident. The buggy was demolished and the horse killed. The grief throughout this community is great, as both these old people were respected to a degree approaching reverence. They are survived by several children and many grand-children, and to them we extend our heartfelt sympathy. "Uncle Cooper" and his good wife were life-long members of the Baptist church, both having joined the church in their youth. Funeral services were conducted at the Baptist church by the pastor, Rev. Airhart, Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, and the attendance was very large. After the funeral the remains were conveyed to the cemetery, followed by bereaved relatives and sorrowing friends and tenderly laid to rest in the silent city of*

the dead. The loss of these good people was made apparent by the grief and the heart-stricken relatives and sympathizing friends. Father and mother are gone, but the memory of their exemplary Christian lives is a sweet heritage for kinsmen and friends."



W. C. COLEMAN

SEPT. 1, 1828

JULY 12, 1910

HIS WIFE JULIA

SEPT. 10, 1837

JULY 12, 1910

SHE WAS A KIND AND AFFECTIONATE
WIFE, A GOOD MOTHER AND A
FRIEND TO ALL.