



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

Copyright © 2013. All rights reserved.

Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Seaborn Cowart

Compiled by Michael Patterson
Copyright © 2013. All rights reserved.

Seaborn Cowart was a pensioned Confederate veteran of two Georgia regiments. He died in Tarrant County in 1919 and was buried in Smithfield Cemetery.

Seaborn Cowart was born October 7, 1829 in Early County, Georgia. His birth date was recorded in city vital statistics records kept by the town of Polytechnic before it was annexed by Fort Worth in 1922. The birth date was recorded on a record of his death made there in 1919.

In spite of information to the contrary recorded on his death certificate, many family researchers believe he was a son of David Cowart and his wife, Harriett Durham, who appear in the 1850 census of Early County, Georgia with a son named Seaborn who is the correct age to be the man who died in Tarrant County. In that same year and county there was an older Seaborn Cowart who later moved to Alabama. David Cowart appears in the 1830 census of Early County, and in his family is one son under five years of age; this son could be Seaborn Cowart. Federal census records did not name everyone in the family until 1850.

Some researchers at Ancestry.com report that Seaborn was married about 1853 to "Vessenia (Wilson) Dean," who was born about 1831. This unusual given name may be the one which is unreadable in some of the census records.

Seaborn Cowart appears in the 1860 census of Miller County, Georgia. He was a farmer who owned his own farm (amount of its value smudged) and personal property worth one thousand five hundred dollars. His family lived in an area served by the post office at Colquitt, Georgia. With him were his wife, Vencenoy? who was twenty-nine years old; James (age six), a four-year-old girl whose initial was "V"; and a one-year-old boy whose initials were "H. T." There were also two Wilson girls living in the family: Mary E. Wilson (age thirteen) and N. Wilson (age ten). This suggests that his first wife may have been a widow with children when she married Seaborn Cowart.

Miller County was formed in 1856 from parts of several counties, one of which was Early County. Mr. Cowart may not have moved during the 1850's; it may be that he lived in the part of Early County which was cut off to form part of Miller County.

Seaborn Cowart enlisted in the Confederate service at Atlanta, Georgia on May 27, 1861. He signed up to serve for the duration of the War. He became a private in Co. H, 6th Georgia Infantry. His name appears on a regimental return for the month of December 1861 with the notation "burning coal." On January 3, 1862 at Yorktown, Virginia he was granted a furlough for thirty days. On May 4, 1862 he was admitted to Chimborazo Hospital No. 5 in Richmond, Virginia for treatment of pneumonia. His records indicate that he was paid and was discharged on a surgeon's certificate on June 12, 1862.

Incredibly, a signed original of Mr. Cowart's medical discharge remains in his file in the National Archives in Washington D. C. It says, in part: "I certify that the within named Seaborn Cowart, a private in Captain William F. Flemons(?) Company (H) of the Sixth Regiment of Georgia Volunteers, born in Early County in the State of Georgia, aged thirty-two years, five feet, seven inches high, light complexion, blue eyes, Sandy hair, and by profession a farmer, was enlisted by Major Arnold Elzy at Littleton, Ga on the 27th day of May 1861, to serve for the War years, and is now entitled to discharge by reason of Dropsy of the Bowels..."

The discharge also states that Mr. Cowart was due \$59.40 for back pay and \$25 for commutation of clothing, he having provided his own for six months. He owed the Confederate government thirteen dollars for clothing which was earlier furnished to him by one of the officers.

Mr. Cowart later rejoined the Southern Army at Blakely, Georgia on August 15, 1863. He joined for a term of three years, and became a private in Captain Hall's Company of Hood's Battalion of Georgia Cavalry. This company subsequently became Co. G, 29th Battalion Georgia Cavalry. He was paid a bounty of fifty dollars for enlisting, and was also given \$54.40 in compensation for the use and risk of his own horse. He later received another payment of \$48.80 for the use of his own horse during the first four months of 1864. He was present with his company as late as October 31, 1864; no later muster rolls of the company have survived.

On July 19, 1867 Seaborn Cowart of Miller County, Georgia signed a reconstruction oath as required by law.

In 1870 when the census was taken Seaborn and his family lived in Miller County, Georgia in a part of the county served by the post office at Colquitt, Georgia. Also in the family were Vessenia (age thirty-eight and a native of Georgia); James G., age fourteen; William, age twelve; Henry, age eleven; Seaborn, age eight; Calavexnow?, a female six years of age; and Lula, age four. He told the census taker he owned real estate worth four hundred fifteen dollars and personal property worth two hundred fifty dollars.

Mr. Cowart also appears in the 1870 agricultural census in Miller County, Georgia. Some of the numerals handwritten in the record are difficult to read. He owned a farm which included both cultivated land and woodland. He estimated the value of his farm at three hundred fifty dollars, and

the value of his farming implements at fifteen dollars. On June 1, 1870 he owned one mule and twenty- five hogs. He estimated the value of all his livestock at one hundred forty-five dollars.

The next part of the record concerns farm production for the year ending June 1, 1870. He said he had produced one hundred forty bushels of Indian corn, one hundred bushels of oats, four bales of cotton weighing four hundred fifty pounds each, five bushels of peas and/or beans, and several bushels of sweet potatoes (the written numeral in the record is unreadable). His family had churned fifty pounds of butter. They had produced one hundred twenty-five gallons of molasses. He had slaughtered, or sold for slaughter, livestock valued at thirty-five dollars.

About 1873 Mr. Cowart and his family came to Texas and settled near Elmo in Van Zandt County. After his first wife died (whether in Georgia or Texas we have not discovered) Seaborn Cowart was married second in Kaufman County, Texas to Mary Ann Greenlee. In her widow's pension application made on February 2, 1920, she said the marriage took place in April 1876. She told pension authorities she was born in Florida, was seventy years old, and had been in Texas fifty-five years. She said she had been in Tarrant County twelve years, and that her address was Box 252 in Polytechnic, Texas, a suburb of Fort Worth in Tarrant County.

The 1880 census taker found Seaborn Cowart and his wife living in Precinct 3 of Van Zandt County, Texas. With him were his wife, Mary, who was thirty-one years old and a daughter Ester, who was born in December 1879. By 1880, Seaborn's son, William D. Cowart, had already settled in Precinct 4 in northeast Tarrant County.

Mr. Cowart also appears in the 1880 Van Zandt County agricultural census. In that year, he was renting a farm which included twelve acres of cultivated land, twelve acres of permanent pasture, and thirteen acres of unimproved land which was not in woodlands. He estimated the total value of the farm, including land, buildings, and fences, at six hundred dollars. He owned farm implements worth fifteen dollars and livestock worth fifty-three dollars. He owned one horse, eight hogs, and twelve chickens. He did not report having produced any crops in the past year.

When the 1900 census was taken, Mr. Cowart and his family lived in Precinct 4, Kaufman County, Texas. He had been married twenty-four years to his wife, Mary, who was born in Florida in April 1850. She had given birth to three children, two of whom were still alive. The daughters living with them at that time were Ester, born in December 1879; and Daisy, born in April 1884. Ester was working as a teacher.

Seaborn Cowart completed his pension application in Kaufman County on May 14, 1900. He said he would be seventy-one years old in the coming October. He said he had been living for the past twenty-seven years at Elmo in Kaufman County. He said he was unable to work because of a bad physical condition caused by rupture and old age.

Mr. Cowart said his first service was in Co. H, 6th Georgia Infantry, and that he had later served in Co. B, 29th Georgia Cavalry Battalion. He said he served a total of about three years. When he applied for his pension he owned one acre of land in the town of Elmo, worth one hundred fifty

dollars, and one horse, valued at fifteen dollars. Within the last two years he had sold one cow and two yearlings worth forty-seven dollars.

Dr. D. R. Hicks examined Mr. Cowart in connection with the pension application, and reported that "He has hernia very bad and cannot keep it up with a truss, and therefore is notable to perform manual labor. He has been afflicted with a bone trouble since 1864. He is seventy one years old and is very feeble and debilitated."

Isaac Bush of Colquitt, Miller County, Georgia made an affidavit for Mr. Cowart in which he said he had known Cowart since his childhood and had known him until Cowart went to Texas. They had served together in the 29th Georgia.

Dan W. Coffman of Kaufman, Texas also made an affidavit in which he attested to Mr. Cowart's inability to earn a living. He also added that Mr. Cowart had worked as a carpenter when he was able, and was then being supported by an unmarried daughter.

John J. Sheffield, who lived at the same place as Mr. Bush, also made an affidavit in support of Mr. Cowart's service. He had served in the 29th Georgia with Cowart and said they had enlisted at Fowlstown, Georgia.

Seaborn and Mary Cowart moved to Tarrant County about 1908, according to a statement Mrs. Cowart made to pension officials. When the 1910 census was taken, Mrs. Mary Cowart was living in Fort Worth with the family of her married daughter, Esther Essex, the wife of Winfield Scott Essex, at 2817 Viceroy Boulevard. Mrs. Cowart said she had been married twice, and had given birth to five children, only two of whom were still living. Seaborn Cowart is not listed with the family.

On August 8, 1914, Mr. Cowart was examined in Tarrant county by Dr. A. L. Henderson, who wrote that Mr. Cowan had "Large irreducible inguinal hernias, which he has had for several years, and general disability as a result of old age, he being at the present time eighty-five years old, which disabilities with the general senile debility renders him entirely helpless and incapacitated both physically and mentally."

Mr. Cowart's pension file also contains an original funeral bill presented by George L. Gause, a Fort Worth undertaker; Mr. Cowart's total funeral bill was one hundred fifty dollars. The mortuary warrant in Mr. Cowart's pension file shows that he died in the Polytechnic section of Fort Worth, in the home of his son-in-law W. S. Essex.

Mr. Cowart has both a newspaper obituary and a Texas death certificate. His obituary appeared in the Fort Worth Star Telegram on December 10, 1919. It said: "*Cowart. Seaborn Cowart, 90, died Tuesday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. W. S. Essex, 1100 Annis Avenue. He is survived by his wife and four children. Funeral services were held Wednesday morning. Burial was in the Smithfield Cemetery.*"

His death certificate adds the information that he died at 10:15 a.m. and had worked as a contractor. His parents are shown as William Cowart and a Miss Gay, both natives of South Carolina. The informant was Judge W. S. Essex of Polytechnic. He was buried at Smithfield on December 10.

In 1920 Mrs. Mary Cowart lived next-door to the family of her daughter, Mrs. Essex. Mrs. Cowart's address was 3015 Avenue C in Fort Worth.

Mrs. Cowart's mortuary warrant says she died in Fort Worth, Texas on August 30, 1924 in the home of her daughter, Mrs. Daisy Matjasic at 1016 Annis Street. Another of her daughters is also referred to in the same document as Esther Osteen. Mrs. Cowart was buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Fort Worth on September 1.

The various public records have suggested the names of the following children born to Seaborn Cowart in his two marriages: James G. Cowart, V. Cowart, William D. Cowart, Henry T. Cowart, Seaborn Cowart (Jr.), "Calavexnow" Cowart, Lula Cowart, Queen Esther Cowart, Daisy Fannie Cowart, and other children who were born and died between the years for which we have available census records. Each of the following short paragraphs will try to outline something of their lives.

James G. Cowart was born about 1854. She was still with the family in 1870, but was not with them in 1880.

A daughter whose initial is given as only "V" Cowart was born about 1856. She was with the family in 1860, but was not with them in 1870.

William D. Cowart was born January 23, 1858. He married Armilda Helen Pritchard in Tarrant County, Texas. She was born February 15, 1868 in Kentucky. By 1880 her family had settled in northeast Tarrant County, Texas. After William's death Helen married William's brother, Seaborn Cowart, Jr. William D. Cowart died June 23, 1897 and was buried at Smithfield. Helen died April 16, 1946 and was buried in Smithfield Cemetery.

Henry T. Cowart was born about 1859. By 1900 he had settled in the Smithfield community and was living there with his wife, Mattie (Autry) and their children. He told the census taker in 1900 he was born in February 1862. Thus it is obvious that Henry or Seaborn, or both, have incorrect birth dates in the records.

Seaborn Cowart (Jr.) was born July 2, 1862. By 1880 he had moved to the Smithfield area of northeast Tarrant County. In that year he was a single man working as a laborer. After the death of his brother, William D. Cowart, Seaborn married William's widow, Armilda Helen (Pritchard) Cowart (1868-1946). She brought to the marriage her two sons with William D. Cowart: Eckhard Cowart and Frank Cowart. Seaborn Cowart (Jr.) died at 12:30 (a.m. or p.m. not specified on his death certificate) on January 15, 1944 at his home at Saginaw in Tarrant County. The informant for the death certificate was Ray Cowart. He was buried in Smithfield Cemetery.

A Cowart daughter whose name is unreadable in the 1870 census was born about 1864. Her name appears to be "Calavexnow." She was not with the family in 1880.

Lula Cowart was born about 1866. She was with the family in 1870, but was not with them when the census was taken in 1880.

Queen Esther Cowart was born December 19, 1882, according to some records. However, she was with the family when they were listed in the 1880 census and her birth date was recorded at that time as December 1879. She married Winfield Scott Essex (1852-1920), and was his second wife. When the 1930 census was taken she was married to T. H. Osteen and had a daughter named Laura Essex living in the family... who must have been Esther's daughter by her former marriage. Laura was born about 1913. Her last permanent address was in Fort Worth at 2500 Conner. The informant was Mrs. Laura Jackson. Queen Esther Cowart Essex Osteen died September 23, 1970 at 8:20 p.m. in the Fort Worth Osteopathic Hospital. She was buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

Daisy Fannie Cowart was born April 14, 1888. She married a Mr. Allen. She died at 10:45 a.m. on December 17, 1967 at the Spivey Convalescent Center in Fort Worth. Her last permanent address was 1016 Wesleyan in Fort Worth. She was buried the next day in Rose Hill Cemetery in the Handley section of East Fort Worth.

In a statement Mrs. Cowart made to the census taker in 1900, she said she had given birth to three children, only two of whom (Esther and Daisy) were still alive. In 1910 she said she had given birth to five children, and only two of them were living. Thus there may be three other children from Mr. Cowart's second marriage whose names we have not discovered.



STATE OF GEORGIA,

COUNTY OF Miller

PERSONALLY APPEARED before me this 19th day of July 1867, Seaborn Lowart

who states that he resides in the 9th Election Precinct of Miller COUNTY, GEORGIA, and who makes oath as follows:

I, Seaborn Lowart do solemnly swear in the presence of Almighty God, that I am a citizen of the STATE OF GEORGIA; that I have resided in said State for 12 months next preceding this day, and now reside in the County of Miller in said State; that I am 21 years old; that I have not been disfranchised for participation in any rebellion or civil war against the United States, nor for felony committed against the laws of any State or the United States; that I have never been a member of any State Legislature, nor held any executive or judicial office in any State, and afterwards engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof; that I have never taken an oath as a member of Congress of the United States, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State Legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, and afterwards engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or given aid and comfort to the enemies thereof; that I will faithfully support the Constitution and obey the laws of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, encourage others so to do. So help me, God.

The said Seaborn Lowart further swears

that he has not been previously registered under the provisions of "An act supplementary to 'an act to provide for the more efficient government of the rebel States'—passed March 2, 1867—and to facilitate restoration," under this or any other name, in this or any other Election District; and further, that he was born in Georgia and naturalized by on the day of 18 in the Seaborn Lowart

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me A. B. [Signature] Register of the B Registration District.

NOTE.—When this certificate is transferred, it must be on the back, witnessed by a Commissioned Officer, if practicable, or by some other reputable person well known to the Quartermaster.

I CERTIFY, That the within named Seaborn Lambert
 a private of Captain William F. Plummer Company (84) of the
South Regiment of Georgia, born in East
 in the State of Georgia, aged thirty-two years, five feet, seven
 inches high, light complexion, blue eyes, dark hair, and by
profession a farmer was enlisted by James Arzule Ely
 at Atlanta Ga on the 27 day of May 1861,
 to serve for the war years, and is now entitled to discharge by reason of discharge

The said Seaborn Lambert was last paid by Capt R. Ely
 to include the 31 day of December 1861, and has pay
 due from that date to the present date.

There is due to him _____ Dollars traveling allowance
 from _____, the place of discharge, to _____, the
 place of enrolment, transportation not being furnished in kind.

There is due him for pay \$37.40 for commissariat for clothing \$25
 He is indebted to the Confederate States _____ Dollars
 on account of clothing furnished him by Capt R. Ely

Given in duplicate at _____ this 12 day of June 1862.

Capt W. F. Plummer
 Commanding Company.

ACCOUNT TO BE MADE BY QUARTERMASTER.

For pay from <u>31</u> of <u>December</u> 1861, to <u>12</u> of <u>June</u> 1862, being <u>5</u> months and <u>12</u> days, at <u>Eleven</u> Dollars per month, - - -	89 40
For pay for traveling from _____ to _____, being _____ miles, at ten cents per mile, - - -	25 00
<u>Commissariat for clothing</u> - - -	84 40
Deduct for clothing <u>overdrawn, furnished</u> - - -	13 00
Amount, - - -	71 40
Balance paid, - - -	71 40

RECEIVED of Capt R. Ely C. S. Army, this 19
 day of June 1862, eighty one Dollars and forty
 Cents, in full of the above account.

(Signed duplicates.) Seaborn Lambert

WITNESS: J. G. Collier Capt & Adjt