



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Benton Randolph Elliott

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Benton Randolph Elliott was a native of Missouri who served in a Missouri infantry unit. He came to northeast Tarrant County about 1867 and married into a pioneer family here. He later became a prominent citizen and capitalist in Fort Worth, and was active in Confederate veterans work. He died in 1910 and lies buried in Fort Worth.

Mr. Elliott was born in December 1842 in Missouri. He told the census taker in 1900 that his father was a Tennessean and his mother was a Kentuckian. We have been unable to locate anyone in the census records in 1850 or 1860 who might be a good candidate for Mr. Elliott during his life in Missouri.

Benton Elliott enlisted in the Confederate service on July 29, 1862 at West Plains, Howell County, Missouri. He enlisted for a term of three years, and became a private in Co. G, 1st Regiment Missouri Infantry. This company subsequently became Co. G, 10th Missouri Infantry. On September 19, 1862 he was raised to the rank of 2nd Corporal. On April 9, 1863, he was appointed to be 2nd Sergeant.

He was captured in battle at Helena, Arkansas on July 4, 1863. Later that day he was one of a group of prisoners forwarded to Memphis, Tennessee on the steamer "Tycoon." On July 5 he and many other prisoners began the trip to Cairo, Illinois on the steamer "Silver Moon." He arrived at the military prison at Alton, Illinois on July 9, and remained there until he was transferred to Fort Delaware on February 29, 1864. From November 7 through November 12, 1863, he was in the prison hospital at Alton for treatment of pneumonia. He arrived at Fort Delaware on March 4, 1864, and remained there until he was exchanged on February 27, 1865. He arrived at Richmond, Virginia on March 3, 1865.

Benton R. Elliott registered to vote in Tarrant County's Precinct 4 on November 19, 1869. He said he was a native of Missouri, and had lived in Precinct 4, Tarrant County, and Texas for two years. Thus he must have arrived here about 1867. The numbered precincts in 1869 do not correspond to those of today.

Mr. Elliott married Harriett Rebecca Cate in Tarrant County on June 24, 1869, according to a statement she made when she applied for her widow's pension. She was a daughter of Dallas and Tarrant County pioneers James Cate (1818-1908) and his wife, Elvira Minter (1829-1908). Elvira's father was Green Washington Minter (1803-1887) who helped organize Minter's Chapel Methodist Church, the first of that denomination in Tarrant County. Harriett R. Elliott was born at Grapevine, Tarrant County, Texas on May 17, 1852.

The Elliott family appears in the 1870 census of Tarrant County in Precinct 4. Mr. Elliott is shown as D. B. Elliott, and his age is shown as twenty-six. His wife, H. R. Elliott was eighteen years old, and their son, C. O. Elliott, had been born in April of 1870.

In the 1875 Tarrant County tax list, Mr. Elliott owned eighty acres of one of the two Thomas Mahan surveys (each of which contained three hundred twenty acres), worth one thousand dollars. Both are located in the Grapevine-Southlake area. In modern-day terms, one of the surveys lies in Southlake; it is a rectangle one mile north-south by one-half mile east-west. Its southeast corner is found about where Kimball Lane and Southlake Boulevard intersect. The other Thomas Mahan survey is more or less in the older section of Grapevine, with the survey's southern boundary following Northwest Highway, and its southeast corner at about the intersection of Ball Street and Northwest Highway. It is one mile east-west by one-half mile north-south.

In the Fort Worth City Directory for 1877, and again in 1878-1879, Benton Elliott appears as the Tarrant County jailer. The jail sat at the corner of Belknap and Jones Streets. Another of our veterans, J. M. Henderson, was the sheriff at that time.

The family appears in the 1880 census of Fort Worth. Mr. Elliott was a "capitalist." They had four children with them in that year: Carroll, Bell, John, and Minerva Elliott. Mrs. Elliott caused something of a stir in Fort Worth the next fall when she gave birth to a twelve-pound son, and the event was reported in the Fort Worth Daily Democrat.

A reunion of Confederate Veterans was held at Dallas, Texas on August 6-9, 1884, at which Mr. Elliott was chosen 2nd vice president of the Association of Ex-Confederate Missourians. He gave his address as Double Springs, Texas; that was a small community with a post office near Mount Gilead Baptist Church and Cemetery, in present-day Keller. At another point during the reunion he gave his home address as Keller. Benton R. Elliott was a charter member of the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans, which was established at Fort Worth.

When the 1900 census was taken, Benton Elliott and his family were living in Oklahoma Township, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma. The Elliotts were farming. Mrs. Elliott said she had given birth to nine children, eight of whom were still alive. The children living with them included Joseph, Frank, Earl, and Hattie. There is also one Mary E. Elliott in the family, born about 1874; her birthplace and

those of her parents seems to suggest she is one of the Elliott children, but she does not appear with them in the 1880 census.

Mr. Elliott and his family appear in the 1910 census in the City of Fort Worth. Their home was at 276 South Jennings Street. The Elliotts said they were married about 1868. Mrs. Elliott said she had given birth to nine children, seven of whom were still living. The family with them in 1910 included Joseph H., May, Frank W., Earl W. and Earl's wife Mary E. Elliott, who was born about 1890.



Mr. Elliott died, according to the newspaper, on August 1, 1910. He was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth. A short notice of Mr. Elliott's death appeared in the Dallas Morning News on August 3, 1910: ***“CAPT. B. R. ELLIOTT DIES. Confederate Veteran Leaves Five Sons and Two Daughters. Fort Worth, Tex., Aug. 2—Capt. B. R. Elliott, aged 69 years, died at his residence, 1101 South Jennings avenue, Monday night. Funeral services were held this afternoon at 5 o'clock from the residence, conducted by Rev. P. E. Burroughs. The body was interred in Oakwood Cemetery with Masonic honors. Capt. Elliott was also a Confederate veteran. He is survived by his widow and five sons and two daughters. The sons are Major C.O., Joseph, Frank, and Earle Elliott of Fort Worth and J. B. Elliott of Dallas.”***

Mr. Elliott did not apply for a Confederate veteran's pension, but his wife did in 1917. At the time, her residence was 214-1/2 Main Street, Room 10, in Fort Worth. She mailed her husband's original parole to Austin, and it remains in his file. Her file also contains a letter written in 1930, stating that she had left Texas for a time, beginning on December 1, 1924 or 1929 (the handwriting is not legible) and ending on May 29, 1930. She said she was visiting out of state; the place may be Massachusetts, but again the handwriting is not readable.

Harriett Elliott survived her husband more than a quarter-century. She died at the home of her son, Frank W Elliott, in Dallas. Her death occurred at 2515 Maple Avenue at 10 p.m. on October 24, 1937. Her death certificate says she died of myocardial decompensation, senility, and essential hypertension. She was buried two days later beside her husband in Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth.

An obituary appeared in the Dallas Morning News on October 26, 1937: ***“First White Child Born in Grapevine Community Dies in Dallas, Aged 85. Funeral services for Mrs. Harriet Rebecca Elliott, 85, said to be the first white child born at the Grapevine community, will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Haverson Cole Chapel, Fort Worth, with Dr. George W. Truett, pastor of the First Baptist Church, officiating. Mrs. Elliott died unexpectedly Sunday night at the home of her son,***

Frank W. Elliott, 2515 Maple. Mrs. Elliott was born May 17, 1852, at Minter's Chapel, which was named for her mother's family. One of the first churches in the county, it was established by her grandfather, a Methodist preacher.. Her father, James F. Cate, gave the Grapevine community its first school and church. Mrs. Elliott had been living with her son four years. She had spent Sunday afternoon in her flower garden on the premises. She was a member of the First Baptist Church. Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. H. A. Bredow, Dallas, and four sons, J. B. Elliott, Earl W. Elliott, Frank W. Elliott, all of Dallas, and J. H. Elliott, Forney."

Mr. and Mrs. Elliott were the parents of nine children. The following paragraphs contain nine names, but one of them, Mary E. Elliott, is problematic. She appears in the 1900 census with the family in Oklahoma, but is not with them in the 1880 census in Fort Worth.. She may have actually been a daughter-in-law, and a notation to that effect was not made in the census.

Carroll Orr Elliott was born in April 1870. He was one of the first Texans to volunteer for service at the front during the Spanish-American War. He married Elizabeth B. Manor on June 4, 1907. He spent many years at Fort Worth working for the postal service. A biographical sketch of Mr. Elliott's life to that time was printed in *Makers of Fort Worth* (1914), which is available online. He died in 1930 and lies buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth.

Dora Bell Elliott was born March 14, 1872. She married Marcus William Hovenkamp (1863-1931) about 1889. She died in Tarrant County on September 20, 1905, and lies buried in Keller in Bourland Cemetery. Mr. Hovenkamp lies buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth.

Mary E. Benton was born in August 1874. The census record in which she appears leaves some question as to whether or not she was a daughter.

John Benton Elliott was born August 15, 1875. He worked for many years in the accounting field. His last permanent address was 7006 Pasadena in Dallas. He died at Bristol General Hospital in Dallas on July 2, 1964, and was buried in Grove Hill Cemetery in Dallas.

Minerva Warren Elliott was born January 31, 1878. The Fort Worth Democrat announced her birth on February 2 and said she weighed nine pounds. She married R. L. Kellogg, who survived her. Her last permanent address was 2101 Western Avenue in Fort Worth. She died April 8, 1926 in Harris Hospital in Fort Worth, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

Joseph Henderson Elliott was born September 20, 1881. On September 23 The Fort Worth Daily Democrat announced his arrival at twelve pounds. He worked in the lumber business for many years. He married Mary Smith Barb in Tarrant County on October 12, 1909. About 1914 he moved to Kaufman County, Texas. He died at his residence at 515 Bois d' Arc Street in Forney, Kaufman County, Texas on January 18, 1961. He was buried in Hillcrest Cemetery in Forney.

Hattie Maie Elliott was born July 2, 1885. She married Henry Bredow, and they lived in Fort Worth in 1926. Her last permanent address was 7006 Pasadena Street in Dallas. She died in Medi-Center Nursing Home in Dallas on October 12, 1976, and was buried in Grove Hill Cemetery in Dallas.

Frank Walker Elliott was born September 21, 1888. He worked for many years with oil and gas companies dealing with land leases. His last permanent address was 706 First Street in Graham, Young County, Texas. He died there in the Graham General Hospital on October 18, 1961. He was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Waco, McLennan County, Texas.

Earl W. Elliott was born in August 12, 1892. In 1910, he and his wife, Mary E. Elliott, lived with his parents on South Jennings Avenue in Fort Worth. He registered for the draft in 1917 while still a resident of Fort Worth. By 1920 he and his wife and child were living in Silver City, Grant County, New Mexico, where he worked as a drug store salesman. He was the last survivor of Benton Elliott's children.