



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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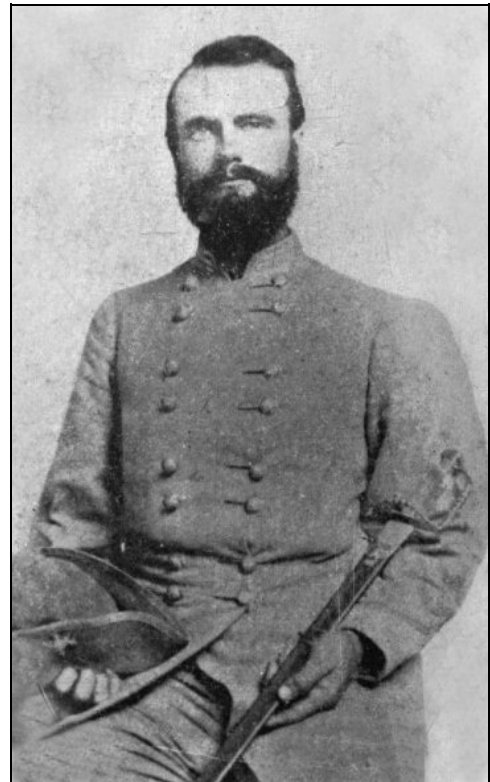
## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Richard Montgomery Gano

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Richard Montgomery Gano lived at Grapevine when the war began. He raised a company for the Confederacy in which many Grapevine men served, and later became a general in the Confederate army. Gen. Gano's personal papers and those of his father, along with numerous family papers, photographs, diaries, journals, etc. are housed in the collection of the Brown Library at Abilene Christian University at Abilene, Texas. This man was the great-grandfather of billionaire Howard Hughes.

The following account of his Civil War service, probably written by Gano himself, appeared in Mamie Yeary, comp., Reminiscences of the Boys in Gray, 1861-1865, (McGregor, Texas 1912): *"R. M. GANO. Dallas, Tex.--Born in Bourbon, Ky., in 1830. Enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1861, commanding a company of Texas cavalry known as "Gano's Guard," which was part of John H. Morgan's command, when Kirby Smith entered Kentucky, August, 1862. I was pushed forward rapidly, within one year I was made Major, commanding four companies; then Colonel, commanding ten companies. IN 1863 I was sent into the Trans-Mississippi Department and assigned to the Indian Territory, where I commanded a brigade of Texas Cavalry--regiments of Colonels De Morse, Martin, Gurley, Duff, Hardeman, Lieut. Col. Showalter's Battalion, Capt. Welsh's Company, and the light batteries of Captains Howell and Krumbharr. When Banks and Steele had been defeated in the Red River campaign, and while Price was getting ready to march into Missouri, the Confederate troops, under Maxey, Cooper and myself, made demonstrations against Fort Smith and Fort Gibson. After this operation I was recommended*



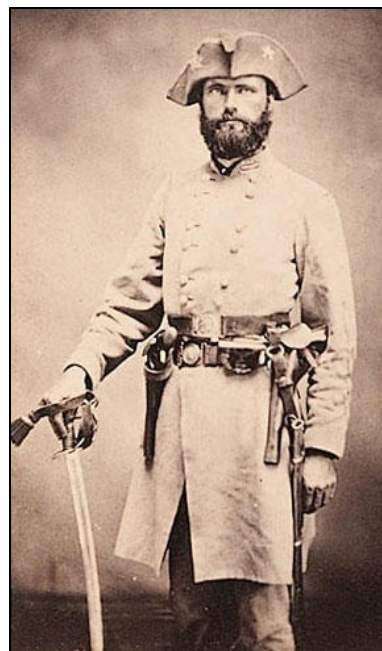
*for promotion to Brigadier General by Gen. E. Kirby Smith. One man told me he took level aim and shot at me six times, missing me every time. He and others claimed that I had a charmed life and a bullet would not hit me. I am glade they were bad shots; however one fellow hit me on the left elbow. This was a single-handed fight with a Yankee scout. I shot him three times and he hit me once, but I was too back on the battlefield with one arm in a sling. I went home one evening to see my parents and took supper with them. My mother told me with tears in her wyes that the Yankees were at Lexington, Paris, Cynthiana and Georgetown. I was completely surrounded by the Federals, and to let her hide me away until the next day, as I could not get out. I told her to suffer no more uneasiness, that I got in there, and I could get out. I rode into Georgetown, captured the Provost Marshall, Sam Thompson. His wife belonged to the same church I did, so she came to see me and asked me to take Mr. Thompson away from the Texans and put him under a Kentucky guard, as she was afraid the Texans would kill him. I told her if she knew all she would not ask such a favor for anything under the heavens, that the Texans were faithful guards and would do what I told them, but the Kentuckians hated Mr. Thompson so that they would kill him if they had a chance. I marched all over Kentucky and Tennessee, fighting under the leadership of John H. Morgan, and we were successful in most of our battles. We had quite a battle in the Indian Territory, captured a Federal wagon train valued at more than a million dollars. On this train were also captured about forty women who were on their way to visit friends and relatives who were serving in the Federal Army. The woman asked my at night to put a heavy guard over them, which I did, and tried to get them to let me send them back North, but they would not go. After the close of the war I entered the ministry. I have been a member of the Christian Church seventy-two years. I was ten years old when I joined it. At the close of my evangelistic service my record shows that I have baptized more than 6,800 into the church. On all occasions I have tried to do my duty, and should all my converts remain faithful when I reach heaven I will meet an army of soldiers of the cross."*

The following article on General Gano appears in Texas Historical Association, The Handbook of Texas: *GANO, RICHARD MONTGOMERY (1830-1913). Richard Montgomery Gano, doctor, soldier, and minister, son of John Allen and Mary Catherine (Conn) Gano, was born in Bourbon County, Kentucky, on June 17, 1830. The elder Gano was a minister of the Disciples of Christ and was associated with Alexander Campbell and Barton W. Stone in the restoration movement. Richard was baptized into that church at the age of ten.*

*At twelve he went to Bacon College in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. At about seventeen he completed his collegiate course at Bethany College in Virginia and around 1850 graduated from Louisville Medical University in Kentucky. He practiced medicine for about eight years in Kentucky and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In 1853 he married Martha (Mattie) J. Welch of Crab Orchard, Kentucky. The couple eventually had twelve children, nine of whom lived to maturity.*

*The family had moved to Texas by 1859 and settled at Grapevine Prairie, where Gano began farming, raising stock, and practicing medicine. He helped organize a company and went in pursuit of a Comanche raiding party when it swept through Parker and Wise counties in 1858. He was awarded a sword by the citizens of Tarrant County for his efforts. In 1860 he was elected to represent the county in the Texas legislature, where he was responsible for a bill on frontier protection and was active in floor discussions relating to livestock interests. He resigned his seat to enter the Confederate Army and began active duty as a cavalry captain in January 1862.*

Early in the war he organized two companies of Texas cavalry at the request of his friend Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston and joined forces with John Hunt Morgan; he served in Kentucky in 1862. He was promoted to colonel of the Seventh Kentucky Cavalry and served in the Tullahoma campaign of June 1863. He left active service for a short time because of ill health and then was transferred to the Trans-Mississippi Department in late 1863. There he was assigned by Gen. E. Kirby Smith to the command of a brigade of cavalry and of artillery operating in Arkansas, Indian Territory, and Missouri. On September 19, 1864, at the battle of Cabin Creek in Indian Territory, Gano was wounded as his forces captured an enemy supply train valued at \$2 million. He was officially promoted to brigadier general on March 17, 1865, and was recommended for promotion to major general, but the war ended before the commission was issued.



After the war Gano returned to Kentucky and entered the ministry of the Disciples of Christ. By 1870 he was in Dallas County, Texas, where he was a minister and stock farmer. His ministry spanned forty-five years, and he established many churches. He also made a speaking tour during the prohibition campaign of 1887 to promote a Texas prohibition amendment. Gano was responsible for importing much fine blooded livestock into Texas, including cattle, horses, sheep, and hogs. He formed a real estate company with two of his sons and was vice president of the Estado Land and Cattle Company. He also served as director of the Bankers and Merchants National Bank. He was active in the United Confederate Veterans. Gano died on March 27, 1913, in Dallas, Texas, and is buried there in Oakland Cemetery. Gano's log house has been moved from Grapevine to Old City Park in Dallas.

*BIBLIOGRAPHY: Dallas Morning News, March 28, 1913. Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas County (Chicago: Lewis, 1892; rpt., Dallas: Walsworth, 1976). William S. Speer and John H. Brown, eds., Encyclopedia of the New West (Marshall, Texas: United States Biographical Publishing, 1881; rpt., Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1978). Marcus J. Wright, comp., and Harold B. Simpson, ed., Texas in the War, 1861-1865 (Hillsboro, Texas: Hill Junior College Press, 1965). born June 17, 1830, died March 27, 1913*

Two separate biographical articles appeared in the Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas County (Chicago: Lewis, 1892. One is copied here, and whenever the second article adds or extends information it will be included in [brackets, thus]. "GENERAL RICHARD M. GANO, one of the present active men of Dallas, Texas, and well known throughout Kentucky, Texas, and the States of the great Southwest, was born in Bourbon county, Kentucky, on the 18th of June, 1830. His father was the well-known and dearly beloved John Allen Gano, of Kentucky, one of his most devout, able, and popular preachers in the Christian Church in his day. [Both General Gano's parents were natives of Kentucky. In his ministry, covering a period of sixty years, he baptized more than 10,000 persons upon profession of faith [laboring chiefly in Kentucky, but also in Missouri, Louisiana, Tennessee and Ohio. He was widely and extensively known in the greater portion of the above States, especially in Cincinnati, Ohio]. He was the earnest and able co-laborer of Alexander

*Campbell, Barton W. Stone and other leaders of the reformation, to whose efforts is due the strength and influence of the church in Kentucky today. He died October 10, 1887., the other account gives only the year 1871] in his eighty-second year, and left behind him a name and memory dear to the people amount whom he had lived. His wife, the mother of General Gano, was a devoted wife and mother, and entered into the life work of her husband with Christian zeal and courage. [She was the daughter of Captain William Conn, who was reared in Kentucky, and fought through all the Indian wars of that State, also in the War of 1812, and was a man of popularity, wealth, and ability, dying from the effects of a fall in the eighty-eighth year of his life. He had been a member for over sixty years of the Christian Church] For sixty-five years she was an active member of the church, and passed to her reward on the 10th day of October, 1891, in her eightieth year. This union was blessed with nine children, only two of whom survived the parents; General Gano, the subject of our sketch, and Capt John Allen Gano, of Taylor, Texas [who was engaged in the real estate business] [The second account gives the number of children at twelve, three of whom died in infancy] It will be seen from the foregoing that General Gano was raised in a religious atmosphere. Its great truths took hold on his youthful mind and have remained unshaken throughout his long and active life. He was educated at Bethany College, [Brooks county] West Virginia, graduating from that school in 1849 [1847], and from the Medical University at Louisville, Kentucky, two years later [1849]. He was a practicing physician from that time until the beginning of the Civil War in 1861, being located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana a portion of the time. [He practiced medicine for about eight years in Kentucky, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Texas] In 1857 he came to Texas with his family and settled on Grapevine prairie in Tarrant County. During the following year the Comanche Indians raided through North Texas, attacking settlers in Parker and Wise counties. Dr. Gano assisted in organizing a company and went in pursuit of the red-skins. The campaign lasted a month, and upon Dr. Gano's return home the citizens of Tarrant county presented him with a costly sword for his gallant and meritorious conduct on the field. He represented Tarrant county in the Legislature during the sessions of 1860 and '61, resigning his seat to enter the Confederate army. Organizing a battalion of cavalry in January, 1862, he entered active service and only sheathed his sword when the armies of the Confederacy disbanded in 1865. He was with General John M. Morgan during '62 and '63 commanding first a squadron of Texas Rangers, then a regiment and finally a brigade. His record as a dashing cavalry commander was not surpassed by any one in that department of the service. He was transferred to the department of the Trans-Mississippi in 1863, just before Morgan's Ohio raid, and so escaped that disastrous campaign. In the Trans-Mississippi he was assigned by General E. Kirby Smith to the command of two brigades of cavalry [with two batteries of artillery] operating in Arkansas, Indian Territory and Missouri, and such active and efficient work was done by his forces that he was recommended for promotion as Major-General, Richmond falling, however, before his commission issued. He was in seventy-two [forty-two] engagements with the enemy, in all of which he was victorious, except four. [He took part in the Battle of Chattanooga in 1863] He was wounded in the battle of Cabin Creek, Indian Territory, his left arm being broken by a minie ball; [his body grazed and his clothing pierced by half a dozen bullets] and during the war had five horses shot under him [three of which were killed]. During his three and a half years' service the Christian was never lost in the soldier, and upon his return to Kentucky in 1865, whither he decided to move and rebuild his broken fortunes, his thoughts turned to the ministry, and in July, 1866, he preached his first sermon at Leesburgh, Bourbon county, Kentucky. He has been a successful preacher, most of his time being given to evangelical work, and during his ministry has baptized more than 4,000 persons, besides establishing many churches. He is intensely loyal to the church of his choice, steadily and ably upholding her doctrines and giving liberally both*

*in time and means to her institutions. In 1874 General Gano began the importation of fine stock into Texas, and as his interests increased he again moved to this State, locating at Dallas, where he has since lived. He has imported probably more blooded stock into the State than any other one man, and has done much to turn the attention of the people of Texas to the importance of improving the breeding of their live-stock. His efforts in this direction have borne fruit, and to-day North and Middle Texas stock-grazers can show fancy breeds of Shorthorn, Jersey, and Holstein cattle and standard-bred horses, which will compare favorably with those of Kentucky and Illinois. General Gano has ever been an active man, engaging in many important business enterprises. He is at present Vice-President of the Estado Land & Cattle Company, and a director in the Bankers and Merchants' National Bank, he having been an important factor in the organization of both institutions. Since his return to Texas his many friends have importuned him to enter public life, but he has declined, preferring to devote his life to the Christian ministry and his private affairs. Being a moralist he has always been an avowed enemy of the saloon, and during the heated prohibition campaign in 1887, he took the stump and advocated the adoption of the constitutional amendment prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in the State. General Gano as a business man has been successful, and his time, when not engaged in active church work, is occupied with his large business interests in Texas and Kentucky. He was married in March, 1853, to Miss Martha J., daughter of Dr. Thomas Welch, of Crab Orchard, Kentucky, a prominent physician of that city. Mrs. Gano is a sister of Dr. Samuel Welch, of this city, and also of Colonel W. G. Welch, of Stanford, Kentucky, who is esteemed one of the ablest lawyers in that State. She is a lady of culture and refinement, having graduated with class honors [and a valedictorian's essay] from Greenville Institute in 1851, and during the thirty-nine years of her married life has ever been a devoted wife and mother. General and Mrs. Gano have had twelve children, as follows: Wm. B., John T. (deceased), and Clarence W., sketches of whom will be found in this volume; Sam W. (deceased); Kate M., wife of Dr. Hugh McLaurin of this city; Fannie (deceased); Maurice Dudley, B. A., of Kentucky University and B. L. and M. A. of Texas University, now practicing law in this city; [Robert] Lee, a graduate of Kentucky and Texas universities, now engaged in the practice of law in partnership with his brother, Marion Dudley [Robert Lee was chosen orator of his class at the Texas University, June 1891, but was compelled to leave college, April, 1891, on account of poor health]; Sidney Johnston, twin brother of Lee, a graduate of medicine from the University of Pennsylvania, recently commencing the practice of his profession in this city; Emma, graduate of Hamilton College, Kentucky and the Conservatory of Music at Cincinnati; Frank (deceased); and Mattie, the youngest of the family, who has not yet completed her studies. All the family are members of the Christian Church."*

There is an abundance of information available on the internet concerning Gen. Gano. His personal papers, those of his father, and many other family photographs and materials are housed in the Brown Library at Abilene Christian University. A Wikipedia article on him may be found at:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard\\_Montgomery\\_Gano](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Montgomery_Gano)



The compiler, Michael Patterson stands along side of General Gano's monument.