



# TARRANT COUNTY

## TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Marcus C. Howard

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Marcus C. Howard was a veteran of a Union cavalry regiment from Kansas. He made more than one move between his native Arkansas and Texas. He lived at Keller for several years around the turn of the century, and eventually died in a home for old soldiers in Kansas. He was the son-in-law of one of our Keller Confederate veterans, Silas Ledford.

Family sources say Marcus Howard's parents were William J. Howard (1806-1886) and Mary A. Hilburn. They were married on May 20, 1830 at Plains, Greenville County, South Carolina.

Marcus was born in Benton County, Arkansas on December 9, 1844. When the 1850 census was taken, William J. Howard and his family were living in Osage Township, Benton County, Arkansas. Marcus was with them, five years old.

Ten years later the family was still in the same place, and William J. Howard was a lawyer. Luckily for historians, the census taker listed the county and states of birth for Mr. Howard's family in that year. William J. Howard was a native of Greenville Co., South Carolina. His wife, Mary A. Howard, was born about 1814 in Marion County, South Carolina. From the birthplaces of the children in the family, it appears they lived in Cass County, Georgia in the years surrounding 1836-1840, after which time they moved to Benton County, Arkansas. In 1860 Marcus was fourteen years old. In 1861 the name of Cass County, Georgia was changed to Bartow County, which it remains today.

Marcus Howard served the Union as a private in Co. B, 11th Kansas Cavalry. He enlisted on January 16, 1864, and was mustered into the service four days later. He served about one and one-half years, and was mustered out on August 31, 1865. His records say he was a resident of Leavenworth, Kansas when he enlisted.

Mr. Howard and his wife, Sarah J. "Sallie" Ledford, were married in Arkansas about 1868. She was born in Cherokee County, North Carolina on November 28, 1845, and was a daughter of Silas and Vianna (Curtis) Ledford. Mr. and Mrs. Ledford later came to Tarrant County and settled near Keller. This probably explains why the Howards came to our area as well.

In 1870, Mr. and Mrs. Howard lived in Precinct 3 of Dallas County, Texas in the same household with Silas Ledford. Mr. and Mrs. Howard had only one child, Charles Howard, who had been born in December, 1869 in Texas. Mr. Howard was working as a printer.

At some point in the early 1870's, Mr. Howard moved his family back to Benton County, Arkansas, where they were living when the 1880 census was taken. He was still working as a printer. The children in the family included Charles (who was born about 1870 in Texas); Ola (who was born about 1874 in Arkansas), Augustus (who was born about 1875 in Arkansas), and Robert Howard, who was born about 1879 in Texas. Thus they had returned to Texas again during the late 1870's.

Interestingly, in the 1880 census of Silver City, Owyhee County, Idaho Territory is found one Marcus C. Howard, age thirty-five, a printer, born in Arkansas to a South Carolinian father and a Georgian mother. He was boarding with another family and his wife and children were not with him. His presence in this census is puzzling, but it seems apparent this was the same man. This Idaho census listing was made on June 2, 1880, while the listing in Benton County, Arkansas shows June 1 and 2, 1880.

Mr. Howard applied for his Union veterans' pension while living in Arkansas on February 15, 1884. It was granted, and he received additional benefits beginning in 1907 on account of his age. None of the 1890 Union veterans' census schedules for Arkansas have survived.

By 1900 the family had settled at Keller, Texas. By that time they had only one child still living with them: Robert, who was born in September 1878 in Texas. Marcus Howard was working as a typesetter, probably for the Keller Kourier.

Marcus Howard was appointed postmaster of Keller, Texas on July 12, 1906. Oddly, he and both his predecessors, Elias J. Hysmith and John M. Pipkin, were Union veterans of the Civil War. Mr. Howard remained in office until July 31, 1912. Pipkin had earlier held the office from 1889-1893. No Confederate veteran ever held the office.

When the 1910 census was taken, M. C. Howard and his wife, Sallie J. Howard, were living at Keller. He owned his farm, and told the census taker he was a Union veteran. Mrs. Sallie J. Howard said she had given birth to six children, four of whom were still alive.

Mrs. Sarah J. Howard died at Keller, Texas on December 22, 1910, and was buried in Bourland Cemetery at Keller near her father, who had been dead only about six months. She has a readable headstone. We have not been able to locate Mr. Howard in the 1920 census.

By 1930, Marcus C. Howard was a resident of the National Military Home at Leavenworth, Kansas. The records show he was a widower. He died there and was buried in the Leavenworth National

Cemetery in Section 37, Row 3, Site 3. It is located at 150 Muncie Road in Leavenworth. The cemetery office does not have on file a date of death for Mr. Howard.

