



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Gervase A. Lilly

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Gervase A. Lilly was a native of the British Isles who arrived in the United States about 1850. About 1858 he came to Texas, and served the Confederacy in a Texas cavalry regiment. He lived in northeast Tarrant County for a time during the late 1860's. He moved about this state a great deal and finally settled in Taylor County where he died in 1923.

Mr. Lilly was born in England on July 30, 1838. His death certificate says he was a son of John Lilly.

According to a statement Mr. Lilly made in 1869 he first came to Texas about 1858. One G. A. Lilly is found in the 1860 census of Hopkins County, Texas in Beat 4. He was working as a stock herder. His birthplace is shown as Texas, but it is at the end of a long list of dittoed Texas birthplaces and thus could have been inadvertently recorded...or the census taker may not have taken the time to ask the laborers in that household. In her pension application in 1930, Mrs. Lilly said her husband lived at Black Jack Grove, Hopkins County, Texas, when he entered the service.

Gervase A. Lilly was mustered into the Confederate service at Camp Reeves in Grayson County, Texas on October 14, 1861. He became a private in Captain James P. Williams' Company of the 4th Regiment of Texas Volunteers. This company subsequently became Co. K, 9th Texas Cavalry. Mr. Lilly was twenty-three years old when he enlisted for a term of twelve months. He presented himself for service on a horse worth one hundred ten dollars and with equipment worth twenty dollars. He had rode ninety miles to the regimental rendezvous.

He was at Fort Gibson in present-day Oklahoma on the last day of 1861 and had recently been detailed for twenty-five days as a teamster. On a roll for August 1 through October 31, 1862 he was detailed for special duty, but it is not described on the muster roll for that period. For the next two months he worked as a teamster. He was captured at Kinard's Bridge, Tennessee on April 2, 1863. Another record shows him captured near Franklin, Tennessee on April 2, 1863 and forwarded to

Nashville on April 4. His name appears on a roll of prisoners of war at the Penitentiary at Nashville, Tennessee on April 9. From there he was forwarded to the military prison at Louisville, Kentucky. He was discharged from the facility at Louisville on April 14 to Baltimore, Maryland, via City Point, Virginia for exchange.

On a roll for September and October, 1863 he is shown "on daily duty with scouts by Whitfield." On a roll for March 31 through May 31, 1864, the notation appears: "on extra duty Sent by order of Gen Jackson on horse purchased of govt at \$275.00 [Cred?] by \$48."

He was captured again near Prentiss, Mississippi, on December 21, 1864 by elements of the 87th Illinois Mounted Infantry. He was received by the yankee provost marshal at Memphis, Tennessee on December 27, 1864. He was among a group of prisoners sent from Memphis to Alton, Illinois or Johnson's Island, Ohio, but he and several other men managed to escape enroute on January 10, 1865. He was a sergeant at the end of his service. No further information specific to his service is contained in his compiled military service file in Washington, D. C.

In her pension application Mrs. Lilly said her husband was taken prisoner, escaped from a moving train in Ohio, and was making his way back to the Confederate lines when Lee surrendered the Army. Mr. Lilly had gotten as far as southern Illinois by the time of the surrender.

S. J. Neal of Taylor County, Texas, a comrade in arms of Lilly's, made an affidavit for Mrs. Lilly in which he said, "... [I] was enlisted at Sherman, Texas and was detailed there to fight the Indians and went all through the War from the Frontier of Texas to the Coasts of South Carolina, and was in 72 engagements...was with Johnson and many others fighting all the way and....Gervous A. Lilly was with [me] most of the time..."

Gervase A. Lilly was living in Tarrant County when he registered to vote on November 24, 1869. He said he had been in Texas since about 1858, and Precinct 3 of Tarrant County since about 1867.

Mr. Lilly married Josephine Eliza Merrell in Dallas County on December 29, 1868. She was born in Dallas County, Texas about 1847. Her father, Benjamin Merrell (1820-1864), was the first tax collector of Dallas County. His father, Eli Merrell (1787-1849), was a veteran of the War of 1812 and also a Dallas County pioneer. Both men lie buried in the Merrell Family Cemetery in northwest Dallas County.

In 1870 Gervase and his wife and child were living in Dallas County, Texas in Precinct 4, in an area served by the post office at Dallas. They were living in a home headed by nineteen-year-old Eli Merrill. Josephine Lilly was twenty-three and born in Texas. Their daughter Fannie Lilly was born in October 1869.

Mrs. Josephine Lilly, thirty-three years old and a native of Texas, appears in the 1880 mortality schedules of Parker County, Texas. She died in January 1880 of pneumonia. Dr. Morgan was the attending physician.

The 1880 census taker found Mr. Lilly and his seven-year-old daughter, Mary, living in District 61 in Dallas County, Texas. His brother-in-law, Eli Merrill, was listed on the same page of the census a few households away. Mr. Lilly was working as a farmer. In that year several of his children were living in adjacent Tarrant County with his brother-in-law, Robert B. Merrill...Fannie, Lucy, Maggie, and Johnnie Lilly. Two of his children, George and Robert Lilly, lived in Dallas County with their kinsman John Merrell.

Family sources report Mr. Lilly's marriage to Mrs. A. E. Larkin in Dallas County, Texas on October 12, 1883. There is a marriage certificate for Mr. Lilly and his last wife, Adaline A. Compton, in Taylor County, Texas on November 28, 1897. This would agree with a statement Mr. Lilly later made that he had been married three times.

Mr. Lilly and his wife, Adaline, appear in the 1900 census of Precinct 5 in Taylor County, Texas. They had been married two years and she said she had never given birth to any children. Mr. Lilly said he had come to the United States in 1848 and was a naturalized citizen. He was farming on land he owned. Their next-door neighbors were Robert Lilly and his family.

In 1910 he and his wife, "Amanda A." Lilly, were living in Precinct 2 of Taylor County. They said they had been married ten years. His wife said she was born about 1850 and was in her first marriage. Mr. Lilly said he was in his third marriage. They had no other family members with them. A photograph of the Lilly home from about this time has survived. Castle Peak is clearly visible in the background. Castle Peak is about eight miles south of Merkel in Taylor County.

The census taker found Mr. and Mrs. Lilly in Precinct 5 in Taylor County in 1920. They were living alone.

Gervase A. Lilly died at Merkel, Taylor County, Texas at 9 a.m. on June 4, 1923. His death was caused by senility and a contributing cause which is illegible on his death certificate. He was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery at Merkel the next day.

Mrs. Adaline Lilly died August 7, 1931 in Merkel, Texas. Her headstone gives her date of birth as June 24, 1846. She also lies buried in Rose Hill Cemetery.

We have discovered the names of seven children born to Gervase and Josephine Lilly. The following short accounts of their lives came from family records posted at ancestry.com, headstone records, census records, and state vital statistics records.

Fannie Ann Myers was born, according to her death certificate, in Parker County, Texas on November 6, 1869. In 1880 she lived with her uncle, Robert B. Merrell, in Tarrant County. She married Kimball Hicks Myers (1854-1936) on February 28, 1887 in Dallas County, Texas. They spent most of their married life in Denton County. She died at her home in the Carroll Hotel in San Marcos, Hays County, Texas at 9:45 p.m. on December 8, 1949. She was buried in Belew Cemetery in Aubrey, Denton County, Texas.

George C. Lilly was born February 5, 1871 and lived with John Merrell in Dallas County when the 1880 census was taken. Descendants report he married H. Ellen Wooten (she had been previously married to a Mr. Cook) in Taylor County, Texas on December 31, 1892. In 1900 they lived in Precinct 6 of Ellis County, Texas in a family with children from both marriages. Mrs. Lilly was about nine years his senior. By 1910 Mr. and Mrs. Lilly and some of their children had moved to Precinct 2 of Childress County.

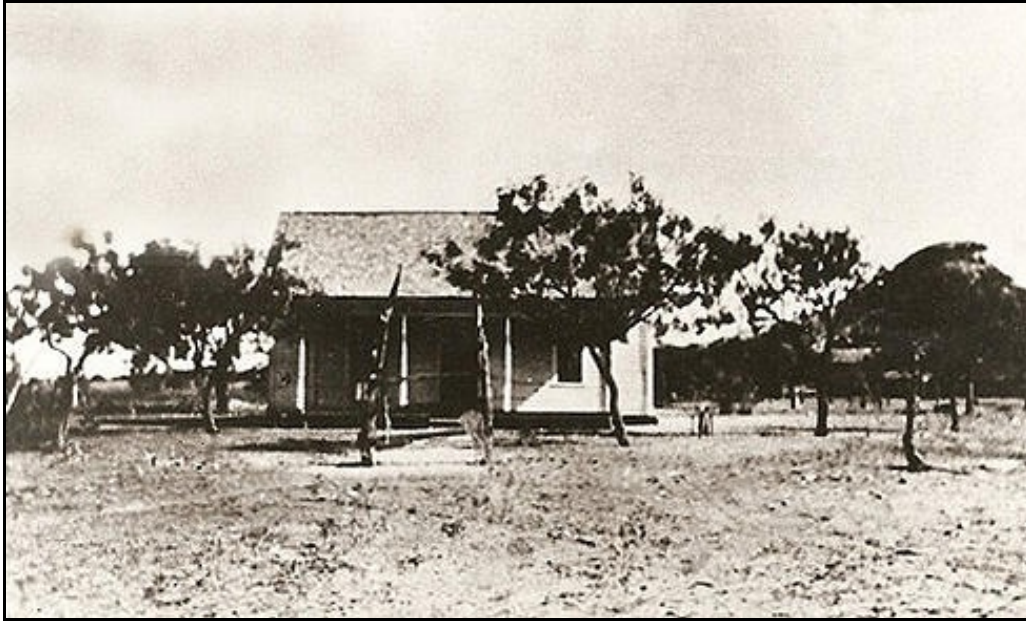
Maud Mary Lilly was born August 6, 1872. On October 22, 1891 in Taylor County she married Miles Bunyan Henslee (1867-1959). In 1900 and 1910 they lived in Taylor County, Texas. By 1930 they had moved to Haskell County, Texas. She died November 23, 1943 in Socorro County, New Mexico.

Lucy May Lilly was born on August 26, 1874. In 1899 she married James Jesse Pribble (1878-1952). In 1920 they lived in Callahan County, Texas. She died at her home at 1901 26th Street in Lubbock, Texas on December 30, 1940. She was buried in the city cemetery at Lubbock the next day.

Robert Walter Lilly was born February 16, 1875. He married Nancy Elizabeth Bradley (1875-1977) about 1897. Some family sources say he died in October 1913 in Taylor County, Texas. Others say he died November 25, 1906. A third source says "before October 1913." Nancy E. Lilly appears as a widow with children in the 1910 census of Taylor County. She lies buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Abilene, Texas.

Maggie Lilly was born about 1877. Some family researchers say she is the Lilly daughter who married M. B. Henslee, rather than her sister Maud Mary Lilly. Some researchers say she died in 1895, but do not say where. Other than those who say she married Mr. Henslee, no one else suggests a husband for her.

John Ben Lilly was born January 31, 1878. He married Pearl Regina Chandler on December 14, 1899 in Taylor County, Texas. He died at Merkel, Texas at 9 a.m. on March 28, 1941. He was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Merkel.



This is the Lilly home, south of Merkel, Texas, with Castle Peak in the background.

