



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

Copyright © 2009-2012. All rights reserved.

Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

William Melbourn

Compiled by Michael Patterson
Copyright © 2009-2012. All rights reserved.

William Melbourn was a Civil War veteran and pioneer of the Birdville community. We have been unable to determine the side on which he served, owing to a clerk's making notations on the original census form and hiding the writing which discloses Mr. Melbourn's allegiance. He lies buried in Birdville Cemetery.

Mr. Melbourn was born in England on March 20, 1835. His death certificate gives no information about his parentage. In his old age he told a census taker he came to the United States in 1859, and was a naturalized citizen. William and his wife, Jessie, were married about 1864. None of the death certificates of their children lists her maiden name.

Jessie Melbourn was born in Scotland in August 1837. She died September 6, 1908 and was buried in Birdville Cemetery. They settled in the Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma), where they remained until 1883, when they settled in Birdville.

William Melbourn's home is shown on the Sam Street Map of Tarrant County in 1895. In modern-day terms, it sat in the City of Richland Hills on the south side of Baker Boulevard, east of Highway 26, at about the intersections of Dreeben and Crites Streets.

When William's family was enumerated in the 1900 census at Birdville in Tarrant County, he said he was born in England, as were his parents. His wife, Jessie, said she and both her parents were born in Scotland. Jessie said she had given birth to eight children, four of whom were still living. The census taker in 1910 found Mr. Melbourn living with the family of his son-in-law, Marsh Calloway.

William Melbourn died on July 20, 1921, at the home of his son-in-law, Marshall Calloway. His death certificate records that he died of senile dementia and senility.

An obituary for William Melbourn appeared in the Fort Worth Record on July 21, 1921: *“William Melbourne. 86, pioneer resident of Tarrant county, died at 1 o’clock Wednesday afternoon at the family residence in Birdville. Mr. Melbourne had lived at Birdville for thirty-eight years, going there in 1883 from the old Indian territory. He has watched the progress of the country from a mere geographical outline to one of the wealthiest in the state and has traveled over it from the old cow trails to the modern hard surfaced roads.*

“Mr. Melbourne was born in Lincolnshire, England in 1835, and came to the United States while a youth and settled in the territory.

“He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Jessie E. Snow and Mrs. M. Calloway of Birdville, making his home with Mrs. Calloway. Two sons, W. K. and C. G., ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren also survive.

“Funeral services will be held Thursday afternoon at 3 o’clock from the Birdville Baptist Church with the Rev. Mr. Hancock officiating. The procession will meet at the Calloway home at 2 o’clock. Interment will be in the Birdville cemetery. Active pallbearers will be R. W. Henderson, Lou Adkins, Lloyd Booth, Charles Johns, Ed King, and W. C. Reeves. Honorary pallbearers are Frank Booth, R. M. Davis, J. W. Brooks, L. M. Barkley, L. B. Brown, W. R. Bewley, A. B. Angle, Hugh Hightower, Charles Wall, and Tug Burg___,”

Catherine Melbourn’s headstone in Birdville Cemetery merely gives the years of her life, 1876-1951. She was the wife of Marshall Calloway (1869-1945), whom she married about 1894.

Simon F. Melbourn was born April 5, 1864. He died October 13, 1889 and was buried in Birdville Cemetery.

Charles Gerome “Bum” Melbourn’s death certificate says he was born in Oklahoma on April 3, 1868 (his headstone says 1867). He died in the Osteopathic Hospital in Fort Worth on April 21, 1953 and was buried in Birdville Cemetery. His last home was at 6608 Baker Boulevard in Precinct 1 of Tarrant County. He married Mary Boaz (1877-1970). Interestingly, the 1900 census of Tarrant County lists his birthplace as California.

Jessie E. Melbourn Snow was born March 29, 1870; her death certificate says she was born in Missouri. She died at her home in Precinct 3 of Tarrant County on January 6, 1942, and was buried in Birdville Cemetery. She was the wife of Rufus “Rufe” Snow (1867-1957), for whom a major street in northeast Tarrant County was named.

William K. “Bill” Melbourn’s death certificate shows him to have been born in Oklahoma on March 20, 1878. He died in the Mansfield Rest Home in Mansfield, Tarrant County, Texas on May 28, 1951. He was a retired deputy sheriff. He was buried in Birdville Cemetery. When the 1900 census was taken, William’s birthdate was given as March, 1875.



WILLIAM
MELBOURN
BORN
MAR. 20, 1835
DIED
JULY 19, 1921

JESSIE
MELBOURN
BORN
AUG. 1837
DIED
SEPT. 6, 1908.

FATHER

MOTHER