



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Thomas Moore Riley

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Thomas Moore Riley was born July 18, 1844 in Montgomery Co., Illinois. He was a son of Colleyville and Bedford pioneer Jonathan Riley and his wife, Judy (Moore) Riley. His mother was some relation to Bedford pioneer Milton Moore. Thomas came to Tarrant County with his parents about 1856.

Thomas enlisted in the Confederate Army and served as a member of Co. A, 34th Texas Cavalry. He enlisted July 25, 1862 at Camp Johnson under M. W. Deavenport. Riley is shown present for duty on surviving rolls for February-June 1863 and January-February 1864.

He worked as a cattle drover for some time after the war. Thomas married Sarah Melinda Goldsmith (the sister of noted north-Texas horse thief John Alison Goldsmith) prior to 1876. She was born February 12, 1856 and died October 16, 1901. When John A. Goldsmith was killed by law enforcement men in 1877, he was buried on Thomas Riley's land in present-day Colleyville, and was (according to local lore) the first man buried in the Riley Cemetery.

Between 1877 and 1880 Thomas Riley and his wife moved to Montague County, Texas and lived about 1.5 miles northwest of Stoneburg. He is shown there in the 1880 census as a stock raiser. He died there April 3, 1896 and is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in Montague County.

After his death, Riley's widow was remarried to James Howard about 1898. When the 1900 census taker asked her, Sarah M. Howard said she had given birth to two children, only one of whom was still living. That one child was her son, Cash Riley. Sarah M. Riley Howard was buried beside her first husband at Oak Hill.

