



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

John H. Sexton

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John H. Sexton was Union veteran of an Indiana regiment who came to Tarrant County in the 1860's, returned to Indiana for a time, then came here to stay in the early 1880's. He lies buried in Arwine Cemetery in Hurst.

John H. Sexton was born in Brown County, Indiana in 1843. Descendants who have posted data at ancestry.com say he was the fourth child of Enoch Sexton and his wife, Sarah Arwine. John was born after the Sexton family had made a move from Anderson County, Tennessee to Indiana. Enoch Sexton also came to Tarrant County, outlived his son by about five years, and was also buried in Arwine Cemetery. After Enoch's death, Sarah returned to Indiana, where she died in 1896.

When the 1850 census was taken, John was living with his parents and siblings in Johnson Township of Brown County, Indiana. John was the fourth of eight children with the family that year. Enoch and Sarah Sexton had begun their family in Tennessee, and had moved to Indiana around 1840, judging from the birthplaces of their children shown in the census.

Ten years later, in 1860, the family was still in Johnson Township. Their next-door neighbors were the family of Daniel and Julia Arwine, the pioneers for whom the Arwine Cemetery in Hurst is named. Mr. Arwine and Mrs. Sexton were brother and sister. John Sexton was the oldest of the four Sexton children who were still living at home.

John H. Sexton was married twice, first to Samantha Lucas in Brown County, Indiana on December 27, 1860. She was a daughter of Thomas L. Lucas and his wife, Louisa Pennington. She was born about 1844. After having four sons, John and Samantha were divorced. She was named their guardian on July 8, 1870 in Brown County. She was later married to William Joseph (Jode) Helms in 1877. At some later time, John H. Sexton regained custody of at least two of his sons from his first marriage, and they spent the rest of their lives in Tarrant County.

John H. Sexton served the Union as a soldier in Co. H, 82nd Indiana Infantry. He enlisted on August 30, 1862 and was mustered out on June 9, 1865. As late as 1981 one of John H. Sexton's granddaughters, Mrs. Iris (Deckard) Collins of Riverside, California had a letter Mr. Sexton wrote home while he was in the army in 1863.

In the 1870 census of Tarrant County, John Sexton appears as a single man in the family of his first-cousin, Nicholas J. Arwine, who was living at the time in the Bedford-Hurst area. Nicholas Arwine left Tarrant County in the 1870's and returned to Bedford County, Indiana in the 1870's, probably between about 1876 and 1879. The records suggest John Sexton and his second wife and child made the move with them.

About 1872, Mr. Sexton was again married. His second wife was Isabel Alice Staley, who was born May 15, 1854 to Jacob A. and Melvina Staley. She died about 1885, and was buried in Arwine Cemetery in Hurst, Texas. They were the parents of six children.

By the time the 1880 census was taken, John had married and returned to Johnson Township in Brown County, Indiana. In that year, he and his wife and children were next-door neighbors of his parents, Enoch and Sarah Sexton. John's wife, Isabella A., was born about 1854 in Indiana. They had three children living with them: Nicholas (born about 1875 in Texas); George G. (born about 1878 in Indiana); and Jacob A. (born about 1879 in Indiana).

Family sources say a large group of the Sextons and members of their extended family came to northeast Tarrant County in 1881. The account written in the "Sexton Family History" by Donald R. Benton is as follows: ***"In 1881 Enoch Sexton and his wife, Sarah, with their family came to Daniel Arwine's by wagon train from Indiana. Sarah Sexton was a sister of James Arwine and an aunt of Daniel Arwine. It took seventeen wagons and one hack for this large family to come to Texas. Sarah and Enoch being the oldest in the wagon train were allowed to ride in the hack which belonged to Grandpa George Lutes. They were on the road for ten weeks. At night the wagons were placed in a large circle to form a lot. This was to feed the horses and also to prevent the Indians from stealing the horses. All of the relatives with the exception of one son (James Arwine Sexton) came in this wagon train. One son (Nicholas G. Sexton) had already died and was buried in the Robertson Cemetery in Maumee, Indiana. One daughter, Rachel Sexton, who married John Henry Deckard, did not come in the wagon train. Another daughter, Mary Jane Sexton, who was married to Templeton Johnson also did not come in the wagon train. The children who came were Dave and his wife, Lizzie with a large family (14 kids). Another daughter Becky and her husband Jack Parks, a son John H. with a large family, a daughter Sarah who married Sol Robertson with their five daughters Belle, Etta, Annie, Minnie and Alice. Jim and Polly Hackney were also on the wagon train. Jim Hackney was Sol Robertson's cousin. Daniel Arwine's home where they came was then located in the vicinity of present-day Brown Trail on the west and Pipeline Road on the north. This was a double log house where U. S. Marshall Dan Arwine lived."***

Family sources remember that John H. and Isabel Alice Sexton died within a few days of each other about 1885. Their death was caused by red measles. Their graves were unmarked until 1985 when Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. Benton erected a marble double headstone at their graves.

In his first marriage to Samantha Lucas, Mr. Sexton was the father of four children: James W. Sexton, William David Sexton, John Thomas Sexton, and Enoch Wesley Sexton.

James W. Sexton (1862-1932) married a lady named Sarah J., whose maiden name is unknown at this time. He lies buried in Knight Ridge Cemetery in Salt Creek Township in Monroe County, Indiana. His wife lies buried beside him.

William David Sexton married Marion McLain Davidson (1865-1943). He was born April 14, 1866. They were married March 7, 1889 in Tarrant County. He died in Fort Worth on June 10, 1910 of pneumonia and was buried in Arwine Cemetery in Hurst. After William Sexton's death, Marion married J. L. Howell in 1920, but the marriage did not last. She died June 16, 1943 and was buried in Arwine Cemetery.

Enoch Wesley Sexton married Susan Adelia Davidson (1870-1961), a sister of the wife of his brother, William. Enoch was born September 15, 1868 and died August 19, 1934. He and his wife lie buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery. His wife was born May 7, 1870 in Tennessee and died February 12, 1961 in Fort Worth.

In his second marriage, to Isabel Alice Staley, Mr. Sexton was the father of six children: Nicholas D. Sexton, George Ernest Sexton, Jacob A. Sexton, Martha Annie Sexton, Janie Sexton, and Jesse (or David) Sexton.

Nicholas D. Sexton married Mary Matilda Buffington He was born March 15, 1872. He and Miss Buffington were married in Tarrant County, Texas August 13, 1902. She was born October 28, 1877 and died January 18, 1948. Mr. Sexton died February 6, 1940 and they are buried in Bourland Cemetery in Keller, Texas.

George Ernest Sexton married Hannah Emmeta Carey on March 3, 1901. He was born December 28, 1873. He died in Coyle, Oklahoma, and was buried in Sunny Lane Cemetery. His wife was born February 10, 1874 and died September 26, 1952 at Tulsa, Oklahoma. She lies buried beside her husband.

Jacob A. Sexton married Henrietta S. Thompson (1884-1962). He was born in January 1878, and died in 1929 in Oklahoma. He and his wife were married February 12, 1908 in Tarrant County. After Mr. Sexton's death she married Charley Brown (1871-1948). He is buried in Sunny Lane Cemetery in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. His wife lived until July 21, 1962 and is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Martha Annie Sexton married William Davis Blackwood (1880-1945). She was born December 25, 1880, and married William David (Will) Blackwood in Brown County, Texas on July 7, 1900. She died February 26, 1949 in Perris, California, and was buried in the Perris Valley Cemetery there.

Janie Sexton married Claude Dawson Kimbel (1875-1961). Janie was born October 15, 1883. She married Mr. Kimbel on June 18, 1901. She died during surgery in Amarillo, Texas on August 6, 1957, and was buried at Las Animas, Colorado.

Jesse (or David) Sexton (1885-1897) was adopted by persons unknown and died at the age of twelve after being kicked in the head by a horse.

Several genealogists have placed information on Mr. Sexton and his family at ancestry.com. More information on Mr. Sexton and his family may be found in the "Sexton Family History" by Donald R. Benton, a copy of which is located in the Hurst, Texas public library.

