



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Thomas Sparger

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Thomas Sparger

Thomas Sparger was born in October, 1835 in the First District of Marion County (now Sequatchie County), Tennessee. He was the second child of Samuel and Susan Sparger. All the Spargers moved from Marion County, Tennessee to Walker County, Georgia about 1859.

Thomas was a private in Co. E, 39<sup>th</sup> Georgia Volunteer Infantry, enlisting on March 4, 1862 at Lafayette, Georgia, for three years or the war. He was captured at Georgetown, Kentucky on November 10, 1862 and sent to Cairo, Illinois on November 18, 1862. He also appears on a list of prisoners sent by the Provost Marshall to Vicksburg, Mississippi or Louisville, Kentucky on November 15, 1862. Thomas was captured in the fall of Vicksburg,

Mississippi on July 4, 1863. He was paroled on July 8. Other records show he was paroled at Camp Morton, Indiana and forwarded to City Point, Virginia, via Baltimore, Maryland, for exchange of February 26, 1865. This contradicts a statement Thomas himself made saying he was at his father's home near Chickamauga at the time of the battle there on September 19-20, 1863.

Thomas Sparger married a Confederate widow, Mrs. Elizabeth L. (Mullis) Couch, who lived on the farm adjoining the Spargers. They were married in nearby Hamilton County, Tennessee on October 21, 1865. One of Mrs. Couch's sons by her first marriage to John Couch, George Washington Couch, is the founder of the large family of Couch descendants in the Colleyville-Keller areas.

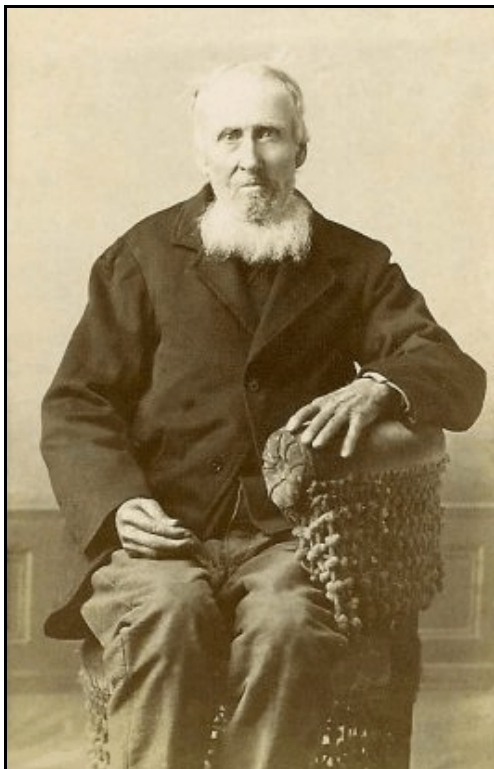


Mrs. Elizabeth (Mullis) Couch Sparger, wife of Thomas Sparger, lost her first husband, John Couch, at the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862.

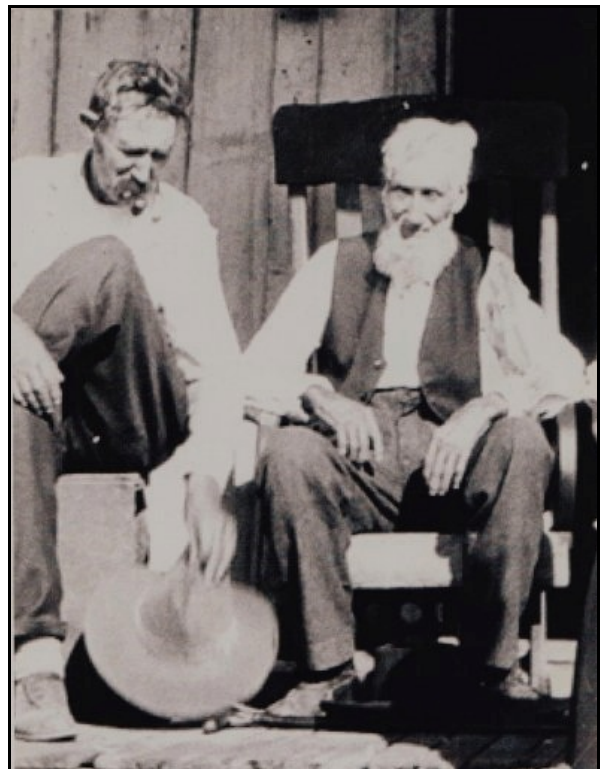
During the late 1870's, Thomas Sparger and his family moved to Bedford in Tarrant County, Texas, and purchased a large tract of land on the south side of Little Bear Creek. It comprises most of the modern-day Tara Development in southern Colleyville. While he lived in Colleyville he lived in a log house on the G. W. Teeter survey. The house sat a few yards west of Tara Drive about halfway between Cheek-Sparger Road and Plantation Drive, South. The same house was later enlarged and became the home of his brother, Harvey R. Sparger, until Harvey's death in 1914.

Thomas and his family remained on the Colleyville farm until about 1882 when they moved to Erath County, Texas. In 1884 Sparger bought a tract of 140 acres there which had as a portion of its southern boundary the lot occupied by the church, cemetery, and school at Victor. Sparger's log house stood north of the cemetery until about 1975 when it was burned. Thomas, Elizabeth, and two of their sons moved for a time before 1910 to Childress County, Texas. Elizabeth died in 1911, and was buried at Victor. By 1920 Thomas and his two bachelor sons had returned to Erath County. He died on December 24, 1920 while visiting relatives in Colleyville, Tarrant County, and was buried beside his wife in Victor Cemetery in Erath County, Texas.

Thomas and Elizabeth Sparger were the parents of five children: William Harvey Sparger; John W. Sparger; Eula Addiline (Mrs. Colwell W. "Collie") Bailey; Thomas P. Sparger; and Fleetis Elizabeth (Mrs. Mason Edward) Gallaway.



Samuel Sparger, who died in Colleyville in 1893, was the father of Harvey R. Sparger and Thomas Sparger. Two of his other sons were Georgia infantrymen who did not come to Texas.



Thomas Sparger (right) and his step-son, George W. Couch, sitting on the porch of the Couch store at Colleyville. (I have the original negative of this photo, a print made at the time it was taken, and.....the camera which took it.)

