



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

Copyright © 2009-2012. All rights reserved.

## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### William Jasper Thomas

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

William Jasper Thomas was a Confederate veteran of a Texas cavalry regiment. He married the sister of five Confederate soldiers from the Birdville area, and died at Birdville in 1884.

William Jasper Thomas was born in Virginia on March 11, 1842. The 1880 census says he was the son of two native Virginians. Family sources at Ancestry.com say he was the son of James H. Thomas (1810-1899), who settled near Birdville at some point in the 1850's or 1860's and who died at Ranger in Eastland County, Texas. W. J. Thomas's mother was Amy Ann Perkins, who was born about 1814 in Virginia, and who died in Texas before 1900.

William Jasper Thomas appears in the 1850 census of Grayson County, Virginia as an eight-year-old boy in the family of his father, James Thomas.

Mr. Thomas enlisted in the Confederate Army on October 26, 1861 at Mansfield in Tarrant County under Capt. Thomas O. Moody. His original enlistment was in Capt. Thomas O. Moody's Company, Third Regiment of Sibley's Brigade of Texas Mounted Volunteers. This company subsequently became Co. K, 7<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry. Thomas said he was nineteen years old. He was mustered into the service at Camp Pickett near San Antonio on November 15, 1861, having traveled three hundred miles to the rendezvous. He reported on a horse worth eighty-five dollars and brought equipment with him worth thirty-five dollars.

Mr. Thomas served the Confederacy in Co. K, 7<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry. He was admitted to the St. James U. S. A. General Hospital in New Orleans on July 13, 1863 suffering from "contusion of back from shell," and was named a "rebel prisoner delivered to Capt. Killborn." He was slightly wounded in battle at Donaldsonville, Louisiana on June 28, 1863. On July 13, 1863 he was admitted to St. James General U.S.A. General Hospital, where he remained as late as August 7, 1863.

One parole on an imprint of the Department of the Gulf, dated September 30, 1863, remains in his file. On the back is written: "The condition of the within parole is that the said W. J. Thomas, 7<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavy., confine himself to the house and ground attached to No. 339 Bienville [..illegible..] and when sufficiently well to report to the Provost Marshall of New Orleans #67 Carondelette [..illegible]."

On November 9, 1863 he was confined in the customs house at New Orleans by virtue of being a prisoner of war. This record shows he escaped on February 24, 1864.

Thomas was still a prisoner at New Orleans on the last day of 1863. A notation on a roll made at that time says he was captured on November 20, 1863 at Camp Pratt.

His file contains an original handwritten request for parole, dated at the Customs House on January 15, 1864. It says, in part: "...The pains I experience from my wound induce me to apply for a parole. I have acquired no strength since I left the hospital..."

Mr. Thomas's name "Appears on a Return of military and political prisoners in confinement at New Orleans, La., for the month of February, 1864." With a handwritten notation that he "...Escaped during the month, having been transfd. to a new place of confinement which was not sufficiently secure."

W. J. Thomas registered to vote in Precinct 5 of Tarrant County on August 27, 1867, saying he was a native of Virginia and had been in Texas, Tarrant County, and Precinct 5 for the past eight years, hence he must have settled here about 1859. The family is absent from the 1860 census of Grayson County, Virginia.

Mr. Jasper and his family appeared in the 1870 census of Tarrant County's Precinct 3. He was listed by his full name, and was shown as a 28-year-old farmer, born in Virginia. His wife, Sarah E. Thomas, was eighteen years old and born in Kentucky. They had one child with them, Tate Thomas, a one-year-old son born in Texas. The family next-door was headed by Sarah's father, James Hardisty.

The Thomas family appears in the 1880 census of Tarrant County, The tax records for that year show in that year Jasper Thomas owned seventy acres of the A. G. Walker survey, worth \$280, and forty acres of the D. C. Manning survey, worth \$80. He owned one carriage or wagon worth \$25, two horses or mules worth \$40, and five hogs worth five dollars.

On August 9, 1881, the Commissioners' Court of Tarrant County, Texas issued to W. Jasper Thomas a certificate for 1,280 acres of land in fulfillment of "...an act granting to persons who have been permanently disabled by reasons of wounds received while in the service of this state or of the Confederate states..." Frank Booth, J. P. Smith, and Aaron Gibson swore to his disability. A photograph of the original document may be seen at:

<https://scandocs.glo.state.tx.us/webfiles/landgrants/pdfs/1/0/4/6/1046545.pdf>

William Jasper Thomas died at his home near Birdville on January 6, 1884. He has a small readable marble headstone which appears to have been made at the same time as those of his son, Tate Thomas, his daughter, Carrie Thomas, and his (William Jasper Thomas's) wife's second husband, Jacob Wendling.

Jacob Wendling and the widow Sarah Thomas were married in Tarrant County on May 1, 1894. Wendling was a shoemaker, born in France, who came to the United States in 1877 and was naturalized. His headstone in Birdville Cemetery shows his dates of birth and death as April 3, 1853 and July 17, 1901.

When the 1900 census was taken, Jacob and Sarah Wendling were living in Ward 1 of Fort Worth, at 1300 First Street. Sarah said they had been married six years, and that she had given birth to seven children, five of whom were still living. With the family were two children from her first marriage: Lily May Thomas and Charles Thomas, and one Maude Thomas (Charles's wife).

Ten years later Mrs. Wendling was still living at 1300 First Street in Fort Worth, and was heading a family which included her son-in-law, Albert F. [Wallouen?] with his wife Lilly, and their son, Albert, along with a two roomers.

When the 1920 census was taken, Mrs. Wendling was living at 1001 Josephine in Fort Worth with the family of her son-in-law James N.(or H.) Hicks, with his wife Nettie and two of their children.

By 1930 Mrs. Wendling and her widowed daughter, Nettie Hicks, were living together at 1001 East Tucker Street in Fort Worth. In 1933 Mrs. Wendling applied for a Confederate widow's pension, based upon Mr. Thomas's service. She said she and Jasper Thomas were married in Tarrant County on May 21, 1868. She knew only that her husband had served under Joe Terrill in Sibley's Brigade.

Mrs. Sarah Ellen Hardisty Thomas Wendling died at her home in Fort Worth at 1001 Tucker Street on August 20, 1938. She died of senility and cardiac problems she had been suffering for about four years. Her death certificate shows her to have been the daughter of James Hardisty. She was born in Henderson County, Kentucky on November 24, 1852. Her headstone in Birdville Cemetery shows her to have died in 1940. No obituary for her appeared in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

The children of William Jasper Thomas and Sarah Ellen Hardisty Thomas were Tate Thomas, Flora Thomas, Charles Thomas, Nettie Thomas, Carrie Thomas, Annie Thomas. and Lillie May Thomas. Both Tate and Carrie have headstones at Birdville Cemetery, thus the other five must have still been living per Mrs. Wendling's statement made to the census taker in 1900.

Tate Thomas was born March 31, 1869 and died April, 1889. He has a readable headstone in Birdville Cemetery.

Flora Thomas was born January 23, 1872. She married Henry C. Barr in Tarrant County on May 28, 1900, and died in Fort Worth at her home at 508 Luxton Street on March 22, 1932. She was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth.

Charles Thomas was born January 6, 1874. He died at the Brookhaven Nursing Center on East Lancaster Avenue in Fort Worth on August 28, 1966. He was buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery. He was the last surviving child of William Jasper Thomas.

Nettie Thomas Hicks Koch was born June 23, 1875 at Birdville. She died in All Saint's Hospital in Fort Worth on February 26, 1958. Her parents' names on her death certificate are given as Jasper Thomas and Sarah Ellen Hardesty. She was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth.

Carrie Thomas was born April 22, 1877 and died March 8, 1881. She lies buried at Birdville.

Annie E. Thomas was born in May, 1879. She married Robert Thompson, Jr., in Tarrant County on April 18, 1898. In 1900 they were living in Ward 5 of Fort Worth, where her husband was working as a stationary engineer. They had one child with them, Gladys Thompson, born in December 1899. Annie is mentioned as a survivor in the obituary of her sister who died in 1932.

Lillie May Thomas was born July 16, 1881. At the time the 1930 census was taken, she and her husband, Jack Norman, were living in Winkler County, Texas. She died in Baylor Hospital in Dallas on March 24, 1964, and was buried in Birdville Cemetery. Her married name was Lasley at the time of her death.

