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Rob Yoder, County Coordinator

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Nathaniel Elbridge "Eb" Thompson

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Nathaniel Elbridge "Eb" Thompson was a native of Tennessee who came to Denton County, Texas during the 1850's. He joined a local Confederate cavalry regiment. He lies buried in Lonesome Dove Cemetery in Southlake, Tarrant County, Texas.

Researchers at Ancestry.com say Mr. Thompson was born July 7, 1830 in Greene County, Tennessee, and that he was the son of Elijah Thompson (1788-1851) and his wife, Annis Hood (c1791-c1845), both of whom died in present-day Cass County, Missouri. The family appears in the censuses of Greene County, Tennessee in 1830 and Van Buren County, Missouri in 1840. They were not slave owners.

By the time of the 1850 census Elijah Thompson had moved the family to District 16 of Cass County, Missouri. He and his family owned and worked a farm worth twelve hundred dollars.

Nathaniel Thompson married Nancy Ann Gibson, who was born February 20, 1835 in Missouri. She was a daughter of William Gibson (1801-1865) who lies buried in the Medlin Cemetery in the City of Trophy Club, Denton County, Texas. Nathaniel and Nancy were married in Denton County, Texas on April 10, 1856. The family does not appear in the 1860 census of Denton County, Texas, nor is Mr. Thompson found in any of the indexed 1867 voter registration lists for Texas. The 1860 census for Tarrant County was lost decades ago and no one knows its whereabouts.

Mr. Thompson served the Confederacy in a local cavalry unit, Company C of Bourland's Regiment of Border Cavalry, also known as Bourland's Border Regiment. His surviving records are very sparse, and show only that he was still on the rolls in early 1865, having been at home in Denton County since late 1864. Bourland's Cavalry Regiment was organized in northeast Texas during the spring of 1863 and served in the Trans-Mississippi Department. The purpose of this unit was to guard the northern border of Texas and at times, therefore, was called the Border Regiment. It confronted the Federals in the Indian Territory and Texas, and on January 1, 1865, it reported four officers and 564 men fit for duty. The regiment surrendered in June. Colonel James Bourland, Lieutenant Colonel John R. Diamond, and Major Charles L. Roff were in command.

Nathaniel E. Thompson patented 169 acres of land in Denton County on January 7, 1862, recorded as patent number 20 in volume 36. The most of the southern boundary of this irregularly-shaped tract lies along FM 1171/Cross Timbers Road. No other public roads lie along any of its other boundaries. The southwest corner is about four hundred feet west of the intersection of Cross Timbers Road/1711 and Winding Oaks Drive/Tour 18 Drive. The southeast corner is about 100 feet southeast of FM1187 on High Road. It is entirely included in the modern-day city limits of Flower Mound, Texas.

After Mr. Thompson's death Nancy A. Thompson was remarried to a John White of Denton or Cooke County, Texas. We have been unable to find a marriage date for them or a death date or burial place for him. The existing records we have found are somewhat confusing.

Nathaniel E. Thompson patented a survey of 184.4 acres which bears his name in present day Southlake in Tarrant County. It was surveyed out of the public domain on April 9, 1863 by William W. McGinnis, who was the county surveyor here. McGinnis also commanded the company of militia in the 20th Texas Brigade to which many northeast Tarrant County men belonged. Interestingly, the chain carriers were M. W. Deavenport and Benjamin F. Walker. Deavenport was at that time serving as captain of Co. E, 34th Texas Cavalry.

Two of his neighbors, L. H. Chivers and Leonard Lincoln, gave statements that Thompson was at that time living as a family man on the property and had made improvements on it. Like McGinnis and Deavenport, L. H. Chivers was also one of our local veterans. The paper was also signed by James Joyce, a justice of the peace and father of another of our veterans, Norvel L. Joyce. The final patent was issued on March 28, 1865.

In terms of modern-day landmarks, this survey is bounded on the west by Carroll Road and on the east by Lonesome Dove Road. Its south boundary corresponds to where East Dove Road runs directly east and west for a time just east of Carroll Road. Its northern boundary lies parallel to and about four hundred feet north of Burney Lane. The entire church property and cemetery at Lonesome Dove lie within this survey.

Nathaniel Thompson and his family appear in the 1870 census of Precinct 4, Denton County, Texas. He was a farmer who owned real estate worth one hundred sixty dollars and personal property worth three hundred fifty dollars. With him in that year were his wife Nancy and three children: Martha, William L., and Fannie B. Thompson, all born in Texas. Also in the household was a black twenty-year-old female housekeeper whose name appears to be Rosa Caddle, a native of Mississippi. Mr. Thompson does not appear in the 1870 Denton County agricultural census.

Mr. Thompson died in Denton County, Texas on May 5, 1871. He lies buried in Tarrant County in Lonesome Dove Cemetery in Southlake, on land which was a part of his 1865 patent. This cemetery is .7 mile south of the Denton County line.

The Texas General Land Office contains several records relating to N. E. and Nancy A. Thompson in Denton County, as well as his land patent in 1865 in Tarrant County. There are land records in Denton County after his death which refer to her as Nancy A. Thompson, some as early as mid-1874 and some as late as late 1884. One record however, made on December 22, 1875, refers to her as "N. A. White, formerly N. A. Thompson, and John White her husband..."

The 1880 census of Denton County shows Nancy A. "White" as the wife in a family which included her five children with N. E. Thompson, all shown with the surname Thompson in the census. The line where John White's name should appear is blank, yet she is shown as the wife in the family.

Interestingly, the next family in the census is that of another of our veterans, William Bartley Long and his wife, Lucy (White). Lucy was a daughter of one John White, a Mexican War veteran who died in 1900 and was buried in a now-unmarked grave in Medlin Cemetery in Denton County. The 1850 census of Denton County, Texas shows this John White to have been a native of Germany born about 1822 with a wife named Nancy Jane White. It seems unlikely this John White was the same man who later married Nancy A. Thompson, Nathaniel E. Thompson's widow. Many researchers on Ancestry.com have incorrectly shown this John White's wife to have been Nancy A. (Gibson) White and to be the mother of all his children.

Nancy "Thompson" appears as a widow in the 1900 census in the household headed by her son, William L. Thompson, in Precinct 4 of Cooke County, Texas. She told the census taker she had given birth to five children, all of whom were still alive. We have accounted for five of these children in her marriage to Mr. Thompson, so it seems unlikely she had any children with Mr. White if this statement to the census taker is true.

When the 1910 census was taken, Nancy A. "White" appears as a widow, the mother of William L. Thompson, in his family in Precinct 2 of Wilbarger County, Texas. In this census year, she appears as the mother of six children, five of whom were still living. This statement, if true, suggests she may have had one child with Mr. White and the child may have been born after 1880 and died before 1900.

Nancy A. Thompson White had her death certificate recorded with her White surname; her son William L. Thompson was the informant. She died at 3:30 p.m. on June 6, 1933 at 506 Culbertson in Gainesville, Cooke County, Texas. The cause of death was recorded as old age and malaria. Her parents' names were shown as William Gibson and Becky Wallis. She was buried in Cogburn Cemetery near Leo, Cooke County, Texas. She has a homemade concrete grave marker there.

Martha Emma "Mattie" Thompson was born December 29, 1859 according to her death certificate. She married William R. Burk (1860-1925). She died at 506 Culbertson Street in Gainesville, Cooke County, Texas at 8:30 p.m. on November 27, 1934. Her death certificate says she died as a result of meningitis and facial erysipelas. She was buried the next day in Cogburn Cemetery near Leo, Texas.

William Larkin Thompson was born January 24, 1863 as recorded on his death certificate. He married Tobitha Ann Stevens (1873-1955). He died at Harrold, Wilbarger County, Texas at 11 a.m. on April 21, 1937. His death was caused by heart trouble, asthma, and another cause which is not readable on his records. He was buried the next day in Harrold Cemetery.

Fannie Belle Thompson was born January 28, 1864 near Roanoke, Texas according to her death certificate. She married John Burk; they were divorced by 1920. She died at the M and S Hospital in Gainesville, Cooke County, Texas between 2 and 3 a.m. on November 2, 1959. Her last permanent address was 619 North Clements Street in Gainesville. Her death was caused by myocardial infarction. She was buried the next day at Fairview Cemetery in Gainesville, Texas.

Sarah Lee Thompson was born February 3 or 23, 1871. She and her brother, Robert Ely Thompson, were twins. She married John William Long (1869-1947). She died at her home on

West Blue Mound Road in Precinct 3, near Nocona, Montague County, Texas, where she had lived about one year. She died at 6:05 p.m. on April 9, 1958 of uremia, a cerebro-vascular accident, and cardio-vascular renal disease. She was buried in Long Branch Cemetery in Nocona, Montague County, Texas the next day.

Robert Ely Thompson was born February 3 or 23, 1871. He and his sister, Sarah Lee Thompson, were twins. He married Sarah Ann "Sallie" Eatman (1877-1961). He died at 3:50 a.m. on November 26, 1941 in the hospital in Electra, Wichita County, Texas. His last permanent residence was at 507 West Bryan Street in Electra. His death was caused by "influenza which caused a flare up of a massive coronary occlusion." He was buried the next day in the New Electra Cemetery.