



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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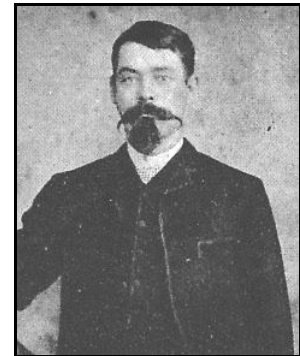
Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Walter Bailey Townsend

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Walter Bailey Townsend was a Confederate veteran of a Kentucky Cavalry regiment. He lived for several years in northern Tarrant County near Roanoke and in Fort Worth before moving to San Antonio late in his life.

Walter Townsend was born May 14, 1848 in Adairville, Logan County, Kentucky. Family sources at Ancestry.com say he was a son of James M. Townsend (1809-1875), who died in Fort Worth, Texas, and his wife, Matilda Estella Farmer (1824-1898). The family appears in the 1850 census of District 2 of Logan County.



When the 1860 census was taken, Walter was a thirteen-year-old boy living with his parents and siblings at Adairville, Kentucky. The family was quite comfortably situated, with ten-thousand dollars worth of real estate and eight thousand dollars worth of personal property.

Walter's official records in Washington, D. C. say he enlisted in the Confederate service on July 1, 1863 at Altamont, Tennessee in Co. C., 9th Kentucky Cavalry for a term of three years. He surrendered May 9, 1865 at Washington, Georgia, the day before President Jefferson Davis was captured. On May 20, 1865 he signed an oath of allegiance to the U. S. government at Nashville, Tennessee. At the time, he was a resident of Jefferson County, Kentucky, with a fair complexion, light hair, and blue eyes. He stood five feet six inches tall.

In 1870, twenty-two-year-old Walter Townsend and his fourteen-year-old wife, Nannie, were living in the household of her father, William Borden, at Easton, Leavenworth County, Kansas. They had been married in December, 1869. Family records on the internet say her name was Nannie Catherine Borden.

The census taker in 1880 found W. B. Townsend and his family living in Shannon Township in Atchison County, Kansas. He was working in a "Watchman Dept." With him were his wife, Nannie, and two children, Estella (born about 1875) and Armida (born about 1877), both of whom were born in Missouri. The occupations of those living around him suggest he may have been living in a town.



In 1900 the family lived in District 107 in the Eighth Ward of Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas. Mr. Townsend was working as a merchant. His wife, Nannie, said she had given birth to six children, all of whom were still living. Four of them were living with the couple: Annie (born in August 1876 in Tennessee), Richard (born in December, 1882 in Kansas); Pearl (born in January, 1886 in Kansas); and Nannie (born in August 1893 in Texas).

In 1910, "Bailey Townsend" was living with his family in District 132 of the Eighth Ward of Tarrant County, Texas. With him were his wife, Nannie, who said she had given birth to seven children, six of whom were still living. Also with them were their children, Walter, Richard, and Nannie.

In 1913 he served as a pallbearer at the funeral of a Confederate comrade, Lt. Dan Vaughn, who was buried in East Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth. By 1920, Mr. Townsend, his wife, and one son, Richard J. Townsend, were living in Precinct 3 of Tarrant County, probably at the Roanoke address he gave when he applied for his Confederate pension.

While living at Roanoke, Tarrant County, in 1924, Townsend said in his pension application he had moved to the Roanoke area in 1867. He said he left the service by surrendering on May 10, 1865. He served three years in Co. C, 9th Kentucky Cavalry, was General Bates's orderly during the Battle on "Mission Ridge." Apparently he came to Tarrant County with his father not long after the War, and then moved away in time to be married in 1869 in Kansas or Missouri. He seems to have left the impression with the pension board that he had lived in Tarrant County continuously from 1867 until 1924, which he had not.

His file contains an affidavit by C. H. Meng of Bourbon County, Kentucky. Townsend claimed to have been a bodyguard for Jefferson Davis. He was a member of the R. E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth.

About 1927 Mr. and Mrs. Townsend moved from Fort Worth to San Antonio, Texas. He died March 3, 1930 in San Antonio, Texas. Townsend was born May 14, 1848 and died March 3, 1930, according to his headstone in Pioneer's Rest Cemetery. His death certificate says he was born May 14, 1845, and his age at death on that document is computed from that date. He died at his residence at 111 Elwood Avenue at 7:15 (a.m. or p.m. is unclear); the cause of death was chronic myocarditis. His body was shipped to Fort Worth for burial. He was a retired merchant.

Obituaries for Mr. Townsend appeared in the Fort Worth Record-Telegram on two successive days, March 4 and 5, 1930. The first one said: "*Walter B. Townsend, Sr. Walter B. Townsend, Sr., 84, who formerly engaged in the paint and wall paper business in Fort Worth, died at his home in San*

Antonio at 7:30 a.m. yesterday. Before his removal to San Antonio three years ago Mr. Townsend had been a resident of this city for 40 years. The body will arrive in Fort Worth at 8 a.m. today. It will lie in state at the Gause-Ware Mortuary until the funeral, the time of which will be announced later. Survivors are his wife; four daughters, Mrs. Walter Walters and Mrs. Frank Walters, San Antonio; Mrs. Fred Parks, Roswell, N. M., and Mrs. E. Cunningham, Fort Worth; and two sons, Richard Townsend, San Antonio, and Walter B. Townsend, Jr., Fort Worth."

The following day a few more details were added: "*WALTER B. TOWNSEND, SR. Funeral services for Walter B. Townsend, Sr., 84, who died Monday at his home in San Antonio, will be held at 2:30 p.m. today at Gause-Ware mortuary with Rev. L. D. Anderson, pastor of First Christian Church, officiating. Burial will be in Pioneer Rest Cemetery. Townsend formerly resided in Fort Worth. He was engaged in the paint and wall paper business here.*"

Mr. Townsend's widow, Nannie Townsend, lived in San Antonio after his death at 111 Elwood Avenue. In 1948 one of her daughters, Mrs. W. B. Walter of San Pedro Street in San Antonio contacted the pension office for material to help her in joining the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Mrs. Townsend was granted a Confederate widow's pension by the State of Texas.

Nannie Townsend died at her home at 611 French Place in San Antonio, Texas at 4:12 p.m. on July 26, 1945. The cause of death is shown on her death certificate as a heart lesion and senility. She was born in New Market, Missouri on February 28, 1856, and was a daughter of William and Martha Borden. The informant for the death certificate was W. B. Walter of San Antonio. She was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth the next day, not beside her husband in Pioneer's Rest.

Mr. and Mrs. Townsend's seven children were: Ninnie Floyd Townsend, Martha Estella Townsend, Armida Mae Townsend, Walter Bailey Townsend, Jr., Richard J. Townsend, Pearl Townsend, and Nannie Catherine Townsend.

Ninnie Floyd Townsend was born March 5, 1872 in East Leavenworth, Platte County, Missouri. She died at the same place on February 25, 1875.

Martha Estella Weaver was born June 20, 1874 at Slab Town, Missouri. She died January 9, 1961 at San Antonio in Bexar County, Texas, and was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth. The informant was W. B. Walters. Her death certificate clearly identifies her as a daughter of W. B. Townsend and Nannie Borden. When her father died in 1930, she may have been married to E. Cunningham.

Armida Mae Townsend was Mrs. Fred Parks of Roswell, New Mexico in 1930, identified in her father's obituary. She was born about 1877 at East Leavenworth, Missouri.

Walter Bailey Townsend, Jr. was born August 14, 1880 in Atchison, Kansas. He died July 21, 1959 in Tarrant County and was buried in Garden of Memories Cemetery. He was a retired fireman. His parents are shown as Walter Bailey Townsend, Sr. and his wife, Nannie Borden.

Richard J. Townsend (or J. Richard Townsend) was born December 1, 1884 in Kansas. He died March 30, 1930 in San Antonio, Texas and was buried the next day in Fort Worth, Texas.

Pearl Townsend was born in January, 1886. She was first married to George Harvey King, She was next married to James Frank Walters (1881-1942), and was living in San Antonio, Texas in 1930. He was buried in Sunset Memorial Park in San Antonio, Texas. She may have also been married a Jenszen at one time.

Nannie Catherine Townsend was born in August, 1893 and was married to Walter B. Walters. They lived in San Antonio in 1930. Family sources say she died after 1957 in Fort Worth.

