



# TARRANT COUNTY

## TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### James C. “Jim” Ward

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James C. Ward was one of very few of our veterans who was a native Texan. He served in two Confederate units, the second of which was charged with keeping the southern plains Indians out of the border settlements. Late in life he lived in northern Tarrant County near Roanoke. His brother, William Michael Ward, was another of our veterans.

James C. "Jim" Ward was born near Honey Grove, Fannin County, Texas on March 19, 1845. He was a son of Jeremiah L. "Jerry" Ward (1788-1853) and his wife, Nancy P. (Freeman) Ward (1805-1886), both of whom lie buried in the Ward-Jolley Cemetery in Fannin County north of Honey Grove. Since his father, Jeremiah, appears in the 1846 tax list of Fannin County, they apparently came to Texas in either 1845 or 1846.

When the 1850 census of Fannin County was taken, James Ward was shown as a five-year-old boy with his parents and siblings. James's father owned five slaves in that year...two young adult females and three young boys. Ten years later, in 1860, James appeared in the census at fourteen years of age with the family of his widowed mother and siblings in Beat 5 in Fannin County. The family still had five slaves.

James Ward served in two Confederate units during the War, first as a private in Co. F, 11<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry. His records with that regiment are quite sparse. He enlisted at Honey Grove in Fannin County on February 1, 1862 for a term of twelve months. His name appears on a muster roll for that company covering the last four months of 1862 with a notation that he had been discharged for disability. No records have survived of his service in Bourland's Border Regiment, nor have any records of the service of his brother, William M. Ward. Confirmation of both men's service is to be found in James's pension application file in Austin, in an affidavit made by his brother, William. A copy is a part of this biographical sketch.

Much as been written about Bourland's Cavalry Regiment. It was organized 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 saw duty on the Texas frontier working to keep the Comanches and Kiowas out of the settlements. On October 13, 1864 it took part in the Battle of Elm Creek in Young County, Texas, one of the most dramatic and stirring clashes of Texans and Southern Plains Indians ever. Several accounts of the battle, from both Texan and Kiowa participants, have been recorded. On January 1, 1865, Bourland's Regiment reported four officers and five hundred sixty-four men fit for duty. The regiment surrendered in June.

James C. Ward married Mary Ann Ish, who was born March 14, 1852 in Missouri. Descendants say she was a daughter of John H. Ish (1825-1870) and his wife, Mary Ann Rice (1827-1852), both of whom died in Lafayette County, Missouri. Oddly, it seems James Ward went back to Missouri to marry. He appears in the 1870 census of Clay Township, Lafayette County, Missouri with his new wife, Mary. He was a "retired barkeeper" at the age of twenty-five and a native of Texas. He owned real estate worth two thousand dollars and personal property worth thirty dollars. Mary was sixteen and a native-born Missourian.

Mr. Ward and his family appear in the 1880 Fannin County census. He and his wife had five of their children living with them: Willie, Leonard, Lewis, Sallie, and Mary Ward. Also with them was Mr. Ward's brother-in-law, R. J. Metcalf, who was born about 1853 in Illinois.

Mr. Ward told the census takers in 1910 that his daughter, Lou R. Ward, was born in Oklahoma about 1895. We have been unable to locate James C. Ward in the 1900 census of either state, Texas or Oklahoma. James was living at Honey Grove, Texas in December, 1906. He said in his Confederate pension application that he had moved to Tarrant County about 1907.

When the 1910 census was taken, James C. Ward and his family were living on the Granbury Road in Precinct 6 of Tarrant County. They had been married thirty-nine years, and thus were married about 1871. Mary Ward said she had given birth to twelve children, but that only nine were still living. Four of their children were living with them: John A., Ida M., George D., and Lou R. Ward. Mr. Ward's brother, William, was with them; at age eighty-three he was a widower. Also with the family was James Ward's granddaughter, Ora B. Flatt, age 9.

James Ward of Route 1, Roanoke, Tarrant County, Texas applied for a Confederate veteran's pension in 1914. He said he left the service at Bonham, Texas in April 1865. He said he was sixty-nine years old, and a native of Fannin County, Texas. He said he had lived in Tarrant County since about 1907. He said he began his service in Co. F, 11<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry. In 1864 he was dismounted and sent to Co. C, Col. Bourland's Regiment and served on the Texas frontier.

He died on September 22, 1915 in Tarrant County near Roanoke. He lies buried in Benbrook Cemetery in southwest Tarrant County. He has no death certificate on file in Texas. Mrs. Mary Ward died on February 14 or 15, 1922 in Palo Pinto County, Texas, and was buried beside her husband in Benbrook Cemetery.

Based upon the statement Mrs. Ward made to the census taker in 1910, the following list of her children is complete. Three of the first five must have been dead by 1910.

Willie Ward was born about 1871, Leonard Ward was born about 1873, and Lewis Ward was born about 1875. All three were alive with the family in Fannin County, Texas in 1880.

Sallie Ward was born about 1877, and her sister, Mary, was born about 1879. Both were alive in their father's family in Fannin County in 1880. One of the two married a Mr. Flatt and was probably dead by 1910, when her child was living with James C. and Mary Ward.

Gill Ward was born January 16 or 18, 1881. He died at Slaton, Lubbock County, Texas in Mercy Hospital on March 11, 1948. His last permanent address was at Route 2, Wilson, Lynn County, Texas. He was buried in Lubbock, Texas.

Henrietta Ward was born May 18, 1884. Descendants say she married John William Scott (1889-1941) on March 27, 1904, though it seems his birth year may be in error. Family sources say she died August 16, 1972.

John Arch Ward was born February 14, 1886. He died May 15, 1961 at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth. His last permanent address was in White Settlement, Tarrant County, Texas at 9020 White Settlement Road. He left a widow, Mrs. Clara L. Ward. They lie buried in Moore Memorial Gardens in Arlington, Texas.

Guss Ish Ward was born in Oklahoma on January 8, 1887. He died in the Mount Pleasant Hospital in Titus County, Texas on May 16, 1970 and was buried in Sulphur Bluff Cemetery at Sulphur Bluff, Texas. His last permanent address was Route 1, Bogota, Red River County, Texas. His wife's name was Irene.

Ida M. Ward was born about 1889. She was still alive with the family in 1910.

George Donathan Ward was born February 12, 1891. He died in Doctor's Community Hospital in Euless, Tarrant County, Texas on June 26, 1975. He was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth. His last permanent address was 3733 Field Street in Haltom City, Texas.

Lou R. Ward was born about 1895 in Oklahoma. She was still alive with her father's family in 1910.



Headstone of James C. Ward's parents in Ward-Jolley Cemetery in Fannin County, Texas. Pictured is Wes Hamilton, a descendant of James C. Ward's father, Jeremiah Ward.