



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

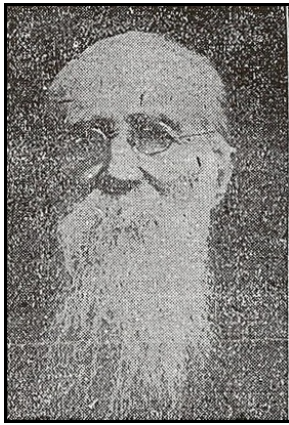
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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Dr. Seaborn H. Watson

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Dr. Seaborn H. Watson

Dr. Seaborn H. Watson was a native South Carolinian who served the Confederacy as a surgeon in a Georgia infantry regiment. He practiced medicine for a few years at Grapevine before moving to Ellis County, Texas. He lies buried at Waxahachie, Texas.

Many of the details of Dr. Watson's early life are to be found in the various biographical materials printed about him during his lifetime and immediately after his death. Dr. Watson's father, Daniel Watson, owned five slaves in 1850 in the Western district of Anderson County, S.C., thus he probably grew up in comfortable circumstances.

When the 1860 census was taken, Dr. Watson was living in Franklin County, Georgia in the area served by the Carnesville post office. He was boarding in the home of Jesse F. Langston, an attorney. Mrs. Langston was a teacher of music. Although Dr. Watson had no real estate, he had personal property worth five thousand five hundred dollars.

Dr. Watson served in two different organizations during the War. On July 16, 1862 he was appointed as surgeon of the 34th Georgia Infantry, which position he held until he resigned on January 7, 1863 because of disability.

Dr. Watson and his family appear in the 1900 Ellis county census in Ward 3 of the town of Waxahachie. Mrs. Watson said she and the doctor had been married for twenty-seven years, and she had given birth to four children, all of whom were still living. Two of the children, Mary and Rembert were living with them, as were their married daughter, Keith, and her husband, Robert Matthews. Dr. Watson was a "capitalist," while Mr. Matthews was a dry goods merchant. Rembert was working as a railroad clerk.

A biographical sketch of Dr. Watson's life appeared in the Memorial and Biographical History of Ellis County, Texas..., published by the Lewis Publishing Company in Chicago in 1892. One can only imagine Dr. Watson's aggravation with the errors the printer made in setting the type. ***"DR. S. H. WATSON, of Waxahachie, was born in 1833, a son of D. K. and Susan (Gary) Watson, both natives of South Carolina. The Watson family are of English descent, being descended from the old London family of that name. The doctor's grandfather was a native of Virginia, and moved to South Carolina late in the eighteenth century, settling near Newberry, where the father of our subject was born in 1797. The latter was a farmer of Anderson district, in his native state, all his life, was strictly honest and upright in all his dealings, and the history of the whole family is that of an intensely religious one. Socially Mr. Watson was associated as such men as Waddy Thompson, a member of Congress, and a minister to Mexico; ex-Governor Perry, of Greenville, and ex-Governor Orr.***

The doctor entered the public schools at an early age, and spent most of his youth between the schoolhouse and the farm. At the age of twenty years, he entered college at Macon, Georgia, where he completed the scientific and medical courses in 1855. His graduation and receiving a diploma entitled him to practice his chosen profession, and he returned to his home and practiced medicine until the outbreak of the war. In 1862 he raised four companies and united them to the six companies raised by J. W. Johnson, who then became Colonel, and the Doctor was commissioned Regimental Surgeon. Most of his service was in the West, under Bragg, and his regiment was engaged in the battles of Richmond, Perryville, Murfreesboro, and other engagements. At the close of the war, Dr. Watson spent two years at Fayette, Alabama, and January 11, 1867, came to Texas, settling at Milford, Ellis county. He became a partner of J. N. Bale, now of Hillsboro, which continued four years, and in 1871 the Doctor moved to Grapevine, Tarrant county, where he remained three years. In 1844 [sic] he settled in Dallas, and in 1879, he retired from his profession, his sole occupation since that time being the loaning of money and speculating in real-estate. He owns 5,000 acres of Texas land, besides property in various cities and towns of Texas.

Dr. Watson was married in 1844 [sic] to Miss A. N. Beats [sic], of Alabama, and they have four children, viz. Mary, Keith, Harris, and Rembert Gary. The family are members of the Baptist Church."

An obituary from the Waxahachie newspaper for Dr. Watson is reproduced on the Ellis County, TXGenweb site on the internet: ***"Dr. Seaborn H. Watson. Dr. Watson died at his home in Waxahachie, Tex. on Jan. 20 [1911]. He was born in Anderson Co. S. C. in 1833, son of D. E. and Sarah Gary Watson; educated in the public schools of his state and the college at Macon, Ga., where he received his medical degree in 1855. In 1862 Dr. Watson raised four companies for the Confederacy, which became a part of the regiment under Col. J. W. Johnson, and of which the doctor became regimental surgeon. Most of his service was under Bragg and his regiment was engaged in many of the war's important battles. After the war, Dr. Watson donated his part of his father's estate to a sister and moved to Texas, settling at Milford in Ellis County, his sole possessions being his horse and buggy which he had driven from S. C. He began to practice medicine there in 1867 but moved to Dallas in 1874. In 1879 he retired and moved to Waxahachie, where he was engaged in farming and stock raising. In 1872 Dr. Watson married Miss Amanda Beard of Alabama. She has been prominent in literary and club circles in Texas and was State***

Historian of the UDC for several terms. She two daughters and two sons survive. Dr. Watson was a loyal church member and was known as one of the best Biblical scholars in the state.”

An excellent obituary, complete with a photograph of Mrs. Watson, appeared in the Dallas Morning News on December 10, 1915: ***“PROMINENT TEXAS WOMAN WHO DIED HERE LAST NIGHT. MRS. AMANDA B. WATSON DIES AT SANITURIUM. BODY WILL BE TAKEN TO WAXAHACHIE—WAS OFFICER OF TEXAS DIVISION U.D.C. Mrs. Amanda Beard Watson, 75 years old, widow of the late Dr. S.H. Watson of Waxahachie, died at the Baptist Sanitarium at 7 o’clock last night. The body will be taken to Waxahachie in a special car over the interurban, leaving Dallas at noon today. Funeral service, conducted by the Rev. J. B. Whaling, of Dallas, will be held in St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Waxahachie at 10 o’clock tomorrow morning. The burial will be in the Waxahachie Cemetery. Mrs. Watson was born at Camden, Ala. She came to Texas in 1867 and was married to Dr. Watson in 1873. The first few years of their married life Dr. and Mrs. Watson spent in Dallas. They moved to Waxahachie thirty –three years ago, and that city has since been the home of the family. Mrs. Watson was credited with being a woman of rare culture of both mind and heart, and the influence of her womanly and Christian personality was considered most uplifting and helpful in the various social and literary organizations to which she belonged. She was a life historian of the Texas Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and had recently compiled a book of old songs for the use of the division. She was a member of the organization of Pen Women of Dallas. She was a devoted member of the Episcopal Church, and was identified with every movement making for the progress of the church. Mrs. Watson is survived by four children, Mrs. A. B. Small of Dallas, Mrs. K. W. Matthews of Waco, Dr. S. H. Watson of Waxahachie, and Rembert Watson of Dallas.”***



Mary Watson was born June 6, 1874. She was a graduate of Belmont College in Nashville, Tennessee, and was the wife of Andrew B. Small. She died at the Traymore rest home at 4038 Lemmon Avenue in Dallas on January 12, 1962, and was buried in the Waxahachie City Cemetery.

Keith Watson was born in August 1877. She married Robert Matthews about 1897, and was living with her husband and child in her father’s household when the 1900 census was taken in Ellis County. At the time of her mother’s death in late 1915 they were still married and were living in Waco, Texas. Later in life she was the wife of E.W. LeBaume and lived in St. Louis, Missouri.

Seaborn Harris Watson was born October 12, 1878. He died at the Traymore rest home at 4038 Lemmon Avenue in Dallas on January 26, 1960. He was a widower and a retired physician. He practiced medicine in Waxahachie for more than fifty years.

Rembert Gary Watson was born September 14, 1881. During his junior and senior years at University of Texas he was a captain of the football team. He earned his law degree from the University of Texas. He was a veteran of World War I, and retired from the army as a major after having worked in the judge advocate general’s office for several years. After his military career he was a successful attorney. He was lifelong bachelor. His last permanent address was 4121 Prescott

Street in Dallas. He died in the Veterans Administration Hospital in Marlin, Falls County, Texas on July 18, 1956. He was buried in the city cemetery at Waxahachie, Ellis County, Texas.