



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Francis Leonard West

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Francis Leonard West was born in Illinois and came to northeast Tarrant County with his parents and other extended family members in the 1850's. He served in a Texas Confederate unit and eventually moved to Fort Worth, where he died and lies buried. Several of his extended family members also appear on our memorial.

Francis was born September 1, 1845 in Union County, Illinois. He was a son of James Johnson West (1822-1894) and his wife, Elizabeth W. "Betsy" Martin (1826-1905), both of whom lie buried in Lonesome Dove Cemetery in Southlake, Tarrant County, Texas. When the 1850 census was taken Francis was a five-year-old boy living in the household of his parents in the western part of District 2, Union County, Illinois. His father owned his own real estate, worth one hundred thirty dollars.

It seems probable that James J. West brought his family to northeast Tarrant County as a part of the larger movement of families from Union County, Illinois which took place in the mid-1850's. When F. L. West registered to vote in Tarrant County on August 10, 1867, he said he had been living in Precinct 3 for twelve years, thus since about 1855. His father, who registered at about the same time, estimated they had been here for thirteen years. Urias P. Martin, who signed the register on the line just above J. J. Martin, also estimated thirteen years.

We have not been able locate any specific Confederate service records for Mr. West. His service is verified by the fact that his name appears on the 1900 membership roster of the R.E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth. He also told the census taker in 1910 that he was a Confederate veteran.

We have not positively located Francis L. West in the 1870 census. He may be the L. West, about 1847 in Illinois, who was living in the Southlake area and working for the family of B. J. Foster in that year. It is known that Mr. West was sometimes known as "Leonard" West.

About 1871 Mr. West and his wife, Sarah E. "Sallie" Proctor, were married. She was born March 17, 1846 in Louisiana, and was a daughter of Hiram and Rebecca W. Proctor. The 1850 census of Cass County, Texas suggests that Hiram Proctor had most of his children in Alabama, with only Sarah being born in Louisiana. When the 1860 census was taken she was living with her widowed mother and siblings in Marion County, Texas. By 1870 they had settled in northeast Tarrant County; in that year she and her mother and siblings lived in a family headed by Morgan Smith.

In the 1875 tax list of Precinct 3 of Tarrant County, F. L. West is shown as the owner of thirty acres of the J. J. Dwight survey worth sixty dollars, eighty-two acres of an unspecified Smith survey worth four hundred ten dollars, and twenty-nine acres of the A. Harris survey, worth one hundred forty-five dollars. He also owned two horses worth forty dollars each and four cattle.

Most of this property lay just inside Tarrant County's north line, and some of the Smith survey property probably lay in Denton County. The Dwight and Harris surveys are contiguous, and it seems likely the other survey was that of the adjoining R. A. Smith survey, almost all of which was in Denton County.

All Mr. West's Tarrant County property now lies within the city limits of Grapevine, and some or most of it is included in the property belonging to the Corps of Engineers at Lake Grapevine. Park Road 2 along the south side of Grapevine Lake probably passes through Mr. West's farm.

When the 1880 census was taken, Sallie E. West was boarding with her mother, Rebecca W. Proctor, in the Southlake area of northeast Tarrant County. Her two sons, William and Henry A. West, were with her, but no mention is made of Francis L. West.

Mr. West and his family appear in the 1900 census in "Precinct 10" of Tarrant County. The names of his nearest neighbors in the census seem to suggest he was still in the Grapevine area. He was working as a real estate agent. His wife, Sarah E. West, said she was born in Louisiana to an Alabamian father and a Tennessean mother. She said she had given birth to only two children, both of whom were still living. Both William J. and Henry A. West were still with their parents. Francis' mother, Elizabeth W. West, also lived with them.

The 1910 census taker found them living at 1511 Lake Street in Fort Worth. With Mr. and Mrs. West were their son, William J. West, and his wife, Louise. Mr. West confirmed that he was a Confederate veteran.

Francis West died at 3 p.m. on June 6, 1918 in Fort Worth at 1511 North Houston Street. An obituary appeared for him the next day in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram: ***"RESIDENT IN TARRANT SINCE 1850 DIES HERE. F. L. West, 72, who has been a resident of Tarrant county since 1850, died Thursday at 8 p.m. at the residence, 1511 North Houston street. He settled first at Grapevine, moving to Fort Worth in 1903 and engaging in the real estate business. A wife and two sons, N. J. of Fort Worth and Dr. H. A. of D'Hanis, survive. The funeral will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday from the residence. Rev. C. L. Browning, pastor of the Boulevard Methodist Church, will officiate. He will be assisted by Rev. A. T. Culbertson of Polytechnic. Interment will be in Mt. Olivet."***

Mrs. Sallie E. West died in Fort Worth on August 17, 1920. An obituary appeared the next day in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram: ***“FUNERAL ATTENDED BY CITY OFFICIALS. The city commission attended in a body the funeral of Mrs. Sallie E. West, the mother of W. J. West, city weights and measures inspector, Wednesday morning. Mrs. West, 74, a pioneer resident of Tarrant County, died Tuesday at the home of her son, 1511 North Houston Street. She was born in Texas and lived sixty years in Tarrant County. She had lived in Fort Worth the past twenty years. She is survived by two sons, W. J. West of Fort Worth, and Dr. H. A. West of D’Hanis, Texas. She was the widow of F. L. West, an attorney. Funeral services were held Wednesday morning from 1511 North Houston Street, Rev. John F. Morris officiating. Burial was in Mount Olivet Cemetery.”***

Another obituary appeared for Mrs. West in the Grapevine Sun on August 21, 1920: ***“MRS. SALLIE E. WEST DEAD. Mrs. Sallie E. West, widow of Judge F. L. West, died at the home of her son, W. J. West, in Fort Worth last Tuesday. She was 74 years old and a native Texan. Sixty years of her life had been spent in Tarrant County, and the last twenty years of it in Fort Worth. Mr. and Mrs. West used to live in this community and a great many of the old-timers remember them and will regret to learn of her death. Besides her son in Fort Worth Mrs. West is survived by another son, Dr. H. A. West, of D’Hanis, Texas. Judge West died in Fort Worth a number of years ago. Funeral services were held at the residence of the son, 1511 North Houston street, at 11 o’clock Wednesday morning, and burial in Mount Olivet cemetery.”***

William James “Bill” West was born December 20, 1871 at Grapevine, according to his death certificate. He worked as a “dry goods collector” in 1900. He and his wife, Louise Flowers (1876-1969) were married about 1909. In 1910 he worked as an office clerk in the Fort Worth City Hall. He died at 11:45 p.m. on April 16, 1940 at his home at 1511 North Houston Street in Fort Worth. He and his wife lie buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

Henry Albert West was born January 9, 1874, according to his headstone. His death certificate gives the date as June 9, 1873. He worked as a drug salesman in 1900, and later in life became a doctor, practicing at D’Hanis, Medina County, Texas. He died at 4:40 p.m. on November 19, 1921 at D’Hanis, Texas. He lies buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth. He left a widow Mrs. Lottie Belle West, who was born in Texas about 1885. She was a pharmacist when the 1920 census was taken.

