



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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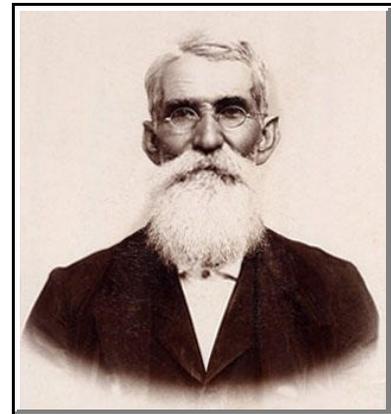
Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Walter Dent Beall

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Walter Dent Beall was born at Carnesville, Franklin County, Georgia on August 17, 1828, a son of Josiah D. Beall and his wife, Nancy "Ann" Tatum (Dent) Beall. Walter Beall came to Tarrant County with his parents and siblings in the 1850's and settled near Grapevine.

Beall researchers are fortunate in that one of Walter's great-great granddaughters, Ann Davis, has collected records on his family for several years and has graciously shared her findings with us...including an excellent cabinet-card photograph of Mr. Beall taken in Sweetwater, Texas. This sketch incorporates information sent to us by Ms. Davis, and corrects some errors we earlier made. Accounts of several of the Bealls' lives also appear in the Nolan County Historical Commission's First 100 Years in Nolan County, Texas, published in 1985 by Taylor Publishing Company in Dallas.



Walter Dent Beall

Photograph courtesy of Ann Davis, great-great-granddaughter.

Walter was married in Jackson, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri on February 14, 1850 to Sarah Catherine Watson, a daughter of Jason Watson. She was born in 1833 in Alabama.

Walter served the Confederacy in Co. K, 7th Texas Cavalry. His official records in Washington D. C. say he was thirty-three years old at the time of his muster at San Antonio on November 15, 1861. He had traveled 300 miles to the rendezvous. He enlisted in Mansfield, Tarrant County, on October 26, 1861 under Thomas O. Moody. He supplied his own horse worth \$150 and equipment worth \$25. He received a furlough to go home on December 22, 1861.

The 1867 tax list shows Mr. Beall as the owner of the one hundred sixty acre W. Masters survey, worth five hundred sixty dollars. This survey lies south of the river in the Randol Mill area. He also

owned two horses worth eighty-five dollars, six cattle worth fifty-five dollars, ten sheep worth two dollars each, and sixty dollars worth of personal property.

Walter Beall and his family appear in the 1870 Tarrant County census with three children, the first two of whom were born in California. He is listed in Precinct 3, north of the river, but the real estate he was shown owning in the 1870 tax list is all south of the West Fork of the Trinity. An excellent insight into Mr. Beall's life here may be gained from examining his entry in the 1870 agricultural census. He occupied a farm which consisted of sixty-five acres of improved land, eighty-four acres of woodland, and eighty acres of other unimproved land. His farm was worth one thousand twelve hundred dollars and his farm implements and machinery were worth one hundred eighty dollars. In the past year he had paid wages of fifty dollars for help on the farm. He owned five horses and five mules, two milk cows, two working oxen, two other cattle, and thirty hogs. All his livestock together had a value of three hundred twenty dollars. He had on hand five hundred bushels of Indian corn and five hundred bushels of oats.

The 1870 tax list shows Mr. Beall as the owner of one hundred forty-five acres of the P. H. Ford survey worth five hundred dollars, and fifty acres of the M. K. Selvidge survey, worth five hundred dollars. Both these tracts are in the eastern Arlington area and both are south of the river. He also owned three horses worth one hundred twenty dollars and twelve cattle worth one hundred fifty dollars.

Ten years later, in 1880, they were still here in Tarrant County, living in District 92. A twenty-four-year-old laborer named Oliver Perry was also living with them. The names of his neighbors in the census seem to suggest he was living south of the West Fork of the Trinity River, probably near Arlington.

Mr. Beall appears in the 1880 Tarrant County agricultural census. He owned a farm consisting of ninety five acres of cultivated land, ten acres of permanent pasture, and fifty acres of woodland. His farm was worth \$2590, his farming implements were valued at \$165 and his livestock was valued at \$376. He estimated the value of all his farm productions in the past year to have been \$652. He had a five-acre mown hay field, from which he had harvested seven tons of hay in the past year. He harvested several bushels of grass seed, but the numeral is not readable in the microfilm available. He owned six horses, five milk cows, and six other cattle. Two calves had been dropped on his place in the past year. His family had produced sixty pounds of butter. He owned two hogs and eight chickens. He had three acres in oats which made two hundred ten bushels, seven acres in wheat which made forty-one bushels, and twenty-three acres in cotton which produced eleven bales. He had a one-acre sweet potato patch from which he dug ten bushels. He had a small apple orchard with twelve bearing trees, and a one-acre peach orchard with two hundred trees.

Family sources indicate that Mr. Beall and his family left Tarrant County soon after the taking of the census and settled in Nolan County, Texas in the Dora Community. It was named for his granddaughter, Dora Gertrude Collings. In 1881 Walter Beall and his sons helped organize the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Sweetwater. In 1887 they left Dora and moved into the town of Sweetwater. Walter D. Beall's first wife, Sarah Catherine (Watson) Beall, died on November 7, 1887 and was buried in Sweetwater Cemetery.

On April 10, 1889, Walter was married in Taylor County, Texas to Susannah Baggett Harper. The census shows she was born in July 1842 in Tennessee. The 1900 census of Nolan County, Texas lists Mr. and Mrs. Beall living alone at Sweetwater. The second Mrs. Beall said she had given birth to no children.

Walter Beall died August 24, 1911, at Sweetwater, Texas. He lies buried there in Sweetwater Cemetery. No death certificate was filed for him. Family researchers have not discovered where or when Susannah (Harper) Beall died. She was still alive in Nolan County when the 1910 census was taken.

A short sketch of the life of Walter Dent Beall appeared in Buckley B. Paddock's History of North and West Texas within an article written about his son, James Henry Beall. The portion dealing with Walter was as follows: *"...Walter D. Beall, a son of Josiah Beall, is now a valued resident of Sweetwater, Texas. He was born in Mississippi and on leaving that state accompanied his parents on their removal to Missouri, where he was married to Miss Sarah Watson, a daughter of Judge Watson of Jackson county, Missouri. In the year 1853 he came to Texas, settling in Denton county, where he was engaged in the stock business and farming. He afterward located in Tarrant county, near Arlington, but because of his wife's failing health made an overland trip to California in 1856, remaining on the Pacific coast until the inauguration of the Civil war. Learning that Texas had voted for secession and joined the southern Confederacy, he closed out his various business interests in California and returned to the Lone Star state, where he offered his services to the cause of the south, remaining a soldier for four years or until the close of the war. He was during a greater part of his military service a Company K, Seventh Regiment of Texas Cavalry, and while with the army rose from the ranks to the grade of captain, at one time having charge of the commissary department of his regiment in the field. Following the close of hostilities and his return he continued his residence in Tarrant County until 1881, when the family removed for the west part of the state, settling in Nolan county, where they have since resided. The mother of this family, Mrs. Sarah Beall, died in Nolan county in 1887, when fifty-four years of age. By her marriage she had two sons and a daughter: J.H., of this review; W. W. Beall, who is living in Sweetwater; and Katie, now the wife of E. L. Collins, of Pecos, Texas..."*

Mr. and Mrs. Beall were the parents of three children: James Henry Beall, Warren Walter Beall, and Essa Catherine (Katie) Beall. Two other children who appear in the census with Walter Dent Beall were in fact his nephew and niece (children of James Whiting Beall): Those two children were Edward J. Beall (born about 1868) and Laura Beall (born about 1869).

James Henry Beall was born June 18, 1858 in El Monte, Los Angeles County, California. He married Cornelia Josephine Crissman (1863- 1894) in Dallas County, Texas on December 30, 1880. His second wife was Jennie Annie George (1870-1957). He died of pneumonia at 7:20 a.m. May 8, 1935 at his home at 206 Ragland Street in Sweetwater, Nolan County, Texas. He and both his wives lie buried in Sweetwater Cemetery. A lengthy account of his life and work appears in Paddock's History of North and West Texas.

Warren Walter Beall was born April 18, 1860 in Los Angeles, California. He was married November 17, 1881 in Tarrant County, Texas to Janie Mac Floyd (1861-1899). His second wife was

Nannie G. Buchanan (1871-1924). He died of heart trouble at 8:20 a. m. September 12, 1932 at his home at 901 Beall Street in Sweetwater, Texas. He was buried in Sweetwater Cemetery.

Essa Catherine (Katie) Beall was born October 30, 1866 in Tarrant County, Texas. She married Edmond Lewis Collings (1861-1928) on February 14, 1884. She died at 11:30 p.m. on November 3, 1946 in Pecos, Texas, and lies buried there beside her husband in Fairview Cemetery.

