



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Richard Boaz

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Richard Boaz was a Confederate veteran prominent in the development of Birdville. He was a charter member of the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth.

An excellent sketch of the life of Mr. Boaz, probably written from material he supplied, appeared in A History of Texas, Together With a Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties..., published by the Lewis Publishing Co. in Chicago in 1895: *“Richard Boaz, one of the self-made men and prominent citizens of Tarrant county, Texas, dates his birth in Kentucky, December 4, 1842. Mr. Boaz was reared to farm life, receiving only a limited education, and in 1859 came with his parents to Texas and located on a farm in Tarrant county. He remained a member of the home circle until the opening of the civil war.*

*“Then he enlisted in the first regiment that was raised in this county, the Ninth Texas Cavalry, and as a member of Company A, under Captain Quail, was consigned to the Trans-Mississippi Department. After having several fights, both with the Indians and the Yankees, his command was transferred to the east side of the Mississippi, and soon afterward participated in the engagements at Corinth and Iuka. Afterward, while in a skirmish fight, Mr. Boaz was shot in the right arm and hip, and at the same time was captured. He was the only one wounded, and both he and the man who was left to care for him were captured and taken to LaGrange, Tennessee, where they were held from December 2, 1862, until March 8, 1863.*

*“The latter date he and his comrade made their escape, and after six days succeeded in reaching the Confederate lines. He then spent two or three weeks in Mississippi at the place where his horse had been left, and from there set out to join his command. Upon his arrival in Alabama, however, he found that his command had gone, and he turned his course back to Jackson, Mississippi, where in due time he joined it. But he was not able for duty and was advised to get a discharge; this he refused, securing only a furlough, and returning home for six weeks.*

*“Again he joined his command at Jackson, and, although still unable for active duty, was one of nine who were selected as scouts, in which capacity he continued until the close of the war. The close of the war found him with a stiff arm, with but few clothes, and without money. For three months he remained in Mississippi, during that time working and earning clothes, and then returning to his home in Texas, by way of New Orleans.*

*“After his return home, Mr. Boaz first engaged in freighting with ox teams, which he continued for a number of years. He also made considerable money in trading, and in a few years established a store at Birdville. This store he subsequently sold to his brother, who removed to Fort Worth. From time to time, Mr. Boaz has made investments in land, and to-day is the owner of five farms, all of which are rented. He built a mill and gin, which he still has in operation, and he is also largely interested in the cattle business. For some years he has operated threshers, and has two portable steam engines for his machines.*

*“Among his other investments is stock in the American National Bank. From the above it will be seen that Mr. Boaz is a man of great versatility. And whatever he has undertaken he has carried forward to success, and the success he has attained in life is due solely to his own unaided efforts, his integrity, and his perseverance. As above stated, his right arm was wounded in the army, the result being a stiff elbow, and since the war he has had the misfortune to lose the other arm by an accident which occurred while he was working with his machinery. But, notwithstanding these drawbacks, he has acquired a competency, and is ranked with the leading and influential men of the community in which he lives.*

*“Mr. Boaz is a son of Samuel and Agnes (Freeman) Boaz, natives of Tennessee and Kentucky, respectively. The father was born March 8, 1890, and died in 1894, having been a resident of Texas since 1859. He was a farmer and stock-raiser and before the war was a slave-owner. The mother departed this life in 1883. Following are the names of their seven children: Hezekiah, who died in Kentucky about 1861; David, a resident of Fort Worth; Mary F., wife of Gilson F. Davis, Kentucky; W. J., a banker of Fort Worth; Sarah, wife of Frank Elliston, a farmer of this county; Richard whose name appears at the head of this sketch; and R. L., a resident of San Diego, California, engaged in merchandising.*

*“Mr. Boaz was first married in 1869 to Miss Lucy Tinsley, daughter of Louis Tinsley, who came from Kentucky to Texas and settled in Tarrant as early as 1847. Both he and his wife died on their farm in this county. By this wife Mr. Boaz had six children, viz.: Hezekiah, Lucy, and Mack, deceased; Minnie, wife of T. D. Hovenkamp; Alta, wife of John Bewley; and Mary M., at home*

*“The mother of these children having died, Mr. Boaz was married, in 1882, to his present companion, whose maiden name was Bena Samuels. Her father died in Missouri, and after his death she came with her mother and the rest of the family to Texas, where they have since resided. The children of this union are Flim, Annie, Julia, and Richard Cleveland. Mrs. Boaz is a member of the Christian Church. Politically, Mr. Boaz is identified with the Democratic party, but has never been a politician.”*

Mr. Boaz's official records in the National Archives in Washington say he enlisted and was mustered into the Confederate Army in Co. A, 34th Texas Cavalry, on October 14, 1861 at Camp

Reeves, Texas. He had traveled 150 miles to the rendezvous, and brought with him a horse worth \$65 and equipment worth \$20. He was with the regiment at Fort Gibson [Oklahoma] on December 31, 1861. He is shown present for duty on surviving rolls for March through October, 1862, with a notation that he was sick in a hospital at some time during July or August. He was wounded at Davis Bridge near Lagrange, Tennessee on December 21, 1862 and left there because he was unable to travel. After his capture, he was admitted to Branch 1 of the U. S. general hospital at Lagrange, Tennessee on December 22, 1862. A roll for March and April, 1863, makes reference to his wound, says he was taken prisoner, then furloughed. The rolls for May and June show that he had rejoined his regiment, but was in camp disabled by a gun shot wound. Rolls for July and August, 1863, say he was absent because of wounds. The rolls for September and October, 1863, show he had been in a hospital because of wounds since October 13, 1863. A roll for May and June, 1864, show him absent from the regiment performing special duty under Colonel Jones. His residence was shown as Birdville, Texas. He was surrendered with the remnants of the regiment at Citronelle, Alabama on May 4, 1865 and paroled at Jackson, Mississippi on May 13, 1865.

An obituary for Richard Boaz appeared in the Fort Worth Morning Register on June 16, 1899: *“RICHARD BOAZ DEAD. Prominent Citizen of Tarrant County Passes Away. Mr. Richard Boaz of Birdville, brother of Tuck, William, and uncle of Luther I. Boaz, all of this city, died last night at his home in Birdville at 11:15 of injuries received five weeks ago by the kick of a vicious horse. Mr. Boaz was about 54 years of age, and was one of the most prominent and prosperous farmers in Tarrant County. The funeral will occur from the residence at 4:30 today and the interment will be made in the Birdville Cemetery.”*

Cemetery records at Birdville Cemetery show that both Richard Boaz's wives are buried beside him: Lucy Boaz was born October 31, 1853 and died March 14, 1879. Bena Boaz was born October 30, 1853 and died March 27, 1927.

Four of Richard Boaz's children are also buried in the family grouping, the first three from his first marriage and the fourth from his marriage to Bena Samuels: Hezikah Boaz (Sept. 6, 1870-March 10, 1871); Lucy Ellen Boaz (Feb. 21, 1879-Aug. 17, 1879); Mack Boaz (Nov. 3, 1873-Jan. 12, 1888); and Flem G. Boaz (Oct. 22, 1882-July 20, 1940). Richard's parents, Samuel and Agnes Boaz, are buried next in line to Flem Boaz.

