



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Jesse A. Brown

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Jesse A. Brown was a Confederate veteran who lived at Grapevine when he applied for a Confederate pension on Sept. 21, 1909. He served during the Civil War as a Tennessee infantryman.

Mr. Brown was born June 30, 1838 in Carroll County, Tennessee, according to a statement he made in his pension application. On more than one occasion he told census officials he was born in Illinois. His death certificate says he was born in Tennessee. The information on that certificate was supplied by his son-in-law, George B. Airhart, who did not know the names of either of Jesse's parents.

Jesse A. Brown served the Confederacy as both a private and a sergeant in Co. C, 15th Tennessee Infantry. His files in the National Archives say he enlisted July 22, 1861 at Camp Brown for twelve months. He was mustered into the service in camp near New Madrid, Missouri on August 15, 1861. Another record says he enlisted June 8, 1861 at Jackson, Tennessee for a term of twelve months.

He is shown present on all the surviving rolls of the regiment through November 25, 1863 when he was captured at the Battle of Missionary Ridge, Tennessee. Union authorities forwarded him to Louisville, Kentucky on December 5, 1863 "for exchange." From Louisville, he was sent to the Rock Island prison in Illinois on December 6, where he arrived and entered the prison on December 9, 1863. One record of his capture contains the notation, "Dyers Co., Ala."

He apparently stayed in Union hands until he was paroled on May 18, 1865. An original signed Oath of Allegiance remains in his file, signed at Rock Island on that date. It says he had a light complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, and was 5" 9-1/2" tall. He was twenty-six years old, and was at that time Sergeant of the 15 and 37 [combined] Tennessee Infantry regiment.

Mr. Brown and his wife, Elizabeth J. Essary, were married in Dyer County, Tennessee on September 23, 1868 by P. M. Tipton, a Justice of the Peace. She was born in December 1838.

When the 1880 census was taken, he and his family were living in District 22, Precinct 3, Collin County, Texas. He said he was born about 1839 in Illinois to two natives of Illinois. His wife, E. Brown, was born about 1840 in Tennessee to a Mississippian father and a mother whose birthplace was unknown.

They had six children with them at the time, all born in Tennessee: S. F. (a female born about 1870), W. J., (a male born about 1871), Mary (born about 1872), M. A. (a female born about 1874), N. or M. L. (a female born about 1876), and E. M. (a female born about March of 1880).

The 1900 census taker found the Brown family in District 14, Precinct 4, Collin County, Texas. With Mr. and Mrs. Brown in that year were two children: Lucy Brown (born in September 1875) and Ella M. Brown (born in January 1880). Mrs. Brown told the 1900 census taker in Collin County, Texas she had given birth to seven children, five of whom were still living.

In his Confederate pension application file, Mr. Brown indicated that he moved to Texas about 1879 and to Grapevine about 1908. His pension file contains a handwritten letter from him at Grapevine, dated October 30, 1909.

Mr. Brown told the 1910 census taker in Grapevine he was born in Illinois. In that year, he and his wife, Elizabeth J. Brown, were living in Grapevine with their daughter, Martha, her husband, George B. Airhart, and their children. In that year, Mrs. Brown said she had given birth to seven children, five of whom were still living.

The 1910 census says Mrs. Brown was born in South Carolina. Their daughter, Martha, was born in Tennessee about 1876.

In 1920 the census taker found J. A. and Bettie Brown living in the town of Westminster in Collin County, Texas. Their next-door neighbors were their daughter and her husband, George B. Airhart.

Mrs. Elizabeth (Essary) Brown died in Collin County, Texas in 1922. Her headstone shows only the years of her birth and death. We have been unable to find a death certificate for her.

Jesse A. Brown died in Celina, Collin County, Texas at 1:30 p.m. on December 29, 1925. His death certificate says he died as a result of softening of the brain; the contributory cause is clearly written but indecipherable to this compiler. He was buried the next day beside his wife in Highland Cemetery. His marker mistakenly shows the year of his death as 1926.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Brown have flat granite markers in Highland Cemetery in Melissa, Collin County, Texas.

Census records show the names and approximate birth dates of six of their seven children.

Sallie F. Brown was born about 1870 and was with the family in Collin County in 1880. Census records suggest she may have still been alive in 1900.

W. J. Brown, a male, was born about 1871 and was with the family in Collin County in 1880. Census records suggest he may have still been alive in 1900.

Mary E. Brown was born September 10, 1872. Her marble headstone in Highland Cemetery shows her death date as June 17, 1881.

Mattie A. Brown was born January 31, 1874 . She died October 11, 1932 in Dallas, Dallas County, Texas. She was married to Rev. George B. Airhart (1869-1945). She and Mr. Airhart lie buried in Highland Cemetery in Collin County.

Martha? Lucy Brown was born about September 1875 was still with her parents in 1900. She had a grave marker made to match her parents' in Highland Cemetery, and it shows her dates as 1875-1919.

Ella M. Brown was born January 1880 was with the family in 1900.

There was apparently one other Brown child who was dead before 1900.

