



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

William Madison Brown

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William Madison Brown was a veteran of a Tennessee infantry regiment who lived in the old Jellico community north of Smithfield in northeast Tarrant County when he applied for his pension. During part of his life he lived with the family of another of our veterans, Robert Emmett Wilson, whose daughter married Mr. Brown's son.

Mr. Brown was born in Bedford County, Tennessee, on February 22, 1843 according to his newspaper obituary. It seems more likely, to this researcher at least, that the year was 1842. He was a son of William Brown and his wife, Catherine Day Brown, who were married in Rowan County, North Carolina on October 26, 1820. They were both natives of North Carolina. Several descendants of William and Catherine Brown have posted information on Ancestry.com, some of it contradictory. Our local Mr. Brown's parentage is verified by the information on his death certificate.

One Brown descendant who seems to have quite dependable records, including some interesting oral traditions going back to the days before William Madison Brown's birth, says William Brown Sr. remarried after his first wife's death and came to Texas. He brought his grandsons William Henry Brown and Robert J. Brown, with him. The source does not say where they originally settled in Texas, but it says William Brown Sr. died in 1888.

When the 1850 census was taken, one William Brown Sr. and his family were listed in District 7 of Bedford County, Tennessee. The page on which he was listed is extremely difficult to read in the microfilm. This Mr. Brown was a blacksmith and owned personal property worth ten thousand dollars, most of which probably consisted of his ten slaves. The family contains a number of children, including one named William the correct age to be William Madison Brown.

When the 1860 census was taken, William M. Brown lived with his parents and siblings in the Western Division of District 10 in Bedford County, Tennessee. His father was a farmer who owned

his own farm and a considerable amount of personal property. William appears in the census as a nineteen-year-old laborer. His oldest sibling still in the family was Nancy, who was born about 1835 in Tennessee.

In 1860 the family's next-door-neighbors were the family headed by Frank Brown, born about 1822 in Tennessee, who was William M. Brown's older brother. Frank was a blacksmith, and it may have been during these years that William learned to be a blacksmith.

William M. Brown was a Confederate soldier. He told recruiting authorities he was twenty-one years old when he enlisted on August 24, 1861 at Camp Trousdale, Tennessee. He became a private in Captain W. C. Blanton's Company of the 23rd Tennessee Infantry. This subsequently became known Companies C, A, and (2nd) Co. F. He originally enlisted for a term of ten months.

Other records in his file say he enlisted at Unionville, Tennessee for a term of twelve months on July 13, 1862. A muster roll for March and April 1863 has the notation "Regtl wagoner detailed July 1862 Tupelo Miss by order of Col Keeble." A notation on a later roll said the appointment was made on July 1. His service as a teamster continued until April 30, 1864.

A later roll contains the notation that he was wounded in battle at Fort Harrison and was sent to a hospital on September 29, 1864. He is present on the rolls for November and December 1864 with the notation that he is due a 100-dollar bounty. His name appears on the roll of prisoners paroled at Appomattox Court House, Virginia on April 9, 1865.

Mr. Brown told pension authorities he was born about 1841 in Bedford County, Tennessee. He also said he came to Texas about 1899 and to Smithfield about 1907. He lived at Route 1, Smithfield when he applied. He was a farmer, and said he was in "bad" health.

He wrote in his pension application that he had served from June 1861 until April 9, 1865. He served in Co. F, 23rd Tennessee Infantry. He said he had no personal property and did not own a home. Two men from his home community in Tennessee who served in different regiments made affidavits for him in support of his pension; they were Joseph B. Winn and S. B. Haskins. Mr. Brown's pension was granted. His file contains no other information about him.

About 1866 William Madison Brown married Mary Frances Stevens or Stephens. She was alive as late as the birth of her last son on November 4, 1885. Family oral tradition in Texas says she died while still a young woman, and that Mr. Brown was a widower when he arrived here.

We have been unable to find William M. Brown and his family in the 1870 census records. It seems likely that the census taker missed them, or that the page on which they were recorded has become so faded that it could not be read by the indexers.

When the 1880 census was taken, William M. Brown and his family were living in Rutherford County, Tennessee. The head of the family was his father, William Brown, Sr., who said he was born about 1797 in North Carolina. Also in the family were William Brown, Jr., who was born about 1842 Tennessee, and his wife Frances, who was born about 1844 in Virginia. They had five children

with them in that year: Virginia, Maggie, Mary N., Harry O., and Clayton Brown. Also in the family were William Brown Sr.'s sister, Jane, who was born about 1790; and William Brown Sr.'s daughter, Nancy, who was born about 1825.

William M. Brown appears in the 1900 census of Bedford County, Tennessee. This census says he was born in February 1841 in Tennessee and was a widower. He lived in a family headed by his brother, Samuel M. Brown and a sister Nancy Brown born in December 1824 who was single. There was also a niece of Samuel's named Virginia A. Brown, born in November 1866 and nephews named Henry J. Brown born in September 1884 and Robert J. Brown, born in November 1885. These three children are listed after William M. Brown so that suggests they may have been his offspring. This Samuel M. Brown was back in Bedford County with a wife named Amanda in 1880. This also suggests that William and Robert Brown had returned the Tennessee after the death of their grandfather in Texas, William Brown, Sr.

When the 1910 census was taken, William Brown was in northeast Tarrant County boarding in the home of another of our vets, Robert E. Wilson. Also in the family was William's son, William H. Brown, who was born about 1884 in Tennessee. William Henry Brown was married to Wilson's daughter, who was also born about 1884. They had two children with them.

Mr. Brown died in a hospital in Rusk, Cherokee County, Texas on February 5, 1925. According to his death certificate, he was born in Tennessee in October 1842, was a farmer and a blacksmith, and was the son of William Brown and Catherine Day. He died of pneumonia, and was buried at Grapevine on February 9. He has a death notice in the Grapevine Sun: "*W. M. Brown was born in Tennessee February 22, 1843, came to Texas about 25 years ago. He died Friday, February 6th at Rusk, Texas. His body being sent here for burial. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. J. M. Hunt at the Whites Chapel church Tuesday, interment in the Whites Chapel cemetery. He leaves two sons and one daughter, Mrs. Pierson of this community.*" At this time his grave is unmarked, but we are in the process of getting him a stone from the Veterans Administration.

We have discovered the names of seven children of William and Mary Frances Brown: Virginia Tennessee Brown, Margaret Ann Brown, Mary Neva Brown, Oscar Harvey Brown, Clayton Brown, William Henry Brown, and Robert Jarman Brown. Each of the following short paragraphs will attempt to give a few details of their lives.

Virginia Tennessee Brown was born in November 1866 in Bedford County, Tennessee. She married Henry Earnest Bumpas (born 1866) in Bedford County, Tennessee on April 24, 1905. Researchers at ancestry.com say she died January 24, 1929 in Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee. We have been unable to find a death certificate for her in the Tennessee death records. The obituary of her sister who died in Texas in 1943 suggests that she may have still been alive.

Margaret Ann "Maggie" Brown was born November 1, 1869, according to her headstone and death certificate. Some family records at Ancestry.com say she was born on the same month and day in 1871. She and John Pearson were married in Bedford County, Tennessee on May 20, 1885. Maggie died in Tarrant County, Texas on May 17, 1943, and was buried the next day in White's Chapel

Cemetery. Her obituary in the Grapevine Sun says that among her survivors were two sisters and two brothers.

Mary Neva Brown was born December 2 or 3, 1871. She married John Clark Bennett (1869-1943) in Rutherford County, Tennessee on October 14, 1896. Mr. Bennett died in Rutherford County on July 2, 1943 and was buried in Eagleville, Tennessee, according to his death certificate. His last address was in Nashville at 564 Chestnut Street. She died August 21, 1955 in Rutherford County, Tennessee. We have been unable to locate a death certificate for her. They are buried in the Bennett Cemetery in Mount Vernon, Rutherford County, Tennessee.

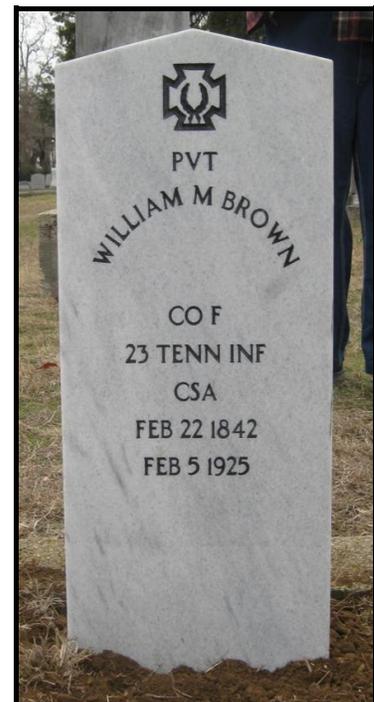
Oscar Harvey Brown was born, according to his death certificate, at Unionville, Tennessee on June 4, 1874. About 1909 he married Margaret Jane Taylor (1875-1960). He died on October 10, 1945 at Houston, Harris County, Texas and was buried there in Brookside Cemetery. His death certificate said he had lived in Houston since about 1927.

Clayton Brown was born in June 1879. He died as a child.

William Henry Brown was born September 5, 1883. He married Maude Wilson. Mr. Brown died in Tarrant County, Texas on July 11, 1915 and was buried in White's Chapel Cemetery. No obituary appeared for him in the Grapevine Sun.

Robert Jarman Brown was born November 4, 1885 at Fairfield in Bedford County, Tennessee. Luckily for us, while a resident of Atlanta, Georgia in 1953 he applied for a delayed birth certificate, naming his parents as William Madison Brown and Frances Stevens.

He was alive in Atlanta, Georgia as late as August 5, 1953 when he signed his application for a birth certificate.



Stone installed by
E. W. Taylor Camp #1777
SVC and family members of
Mr. Brown on March 9, 2013.