



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

Copyright © 2014. All rights reserved.

## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### John Michael Burkhalter

Compiled by Michael Patterson  
Copyright © 2014. All rights reserved.

John Michael Burkhalter was a native of Alabama who served in a cavalry unit raised in his native state. During the 1870's he settled in the White's Chapel community in present-day Southlake, and probably spent the rest of his life there. He lies buried in White's Chapel Cemetery.

Mr. Burkhalter's headstone shows his date of birth as December 4, 1843. His old marble headstone is now lying flat on the ground, and a newer flat granite marker has been placed beside it. According to researchers at Ancestry.com, John M. Burkhalter was the son of Daniel Brunson Burkhalter (1818-1884), who lies buried with a readable headstone in Deer Head Cove Cemetery in DeKalb County, Alabama.

John M. Burkhalter appears as a child in his father's family in the 1850 census of District No. 24 of DeKalb County, Alabama. His father was farming his own real estate. His farm was worth more than one thousand dollars, but the exact figure is not readable in the original microfilm. The family did not own slaves in 1850.

When the 1860 census was taken John was still living as an unmarried young man in the household of his father, Daniel Burkhalter, in DeKalb County, Alabama. The place they lived was served by the post office at Deer Head Cove, in Dade County, Georgia. Daniel Burkhalter was not a slave owner in 1860.

One record says John M. Burkhalter was mustered into the service on September 6, 1862 and became a private in Captain Hammack's Company, Thomason's Battn. Alabama Cavalry. He was eighteen years old. He presented himself for service riding a horse worth two hundred dollars. Another record says he enlisted in the Confederate service on October 1, 1862 at Chattanooga, Tennessee for a term of three years.

The 19<sup>th</sup> (also known as 2<sup>nd</sup>) Battalion (Thomason's) Alabama Cavalry and the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Malone's) Alabama Partisan Rangers were consolidated by S. O. No. 25, Headquarters Wharton's Division, dated April 15, 1863, to form the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment Alabama Cavalry. This organization was subsequently known as the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment Alabama Cavalry.

On October 1, 1863 John was received at the military prison at Louisville, Kentucky and was to be forwarded to some other location for exchange, but the exchange was never made. On October 2, 1863 he was sent from the military prison at Louisville, Kentucky to Camp Chase.

Mr. Burkhalter appears as a private in Co. B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alabama Cavalry on a roll of prisoners of war discharged from Camp Douglas, Illinois on June 13, 1865. He had been captured at Chickamauga, Georgia on September 19, 1863. Another record shows him to have been captured on September 17, and received at Camp Douglas on October 4, 1863 where he remained until June 13, 1865.

His name appears on an oath of amnesty, date and place not stated, while he was a private in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Alabama Cavalry. He said he was a resident of Cherokee County, Alabama; and had a fair complexion, dark hair, hazel eyes, and stood five feet five inches tall. He signed his oath using only his mark.

John Burkhalter appears with his father's family in the 1870 federal census of Township 4, Range 10 in DeKalb County, Alabama. They lived in an area served by the post office at Sulphur Springs, Alabama. John M. Burkhalter was twenty-six years old, and was working on his father's farm.

In September of 1870 Mr. Burkhalter joined a wagon train of several related families in the area of Dade County, Georgia and DeKalb County, Alabama and headed for Texas. The unofficial leader of the group was Stephen Blevins Austin. On Christmas Day they arrived in present-day Southlake, in the general area where White's Chapel Methodist Church would soon be established.

Mr. Burkhalter applied for membership in the Grapevine Masonic Lodge #288 in late September, 1871. He was listed as a member of the lodge in November of that year. The lodge records do not contain any record of his death date.

Mr. Burkhalter married Malinda Jane Austin, the daughter of another of our veterans, James S. Austin, about 1873, probably in northeast Tarrant County. She told the census taker in 1900 she was born in September 1855.

When the 1875 Tarrant County tax lists were prepared J. M. "Burkholder" was recorded as the owner of seventy-four acres of the W. E. Crook survey worth three hundred seventy dollars. He also owned one horse worth forty dollars and other personal property. This W. E. Crook survey lies in modern-day Southlake and Colleyville and is bisected west to east by Big Bear Creek. The survey's north line lies along present-day Continental Drive and its south line lies along present-day John McCain Road. No modern streets correspond to the survey's east or west lines, but its southwest corner is near the intersection of Pleasant Run/White's Chapel Road and John McCain Road.

Mr. Burkhalter also appears in the Tarrant County tax lists of 1876, 1877, 1878, and 1879. In he owned forty acres of the P. J. Hyde survey in modern-day Southlake. It was worth seven dollars per acre. He also owned one horse worth twenty dollars, five cattle worth twelve dollars each, four hogs worth one dollar each, five dollars worth of farming implements, and miscellaneous personal property worth twenty five dollars. His name is absent from the 1880 tax list. Five years earlier in 1875, Mr. Burkhalter's father-in-law James S. Austin had owned forty acres of the Hyde survey; perhaps this was the same tract.

In modern-day terms, the P. J. Hyde survey is a square of one hundred sixty acres, one-half mile on each side. Its south line is today marked by Continental Drive, west of its intersection with White's Chapel Road and east of Peytonville Avenue. The survey's southeast corner is about where Wilmington Court meets Continental. Its southwest corner is along Continental about where Wyndham Hill approaches it most closely from the south. Carriage Way follows the survey's north line for most of its (Carriage Way's) length. No modern-day streets correspond to its east or west lines. In 1879 Mr. Burkhalter owned one-fourth of this survey.

When the 1880 census was taken in Tarrant County, Mrs. Malinda J. Burkhalter was living in the home headed by her father. The census shows her to have been a widow at that time. Three Burkhalter children are with her: Sarah (six years old), James (four years old) and Netty (two years old).

John M. Burkhalter does not appear in the 1880 mortality schedules of Tarrant County, Texas. We inquired of the Grand Lodge of Texas to see if they had a record of Mr. Burkhalter's death, and they did not.

John Michael Burkhalter's original stone in White's Chapel Cemetery is broken across the death date line. It is made of white marble, and its design and lettering style suggests it was probably placed there about 1880 or before. Someone has replaced it with a newer granite flat stone, but the death date on the newer stone of 1929 is obviously much too late, perhaps as much as fifty years too late. The DAR ladies who inventoried White's Chapel Cemetery in the late 1950's entirely missed Mr. Burkhalter's original stone, which may have been covered with grass at the time.

When Sam Street produced his map of Tarrant County in December 1895, he shows the W. E. Crook survey and shows only two families living on it...the family of S. B. Austin and the family of Mr. Burkhalter's father-in-law, James Austin.



Mr. Burkhalter's widow, Malinda J.(Austin) was remarried about 1885 to John Thomas Austin (1866-1936). By 1900 they had moved to Precinct 3 of Grayson County, Texas where they were farming. They had four of their own children with them in that year, and Mrs. Austin told the census taker she had given birth to seven children, all of whom were still living.

By 1910 Mr. and Mrs. Austin had moved to Altus Township in Jackson County, Oklahoma, where they remained. Both Mr. and Mrs. Austin told the census taker they were in their second marriages. In this year, Mrs. Austin said she had given birth to eight children, only seven of whom were still alive. If this is true, she must have had another child with Mr. Austin; that child must have been born and died between 1900 and 1910.

Malinda Jane (Austin) Burkhalter Austin died in 1924. She and her second husband share a headstone in Victory Cemetery in Altus, Jackson County, Oklahoma. Family sources at Ancestry.com say the headstone contains several errors.

It seems likely that John M. Burkhalter was the father of only three children: Sarah Elizabeth Burkhalter, James Branson Burkhalter, and Rosie Nettie Burkhalter.

Sarah Elizabeth Burkhalter was born near Grapevine, Tarrant County, Texas on April 11, 1874. She married William Alexander Gillis (1856-1952) at Bransford, Tarrant County on November 5, 1893. In 1900 they lived in Caldwell County, Texas. By 1910 they had moved to Jones County, Texas. She died at 7 p.m. on December 9, 1926 at her home in Hamlin in Jones County, Texas. The informant for the death certificate was Mrs. Nettie Shivers, her sister. Interestingly, Mrs. Shivers gave the father's name as J. B. Burkhalter, which might also indicate that he had died when she was quite young and she had no memory of him.

James Branson Burkhalter was born September 20, 1876, according to his death certificate. When the 1900 census was taken he was living as a single boarder in the White's Chapel area in the home of Michael M. Austin, a first cousin; Mrs. Michael M. Austin was his aunt, Margaret Jane (Burkhalter) Austin. James married Birdie Hudson (1884-1969). He died at 12:30 p.m. on December 16, 1935 at his home on Route 1 in Irving, Dallas County, Texas. He was buried in Sowers Cemetery in Irving.

Rosie Nettie Burkhalter was born August 10, 1878. She married Albert B. Shivers (1858-1933). She died at 8:30 p.m. on November 7, 1950 at her home at 2536 Race Street in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas. She was buried in White's Chapel Cemetery in Southlake. The informant was her son, Clyde Shivers, who did not know his mother's maiden name. This also suggests an early death date for Mr. Burkhalter.



A new stone was installed near the original in White's Chapel Cemetery in Southlake, Texas on July 19, 2014 by E. W. Taylor Camp 1777, Sons of Confederate Veterans.