



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### George Emanuel Bushong

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George Emanuel Bushong was born at Vance, Sullivan County, Tennessee on March 26, 1836. He was a son of David Bushong and his wife, Dorcas Elizabeth Stophel. George got an education in Tennessee before he arrived in Grapevine in the fall of 1858, and began teaching school at Grapevine not long after he arrived here. One of his students, Elizabeth A. Jenkins, would later become his wife. Family tradition says he once had to spank Elizabeth for crawling under the school house.

Bushong leased a three-acre plot of land from I. P. S. Dunn which included what was then known as Miles Spring, on which he built and operated the first cotton gin in the Grapevine area. He also built a saw mill and flour mill at that location. After all three burned in 1885, he rebuilt only the saw mill and gin, with lumber sawn on the spot. These operations were just across Bushong Road (west) of the family home, which he had built in 1880 and furnished with items and materials hauled by ox wagon from Bryan, Texas.

This old Grapevine landmark, the Big House, was completely burned on December 5, 1977. The log cabin which he and his wife built about 1871, just a few yards north of the Big House, and in which their first four children were born, survived. After several moves from its original site, in 1979 it was still standing in the area known as Shore Crest Acres, only a short distance west of its original site.

Bushong served in the Confederate Army in the 1st Texas Cavalry Regiment (also known as McCulloch's Regiment and as the Texas Mounted Riflemen). He enlisted on May 27, 1861. A year later, records of the 8th (Taylor's) Texas Cavalry Battalion show him as a captain, commanding Company E. After the war, he returned to Grapevine.

Bushong married Elizabeth A. Jenkins at Grapevine on October 18, 1866. She was born March 3, 1848, and was a daughter of Eli Mathis Jenkins. Mrs. Bushong lived until December 2, 1925.

George and Elizabeth Bushong had thirteen children, all born at Grapevine: David Eli Bushong, October 4, 1867-October 29 1868; Robert Lee Bushong, February 17 (or 27), 1869-November 6, 1869; Eva Bushong, July 25 (or 26), 1870-November 28, 1871; Josiah Bushong, December 6, 1871-December 27, 1871; Dorcas Emma Bushong, born November 29, 1873, and married Rev. Robert Burt Morgan; Ann Elizabeth Bushong, born April 14, 1875, married Henry Theodore Burgoon; Mary Elioner Bushong, August 12, 1877-October 2, 1878; John Bushong, December 4, 1878-May 2\_, 1879; Bessie Bushong, born June 22, 1880, married John Word Brock; George L. Bushong, August 8, 1882-December 17, 1968, married Linnie May Willingham; Thomas Bushong, born December 16, 1884; Katherine Bushong, born March 6, 1888, married William Aubrey Turnage; and Clinton Andrew (or Albert) Bushong, March 22, 1890-December 2, 1950, who never married and who died as a long-term result of injuries he received in World War I.

Bushong was active in the business and church life of Grapevine for the rest of his life. He served as the first president of the Grapevine National Bank until his death. He died early on the morning of December 3, 1905, at Grapevine, and was buried later that same day in Grapevine Cemetery.

Two notices of Mr. Bushong's death appeared in the Grapevine Sun. The first was on December 9, 1905: *"A NOBLE MAN PASSED AWAY. Mr. George Emanuel Bushong died last Saturday morning at 1:30 o'clock at his home after an illness of about two weeks. It is with sincere sorrow that we announce the death of this grand old man, and we know that we voice the sentiments of this community in this expression. By the death of Mr. Bushong Grapevine has, without doubt, lost its most useful citizen. He was a benefactor in a true sense of the word. Many a one has received his assistance in time of need. In next week's issue of the Sun we will give a biographical sketch of his life. Our time is too limited to do the subject justice this week."*

The following week this article appeared in the same newspaper on December 16, 1905: *"TRIBUTE OF RESPECT. On Sunday morning, Dec. 3rd, at 1:15 o'clock, the soul of George Emanuel Bushong passed from its earthly tabernacle into that "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." For some months prior to his death, he had been slightly ailing, but not until a few days before he passed away was his condition considered serious. All that medical skill and loving hands could do were employed to prolong this noble man's life, but beyond a mere alleviation of his sufferings they were powerless to go. It was the will of his Maker that he should leave this world and nothing could keep him from going. His funeral services were conducted from the Baptist Church Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, by the pastor. The house was filled to overflowing with people and a large number had to remain on the outside of the building for lack of room on the inside. The preacher used as a text for his discourse 2 Samuel, 3:38, "Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel." These words were used originally with reference to the great and good Abner, who had suddenly been stricken down by death. But the preacher employed them as being especially applicable to Brother Bushong in his death. After the services at the church, a host of friends and relatives followed the remains to the cemetery, where all that was mortal of Bro. Bushong was consigned to the grave to await the resurrection morn. Bro. Bushong was born near Bristol, Tenn., March 26, 1836. He was of German descent, both his paternal and maternal grandparents having come to this country from Germany during the latter part of the 18th century. He lived on a farm in Tennessee until he was 22 years of age, when he came to Texas and settled near Grapevine, where he made his home until his death. During the civil war he joined a company of Rangers and with them went to espouse the cause which he firmly believed was right. He made*

*a good soldier and, no doubt, was instrumental in bringing about several victories. In 1866 he was [illegible] married to Miss Elizabeth Jenkins, who [illegible] him. God blessed this union with 13 children, 6 of whom are now living, 4 daughters and 2 sons. He joined the Baptist church in the summer of 1872 and was baptized by Rev. A. J. Hallford. Bro. Bushong will be greatly missed from this community; during his life he was indeed a great benefactor to his fellow creatures. In time of need and distress, in sickness and sorrow, he was always ready and willing to lend them a helping hand. Nothing but words of praise has this writer heard come from the lips of those who knew him relative to his noble philanthropic spirit. He was also a great pillar in his church. To be sure he was always meek and humble and modest in whatever he did for his Master, and such a life is always pleasing to God. No one would dare to make an attempt to estimate the good he did in advancing the cause of his blessed Savior. He was a constant attendant upon the prayer-meeting, the Sunday school and all other services of his church. Surely he is now wearing a bright glorious crown in consequence of his Christian labors on earth. It seems so hard to give up such a man as Bro. Bushong. He will be greatly missed as a husband, father, citizen and Christian worker. But let us feel that our blessed Father has had a hand in it all, thought mysterious as it may seem to us. Let us then be submissive to His great will realizing that He always knows best and whatever He does is for the good of His children and for His glory."*

An obituary for Mrs. Bushong appeared in The Grapevine Sun on December 10, 1925: "MRS. G. E. BUSHONG DIES. Elizabeth Ann Jenkins Bushong was born March the 3rd, 1848 in Greenwood, La. The family moved to Tarrant County, Texas, May 12, 1859, settling at Dunnville, which was later named Grapevine. Her father, E. N. Jenkins, was the first merchant in Grapevine and the business is continued to the present under different management. She was married to Capt. G. E. Bushong Oct. 18, 1866. To this union were born 13 children, 8 boys and 5 girls. Six boys and one girl died in infancy. Those surviving are: Mmes. Kate Turnage and Bessie Brock, and Mrsrs. Clinton A. and George L. Bushong of Grapevine; ;Mrs. Emma Morgan of Fort Wroth and Mrs. Anna Burgoon of Denton. She leaves five sisters and two brothers, Mrs. J. L. Morehead, Fort Worth; Mr. Tom Jenkins, Dallas; Mrs. Minnie Hamilton, Birdville;' and Mmes J. E. M. Yates, Fannie Davis, Virginia Wall, and Mr. Zeb Jenkins of Grapevine. There are 27 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She was converted and united with the Bear Creek Baptist Church in Oct. 1863, and was baptized Jan. 1, 1864 by Rev. J. W. Mitchell. This event taking place at the old Morehead crossing on Denton creek. The ice was broken that the ordinance might be performed. Services preceding the baptism were held in Grandpa Dunn's home in Grapevine. She was one of the charter members of the Grapevine Baptist church. Her husband's funeral was the first service held in the present church building, just twenty years ago to the day of her funeral. Mrs. Bushong died Wednesday [rest of article is illegible]

A great deal of information on George E. Bushong and his family is to be found in the Grapevine Historical Society's Grapevine Area History (1979), especially an article by George E. Bushong and Imogene Morgan Roberts, from which some of this biography was taken. The article includes a very early photograph of George E. Bushong and a later photo of his wife, Elizabeth Ann Jenkins Bushong.

GEORGE EMMANUEL BUSHONG (1836-1905), banker, philanthropist, merchant and farmer, born at Vance, near Bristol, Sullivan County, Tennessee, March 26, 1836. He was the son of David and Dorcas Eliza (Stoffel) Bushong. He was of German descent, both his paternal and maternal grandparents having come to this country from Alsace, Germany, during the latter part of the eighteenth century. He lived on a farm in Tennessee until he was twenty-two years of age. He was well educated, attending school at Bristol, Tennessee, and Emory and Henry College of that town.

He came to Texas in the fall of 1858 and settled at Grapevine, where he made his home until his death. He taught a small country school for a number of years. He served as captain of Company H, 1st Texas Cavalry, Buchel's Brigade, when fighting the Indians, and later he served as a Confederate soldier during the war between the states. Mr. Bushong until his death was a citizen who carried a heavy burden of business and other affairs at Grapevine. He had long been known in his community as a man of sound judgment and philanthropic disposition. He was a benefactor to the poor and a leader in most questions of enterprise. He helped to organize the Grapevine National Bank and was elected president, which place he held up to the time of his death, which occurred December 3, 1905. He was one of the large property owners in that section of Tarrant County. He also established the first cotton gin, an industry he continued until it burned. He was an active member in the Baptist Church.

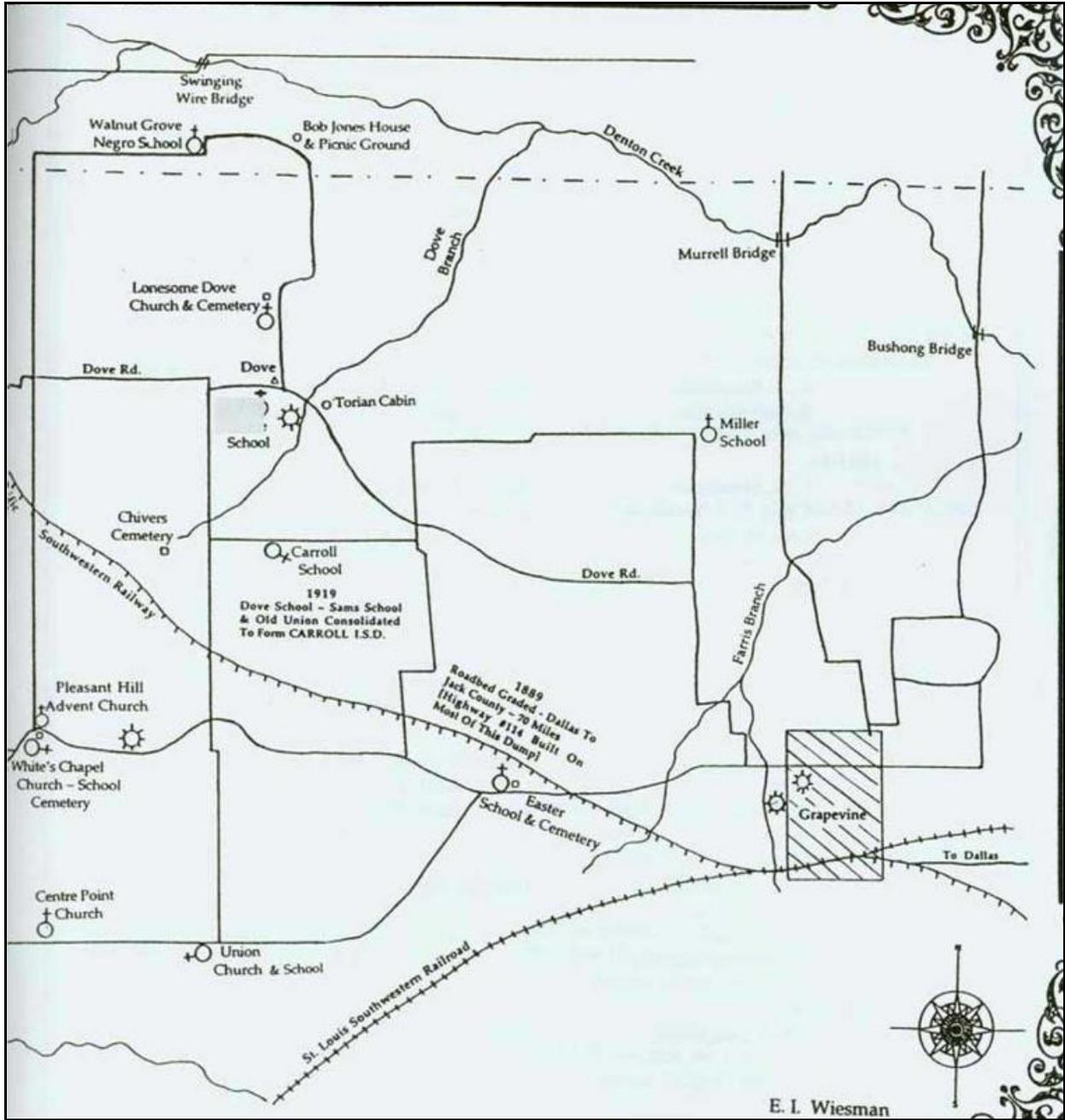
September 18, 1866, Mr. Bushong married Miss Elizabeth Ann Jenkins of Grapevine, Texas, who was born March 4, 1848. She is still living and resides at Grapevine. Mrs. Bushong is a daughter of E. M. and Ellen (Dunn) Jenkins. The town of Grapevine was first known as Dunnville in honor of her maternal grandfather. Her father, E. M. Jenkins, was the first merchant of Grapevine. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Bushong were born thirteen children, six of whom still live: Mrs. R. B. Morgan of Memphis, Texas; Mrs. Anna E. Burgoon of Denton, Texas; Mrs. J. W. Brock, George L. Bushong, Mrs. Kate Turnage, Clinton A. Bushong, all living at Grapevine, Texas.

This short biographical sketch appeared in B. B. Paddock's History of Texas. Fort Worth and the Texas Northwest Edition Vol. IV, printed by the Lewis Publishing Company of Chicago and New York in 1922.





Bushong built this cabin in 1871, and lived in it until a larger house was finished nearby. The cabin still stands in Grapevine at 1617 Silverside, and, with additions, is still occupied.



Map showing Bushong Bridge  
 Much of the northern part of this map is now under the waters of Grapevine Lake.

(courtesy of Cliff Gibbs)