



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Hiram Calloway

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Hiram Calloway settled in northeast Tarrant County before the Civil War. An excellent biography, probably written from material Calloway supplied himself, appeared in 1895 in the Lewis Publishing Company's History of Texas, Together with a Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties: "Hiram Calloway, a well-known farmer of Birdville, Tarrant county, Texas, has been identified with this part of the county for thirty-three years. Mr. Calloway was born and reared in North Carolina, the date of his birth being April 8, 1822. He remained on the farm with his parents until after his marriage, when he settled on a farm of his own, and he was engaged in agricultural pursuits in North Carolina until 1859.

"That year he came to Texas and settled in Tarrant county. Here he bought a farm which had a cabin on it and a few acres under cultivation. At that time there was but little farming done here, as the early settlers gave their attention chiefly to stock-raising.

"In 1863 Mr. Calloway entered the State service. For six months he was on the frontier and after that was in different parts of the State, looking after deserters, remaining on duty until the close of the war. Although he did considerable scouting, he was never in any fights.

"After the war he returned home and resumed farming. Soon afterward he sold out and commenced buying land where he now lives. His first purchase here was eighty acres, which were partially improved, and to this tract he has since added until now he has over a thousand acres all told. About 200 acres of his land are under cultivation, wheat, cotton, corn and oats comprising his crops. He also raises some stock.

"Mr. Calloway voted at the election which changed the county seat to Fort Worth, and he has been an eye-witness to the growth of Fort Worth from a mere village to the city it is to-day. And he has not only been a witness to the growth and development which have taken place here, but also, as one of the leading farmers of the county, has done his part toward bringing about this change.

“Turning from his life for a glimpse at the history of his forefathers, we find that the Calloways were many years ago residents of Virginia. His parents, Thomas and Elizabeth (Ray) Calloway, were natives of North Carolina. Thomas Calloway was a prominent man in his day. For twenty-six years he served as Clerk of the Court and he also served as Surveyor for a number of years. He had large farming interests and was a slave owner, and, in short, was a leading and influential man in his county.

“Our subject’s maternal grandfather, Jesse Ray, was also a prominent farmer of that State. Thomas and Elizabeth Calloway had ten children, viz.: Carey, Joseph F., Nancy, John, Shaderick, William H., Thomas, Hiram, James and Marshall, – all having passed away except the subject of our sketch and his brother, James. The father died in 1834, and the mother in 1882. Both were members of the Primitive Baptist Church.

Mr. H. Calloway married Miss Catherine Reeves, daughter of Jesse and Mary (Bower) Reeves. They became the parents of two children, one of whom died in childhood. The other, Mary, married her cousin, Joseph F. Calloway, and they came with her parents to Texas. In 1868 she was left a widow with two sons, Wylie and Marshall, and all three have since made their home with our subject.

Mrs. Calloway died in 1878. She was a member of the Baptist Church, as also is Mr. Calloway. While a resident of North Carolina, Mr. Calloway served as Circuit Clerk, but since coming to Texas he has given his whole time and attention to agricultural pursuits, and has not aspired to official position. He is a member of the Masonic order.”

In Old Fort Worth, by Mack Williams, includes some interesting material about Hiram Calloway: “...Calloway figured in one of the most sensational slayings in Old Fort Worth. Bitterness and enmity engulfed Birdville after voters in the election of November, 1856, moved the county seat from Birdville to Fort Worth. The flourishing settlement of Birdville withered on the vine, with the court house gone. A few months after the election, a political barbecue attended by Birdville and Fort Worth residents was held at Cold Spring to hear the candidates speak. At the barbecue, Hiram Calloway and A. Y. Fowler, a Fort Worth lawyer, got into an argument. Calloway pushed Fowler and the lawyer fell, breaking his arm. Sheriff John B. York refused to file charges against Calloway, saying Fowler had started the argument. A feud quickly developed between Fowler and Sheriff York. A few days later they met face to face on the Court House Square. Both men reached for their pistols and fired. Both men died....”

No exhaustive search has been made of all available issues of the Fort Worth newspaper for the 1900 death of Mr. Calloway. A card index exists at the Fort Worth Public Library for that year of the newspaper, but his name does not appear in it. However, other obituaries and stories are known to be present in the paper in that year, and they were not included in the index. Mr. and Mrs. Calloway lie buried in Birdville Cemetery.

