



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Joseph Milton Cavender

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Joseph Milton Cavender, the youngest child of Joseph Cavender, was born February 27, 1836 in Walker County, Georgia. His mother, Joseph Cavender's second wife, died at or shortly after his birth. The younger Joseph spent his earliest years in a well-to-do slave owning family until his father died in the 1840's.

The younger Joseph moved to Texas with a married half-sister and her family in 1851, settling first in Bosque County. About 1853 they moved north to Parker County, Texas. At some point in his early life he and a companion named Blackwell made an unsuccessful trip to California to search for gold.

Cavender served as a private and a sergeant in Co. E, 12th Texas Infantry (also known as the 8th Texas Infantry and Young's Texas Infantry). He enlisted January 3, 1862 in either Tarrant or Parker Counties, and traveled 250 miles to the rendezvous at Camp Hobart near Austin, Texas. On April 30, 1862, he was elected Second Sergeant of his company. At some point in August 1862 he was left ill at Daingerfield, but was present for duty in all other muster rolls of the regiment which have survived. On February 20, 1865 while the regiment was at Shreveport, Louisiana, Cavender became so ill that he was given a furlough to go to his home in Parker County. No further record of his service has been found.

After the Civil War he moved back to Walker County, Georgia and, on January 9, 1868, married Mary Ann Bryan (1841-1918), who grew up in a comfortable, slave-owning family there. About 1872 they moved to Boone County, Arkansas and settled near the town of Bellefonte, where they remained until about 1879.

In 1880 they settled on Grapevine Prairie south of Grapevine. Their home stood north of present-day Hughes Road. It was on this farm that Joseph died on October 26, 1902. Mary Ann Cavender continued to live on the Big Bear Creek farm until 1910, when she moved to North Fort Worth with the family of her married daughter, Ollie Wells.

They moved into a home at 2214 North Houston Street, where Mary Ann died on November 25, 1918. She was buried beside her husband in Parker Memorial Cemetery.

Michael Patterson has written an extensive history of their lives, “An Oral and Documentary History of the Lives of Joseph Milton Cavender and his wife, Mary Ann (Bryan) Cavender.” They had the following children: James Claud Cavender, William DeWitt Cavender, Joseph Edgar Cavender, Ruby Emma (Mrs. William J.) Moad; Ruby Ella (Mrs. Joseph H.) Starns, Mary Olive (Mrs. Pleasant Levi) Wells, and Fannie K. Cavender, who died in early childhood.

An obituary for Joseph M. Cavender appeared in The Grapevine Sun on October 25, 1902 (which leads us to believe the death date stated on his stone must be incorrect): “*Mr. J. M. Cavender, who died on Thursday night of last week, was born February 27, 1836, and was consequently in his 67th year at the time of his death. He was married to Miss M. A. Bryan on January 9, 1868. He joined the Baptist Church when young. Mr. Cavender was an old pioneer, coming to Texas many years ago. He had a host of friends, who will regret to hear of his death. A wife and several children survive him, to whom we extend our sympathy in their sad bereavement.*”



Joseph, Mary Ann, and Ollie Cavender
Photo taken in Fort Worth about 1898

