



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Ransom Lafayette Deen

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Ransom Lafayette Deen was born January 30, 1838 in Santa Rosa County, Florida, a son of a wagoner named Andrew Jackson Dean and his wife, Louisa Coleman. Andrew and Louisa Dean were living at Floridatown, Florida when a severe yellow fever epidemic occurred, and to escape the sickness they moved to Milton, Florida, where Ransom was born.... the first white child born there. A. J. Dean served in the Mexican War.

In 1850, Ransom was living with his father's family in Santa Rosa County, Florida. According to census data, his family had lived in Florida at the time of his birth, but had moved to Alabama for most of the 1840's before returning to Florida shortly before 1850.

Leaving his family behind, Ransom came to the Grapevine area in 1857. Deen and his wife, Elizabeth Burgoon, were married in April, 1860. She was born in July 1841 in Iowa to Charles Burgoon and Anna Maria (Geiger) Burgoon.

Ransom's name appears on several Confederate military organizations' rolls. He enlisted in July, 1861 in Gano's Mounted Riflemen, 20th Brigade, Texas State Militia. He was also private in Co. A, 9th Texas Cavalry. His name also appears on the muster roll of Capt. William Quayle's Co., the first to leave Fort Worth during the Civil War. When he joined the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth in 1906, Deen wrote that he served in the Battles of Bird Creek, Indian Territory; Holly Springs, Mississippi; Thompson Station, Tennessee; and helped to cover the Confederates' retreat from Big Black River to Jackson, Mississippi.

On February 16, 1872, Deen patented a one-hundred-sixty-acre piece of property near Parker Memorial Cemetery; which survey is in present-day Grapevine and is centered in the vicinity of Timberline Drive and Oak Creek Drive. He was living on the R. L. Deen survey in at least the period 1870-1874. Later in life he moved into the downtown residential area of Grapevine. In terms of modern-day landmarks, in 1895 he was living in Grapevine on the Ambrose Foster survey, about where Surrey Lane and Drexel Drive intersect.

When the 1900 census was taken, Mrs. Deen said she had given birth to ten children, seven of whom were still living. Deen died June 27, 1910 in Grapevine. He lies buried in Grapevine Cemetery. His wife died about 1903 and if she is buried at Grapevine beside him she has no headstone.

His obituary appeared in The Grapevine Sun: *“DIED. It is our sad duty to chronicle another visit of the death angel in our midst. Last Monday at about 5 p.m. Mr. R. L. Deen passed away in the 73rd year of his age. He had been in feeble health for a long time previous to his death. His wife preceded him to the grave some seven years ago. Mr. Deen has lived in this community about 53 years, coming here when about 19 years of age. He was a member of the Methodist church and lived a consistent Christian life. He was also a member of the Masonic Order and was buried under the auspices of that order Tuesday evening. He leaves seven children—five daughters and two sons—to mourn his departure, and to whom we extend our sympathy.”*

The Deans' children included Eva Estelle (Dean) Chenowith (1861-1940); C. C. (female) Deen, Arthur Livingston Deen (1866-1872), Mary Elizabeth Deen (1868-1913), Lanora Deen (1870-1941), Charles Jackson Deen (1873-1942), Anna Louise Dean (b. 1876), Clara Agnes Deen (1878-1946), Ransom Lafayette (Bud) Deen, Jr. (1880-1951), Arabella Dean (1883-1884), and Ernes Xavier Dean (b. Apr. 3, 1889).

A very interesting website concerning one of Deen's daughters, Anna Deen Crist, may be found at

<http://www.friendsofpacelibrary.org/History/Crist.html>

A portion of it dealing with Ransom L. Deen is as follows:

*“...Miss Anna Louise Dean was born near Grapevine, Texas, in Tarrant County, March 11, 1876. Her parents lived on a large farm about twenty-five miles from Fort Worth, Texas, and about the same distance from Dallas, Texas. Her father was Ransom Lafayette Dean, son of Andrew Jackson Deen and Louise Coleman Deen. The grandfather was born in Georgia, but his parents moved later to Red Level, Alabama. The grandfather Deen went into the army until he retired. As there were no trains, he was unable to get money to his family, a wife and four children so the wife, Miss Deen's paternal grandmother, did sewing to help support the family. She lived at Fort Pickens and had to cross the channel to deliver some sewing at the Navy Yard. A hurricane was on, and when ready to go home, only one old seaman would agree to carry her home, but he told her she must not move or the boat would turn over and they would drown. In relating this to Miss Annie, she said, “Just think, Annie, I had to sit there without moving, but I left four children at home.”*

Miss Deen's paternal grandparents were living at Floridatown, Florida, when the yellow fever epidemic occurred, and everyone who could, left. They moved to Milton where her father was born in 1838, having the distinction of being the first white child born there. In 1857 when her father was nineteen years old, he left his home and people and went West stopping in Texas. While there, he met Elizabeth Burgoon, whom he married in April, 1860. Elizabeth Burgoon's mother was the daughter of John Geiger, and her grandmother was a Gruber, of German descent and was from Alsace Lorraine. Miss Anna Deen was told this interesting fact about her great grandfather Deen. Many years ago a group of people left the British Isles on a sailing vessel heading for America. The vessel as well as all reports were burned and only captain Jackson and a baby survived with no

records. The captain did not know whose baby it was so he gave it the name of Jackson. This baby later became the great grandfather to Miss Anna Deen. Miss Deen's maternal grandmother Burgoon was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and from there she went with her family to Ohio, when it was first settled, and later to Davenport, Iowa, where Elizabeth was born.

Because of the bad health of her father, the family started to California but met people who were going to Texas and decided to go there. At this time Elizabeth was eleven years old.

