



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

William Riley Eaves

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William Riley Eaves was a native of Alabama who served in a Texas cavalry unit. He lived in the Southlake area when the War began, and lived here for several years after the War ended. He later moved to Oklahoma, where he died and lies buried.

Mr. Eaves was born in Alabama on March 3, 1830; family sources say he was born in Jackson County. As a boy, he was taken to Union County, Illinois by his parents. He was the son of northeast Tarrant county pioneers Benjamin Hampton Eaves (1810-1860) and his wife, Nancy Williams (1812-1897), both of whom lie buried in Hood Cemetery in Southlake.

When the 1850 census of Union County, Illinois was taken, Benjamin Eaves and his family were listed in the western portion of District 2. William was twenty years old and the oldest child with the family, and was the only child born in Alabama. By the time of the birth of his next-oldest sibling, Carroll (who was born in December 1837), the family had settled in Illinois. The Eaves family was farming, and Benjamin owned real estate worth two hundred dollars.

William's brother, Carroll B. Eaves (another of our veterans), wrote in his pension application that Benjamin Eaves brought the family to Tarrant County in 1853. They settled in what is today Southlake. Several other families made the move from Union County, Illinois to Northeast Tarrant County at about the same time.

Family sources report that William Eaves was first married to Mary Hogan Hood about 1857. She died in or before 1865 after having at least two children. It seems likely she would have been buried in the Hood Cemetery in present-day Southlake, where William's parents lie buried. No readable headstone for her exists there or in any other northeast Tarrant County cemetery. It must be remembered, however, that very few of the numerous pioneers who died here during the 1850's and 1860's have readable headstones.

The will of Benjamin Eaves, written on January 24, 1860 is one of only a handful of documents which survived the burning of the Tarrant County court house in 1876. Benjamin's will mention his son, William, but says he is to have no part in the division of the estate. Presumably this was because William was the eldest son, was already around thirty years of age, and may have already received a part of the inheritance.

The 1860 tax list of Tarrant County shows that William Eaves had already established himself and owned one hundred sixty acres of the Thomas M. Hood survey in present-day Southlake. This survey of six hundred forty acres sits in a square, one mile on each side. It lies in present-day Southlake, with White's Chapel Road defining its eastern boundary. Peytonville Road follows the survey's western boundary from the north to the south about where today's Brazos Street intersects it. Only one short street, Love Henry Court, lies about where the survey's south line is located. The survey's northeast corner is located at about the intersection of Highway 114 and White's Chapel Road.

Mr. Eaves served the Confederacy as a private in Co. I, 31st (Hawpe's) Texas Cavalry. He enlisted at Fort Washita on August 9, 1862 for the term of the War. He left the company at Dripping Springs, Arkansas on December 31, 1862.. No further record of his service has survived. He did not apply for Confederate veterans benefits in Oklahoma, where he was living when he was eligible for benefits.

Mr. Eaves was married second in Montague County, Texas on September 24, 1865 to Margaret Jane Morris. She was born January 11, 1843 in Arkansas, and was a daughter of John Morris, who was born in Arkansas, and Margaret Pippin or Pepper, who was born in Virginia. Eaves registered to vote in Montague County, Texas on August 24, 1867, stating that he was a native of Alabama and had been in Texas thirteen years.

W. R. Eaves and his family appear in the 1870 census of Tarrant County in Precinct 2. The justice precincts of 1870 do not correspond to those of today. Mr. Eaves appears as a forty-year-old farmer born in Alabama. His wife, Jane, was twenty-eight years old and a native of Arkansas. They had four children with them in that year: James, Francis, Martin, and Cornelia Eaves. Their next-door neighbors were William's mother and her family. William owned real estate worth three hundred twenty dollars.

On August 21, 1873, William R. Eaves patented the one hundred sixty-acre survey in northeast Tarrant County which bears his name. This survey lies entirely within modern-day Southlake. It is a square, one-half mile on each side. In modern-day terms, Peytonville Road defines its eastern boundary, and Davis Boulevard/Randol Mill Road follows its western line. Its northeast corner is at about the intersection of Peytonville Road and Southlake Boulevard. No modern-day streets lie along any significant parts of its north or south lines.

An interesting glimpse of Mr. Eaves life here may be had by looking at his entry in the 1875 Tarrant County tax list of Precinct 3. In that year, he owned eighty acres of the W. R. Eaves survey and one acre of the J.G. Allen survey. He also owned two horses or mules worth sixty dollars, six cattle

worth thirty dollars, and ten goats or hogs worth ten dollars. His farming implements were worth twenty-five dollars. He owned small items of gold or silver worth five dollars.

By the time the 1880 census was taken, William Eaves and his family were living in Precinct 3 in Montague County, Texas. They appear in the census in a family headed by his father-in-law, John Morris, who was born about 1819 in Arkansas, and his wife, Margaret, who was born about the same year in Tennessee. Seven Eaves children were with the family: Martin V., Margaret, Louise, Mary, Lemuel, Rhoda, and Annie Eaves. Mr. Eaves does not appear in the 1880 agricultural census.

As shown in the 1900 census, Mr. Eaves and his family lived in the Choctaw Nation of the Indian Territory in Township 2 South, Range 2 West, in what is today Carter County. The children with the family in that year were Annie, Mary, Henry, Sam, and Lawrence Eaves (a grandson born in September 1893).

The 1910 census of Graham Township, Carter County, Oklahoma confirms that William R. Eaves was married twice. Mr. Eaves also confirmed to the census taker that he was a Confederate veteran. Mrs. Eaves said she had given birth to eleven children, ten of whom were still living. Their son, Samuel A. Eaves and his wife, Charlotte P. Eaves were living with them.

Mr. Eaves' death certificate discloses that he died of lagrippe of fourteen days duration on April 11, 1911. He died at Homer, Carter County, Oklahoma, and was buried in Pooleville Cemetery at Pooleville, Carter County. His widow, Margaret Jane Eaves, survived until December 15, 1937, and died at Graham, Carter County, Oklahoma. She was buried beside her husband in Pooleville Cemetery.

The following list of the Eaves children contains thirteen names...two from Mr. Eaves' first marriage and the eleven from his second marriage. The short accounts of the children's lives have been compiled from public vital statistics records, census records, online cemetery records, and online family research posted by Eaves descendants.

Frances Elizabeth Eaves was born December 8, 1858. She married William Houston Turner on November 18, 1875 in Denton County, Texas. She was next married to Elijah Morris Turner in 1898 in Bastrop County, Texas. She died December 27, 1936 at McDade, Bastrop County, Texas, and was buried there.

James Jackson Eaves was born February 10, 1861. He married Lucinda E. Cook on December 13, 1883 at Yokley Store in Denton County, Texas. He was next married to Edna Pearl Payne on March 17, 1888 in Tarrant County, Texas. He died April 26, 1947 in Ardmore, Carter County, Oklahoma, and was buried there in Rose Hill Cemetery.

William Franklin Eaves was born about 1866. He died about 1867, probably in Montague County, Texas.

Martin Van Buren Eaves was born March 11, 1868. Family sources say he married Eliza Ann Condiff (1856-1935) on June 26, 1887 at Fruitland, Montague County, Texas. Those sources also

report that he married Rosa Ella Turner on February 2, 1902 in Texas. He died April 25, 1959 at Lordsburg, Hidalgo County, New Mexico, and was buried there in Mountain View Cemetery.

Margaret Cornelia Eaves was born February 1, 1870. She married A. J. Poole in Montague County, Texas on March 9, 1884. She married Isaac Floyd Beck on January 8, 1885. She died October 8, 1959 in Ardmore, Carter County, Oklahoma, and was buried in Pooleville Cemetery in the same county.

Louisa Jane Eaves was born June 3, 1871. Family sources report a first marriage to an unknown person. She married D. Preston Shires in Montague County, Texas on November 17, 1891; he died in or prior to 1900. She married Samuel G. Kelley in Montague County on May 5, 1902. Her final marriage was to Ed Cole, to whom she was married when she died March 27, 1937 at Cedarvale in Murray County, Oklahoma. She was buried in Pooleville Cemetery in Carter County, Oklahoma.

Mary Asilee Eaves was born August 27, 1873. She married Lemuel Noah Kennedy on September 20, 1891 in Montague County, Texas. She died on February 7, 1959 in Texas.. She was buried in Pooleville Cemetery in Carter County, Oklahoma. We have been unable to locate a Texas death certificate for her.

Lemuel Madison Eaves was born February 12, 1875. He married Ossie Lewellen in Garvin County, Oklahoma in December 1916. He died May 11, 1953 in Carter County, Oklahoma and lies buried there in Pooleville Cemetery.

Rhoda Isabella Eaves was born March 14, 1877. Family members report she married Albert Bonham on February 9, 1898 in Arkansas. She died February 28, 1961 at Pasadena, Los Angeles County, California.

Annie Quitera Eaves was born July 20, 1878. She married Cary Homer Wise on November 25, 1900 in Carter County, Oklahoma. She died January 9, 1970 in Healdton, Carter County, and was buried in the Graham Cemetery in the same county.

Nancy Levina Eaves was born December 27, 1880. She married James P. Ingram on September 16, 1900 in Elk Township, Garvin County, Oklahoma. She died March 21, 1967 in Ringling, Jefferson County, Oklahoma, and was buried there in Ringling Memorial Cemetery.

David Henry Eaves was born May 10, 1883. He married Bettie Aaron in the Chickasaw Nation on November 27, 1902. He died February 1, 1963 in Carter County, Oklahoma and was buried there in Poolesville Cemetery.

Samuel Austin Eaves was born April 6, 1885. He was married in Garvin County, Oklahoma on January 7, 1906 to Charlette Parolee "Lottie" Robertson. He died August 7, 1963 in Davis, Murray County, Oklahoma, and was buried in Hennepin Cemetery in Garvin County, Oklahoma.



Headstone of Benjamin H. and Nancy Eaves,
parents of Carroll and William Eaves.
Hood Cemetery, Southlake, Texas