



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Mark Ellison (Elliston)

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Mark Ellison (Elliston) was among Tarrant County's earliest pioneers, settling at Birdville with his parents and siblings in 1849. His death certificate says he was born in Kentucky on March 18, 1844. He was a Confederate veteran.

An excellent biographical sketch, almost certainly written from material Mr. Ellison himself supplied, appeared in the Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas County, Texas, published by the Lewis Publishing Company of Chicago in 1892: "*MARK ELLISON, a merchant of Garland and a farmer of Precinct No. 2., Dallas county, Texas, dates his birth in Kentucky in 1844. He was the third son in the family of John W. and Elizabeth (Johnson) Ellison, natives of Kentucky. His ancestors were Scotch-Irish, and came to this country and settled in Kentucky at an early day. John W. Ellison was a blacksmith. He came to Texas in 1848, resided in Dallas county one year, and in 1849 moved to Tarrant county, settling near where Birdville is now located, and following his trade there until 1857. He took up a section of land, improving the same, and lived on it. A portion of the family still makes their home on the old farm.*

"The father was a prominent man in his day. For some years he was Justice of the Peace of Tarrant county. He was a devoted Christian man – a member of the Christian Church – and could repeat from memory the whole of the New Testament. He and his wife were the parents of five children, namely: Frank, who resides on the old homestead; Zarilda, who was the wife of Thomas James, is deceased; Mark, who name heads this sketch; Mary, wife of H. S. Holman, Tarrant county; John W., who died while the family were en route to this State.

"In 1868 Mrs. Ellison married A. Bledsaw, a prominent and highly-esteemed citizen of this county, known as "Honest A." He served as Judge of this county during and after the war, and was subsequently elected to the office of Comptroller of the State of Texas. His death occurred in 1884. The mother now lives on the homestead place in Tarrant county, with her son-in-law, H. Holman. She has been a member of the Christian Church for many years.

“Mark Ellison received his education in the common schools of Tarrant county, and at the early age of sixteen entered the Southern army as a member of Company A, Ninth Texas Cavalry. In the earlier part of the war he was in a number of engagements east of the Mississippi river, and later was transferred to the forces that operated west of the Mississippi. Twice he was wounded; first at Corinth, in the arm, and in a skirmish in Louisiana was shot through the left shoulder. After the war he returned to his home in Tarrant county and immediately engaged in farming...”

His surviving records in the National Archives shows that he enlisted October 14, 1861 at Camp Reeves, Texas, for a period of one year. He had traveled one hundred fifty miles to the rendezvous point. He was at Fort Gibson [Oklahoma] on the last day of 1861; he brought with him a horse worth \$120 and equipment worth \$16. He was present on the regimental roll for March and April, 1862. For the period May and June, 1862 he was carried on the roll as sick in camp. He was present on the roll for July and August, 1862. He was discharged and “final statements given” on October 14, 1862. No further record is found of him in the 9th Texas Cavalry.

To continue his biographical sketch in the Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas County Texas, “...The following year, 1867, he moved to Dallas county and settled on a headright that had been secured by his father-in-law, H. C. Marsh, and farmed on it until 1889. He then moved his family to Garland and he engaged in the mercantile business, still, however, having his farming operations carried on. In his agricultural pursuits he has been very successful. For twenty years his crib has never been empty of corn. He has refused \$45 an acre for his farming land, and besides this also owns seventy-five acres of timber land. He began the mercantile business with stock worth \$2,300. Since opening up his business has averaged from \$25,000 to \$30,000, and at this time he carries a stock worth some \$11,000 or \$12,000. He has the only strictly dry-goods house in the town and does a larger business than any other establishment here.

“Mr. Ellison was married January 1, 1866, to Miss Martha A. Marsh, daughter of H. C. and Mary (Raymond) Marsh, natives of Harrison county, Kentucky. Their union has been blessed with four children, viz.: Hardy, a farmer of Tarrant county; Zeluma, wife of O. P. Thomas; and John W. and Harrison M., at home. They also have one daughter deceased, Elizabeth.

“Mr. Ellison is a member of the A. F. & A. M., James A. Smith Lodge, No. 395; is also a member of Dallas Chapter, No. 52, and has filled all the chairs in the order. He and his wife have been members of the Christian Church for a number of years.”

His death certificate shows his surname spelled “Elliston.” He died of senility at 4323 Thomaston Avenue in Dallas on January 22, 1922. He was buried in Farmers Branch Cemetery. His wife predeceased him. He was the brother of another of our Confederate veterans, Frank Elliston.





Boyhood home of Mark and Frank Elliston, built by their father John W. Elliston, from which the two brothers went to join the Confederate Army. This home sat one mile west of Birdville.