



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

J. Frank Elliston

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J. Frank Elliston, a Confederate veteran, was among the earliest settlers in northeast Tarrant County. He held elective office in the county government, and died a respected member of the community in 1917.

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: *“Frank Elliston, Birdville, Texas, is ranked with the prosperous well-known farmers of Tarrant county. As such, he is entitled to more than a passing notice in this work, and it is with pleasure that we here present the following sketch of his life.*

“Frank Elliston was born in Lincoln county, Kentucky, April 27, 1840, and in 1849 removed with his parents to Texas, where he grew to manhood on a farm. He attained his majority about the time of the great war between the North and the South came on, and in the first year of that sanguinary struggle he entered the Confederate ranks, going into the army as a member of Waller’s regiment and Green’s brigade, and being consigned to the Trans-Mississippi Department. He was in many engagements, among which were the Mansfield and Pleasant Hill fights, and the Banks raid on Red river. At Camp Bisland, Louisiana, he received a gunshot wound in the right wrist, and at the same time was taken prisoner. Subsequently he was paroled and returned home. That was in 1863, and while at home he was married. Returning to his command, he remained on active duty until the war closed.

Mr. Elliston’s military records in the National Archives disclose that he was a Confederate cavalryman in Co. F, Waller’s Regiment of Texas Cavalry. His official records in Washington say he enlisted August 27, 1862 at Vermilion, Louisiana by E. Waller for a period of three years. He furnished his own horse, worth \$180, and his own equipment, worth \$20. He also appears on a roll dated February 29, 1864, at which time he was detailed to care for a number of horses by order of

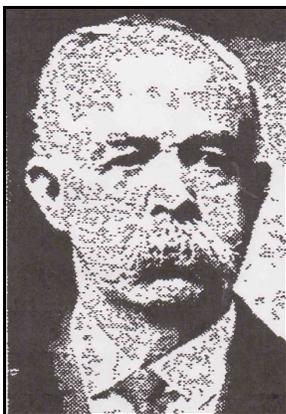
General Magruder. Mr. Elliston told fellow members of the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth that he had served until the end of the War in 1865.

To continue with the biographical sketch in the Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas County, Texas: "...After the war Mr. Elliston bought a small farm, and on it began the struggle of life. For ten years he followed freighting, and he has also served in official position, but farming has been his life occupation. He sold his first farm before coming to his present location, which is six miles from Fort Worth. Here he has 350 acres under a high state of cultivation, and he also has a thousand acres of pasture land in Palo Pinto county.

"For some years he has given special attention to improving stock, both cattle and horses, and with gratifying results. He has a nice Jersey herd, with full-blooded bull, registered, and among his horses is a Hambletonian stallion, mixed with Morgan.

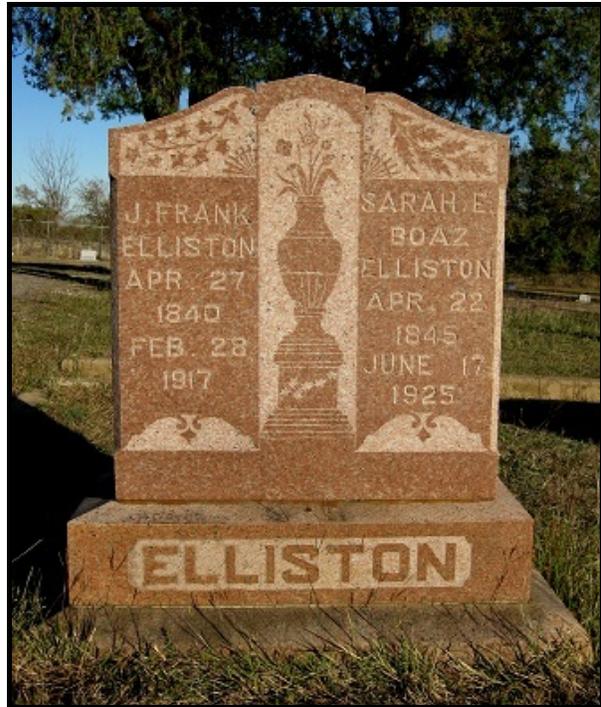
"Mr. Elliston is a son of John W. and Elizabeth (Johnson) Elliston, and a grandson of Amos Elliston. The grandfather died in Kentucky, and the father, as above stated, immigrated to Texas. The latter was both a farmer and blacksmith, and, after coming to Texas, he also served as a Justice of the Peace, becoming prominent in the pioneer settlement here. He died in 1857, and his widow survived him until 1892. Both were consistent members of the Christian Church, and were as much respected as they were well known. The subject of our sketch was the eldest of their four children, the other three being as follows: Zarelda, deceased; Mark, a merchant of Garland, Dallas county, Texas; and Mary, wife of Hardy Holman, a farmer of Tarrant county.

"As already stated, Mr. Elliston was married during the war. Mrs. Elliston was formerly Miss Sarah Boaz, and is a daughter of Samuel Boaz. They are the parents of five children, viz.; Hugh, at home; Tennie, wife of Ed Hovenkamp, a farmer of this county; Alice, a popular and successful teacher in the school at Fort Worth; and Addison and Samuel at home. Mr. Elliston is Democratic in politics, and has always taken an active interest in public affairs. Soon after the war he was elected to the office of County Sheriff, and served a part of a term, resigning, however, before the expiration of his time. And in 1882 he was elected Tax Collector. He served two full terms, four years, in this office, having been re-elected in 1884. Both he and his wife are members of the Christian Church".



A front-page obituary, complete with a photograph, appeared in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on February 28, 1917: "TARRANT RESIDENT FOR HALF CENTURY WHO IS DEAD HERE. PIONEER, HERE SINCE COUNTY FORMED, DIES. Frank Elliston, who came to Tarrant county the year the county was organized with Birdville as its seat, died at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Ed Hovenkamp, 814 East Leuda street, Wednesday morning at the age of 73. He served in Green's Brigade in the Civil war and began farming immediately after the war. He was elected sheriff in 1865 and served as tax collector from 1882 to 1886. He was wounded at Camp Bisland, Louisiana, and at the same time taken prisoner. Later, he was paroled and returned home. It was while he was at home wounded that he married Miss Sarah Boaz, sister of the late W. J. Boaz. Besides his wife, he is survived by two sons, H. T. and S. H.

Elliston; two daughters, Mrs. Ed Hovenkamp and Mrs. O. F. Carlson; one sister, Mrs. Hardy Holman; one brother, Mark Elliston of Dallas; twelve grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Elliston was born in Lincoln county, Kentucky, April 27, 1840. His father was prominent in the pioneer settlement from the time of his arrival in Tarrant county. Funeral services were held at the Magnolia Avenue Christian Church Thursday at 2:30 p.m. and burial will follow at Birdville. The funeral services will be conducted by Rev. Chalmers McPherson, Rev. E. M. Waits, and Rev. H. C. Garrison. Confederate veterans will attend the funeral in a body."



J. Frank Elliston and Family



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.