



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

John Staples “Jack” Estill

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John Staples “Jack” Estill was born October 26, 1845 in Franklin County, Tennessee, a son of Tarrant County pioneers Jefferson Estill and Frances (Staples) Estill. The family came to Grapevine Prairie in November, 1855 from Salem, Tennessee.

Jack enlisted in Co. A, 9th Texas Cavalry on October 14, 1861 at Camp Reeves, Texas, and was at Fort Gibson, Oklahoma Territory, on December 31 of that year. He was discharged October 14, 1862, but reenlisted in the same company and regiment on March 1, 1864 at Tuscaloosa, Alabama. In the spring of 1864 he was detached on special duty under Capt. Evans as a scout.

Estill married Frances “Fannie” Lipscomb about 1867. In 1895, Estill lived in present-day Grapevine along the north side of Hall-Johnson Road, in the vicinity of its intersections with Bentley Court and Parr Road.

He was shot to death on August 24, 1900. An account of his death appeared the next day in The Fort Worth Morning Register: *“KILLING AT GRAPEVINE. Farmers Quarrel Over a Crop With Fatal Results. Fort Worth, Tex. Aug. 24—At Grapevine, twenty-one miles from here, early this morning, Frank Kinnermer, formerly constable, aged 35 years, shot and killed J. S. Estill, aged 60 years. Both men were farmers, Kinnermer a tenant on Estill’s place. The quarrel arose over a crop. Kinnermer was cut over the head with a large knife after he shot Estill. The weapon used was a pistol of 44 calibre. Estill was shot through the lungs and lived half an hour. Both men have families. Estill was formerly in the asylum at Terrell and had been at home but a short time.”*

He is the only Civil War veteran who now lies buried in Bluebonnet Hills Memorial Park in Colleyville. At the time the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport was being built, all the graves from the Lipscomb Cemetery (Estill’s original resting place) were moved. Most were relocated to Grapevine Cemetery; a few of the Estills were reburied at Bluebonnet Hills.

There are biographies of several of Jefferson Estill's descendants in Grapevine Historical Society, Grapevine Area History (1979). Jack and Fannie Estill had eleven children, according to a statement made by Mrs. Estill in 1900. At the time, only seven were still living. They included: Mary M. Estill, Wallace Estill, Dixie Estill, Henry Estill, Charles Estill, Lavinia Estill, Willie Estill, Hugh Estill, and at least one child who died in infancy about 1870.

in in full, and all of the remaining members have made partial payments.

KILLING AT GRAPEVINE.

J. S. Estell, Recently from the Terrell Asylum, Is Slain.

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS.

Fort Worth, Tex., Aug. 24.—A report was received here about noon today that J. S. (Jack) Estell was shot to death about five miles from Grapevine this morning. The information received here is that the weapon used was a 44-caliber pistol, and that Estell was shot through the lungs, while his antagonist received a wound from a corn knife about the head. Estell's slayer, it is learned here, was a tenant on Estell's farm and the difference, it was stated, arose over this year's crop.

Estell had been tried twice on a writ de lunatico inquirendo in the County Court here and had been found to be insane. He had been back from the North Texas asylum at Terrell but a short while. He was about 50 years of age. The news of the tragedy was telephoned the Sheriff's office and Deputy Sheriff Brock left for the scene immediately.

INSPECTED THE COTTON MILL.

Clipping from the Dallas Morning News