



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

George Washington Fishback

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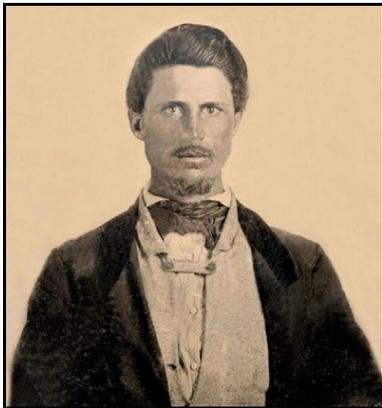


Photo courtesy of
Lori Leyba

George Washington Fishback was a Confederate veteran who lived in the Mount Gilead area east of Keller when the War began. He was killed while serving on the frontier northwest of Fort Worth.

George was born February 22, 1833 at Independence, Warren County, Indiana. Family sources at ancestry.com say that he was the son of Freeman Fishback(h) and his wife, Mary E. Jackson. Freeman Fishback appears in the 1830 census of Warren County, Indiana, but is absent from the censuses in 1840 through 1870, when his widow, Mary, is listed there. Her son, George, was with her at the time the 1850 census was taken.

A printed biography of one of George's brothers, William Henry Fishback, gives some interesting details: "*...his father, Freeman Fishback, and his mother, Mary Jackson Fishback, were exemplary members of the Presbyterian Church. His mother was a daughter of Dr. Jackson, of Sandusky, Ohio, who was a soldier in the war of 1812; participated with credit in the celebrated defense of Fort Stephenson, under Croghan, and was in the naval battle, now known as Perry's Victory, on Lake Erie.*"

George Washington Fishback's family was one of those in which brothers chose different sides of the contest during the Civil War. William Henry Fishback became a lawyer and held several different elected offices in Indiana and Ohio. He later moved to Kansas and was elected to both the State House and the Senate. He took an active part in the Union Army, and by the end of the War was Brigadier General of the Kansas State Militia. He later moved to Colorado and became a leading attorney in Leadville.



George had arrived in Tarrant County by 1857, when he is mentioned in connection with the settlement of the estate of Absalom H. Chivers. Chivers died in present-day Southlake in 1856. Chivers's estate papers are some of the few public records which survived the disastrous court house fire in Fort Worth in 1876.

George W. Fishback married Mahulda Ann Neace of the Mount Gilead community about 1855. They had at least three children: Marcellia G. Fishback (born March 14, 1856, died January 5, 1948, married March 3, 1876 to T. W. Drake) Alonzo Manford Fishback (born November 1, 1857, died in 1939 in Oklahoma, married Lavernia Ann Dawson) and Freeman Verner Fishback (born December 15, 1859, died December 31, 1926 in Fort Worth).

George W. Fishback served the Confederacy as a member of Capt. William W. McGinnis's Company of the 20th Brigade of Texas State Troops. He enlisted in July of 1861. A comrade of Fishback's made the following statement about the company in 1931 in a Confederate pension application: *"...I was in the service in and around the City of Dallas, Dallas County, Texas from the time of my enlistment until the close of the war...served in Co.*

"A" being a troop of Cavalry, a part of Col. McGinnis Regiment. We wore the Confederate uniform and drew our rations from the Confederate government. Our duties consisted principally of rounding up deserters...

An affidavit made by Grapevine resident by B. R. Wall in 1931 said. *"...Col. McGinnis lived between here and Roanoke, Texas and died when I was a small boy. I have often heard the people speak of this organization as a cavalry troop which chased bushwhackers and deserters..."*

Family sources reveal that Mr. Fishback was killed by bushwhackers March 1, 1864 east of Jacksboro, Jack County, Texas, where the stage line crossed a creek or river. It is not known whether his body was buried in Jack County or brought back to his home for burial. There are no readable Fishback headstones standing in any northeast Tarrant County cemetery.

After George's death, his widow, Mahulda Ann (Neace) Fishback, married John H. Hill. They had three children, Grant Hill (February 17, 1867-June 10, 1933); John Iraneous Hill (born August 17, 1869); Lola Ann Hill (born March 25, 1872, married Harve Musick).



This cenotaph was placed in Mount Gilead Cemetery beside Fishback's remarried wife. It was paid for by two descendants, Janice Adams and Lori Leyba. Made and installed by the E. W. Taylor, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Camp 1777 on May 2, 2013.