



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

William Josephus Glass

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William Josephus Glass was a Confederate veteran of a Tennessee infantry regiment. Like many other settlers here, he was a native of Walker County, Georgia. He died in a hospital in Austin, Texas in the mid-1880's and lies buried there.

Census data, family sources, and the names of his acquaintances who also wound up here in Tarrant County suggest that William J. Glass was the son of one Thomas Glass, who was born about 1797 in Virginia. By 1840 Thomas had settled in Walker County, Georgia and was farming with the help of two slaves.

Thomas and his wife, Nancy, and his children lived in the West Chickamauga area of Walker County, Georgia when the 1850 census was taken. William J. appeared in the family as a seven-year-old boy. Thomas was a well-to-do farmer and planter in the Eighth District of Walker County, Georgia in 1860. William J. Glass appears as a seventeen-year-old boy in the family. His father, Thomas, owned seven slaves and a large tract of land in that year.

Family data placed at ancestry.com suggests that Thomas Glass was married multiple times, and no firm information has been uncovered to suggest which wife was the mother of William J. Glass.

Thomas Glass was still alive in Frick's Gap, Walker County, Georgia when the 1870 census was taken. Several persons have placed information about him at ancestry.com, but in many cases it is confused and does not seem to match the data to be obtained from the primary documents it cites.

Like many Confederate soldiers, Mr. Glass was a member of several different regiments, due to periodic reorganizations and consolidations of depleted forces. W. J. Glass enlisted

as a private in Captain J. C. Gordon's Company of the 3rd Regiment of East Tennessee Volunteers. This company subsequently became Co. H, 26th Tennessee Infantry, He enlisted at Knoxville for a term of one year on July 8, 1861. He was eighteen years old. His name appears on a roll dated at Knoxville, Tennessee on September 5, 1861. He was captured with most of the regiment at Fort Donelson, Tennessee on February 16, 1862. His name appears on a roll of prisoners at Camp Douglas, Illinois on August 1, 1862. He was sent on or about September 8, 1862 to Vicksburg to be exchanged. On September 23 he boarded the steamer John H. Done near Vicksburg, Mississippi. He was declared officially exchanged on November 10, 1862 at Aiken's Landing on the James River in Virginia.

On November 8, 1862 the 26th Tennessee Infantry was ordered transferred to become a part of the First Confederate Regiment of Georgia Volunteers. It was also known as the First Confederate Infantry Regiment. Mr. Glass became part of (the second) Company I. About the time General Lee surrendered in April, 1865, this regiment was joined with the remnants of others and became the First Confederate Battalion of Georgia Volunteers, before it was surrendered in North Carolina and paroled on May 1, 1865.

On August 1, 1863, Mr. Glass was appointed first corporal of his company. He was on furlough at some point in January or February, 1864, and may have been absent as late as the end of June. He became separated somehow from the regiment around Atlanta, Georgia on August 13, 1864, and was captured in Walker County, Georgia on a date which was not recorded. On August 22, 1864 at Chattanooga, Tennessee, he signed an oath of allegiance to the Federal government. At the time he was a resident of Walker County, Georgia, was five feet eleven inches tall, and had blue eyes, a light complexion, and light hair.

On September 1, 1864 he was taken into custody by the Union's Army of the Cumberland, and three days later was sent north of the Ohio River, where he promised to remain until the end of the War. On September 25, 1864, he signed another oath of allegiance at Louisville, Kentucky. At that time he gave his height as only five feet nine inches tall. All his other personal information was the same as that given at Chattanooga.

Many years later when William's wife, Nancy J. Glass, applied for a Confederate widow's pension she said she and Mr. Glass were married in Morgan County, Indiana on July 21, 1866. Nancy J. Glass also wrote in her pension application that she was born in Marion County, Indiana and that she turned seventy-eight years old on November 8, 1908, yielding a birth date of November 8, 1830. Census data are inconsistent in her ages at the various census years, but all sources agree that she was several years older than Mr. Glass. A statement she made to the census taker in Dallas County, Texas in 1910 indicates that she was married once before her marriage to Mr. Glass.

When the 1870 census was taken, William and Nancy Glass were living in Green Township of Morgan County, Indiana. He said he was twenty-six and a native of Georgia. She was born in Indiana and was thirty-nine years old. Their son, Marion, was two years old and born in Indiana.

Glass lived as a neighbor to James A. Garrett and Mr. and Mrs. Raford Autrey in Georgia and in Tarrant County after the War. "...We knew him well lived in the same house with witnesses a long while, helped gather his crop in 1874..." This statement seems to indicate that Mr. and Mrs. Glass moved from Indiana back to Walker County, Georgia in or after 1870, since both James A. Garrett and Raford Autrey were living in Walker County, Georgia at the time. Autrey himself came to Texas in 1877, and it seems possible that Mr. and Mrs. Glass may have made the trip with the Autreys. Mrs. Glass wrote in her pension application that she arrived in Texas on April 20, 1877.

In 1880 in the Tarrant County census Mr. and Mrs. Glass had two children with them...Marion W. Glass and Susan M. Glass. Susan was born about 1872 in Indiana. There are no readable headstones for any of William J. Glass's children in any northeast Tarrant County cemetery.

William J. Glass was admitted to the Austin State Hospital from Tarrant County on November 4, 1883. Austin State Hospital was the first state facility of its kind built west of the Mississippi River. In 1856, the governor of Texas signed a bill providing for the establishment of the Texas State Lunatic Asylum. Construction started in 1857, and the first patients were admitted in 1861. The facility was renamed the Austin State Hospital in 1925. Mr. Glass died there on December 20, 1885. He was buried in Plot 34 in the Austin State Hospital Cemetery.

When the 1900 census was taken, Nancy J. Glass was living in Arlington, Tarrant County, with the family of her son, Marion W. Glass. Mrs. Glass had gained a few more years in age; this census shows her birth as taking place in January of 1826. She said she had given birth to five children, only one of whom (presumably Marion) was still living. Marion was working as a school teacher. Nancy J. Glass said both her parents were native Kentuckians.

Nancy Jane Glass applied for a widow's pension on August 16, 1907 from her Dallas County address. She said she had been in Dallas for nearly two years. Her husband served from Tennessee. James A. Garrett and R. Autrey of Smithfield said they had served with him.

Mrs. Glass wrote in her pension application that she had been a cripple walking on crutches for twenty-eight years. The 1880 census mentioned that she was crippled in her hip. Her statements of her husband's service, probably obtained from her husband's Confederate comrades, agree with the information contained in his files in the National Archives. Both James A. Garrett (age sixty-three) and Raford E. Autrey (age sixty-seven) wrote in their affidavits that they knew Glass during and after the war. They said Glass and his command were captured at Fort Donelson.

By 1910 Marion W. Glass and his family had moved to Ward 6 in the City of Dallas, Dallas County, where he was working as a book merchant. They lived at 273 Live Oak Street. His mother, Nancy J. Glass, was still with the family, aged seventy-nine years. She apparently told the census taker that she had been married twice. This also suggests that

some of the five children she had may have been in her first marriage. However, in 1870 she had no children from her former marriage with her.

Nancy J. Glass died at her home in Dallas at 2712-1/2 Elm Street on March 31, 1914. The informant was her son, M. W. Glass, of Dallas. She was buried in West Dallas Cemetery. Her death certificate has very little personal information on it. The Dallas County genweb site does not have any information which might help to determine the present-day name of this cemetery.

William J. Glass's son, Marion Wiley Glass, was (according to his death certificate) born in Indiana on June 3, 1867. He died January 4, 1962 in the Wilson N. Jones Hospital in Sherman, Grayson County. His last permanent residence was Gainesville in Cooke County, Texas, but he had apparently lived for a time at the Gunter Home for the Aged in Gunter, Texas. Marion Glass's first wife, Prudence D. (Beal) Glass (February 3, 1870-November 14, 1901) lies buried in Grapevine Cemetery. They were married in Tarrant County on February 2, 1898. She was a daughter of Allen H. Beal, who was living at Smithfield, Texas when the 1900 census was taken. Marion Wiley Glass was married a second time, to Pearl N. _____. Pearl was born September 9, 1874 and died at her home in Dallas at 2645 Almeda Drive on April 11, 1941. Her maiden name and parents' names do not appear on her death certificate. She was buried in Grove Hill Cemetery in Dallas. Marion W. Glass's death certificate says only that he was buried in "Dallas Cemetery,"



All photos in Austin State Hospital Cemetery, Austin, Texas. Since 1885 Mr. Glass had only the small "34" stone. On Feb. 13, 2016 the E. W. Taylor SCV Camp 1777 of Bedford, Texas, installed a real stone for him. Very few of the hundreds of people in the cemetery have regular grave markers supplied by their families.

