



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Charles Hardisty

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Charles Hardisty was a Confederate veteran, and was one of the best known pioneers of the Birdville Community. He lived in northeast Tarrant County for over sixty years.

An excellent biographical sketch, probably from material Mr. Hardisty supplied personally, appeared in the Lewis Publishing Company's A History of Texas, Together With a Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties..., published in 1895: "*Charles Hardisty, Birdville, Texas, is another of the prosperous farmers of Tarrant county. He has long been identified with this county, and it is appropriate that some personal mention be made of him in this work. A brief sketch of his life is as follows: Charles Hardisty was born in Henderson county, Kentucky, November 27, 1836. He spent his youthful days on a farm in his native State, much of his time being employed at work in a tobacco patch.*

"In 1854, he came with his father and family to Texas and settled on a headright, which his father purchased from A. G. Walker. After his marriage, which event occurred in 1861, he bought a portion of the home farm, and has since lived on it, developing it into a valuable property. He has also bought other land, and now has two farms, 100 acres of his land being under cultivation, and cotton, wheat, and corn being his chief products. Here Mr. Hardisty has resided ever since he came to Texas, with the exception of the time he spent in the Confederate service. He enlisted in 1864, and was in the Quartermaster's Department until the close of the war.

"In 1855, the year following his arrival in Texas, he assisted in surveying the county, his part of the work being to dig the holes and plant the stakes, which he did all over the county. He also drove the wagon containing the provisions. Mr. Hardisty is a son of James and Julia A. (Kelly) Hardisty, both natives of Kentucky. His maternal grandfather, Frederick Kelly, was a merchant and hotel man, as well as a prominent politician and Universalist, and was well known throughout Kentucky, where he passed his life and died.

“The children of James and Julia A. Hardisty are eight in number, and as follows: Henry, a resident of Wise county, Texas; Susan, deceased wife of David Thomas; English, who died in Louisiana, while in the army; Charles, the subject of this article; James of Fort Worth; John, a prominent farmer of Tarrant county; Elizabeth, wife of Prof. William Hudson, an Englishman and a prominent educator of Texas, now in Greer county; Ellen, wife of a Mr. Wendling, of Fort Worth; and Thomas, a merchant and cattle man, deceased. The father of this family died in 1875, and the mother passed away in 1879.

“Charles Hardisty was married in 1861 to Miss Nancy Calloway, who was born in North Carolina, January 3, 1844, daughter of Shade and Catherine (Baker) Calloway of that State. Her parents came with their family to Texas in 1859 and settled in Tarrant county, where they spent the residue of their lives and died, the father in 1862 and the mother in 1888. Mr. Calloway filled a number of minor offices in the county. By occupation he was a farmer. They had a large family of children, namely: James F., who died from disease contracted in the army; Cynthia, wife of William Plummer, a Tarrant county farmer; Thomas, deceased; Mattie, widow of Eli Fitzwaters, Hunt county; Elizabeth, deceased wife of J. Hightower; Mary A., wife of Robert Bailey, Dublin, Texas; Ellen, wife of Albert Walker; Charity, wife of William Dunigan, Hunt county; Lu, the only one of the family born in Texas, is the wife of Robert M. Davis, of Fort Worth.

“Mr. and Mrs. Hardisty have had nine children, all of whom lived to be grown, viz.: Georgeanna, who died August 11, 1878, at the age of sixteen years; Mary E., wife of C. E. Ryan, Fort Worth; Laura, wife of Lon Bartley; Henry, at home; Shade, engaged in farming; Lee, who died October 10, 1891; and May B., Thomas and Kate, at home. Mr. Hardisty has all his life been a steadfast Democrat and has filled some minor offices most acceptably. He is not, however, an office seeker nor is he a politician. Such, in brief, is a sketch of the life of one of Tarrant county’s worthy and highly respected citizens.”



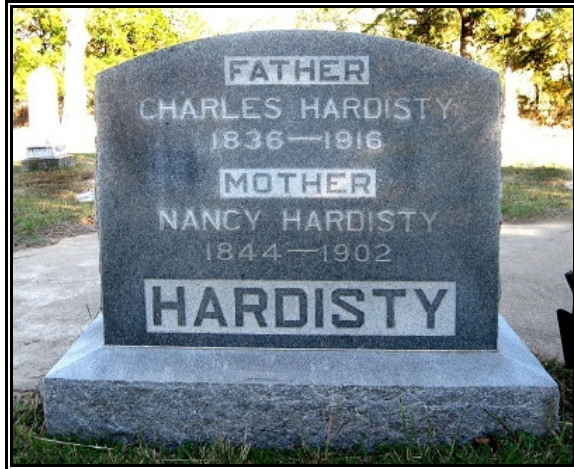
Charles Hardisty’s home appears on the 1895 Sam Street Map of Tarrant County. In modern-day terms, it sat in present-day Richland Hills, south of Highway 26, north of Highway 10 (Baker Boulevard), about where Davidson and Wehring Streets intersect.

Mrs. Nancy Hardisty died in Birdville in 1902, and was buried in Birdville Cemetery. Her headstone is inscribed with only the year

dates of her birth and death. Mr. Hardisty did not apply to the State of Texas for a Confederate pension.

Charles Hardisty died November 16, 1916 under some tragic circumstances. He lies buried near many of his family members in Birdville Cemetery. Two different obituaries appeared in two Fort Worth newspapers for Charles Hardisty: *"FUNERAL HELD FOR TARRANT PIONEER; COLLISION VICTIM. Funeral services of Charles Hardesty, 80, Birdville pioneer, who died late Thursday after being struck earlier in the day by a motorcycle ridden by Luther Brooks, 29, were held at the Birdville Baptist Church Friday at 3 p.m. Burial was at Birdville. Active pall bearers were J. W. Naylor, Charles Thomas, G. C. Calloway, J. R. Sansbury, R. W. Henderson and George Angle. These were the honorary pallbearers: John Popplewell, J. M. Bradley, W. O. Reeves, N. Thompson, Dr. E. P. McElroy, Rufus Snow, and A. B. Angle. The collision occurred on the road near Hardesty's house. He did not hear the approaching motorcycle and stepped in front of it. His left leg was broken and he suffered concussion of the brain. Hardesty had lived in the vicinity of Birdville for sixty years, coming to Texas from Henderson county, Kentucky. He is the father-in-law of Lon Barkley, former Fort Worth postmaster. Other relatives beside Mrs. Barkley are three daughters, Miss Mabelle Hardesty and Mrs. Kate Burge of Birdville and Mrs. William Austin of Fort Worth; three sons, Tom and Shade Hardesty of Birdville; one brother, James Hardesty of Fort Worth; the following granddaughters, all of whom live here: Mrs. Tom Bailey, Mrs. Lewis C. Crabb, and Misses Fay Ryan and Fay Hardesty."*

"PIONEER CITIZEN IS FATALLY HURT. Charles Hardesty, 80, of Birdville died Thursday night at 11:20 o'clock as a result of injuries sustained Thursday morning at 8 o'clock when struck by a motorcycle on the Birdville hill, on the Grapevine cardinal road. Hardesty's left leg was fractured and crushed and he suffered concussion of the brain. The motorcycle was ridden by Luther Brooks, a schoolboy, who was en route to school in Birdville when his machine struck the aged man. Hardesty was walking along the road leading into Birdville, having been on a trip of inspection to his farm, which lies near Birdville. Brooks approached Hardesty from the rear, also being on his way to Birdville. The aged man being unable to hear the approaching motorcycle, stepped in front of the machine, and before the rider could change his course the front wheel struck Hardesty and knocked him to the ground. Hardesty came to Birdville from Henderson county, Kentucky sixty years ago. Birdville at that time was the county seat of Tarrant county. He has continually lived there and on a farm nearby during the sixty years. Hardesty is the father-in-law of Lon Barkley, former postmaster of Fort Worth. The injured man was removed to his home immediately after the accident, and was attended by Dr. McElroy of Birdville. Mrs. Tud Burge, a daughter who resides in Birdville, is with him as is Miss Mabelle Hardest. Two married daughters, Mrs. William Austin and Mrs. Lon Barkley reside in Fort Worth. Two sons, Tom and Shade Hardesty live in Fort Worth, and another, Henry Hardesty, lives on a farm near Birdville. He is also survived by one brother, James Hardesty, of Fort Worth, and four granddaughters, Mrs. Tom Bailey and Mrs. Lewis C. Crabb, and Misses Fay Ryan and Fay Hardesty, all of Fort Worth. Funeral services will be held at the Baptist church in Birdville Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment will be in Birdville. Active pallbearers named are J. W. Naylor, Charles Thomas, G. C. Calloway, J. R. Sansbury, R. W. Henderson and George Angle. Honorary pallbearers will be John Popplewell, J. M. Bradley, W. O. Reeves, N. Thompson, Dr. E. P. McElroy, Rufus Snow, and A. B. Angle."



FATHER

CHARLES HARDISTY
1836—1916

MOTHER

NANCY HARDISTY
1844—1902

HARDISTY