



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Henry Jackson Harper

Compiled by Michael Patterson
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Henry Jackson Harper was a veteran of a Tennessee infantry regiment who spent the last years of his life in modern-day Haltom City. He lies buried in a small family burial ground on the east side of modern-day Layton Avenue north of Belknap Street.

Several researchers have placed information on this family at ancestry.com. He was born in Lincoln County, Tennessee on March 17, 1844, and was a son of Lenzy Carroll Harper and his wife, Cassie Coble.

In the 1850 census of Lincoln County, Tennessee's District Two, Henry appears as a seven-year-old boy in his father's family. Interestingly....and we have not discovered the connection which obviously exists...the family's next-door neighbors were Samuel and Elizabeth Stafford, who also eventually settled in northeast Tarrant County. Henry Harper and Samuel Stafford served in the same company and regiment during their Confederate service.

Ten years later in 1860, Henry was still living with his parents and siblings in District Two in Lincoln County. His father was a farmer who owned real estate worth one thousand five hundred dollars.

Mr. Harper's records in the National Archives show that he enlisted as a private in Company E, Newman's Tennessee Infantry Battalion at Lynchburg, Tennessee on March 15, 1863 for a period of three years or the War. His name appears as a signature to an oath of allegiance to the federal government, dated April 5, 1864 at Nashville, Tennessee. He was a resident of Lincoln County, Tennessee, with brown hair, a dark complexion, and black eyes. He was five feet seven inches tall.

Mr. Harper married Malissa Lock on June 2, 1864. She was born in Tennessee on October 5, 1837, and was a daughter of William H. Lock and Cynthia (Pierce) Lock. She died May 22, 1922 at Fort Worth, Texas, and was buried in Harper's Rest Cemetery.

The census taker in 1870 found Mr. Harper and his family living in Lincoln County, Tennessee's Second District, in the area served by Lynchburg, Tennessee. Three children were living with them: Cynthia (born about 1865), William T. (born about 1867), and ___A., born in March, 1870.

In the 1880 census of According to a statement Mr. Harper made to pension authorities, he and his family came to Texas about 1884.

When the 1900 census was taken, Mr. Harper and his family were living in the Birdville voting precinct in Tarrant County. Mrs. Harper said she had given birth to ten children, only six of whom were still alive. Three of their children were living with them: Nannie F. (March 1877), James L. (October 1881), and a divorced daughter, Sarah M. Carpenter (Aug 1872) and her three children.

Mr. Harper applied for a Confederate pension in 1913. He gave his address as Rt. 1, Box 167 in Fort Worth at that time. He said he was paroled at Tullahoma, Tennessee the latter part of 1864. His "Parole got burned up." He said he was sixty-eight years old, and a native of Lincoln County, Tennessee. He said he had been living the past nineteen years in Tarrant County. He said he enlisted in March 1862 in Co. E, 23rd Tennessee Battalion commanded by Newman. His file also contains affidavits of John Grammer and T. N. Dresser.

A short account of Mr. Harper's service appeared in Mrs. Yeary's book, "*H. J HARPER, Fort Worth, Tex.—Born near Lynchburg, Tenn. Enlisted in the Confederate Army at Tullahoma, Tenn., on March 4, 1863, as private in Company E, Newman's Battalion, John G. Brown's Brigade, DeBray's Division, Army of Tennessee. First Captain, Lewis Moore, and first Colonel, Newman. Was changed to the Forty-Fifth Tennessee Regiment. Was not wounded, taken prisoner, nor promoted. Was in the battles of Chickamauga, Chattanooga and Missionary Ridge, Dalton, Ga., and all down the line till the end of the war.*"

Mary J. Harper died at her home near Birdville at 3 p.m. on May 2, 1922. Her death was the result of senile debility. Her husband was the informant for the death certificate, and he gave her parents' names as William Lock and Miss. C. (Pierson?..the handwriting is unclear). No issues of the Fort Worth newspaper from the time of her death have survived, therefore we have been able to find no obituary for her.

Henry J. Harper died at his home at 3 a.m. on March 26, 1928 of pneumonia. His birthplace as shown on his death certificate was Moore County, Tennessee. A close search of the Fort Worth Record-Telegram for the days surrounding his death failed to find an obituary for him.

Cynthia Harper was born about 1865. She was still alive in 1870. We have been unable to find the Henry J. Harper family in the 1880 census, so we have been unable to see if she was still with them then.

William Thomas Harper was born March 20 (dc says 29), 1867. He died in Pennsylvania Avenue Hospital in Fort Worth on May 24, 1947. He married Martha Josephine Walker on January 14, 1891. In 1900 they lived in Williamson County, Tennessee. His last permanent address was 1614

Bessie in Fort Worth. He was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in the Handley section of East Fort Worth.

The 1870 census lists the birth of a daughter born in March 1870. Her middle initial is obviously A. The first name may begin with an M, and may be Matty.

Sarah M. "Sallie" Harper was born about 1871. She married a Mr. Carpenter and was divorced by 1900. Oddly, the 1900 census shows her birthplace as Illinois. Family sources at Ancestry.com report a subsequent marriage to a Mr. Winchester for her, but it is not clear whether the Sallie Harper Winchester who died in 1947 in the Texas death records was really this Henry J. Harper's daughter.

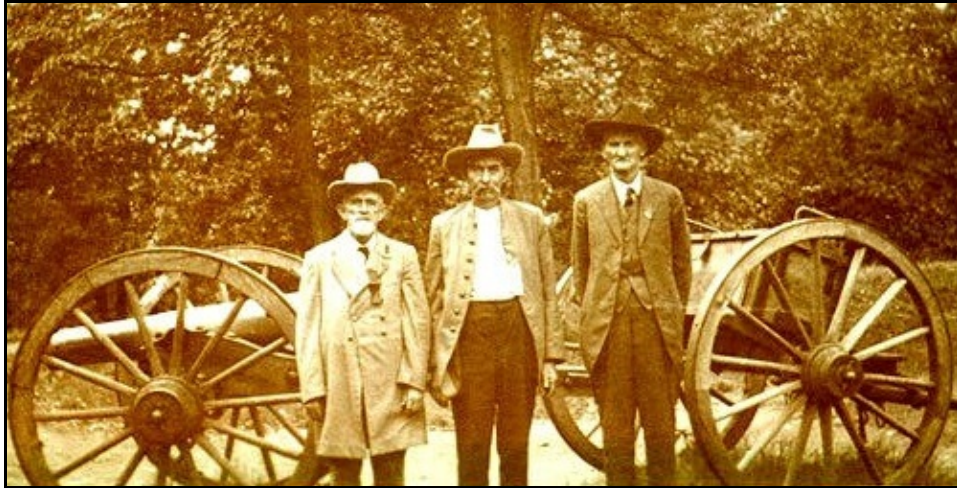
Louisa Martha "Lulu" Harper was born April 19, 1874. She died at her home at 1812 North Riverside Drive in Fort Worth on December 29, 1961. She lies buried beside her husband, James William Mayton (1860-1939), in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth. They were married in Tarrant County on February 24, 1895.

Nannie Frances Harper was born (according to her death certificate) on March 20, 1877. She died at her home in Fort Worth at 1224 South Adams Street on February 21, 1959. She was buried in Laurel Land Cemetery in Fort Worth. She was married to Ben Selman, a man some twenty-two years her senior.

James Lewis Harper was born October 6, 1881. He died in the Fort Worth Osteopathic Hospital on August 7, 1963. His last permanent residence was in Haltom City at 4415 East Belknap. He worked as a refinery worker for Magnolia Petroleum Company. He was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth. His wife's name was Margie.



Henry J Harper family at their home near Birdville, Texas
(near the present-day intersection of Belknap St. and Layton Ave.)



Henry J. Harper - in dark hat at right
photo courtesy of Jeri Coppock-Maserang

/17/12 Harry J. Harper, 84

Harry J. Harper, 84, Tarrant Pioneer, Dies (Mortuary Notice)
Date: 1928-03-27; **Paper:** Dallas Morning News
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**Harry J. Harper, 84,
Tarrant Pioneer, Dies**

Special to The News.

FORT WORTH, Texas, March 26.
 —Harry J. Harper, 84, Tarrant County pioneer, died Monday morning at his home on the Grapevine road near the city limits. Funeral services were held Monday afternoon. Burial was in the family cemetery on the Harper farm, where he lived for over fifty years.

Surviving are two sons, W. T. and J. L. Harper, and three daughters, Mrs. Sallie Winchester, Mrs. Lou Mayton and Mrs. Nannie Silliman, all of Fort Worth.

/17/12 [No Headline]

[No Headline] (Mortuary Notice)
Date: 1922-05-03; **Paper:** Fort Worth Star-Telegram
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DEATHS

Harper—Mrs. Mary Harper, 84, died at her home in Riverside at 4 p. m. Tuesday. She is survived by her husband, H. J. Harper. Funeral services will be held from the residence at 4 p. m. today. Burial will be in the Harper family cemetery.

Chandler—Funeral services for

