



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Bryant Harrington

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Bryant Harrington, a twin brother of Ryan Harrington, was born in Hardin County, Kentucky on April 29, 1829. A son of David Harrington, he moved to Grundy Co., Missouri with his parents about 1843. After his father died about 1846, his mother took the family back to Kentucky for one year, after which they moved back to Missouri.

Ryan and Bryant, along with three of their brothers, went to California to try their luck in the gold fields, leaving their home in Missouri on their twentieth birthday, April 29, 1849. They reached Sacramento, California after five months, sold their teams, paired off, and Bryant and Ryan began mining. After a time of unsuccessful work, they took passage from San Francisco down the Pacific coast to Central America, and crossed the Isthmus of Panama.

They returned to their old home farm in Hardin County, Kentucky, where they farmed and attended school for one year. In December, 1855, they decided to move to Texas. They first stopped at Dallas, where they bought a frame building and began taking tintype photographs. Before long, they sold their shop and moved further west to Palo Pinto County, Texas, where they already had a brother and married sister ranching.

Beginning about 1859, they went to work for the Butterfield-Crocker Company, taking turns driving and guarding stage coaches from Old Boggie, Oklahoma through Texas to El Paso and to Monterrey, Mexico. In February 1860 Ryan and Bryant started on foot with one pack pony to Mexico to buy stock for the Palo Pinto County land. Since the Indians were becoming so troublesome, they later decided to sell their stock and move east of the frontier line.

Harrington wrote that he “was conscripted in the Confederate army in 1861, and entered Colonel James Loving’s regiment; was mostly on frontier duty, but also taught school considerably; was variously engaged about this time, driving cattle, fighting Indians, teaching school, etc.”

In 1870 both he and his brother were living in the Pleasant Glade Community. Later he removed permanently to Dallas County and settled on Grapevine Prairie in the Estelle community, not many miles east of his Tarrant County home.

Harrington was first married in Parker County, Texas on February 9, 1863 to Mary Ann Waugh. She died on January 11, 1864 in Parker County, leaving him with a daughter, Sarah Alice, who grew up to marry Arthur Birch and move with him to Montague County.

He patented the one hundred sixty-acre Bryant Harrington survey on January 31, 1871. It sat in present-day Euless, with its north boundary Glade Road and its west boundary State Highway 121/FM 157. Surveyed in a rectangle, it stretched about one half mile east and south from Glade and FM 157. In later years he moved further east.

In February, 1871 he was married a second time, to A. M. Lucetta Woods (November 8, 1841-April 27, 1907). Bryant and Lucetta had four children: Archibald Woods Harrington, Susanna Luvonia Harrington, Bryant Mack Harrington, and William Ryan Harrington. Bryant was a member of the Estelle Masonic Lodge, No. 570.

Bryant Harrington died November 30, 1895. He and the second Mrs. Harrington lie buried in the Harrington Family Cemetery the old Estelle Community in far-west Dallas County, adjacent to the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport property. Many other interesting details, supplied firsthand by Bryant Harrington himself, may be found in his biography which appeared in Lewis Publishing Company's 1895 History of Dallas County, Texas.



Bryant Harrington with his wife and children.



Twin brothers, Ryan and Bryant (left) Harrington

