



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

William George Henslee

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William George Henslee was born in Alabama and came to Texas with his father's family before the War. William served the South in a Texas cavalry unit, and left Texas for several years after the War. In the mid-1870's they returned, and stopped for a few years in Hunt County before finally moving to the Coppell area of Dallas County. William died in 1906, and lies buried in Grapevine Cemetery.

William G. Henslee was born in Cherokee County, Alabama on August 4, 1841. Family genealogists at ancestry.com say he was a son of Charles Philip Hensley (1813-1897) who died in Fannin County, Texas, and his wife, Sarah Echols (1817-1844), who died near present-day Gadsden, Alabama.

By 1860 the Henslees had moved to Texas. William was a member of a large extended family in Beat 4 of Fannin County, Texas. The family was headed by his paternal grandmother, Sarah Hensley (1797-1861). Along with William's father and siblings, the family contained four other people surnamed Hensley. William's father, Charles, was working as a stockman; he did not own any real estate but owned personal property worth three thousand dollars. One of the other Hensley men in the family owned a tract of land worth seven thousand dollars.

William George Henslee enlisted in the Confederate service at Honey Grove, Fannin County, Texas on December 14, 1861 for a term of twelve months. He was mustered into the Confederate service at Fort Washita, Indian Territory, on December 27 and became a private in Co. C, Taylor's Regiment Texas Mounted Rifles. He was five feet six inches tall, a farmer, and a native of Alabama. He had light hair, blue eyes, and a dark complexion. He presented himself for service riding a horse worth one hundred seventy-five dollars and with rigging worth forty-five. This regiment was also known at various times as the 1st Indian Regiment Texas Cavalry and Stevens' Regiment Texas Dismounted Cavalry. The regiment ultimately became the 22nd Texas Cavalry.

On a muster roll for the period March and April 1863 Mr. Henslee was shown absent on a furlough. On a roll for May and June the notation was made that he was owed fifteen dollars for the use of his own gun for fifteen months. One of his last surviving records shows him as a 4th corporal in Co. C, 22nd Texas Cavalry. No other records specific to Mr. Henslee's service have survived in the National Archives.



Family sources say William George Henslee married Mary E. Abbett on August 24, 1864 in St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri. Genealogists at Ancestry.com say she was a daughter of Joseph Abbett (1819-1852) and his wife, Mary Ella (Fletcher) Abbett (1811-1871). She was born November 25, 1850 [according to her headstone] in Buchanan County, Missouri. In her widow's pension application she gave her birth date as November 25, 1849.

By 1870 the Henslee family had settled in Center Township in Doniphan County, Kansas. They lived in an area served by the post office at Troy, Kansas. Two children were with the family: Effie and Mary. Their next-door neighbors were a family headed by Mrs. Henslee's mother, Mary Abbett. With her were two children, Perry and Jennie Abbett. Mr. Henslee does not appear in the 1870 agricultural census for Center Township.

The Henslees moved to Texas about 1874, according to a statement Mrs. Henslee made in 1929 she was applying for a widow's pension. The 1880 census taker found Mr. Henslee and his family living in Precinct 6 of Hunt County, Texas. Mr. and Mrs. Henslee had four of their children with them: Effie, Mary F., Charles, and Laura M. Henslee. The first two children were born in Missouri. The third, Charles, is shown as a native of Kansas. Laura was born in Texas.

Mr. Henslee appears in the 1880 agricultural census of Precinct 6 of Hunt County. He owned a farm made up of forty acres of cultivated ground, one acre of permanent pasture, and ten acres of woodland. His entire farm was valued at seven hundred dollars. His farming implements were worth twenty-five dollars and his livestock was worth two hundred fifty. He estimated the value of all his farm productions during 1879 to be four hundred dollars. He owned three horses, one mule, two working cattle, and three milk cows. Four calves had been dropped on his farm in the past year. He estimated the family had churned one hundred pounds of butter in the past year. He had twenty-five "barnyard fowl" and thirty "other fowl." He estimated he had gathered one hundred fifty dozen eggs in the past year. His thirteen acres of Indian corn had produced two hundred bushels. He made six bales of cotton on thirteen acres. He had one acre in sorghum, from which the family produced eighty gallons of molasses. He cut eight cords of wood off his place, worth two dollars per cord.

Mr. Henslee had an interesting and unusual experience late in life when he had an opportunity to visit his birthplace. One of his granddaughters (who made the trip with him) recalled that when William Henslee was an old man, he and some younger relatives went back to Gadsden, Dekalb County, Alabama to visit relatives and to see the grave of his mother. They were convinced that

William's mother was buried beside her father, Samuel Brame Echols, in the yard of Samuel's old home there.

The Henslees moved to Dallas County and settled at Coppell about 1897. When Mrs. Henslee applied for her pension, she said she had been living in Dallas County for thirty-two years. The family was somehow missed when the 1900 census was taken.

William George Henslee died on February 6, 1906 in the Gentry community near Coppell, Dallas County, Texas. He was buried in Grapevine Cemetery. A notice of Mr. Henslee's death appeared in the Grapevine Sun on February 10 under the column of "Gentry Gleanings." It read: "*Mr. Henslee, after an illness of about six months, died Sunday at 9 o'clock. Mr. Henslee had lived in this community a number of years, and was a kind husband, a loving father and a good citizen. It was the writer's pleasure to visit his home often, and indeed it was a pleasant place to visit. He leaves a wife and seven children to mourn his loss. Philip, his eldest son, of Emory, came up Saturday night.*"

In 1910 Mrs. Henslee said she had given birth to six children, of whom five were still alive. Public records show she had at least eight. The 1910 census taker found Mrs. Mary E. Henslee living as the head of a family at Coppell. She had three of her children with her: Laura M., Will G., and Kate V., as well as one granddaughter, Gertrude Ward, who was eighteen years old. Laura was working as a clerk in a dry-goods store.

On May 22, 1929 while living at 919 Ogden Avenue in Dallas, Mrs. Henslee applied for a Texas Confederate pension. Her application was rejected because she was unable to find any former comrade of her husband who had served with him later than 1863 and who could vouch for his service after that date. One of their long-time neighbors, B. B. Howell, said he too was a veteran and had many times discussed with Mr. Henslee their wartime experiences, and was thus convinced that Mr. Henslee had served as he said. Mr. Howell served as one of the pallbearers at Mr. Henslee's funeral.

Mrs. Mary E. Henslee died May 1, 1930 and was buried beside her husband at Grapevine. A short notice of her death also appeared in the Dallas Morning News on May 3, 1930. It added a few details not given in the later, more complete tribute printed in Grapevine Sun. The Dallas paper said, in part: "*Funeral services for Mrs. Mary E. Henslee, 80, who died at her home in Cockrell Hill Thursday night, will be held from the residence Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock with the Rev. E. L. Craig, pastor of the Cockrell Hill Baptist Church, officiating...*"

An obituary for Mrs. Henslee appeared in the Grapevine Sun on May 8, 1930: "*MRS. HENSLEE BURIED HERE LAST SATURDAY. Funeral services were held for Mrs. M. E. Henslee of Cockrell Hill on last Saturday after which interment was in the Grapevine Cemetery. Mrs. Henslee was born in St. Joseph, Mo., November 25, 1849 and died May 1, 1930. She moved to Texas in 1874 and lived near Commerce, later moving to Coppell, and then to Dallas, being a resident of Dallas County for thirty years. [portion of paper is lost on the fold] as follows: C. F. Henslee of Emory, Jim Henslee of Irving, W.G. Henslee of Dallas, Mrs. L. V. Coin and Miss Kate Henslee of Dallas, and Mrs. G. W. Huffman of Grapevine; a number of grand children and great grandchildren.*"

The following short accounts of the Henslee children were compiled from public records, headstones, and family sources on the internet. When conflicting dates were found, those from public sources were used.

Effie Jane Henslee was born June 19, 1866. She married Henry Walter Brooks (1853-1907) on April 21, 1889. She died at 12:42 a.m. on December 5, 1929 in Commerce, Hunt County, Texas. She was buried in Rosemound Cemetery. Some sources say she was buried in Oakland Cemetery in Hopkins County. An obituary for her appeared in the Dallas Morning News on December 6, 1929.

Mary Frances Henslee was born August 14, 1869. She married Thomas Ward. She died October 22, 1895 in Hopkins County, and was buried there in Mount Zion Cemetery.

Charles Phillip Henslee was born July 27, 1872. He married Martha Toyne Cowan (1879-1946) on December 5, 1897. His last residence was 804 Madison Street in Dallas. On December 4, 1948 he was struck by an automobile in a private driveway near his home. He died the next day from shock induced by the accident. He died at 4:30 p.m. on December 5, 1948 at 1214 Morrell Street in Dallas, and was buried in Laurel Land Cemetery in that city.

Laura Malinda Henslee was born August 3, 1877. She worked for several years as the owner and operator of a hotel and restaurant. She married Leon V. Coin (1876-1945). Her last residence was at 1028 Cockrell Hill Road in Dallas. She died at 2 p.m. on March 13, 1964 in a hospital at 2910 South Beckley in Dallas, Texas. She was buried in Gladewater Memorial Cemetery in Gladewater, Upshur County, Texas.

William George Henslee was born October 23, 1881. He married Nell Y. Alexander (1887-1965). He worked for many years as an electrician. He died at his home at 711 Duncanville Avenue in Dallas at 1:45 a.m. on October 16, 1945. He was buried in Grapevine Cemetery. His obituary appeared in the Dallas Morning News on October 17, 1945.

Johnnie Henslee was born December 1, 1884. She married George Walter Huffman (1879-1966) at Coppell on December 20, 1903. She died May 17, 1977 at Red Oak in Ellis County, Texas. She lies buried in Minter's Chapel Cemetery in Euless, Texas.

James Henslee was born December 1, 1884. He married Cornelia Green. He worked for many years as a kiln burner for Trinity Portland Cement. His last home was along Route 6 in Dallas. He died at 5 p.m. on October 29, 1943 in Baylor Hospital in Dallas County, Texas. He was buried in Grapevine Cemetery, according to his death certificate. His obituary which appeared in the Dallas Morning News on October 30, 1943, said he was buried in Oak Grove Memorial Park in Irving, Texas.

Kate Payne (some sources show her with middle initial V.) Henslee was born November 6, 1888. She was never married, and worked for many years as a school teacher. She died May 13, 1981 in Dallas and was buried in Grapevine Cemetery.

