



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Francis Marion Hobbs

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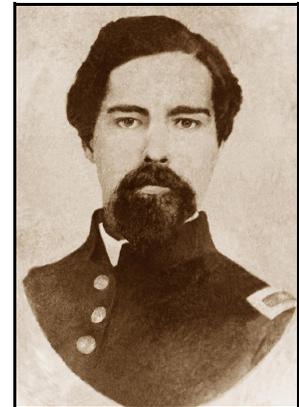
Francis Marion Hobbs was a native Alabamian who served in both armies...first as a Texas infantryman and later as an officer in an Arkansas Union cavalry regiment. He lived for a time in the Minter's Chapel area south of Grapevine around the year 1910. He died in 1922 in Ellis County and lies buried at Martin's Mill in Van Zandt County, Texas.

F. M. Hobbs was born in Talladega County, Alabama on December 30, 1838. He was a son of Lewis Harrison Hobbs (1813-1874) and his wife, Wincy Hannah Sides (1818-1896), who settled in Van Zandt County, Texas in the early 1850's and who lie buried there in Tidmore Cemetery.

"Marion" Hobbs was eleven years old when the 1850 census taker visited their home in the Talladega District of Talladega County, Alabama. The Hobbsses were farmers, but they did not own their own land at that time.

When the 1860 census was taken, Francis was twenty-one years old and was still living with his parents and siblings in Van Zandt County, Texas in the area served by the post office at Edom, Texas. Francis was a farmer. His father had a large amount of real estate and personal property, but he was not a slaveowner.

Francis M. Hobbs enlisted in the Confederate Army at Athens, Henderson County, Texas (adjacent to Van Zandt County) and became a private in first Co. K, Bates' Regiment of Texas Volunteers. The regiment was renamed and reshuffled several times, eventually becoming Co. F, 15th Texas Infantry. During the month of November 1862 Francis was sick in a hospital at Little Rock, Arkansas. It was during that month that his brother, W. H. H. Hobbs, died in the same hospital on the 17th day of the month. A notation on a regimental muster roll for May and June, 1863 states that Francis Hobbs had left the regiment without permission.



Francis M. Hobbs

Francis's brother, W. H. H. Hobbs enlisted on the same day at the same place as F. M. Hobbs, and his service mirrored that of Francis until W.W.H. Hobbs died in the Confederate service in the hospital.

Francis M. Hobbs joined the Union army at Fayetteville, Arkansas on August 1, 1863, for a term of three years. His extensive file in the National Archives contains several original enlistment and other papers concerning his promotion, some of them bearing his signature. At his enlistment he said he was a native of Talladega County, Alabama, was twenty-four years old, and had black hair, eyes, and complexion; he was five feet ten inches tall. He became a private in Co. F, 2nd Arkansas [Union] Cavalry.

Mr. Hobbs' Union records contain many detailed facts about his service.

On January 20, 1864 he was away from the regiment on detached service at Berryville, Arkansas. On March 8, 1864, he was raised from a private to the rank of quartermaster sergeant. In April 1864 he served extra or daily duty as a clerk at post headquarters, and in May he served at "detached" headquarters. In June he served daily duty in the adjutant's department, and he performed service there again in August. At some point in May or June his pay was reduced \$2.42 for the loss of some part of his horse equipage.

Beginning on August 6, 1864 he was placed on detached service in the post headquarters at Cassville, Missouri, where he remained through September and October. It seems likely that his abilities and dedication were noticed there and it led to his promotion.

On October 26, 1864 [one record says September 25] he was discharged by Special Order no. 266 from General Rosecrans so that he could accept a commission as an officer. His promotion was to date from September 9, 1864. The promotion transferred him from quartermaster sergeant of Co. A to second lieutenant of Co. F.

In May 1865 Francis was on duty guarding barracks and public property. In June he was acting adjutant of the regiment. He was mustered out of the Union army at Memphis, Tennessee on August 20, 1865.

Family sources say Francis M. Hobbs and his wife, Susan Louise Hickey, were married on August 25, 1865 at LaGrange in Fayette County, Tennessee...only five days after he was mustered out of the army. LaGrange is today considered to be on the outskirts of Memphis, and is within easy walking distance. Family sources say she was born in Johnson County, Arkansas on May 3, 1847. They report her to have been the daughter of William R. and Louisa Hickey.

When the 1870 census was taken Mr. Hobbs and his family lived in the town of Canton in Van Zandt County. He worked in the court house as the district clerk. He owned real estate worth two thousand dollars and personal property worth six hundred dollars. Two of the Hobbs children, Laura W. and Olivia Hobbs, were with the family. James Hobbs, who was born about 1846, was living with them as well and was working as deputy district clerk.

By the time the 1880 census was taken, Mr. Hobbs had moved the family to Dallas where they lived on Carondelet Street and he worked as a postal clerk. The children with them in that year included May, Ollie, Gracie, Willie, Fred, Ralph, and F.M. Hobbs, Jr.

In 1890 Mr. Hobbs and his family lived at Mineola, Wood County, Texas. He was listed there in the 1890 Union veterans census as a 2nd Lieutenant in Co. F, 2nd Arkansas Cavalry.

On December 15, 1891, Mr. Hobbs filed an application for a pension based upon his Union service. In 1907 the amount of his pension was raised because of a new law passed and because of his advanced age. His pension file record card in the National Archives confirms that he died at Waxahachie, Texas on February 17, 1922. We would welcome a chance to examine the application file if some descendant who has it would care to share it with us.

In 1900 the family lived and farmed on rented land in Precinct 1 of Ellis County, Texas. Mrs. Hobbs said she had given birth to ten children, six of whom were still living. The children with the family were W. H., F. J., F. M. Jr., and A. S. Hobbs.

Mrs. Hobbs died at Sardis in Ellis County, Texas on October 5, 1905. She was buried in Tidmore Cemetery at Martin's Mill, Van Zandt County, Texas...the same cemetery where Francis Hobbs' parents lie buried.

After his wife's death, Mr. Hobbs went to live with his children. When the 1910 census was taken he lived south of Grapevine, Tarrant County, Texas, along the Minter's Chapel Road, in the home of his son, William H. Hobbs. The family's next-door neighbors were the family of Francis's younger son, Francis M. Hobbs, Jr. Both families were farming on land they rented.

Francis Marion Hobbs died at 10:30 p.m. on February 17, 1922 at his home at Sardis, Ellis County, Texas. His death was caused by senility. He was buried two days later beside his wife in Tidmore Cemetery. His grave is marked by a ground-level stone supplied by the Veterans Administration. It records his service as a Union officer.

A short obituary appeared in the Waxahachie Daily Light on February 18, 1922: ***“Aged Sardis Man Dies and Will Be Buried in Van Zandt Co. Cemetery. Francis Marion Hobbs, 83 years old, died Friday at his home in Sardis. Mr. Hobbs was a native of Alabama. The remains will be taken in Spalding's hearse to Tidmore Cemetery in Van Zandt County for burial, leaving the residence at Sardis at 9 a.m. Sunday.”***

As is usually the case, census records and family sources are somewhat conflicting in regard to the names, ages, and birth order of the Hobbs children. Mrs. Hobbs told the census taker in 1900 she had given birth to ten children, six of whom were still alive in 1900. The six living in 1900 were Mary Louise Hart, William H. Hobbs, Frederick J. Hobbs, Rutherford B. Hobbs, Francis M. Hobbs, Jr., and Annie Hobbs Curry. The following list, made up from several internet and public record sources, contains more than ten children.

Laura W. Hobbs was born about 1867. She was the older of the two children in the 1870 census. Some family sources report her death in 1880.

Family sources report a daughter named Wincy May Hobbs, who was born January 1, 1867. They report her death on October 24, 1892 in Wood County, Texas. If she was with the family in 1870, she and Laura W. Hobbs must be the same person. May was with the family in 1880, but her age was reported as eleven years old.

Olivia "Ollie" Hobbs was born in January 1870, according to the 1870 census. The 1880 census lists her as being born about 1871, and being two years younger than May. If she has not been confused with another of the children in this list, she must have been dead by 1900.

Mary Louise Hobbs was born, according to her death certificate, on April 1, 1870. She was first married in Wood County, Texas on May 17, 1885 to Godfried Charles Apel (1867-1893). She was next married to a Mr. Hart, from whom she was widowed by 1900; she and her four children lived in Corsicana, Texas in that year. After 1900 she was married to Jess Hinkle, with whom she had at least one son. Her Hart name appears on her death certificate. She died at 12:55 a.m. on March 28, 1954 at her home at 1219 Caldwell Street in Dallas, Texas. She was buried in Sardis Cemetery in Ellis County, Texas. She could have been the daughter May, reported in the 1880 census as having been born about 1869, or may even have been the daughter "Olivia" or "Ollie" who appears in the 1880 census. The death certificate of one of her daughters with Mr. Apel lists the mother's name as "Olivia Louise Hobbs." An obituary for her appeared in the Dallas Morning News on March 29, 1954.

Grace Greenwood Hobbs was born, according to family sources, on November 11, 1871. She was with the family in 1880. They report her death at Mineola in Wood County, Texas on November 1, 1894.

William Harrison Hobbs was born November 11, 1871. He married Nettie Mae Nolen (1883-1924) on March 3, 1901. He died August 13, 1917 and lies buried in Sardis Cemetery in Ellis County. After William's death Nettie married his brother, Frederick.

Family sources report a son named Marion Mabel Hobbs who was born May 27 and died September 11, 1874 at Canton in Van Zandt County.

Frederick Julius Hobbs was born on July 5, 1875. He married Nettie May Nolen (1883-1924) in Dallas County, Texas on November 9, 1922. She was the widow of his brother, William H. Hobbs. His last permanent address was 952 East Baltimore Street in Fort Worth. He died in the city-county hospital in Fort Worth at 8:55 p.m. on March 17, 1950. He was buried in Sardis Cemetery in Ellis County, Texas.

Rutherford Birchard "Rufe" Hobbs was born February 27, 1877. He and his wife, Mary Esther Casey (1878-1954) were married in Ellis County, Texas on March 5, 1896. He appears in the 1900 census as R. B. Hobbs in the same precinct with his parents. They lived in Ellis County as late as 1920, but by 1930 had moved to Amarillo, Texas where he worked as a truck driver. He died June 13, 1951 at Malvern in Hot Spring County, Arkansas. He lies buried there in Oak Ridge Cemetery. He must be Ralph Hobbs, born about 1877, listed in the 1880 census.

Family sources report a daughter named Millie Adel Hobbs, born September 29 and died October 28, 1878 in Dallas County, Texas.

Francis Marion Hobbs, Jr. was born August 29, 1879. He married Jennie Myrtle Bailey (1886-1966). He died at 11 a.m. at his home at 405 East Ross Street in Waxahachie, Ellis County, Texas on April 13, 1970 and was buried two days later in Sardis Cemetery in Ellis County.

Annie Sue Hobbs was born September 26, 1886. She married David Crockett Curry (1884-1966). She died at 10 a.m. on January 5, 1968 in St. Joseph's Hospital in Fort Worth. Her last home was at 1237 Blodgett Street in Fort Worth. She was buried in Sardis Cemetery in Ellis County, Texas.

