



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Riley Hooper

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Riley Hooper was a Confederate veteran of a Texas regiment who lived for a few years around 1870 in the Euless/Bedford area of northeast Tarrant County. He lived in Palo Pinto County, Texas when he applied for a Confederate pension in 1899.

Riley Hooper was born June 3, 1834 in Arkansas. He came to Texas around 1853.

Mr. Hooper enlisted in Tarrant County on March 10, 1862 for the period of the War. He said he was twenty-five years old. He became a private in Captain Samuel Evans' Company of Griffin's Regiment of Texas Infantry. He traveled three hundred and five miles to the regimental rendezvous and muster at Houston, Texas, which took place on April 22. Evans' Company subsequently became Co. C of Griffin's Battalion of Texas Infantry. Within a short time Mr. Hooper was serving in Company B of the same organization. On August 2, 1862 Mr. Hooper received a bounty payment of fifty dollars.

On February 21, 1863, Riley Hooper, Ezra Sherman and William Reed, all of Griffin's Battalion, posted at Galveston, made known their wishes to leave the infantry and join the Confederate navy. No record of him actually entering the navy has survived. As an interesting aside, Ezra Sherman was a central character in one of the most famous Indian raids which ever took place in Parker County, Texas, an excellent account of which may be found in John Graves, Goodbye to a River.

On June 18, 1863 he was transferred to Company F, and on September 4, 1863 he was transferred to Co. E. During part of his service Griffin's Battalion was also known as the 21st Battalion of Texas Infantry. On September 7 he was transferred to Company F.

On December 13, 1863 he was placed under arrest at Galveston, Texas and was placed in the provost guard house there. On March 16, 1864 he was admitted to the General Hospital at Beaumont, Texas,

for an unspecified illness. By October 1864 he was on detached service cutting.... The remainder of this statement was written on another sheet and is not now in his file. There is also a notation in the file that more information about Mr. Hooper is to be found within the records of Pleasant Tackett, but we have been unable to locate Mr. Tackett's file.

The only other record in the National Archives for his service is a printed record of a court martial, which is reproduced with this biographical sketch. This stems from an incident which took place on the night of November 26, 1863 at Sabine Pass, Texas. The court martial was held at Galveston.

On August 10, 1867 Riley Hooper registered to vote in Tarrant County's Precinct 2. He said he had been living in Texas fourteen years, and in Tarrant County in precinct 2 for two years. He said he was born in Arkansas. While Mr. Hooper's statement would suggest he had come to Texas about 1853 and was living outside Tarrant County in 1860, we have been unable to find him in any Texas county's census in 1860.

By the time the 1870 census was taken, Mr. Hooper and his family lived in the modern-day area of Bedford or Eules, between D. C. Trigg and John Weddle. Mr. Hooper owned no real estate in that year. Other family members with him in that year were his wife, Sarah L. Hooper, and three children: Harriett (born about 1866), Albert (born about 1868), and L. J. Hooper (a daughter born in January 1870).

By 1880 Riley Hooper and his family were living in Precinct 4 of Erath County, Texas. Riley said he was born in Arkansas to a Tennessean father and an Arkansan mother. Sarah L. A. Hooper said she was born about 1844 in Illinois to a North Carolinian father and an Illinoisan mother. The children with them in 1880 included Harriett (born about 1865), Albert (born about 1868), Lusette J. (born about 1870), Asher W. (born about 1875), and Woodson B. or P. Hooper (born about 1879).

Riley Hooper applied for a pension while he lived at Mineral Wells, Palo Pinto County, on July 24, 1899. He said he had moved to Palo Pinto County "last May." He said he was in "good health considering my age." He served in Captain Reynolds Company of Griffin's Battalion for four years. At the time he applied for his pension, his property consisted of one horse worth fifty dollars and one wagon worth twenty dollars. Dr J. M. Luttrell said Mr. Hooper had rheumatism and old age which made it impossible for him to do his occupation.

In 1900 Mr. and Mrs. Hooper were living in the household headed by their widowed daughter, Louisa [Lusette] Thomason, in Mineral Wells, Palo Pinto County, Texas. Mrs. Thomason said she was born in January of 1865 in Texas. Mr. Hooper was working as a day laborer. Mrs. Hooper said she was born in January or June 1844 [the handwriting is clear but not legible] and that she had given birth to five children, all of whom were still living. They had been married forty-one years, hence since about 1859. All five of those children were with the family twenty years earlier in Erath County. In the 1900 census, she said she was a native of Ohio.

Head Quarters, Dist. of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona,

HOUSTON, TEXAS, Dec. 19th, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 222. }

I. At a General Court Martial convened at Galveston, Texas, by virtue of General Orders, No. 77, current series, from these Head Quarters, was arraigned and tried private REILY HOOPER, of Co. E, 21st regiment Texas Volunteer Infantry, on the following charges and specifications, viz :

CHARGE.—*Disobedience of the lawful commands of his superior officer.*

Specification—In this, that the said private Reily Hooper, Co. E, 21st T. V. I., did, when ordered by the sergeant of the guard, in obedience to instructions from Lt. Col. W. H. Griffin, commanding Sabine Post, positively and wilfully refuse to call out the No. of his post and the hour of the night, saying 'he would be damned if he would do so, there were no regulations for it, and he would go to the guard house first, and wear a ball and chain,' or words to that effect. All this at Sabine Pass, Texas, on the night of the 26th of November, 1863.

To all of which the accused pleaded Not Guilty.

II. Findings and sentence of the Court :

The Court having maturely considered the evidence adduced, find the accused, private Reily Hooper, of Co. E, 21st regiment T. V. I., as follows :

Of Specification of Charge.....	GUILTY.
Of Charge.....	GUILTY.

And the Court do therefore sentence the said private Reily Hooper, of Co. E, 21st T. V. I., be returned to his command and placed in the guard house ; that he be required to accompany each relief in posting the sentinels day and night for 10 consecutive days, and that the officer of the guard be especially charged with the execution of this sentence.

III. The proceedings, finding and sentence of the Court in the foregoing case are hereby approved and confirmed, and the sentence is ordered to be carried into execution. The commander of the Post at Sabine Pass is charged with the execution of this sentence.

BY COMMAND OF

Maj. Gen. J. BANKHEAD MAGRUDER,

STEPHEN D. YANCEY,

A. A. A. General.