



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

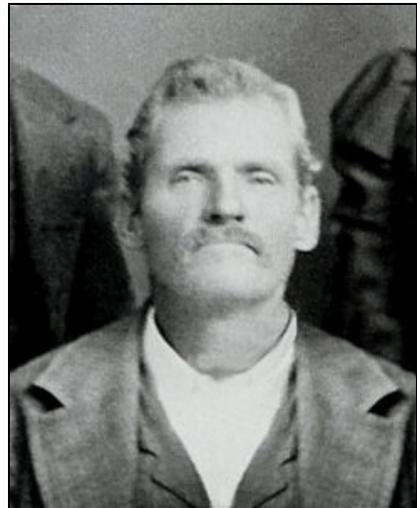
William Mitchell Howard

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William Mitchell Howard was born in Lawrence Co., Tennessee on January 5, 1844. He was the son of Samuel H. and Barbary (Ratliff) Howard.

He was a member of Co. A, 23rd Tennessee Infantry, having enlisted on August 23, 1861 at Camp Trousdale, Tennessee. Only a few muster rolls of his regiment have survived, but he is shown present for duty for the last two months of 1861 and for May-June, 1862. Howard came to Texas in 1876, settling first in Denton County.

He married Alleather Celesture Franks on December 16, 1879. She was born in Lawrence County, Tennessee on August 25, 1860. About 1900 they sold their Denton County land and moved to a farm in the White's Chapel Community along Carroll Road.



He applied for a Confederate pension in 1919, but it was not allowed because he had too much personal property to qualify. Later in life he sold the farm and moved into downtown Grapevine. Mr. Howard died in Grapevine on March 11, 1922, and was buried in White's Chapel Cemetery. No obituary is found in any of the surviving issues of the Grapevine Sun for that period.

Mrs. Howard died November 16, 1932 and was buried beside her husband the next day. An obituary for her appeared in the Grapevine Sun on November 24, 1932: "*MRS. A. C. HOWARD BURIED LAST THURSDAY. Funeral services were held at the Methodist Church last Thursday for Mrs. A. C. Howard, who died at her home in Grapevine Wednesday, November 16, at the age of 72 years. Services were conducted by Rev. R. E. Briggs, assisted by Rev. R. E. Call of Euless. Interment was in the Whites Chapel Cemetery, beside her husband, who died in 1922. Mrs. Alleather Celestial*

Howard was born August 25, 1860, in Lawrence County, Tennessee. In 1879 she was married to W. M. Howard, who passed to the Great Beyond several years ago. To this union were born seven children, two girls and five boys, all of whom survive, except one boy, who died several years ago, and are, Mrs. H. F. Keller, Dallas; Mrs. Velma Hardin, Ft. Worth; W. E. Howard, Chillicothe; Olin O. Howard, Grapevine; Cary B. Howard, Fort Worth; Clifford F. Howard, Milwaukee, Wis.; fifteen grandchildren and one great grandchild. Mrs. Howard professed religion and united with the Methodist Church at the age of 15 years. She lived an earnest Christian life, ever seeking to do good by helping others."

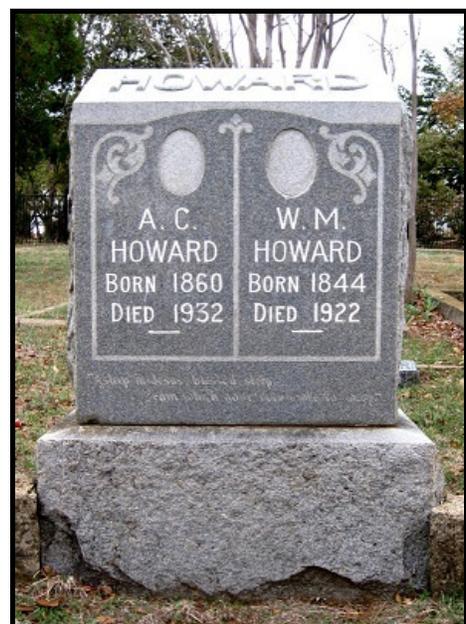
William and Alleather Howard were the parents of seven children: Della May (Mrs. H. Frank) Keller; William Edward Howard; Alva Lee Howard; Olin Owsley Howard, Carl Brydie Howard; Velma Celesture (Mrs. W. M.) Hardin; and Clifford Franks Howard. A biography and family photograph of William M. Howard's family appeared in Grapevine Historical Society, Grapevine Area History, 1979.



Photo courtesy of Pat Hall Howard



Photo courtesy of Pat Hall Howard



The following article was written by William Mitchell Howard and published in a Tarrant County, Texas newspaper. The only date known is February 21, 192_. This was prior to March 11, 1922, the date of William's death. Courtesy of Pat Hall Howard of Grapevine, Texas. Her husband is a direct descendant of William Mitchell Howard.

Pioneers and Veterans

In Twenty-Third Tennessee Regiment

I was born in Lawrence County, Tennessee, between Henryville and Lawrenceburg on Little Buffalo Creek, one mile west of Blake's Mill. I was an orphan boy, and reared by W. B. Norman. I enlisted in Henryville, Lawrence County, in Captain Armstrong's Company A, Twenty-Third Tennessee Regiment. Colonel Brown was my Colonel. We went from Nashville to Murfreesboro . Went into camp there, and drew our guns. Went from there to Bowling Green, Ky. We drilled a long time there, waiting for orders to go to Fort Donelson . Had three days' rations cooked, ready to go. Then Donelson fell. Then we went South, walked part of the way until we got up with a train which took us to Corinth , Mississippi. We were there only a short time, when we got orders to go North. On our march to Shiloh, we encountered some Federal soldiers. On Saturday and Sunday our entire army formed a line of battle. Albert Sidney Johnston, our commanding General, said to us, "Tennesseans, if you ever expect to fight, I want you to fight today, for if I live to see tomorrow morning my horse will drink out of Tennessee River." My Brigadier General's name was Pat Cleburne. We were ordered to forward, march. Across the valley in front of us was the enemy. We had orders to charge. This was the first fight I was ever in. We had a hard fight for about an hour. We drove them back, then we heard that our commanding General was shot. We had orders to lie down as the enemy was cross firing on us with the cannon. The man on my left was hit with a cannon ball and his brains fell on my coat. Then I got up and went behind a tree. Our General, Pat Cleburne, was coming along behind, so Colonel Brown told him how things were. He told him to drop back a little. In a few minutes we had orders to charge them, so we drove them back again. We had hard fighting all the rest of that evening, saw hundreds of my fellow soldiers dead and wounded.

We dropped back and camped in the enemy's tents that night. We were fighting General Grant on the Northern Side. On Sunday night General Buell re-enforced General Grant with twenty thousand men. On Monday morning they drove us back, and all day Monday. We retreated back to Corinth, and the fighting stopped. Then we went to Buffalo, Mississippi.

In the South there was a law passed that all under 18 and over 38 were exempt. As I was under 18, I was discharged. I went back home but was not home long until I was old enough, so they conscripted me. They gave me my choice to join either the infantry or cavalry, so I joined the cavalry. I joined Captain Kirk's Company A Colonel Biffell's Regiment. We went in under General Forrest. Went on a scout up west of Nashville to catch some wagons of the enemy that were foraging. Forrest had part of his army, so he surprised the enemy at Franklin and captured about one thousand of them, and was getting away with them. We were coming back from going after the wagons and had to fight our way through the road to get back to General Forrest. We had a hard fight there to keep them from getting the prisoners back. We drove them back and kept the prisoners

all right. We had a fight at Spring Hill; with some men from Michigan . They were good fighters. We captured about 500 of them. Several of us went back to Spring Hill to get our horses shod, and while we were there General Forrest moved his whole army back to Tennessee . On our way to Forrest, I captured my first man and took him on to Forrest.

We then went on a scout over in West Tennessee . We captured Union City, and a company of the enemy that was camped there. Forrest sent a company of men back with these prisoners. We heard of two regiments of Federals that were on a scout. We fought them off and on all day, and captured a good many of them. We camped near a friend's house and some of the soldiers ate supper, but I did not eat. I heard of three Federals at another house and told him I would go. Two other young men went with me, and we agreed to divide up the horses and arms. The moon was shining. We all went through the field afoot. I sent one of the young men to guard one of the doors and the other one that lived there shut all the doors, except this door as they were all on the porch. I went around there with my pistol in my hand, and told them to surrender. They laid all their arms down in front of me. My two friends came around and I told them to go and catch the horses. We each one took a horse and a soldier and went back to camp. I took charge of the Lieutenant. He said he had a gold watch, and that before any one should take it that they would have to take his life. I told him that I did not want his watch, that I was just after his horse and gun. He offered me \$160 in greenbacks, but I did not have sense enough to take that. Took them to Forrest and told him where and how we got them.

I captured a man one day by myself. He gave me his gun, and as we went on I asked him if he had a pocket knife. He said yes, and I told him I wanted to borrow the knife. After I got it I told him I wanted to keep it, as I did not have any knife. He wanted me to give it back to him, but I kept it. That is the meanest thing I did to a prisoner during the war.

We had a fight with the Fourth Regulars. They flanked us and we fought about two hours on a hillside. We whipped them away. I could have walked all over that hillside on dead men. Colonel Biffell came to me with his horse and told me to go back out of the thickest of the fight, and if I saw that we were going to be captured, for me to get out with his horse. He called his horse "Gray Jim". We went south across the Tennessee River . After we crossed the river there came a courier and told us that General Strait was up on Sand Mountain, and to tell Forrest to come and bring one company and two pieces of Artillery. We showed Forrest where to go and to form the line of battle and he opened fire on them. The Federals captured our two pieces of artillery and almost captured General Forrest. Forrest came back and told us all about it. Then all of us marched upon the Sand Mountain and opened fire on them; fought them that day and in the evening. We captured a great many of them and got our two pieces of artillery back. We kept after them both night and day and had several fights.

There came a big rain and raised the creek and Strait went ahead of us and tore the bridge up so we could not cross. There was a widow living close to the creek who had a daughter. Some of the soldiers told Forrest that maybe they would show us where the ford was. General Forrest asked the widow if she would let her daughter go and show us the ford. She asked who he was. He told her General Forrest. Then she said, "Yes, sir, you can take her to show you the ford. So the girl showed us where to cross. We followed them six days and nights. At Gadsden, Ga. we stopped. On Saturday at noon he called for 500 of his best mounted men. We started after Strait, and overtook

him late in the evening at the end of a lane close to a man's house, by the name of Blount. We charged them and whipped them and drove them back. I was shot in my right wrist. That is the only time I was shot during the war. The next day, Sunday, Forrest captured Strait who had twenty-one hundred men and Forrest 500 men.

If any of my old comrades read this, I would be glad for them to write to me, as I don't know of but one that is living, and that is A. J. Massey. I was known as Bill Howard when a boy. Would be glad to hear from any of the old boys.

W. M. Howard, Route 3, Grapevine, Tarrant County , Texas