



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

William Ralph Joyce

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William Ralph Joyce was a young Louisiana Confederate militiaman when the War ended. Within about two years he settled in present-day Grapevine and married into one of the pioneer families of Colleyville. He lies buried in Colleyville in the Witten Family Cemetery.

Mr. Joyce's headstone in the Witten Cemetery records his dates of birth as July 25, 1847. He was born in Franklin Parish, Louisiana, and lost both his parents while he was still a boy.

When the 1850 census of Franklin Parish, Louisiana's western district was taken, William R. Joyce was a two-year-old boy living in a mixed family headed by his maternal grandfather, Ralph Price (who was born about 1792 in Mississippi). Also in the family were Mrs. Clarissa Price (born about 1804 in Mississippi); William's father William H. Joyce (born about 1820 in Mississippi), and William H.'s daughter, Martha H. Joyce (born about 1845). Family researchers at ancestry.com have placed information about Ralph Price (1792-1861) and his family at that site.

By his own statement made in 1896, William R. Joyce was a Louisiana militiaman during the Civil War. No records of his service have survived in the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

William R. Joyce's first wife, Josephine Jeanetta Witten, who was born in Missouri on July 14, 1851. She died October 6, 1884 and was buried in present-day Colleyville in the family cemetery of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. H. Witten.

The following biographical sketch of Mr. Joyce appeared in the History of Texas [with] Biographical Mention of Many Prominent Persons and Families of the State. Central Texas, published by Chicago's Lewis Publishing Company in 1896: "***W. R. JOYCE has been a resident of Hood county only since January, 1894, but his sterling worth has won him a place among the leading farmers and respected citizens of this community, and it is therefore with pleasure that we present the record of his life to our readers.***

A native of Louisiana, he was born in Franklin parish July 25, 1847, and is a son of William Henry and Eunice (Price) Joyce, both of whom were natives of Mississippi. His father was born in Hinds county, that state, and was of Scotch-Irish descent, while the birth of his mother occurred near Jackson. Her death occurred when her son was only two years old, and by the death of his father he was left an orphan at the age of twelve. He resided with his grandfather Price until the latter's death in 1860, after which he made his home with his maternal great-uncle for two years. His youth was spent on a farm, and his educational privileges were rather meager. During the progress of the civil war he served for six months in the state militia.

Mr. Joyce dates his arrival in Texas from 1867, at which time he took up his residence in Tarrant county, purchasing a tract of wild land on Big Bear creek. He improved one hundred and sixty acres of that farm, and from time to time extended its boundaries by additional purchase until it comprised four hundred and sixteen acres. He also bought a farm of three hundred and ninety-six acres which he sold. He now owns two hundred and forty acres of land in that county, of which one hundred acres is under a high state of cultivation. He followed farming in Tarrant county until January, 1894, when he came to Hood county, and here purchased two hundred acres of valuable land on the Paluxy creek, of which one hundred and fifteen acres had been transformed into rich and arable fields. He raised several different crops, and is also engaged in stock-raising, making a specialty of the breeding of high-grade horses.

Mr. Joyce has been twice married. On the 14th of October, 1868, he wedded Miss Josephine Jeanette Witten, a native of Missouri, and a daughter of C. H. and Jeanette Witten, who were early settlers of Texas. Five children graced this union: Eunice Jeanette, wife of William Rogers, of Fort Worth; John P., of Erath county; William Walter, George W., and M. M. The mother of these children died in 1883, and Mr. Joyce was again married October 14, 1885, his second union being with Miss F. S. Glenn, a native of Lamar county, Texas, a daughter of William and Nancy (Griffin) Glenn, the former of Kentucky the latter of Arkansas. They became pioneer settlers of Texas. There are three children by the second marriage---Pearl, Aubrey, and Earl.

Mr. Joyce is a member of the Christian church and his wife belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is independent, and has never sought or desired political preferment, desiring rather to give his entire attention to his business interests, in which he has met with signal success. Without capital or influential friends to aid him and dependent entirely upon his own resources, he has worked his way steadily upward from a humble position to one of affluence, and is today one of the substantial citizens of Hood county."

A short note about the Joyce's appeared in The Granbury News on July 5, 1894: "**Mr. W.R. Joyce and family of Paluxy passed through last Monday for a visit to their old home in Tarrant county.**" They were still living in Hood County in March, 1897 when W. R. Joyce served on the grand jury there.

By the time the 1900 census had been taken, Mr. Joyce and his family were living in Precinct 2 of Erath County, Texas. Three of Mr. Joyce's children from his first marriage were with the family: Walter, George, and Martha. Mrs. Fannie Joyce had given birth to three children by then, and they were all with the family: Pearl (February 1888), Aubrey (born in June 1891), and Earl (born in June 1895).

When the 1910 census was taken, Mrs. Fannie Joyce was living in Bransford in Tarrant County. She said she had given birth to six children, only three of whom were still living. Two of them, Aubrey J. Joyce and Lota Joyce were living with her, as was her step-son, George W. Joyce. For this to have been true, Mrs. Joyce would have to have given birth to three children after the taking of the 1900 census. One of them was Lota. Since Mr. Joyce died in July of 1902, this seems to have been unlikely.

William R. Joyce died July 26, 1902, and was buried beside his first wife in the Witten Cemetery. We have discovered no information to indicate whether he died in or outside of Tarrant County.

Mrs. Frances Susan Joyce died at her home in Fort Worth at 2332 Grafton Street at 8 a.m. on January 11, 1931. She was born August 5, 1858 in Lamar County, Texas to William and Nancy (Griffin) Glenn. She lies buried in Parker Memorial Cemetery in Grapevine.

The following short paragraphs include some basic information about Mr. Joyce's children in both marriages. There may have been others who died in childhood.

Samuel H. Joyce was born April 6, 1873. Oddly, he has a marble headstone in the Witten Cemetery which contains his birth date but no death date.

John Pinckney Joyce was born June 3, 1874. He died at his home at 2628 Frazier Street in Fort Worth on October 8, 1938. He was survived by his wife, May Joyce, and several children. He was buried in Park Lawn Cemetery in Fort Worth, according to his death certificate. No cemetery in Fort Worth is presently operating under that name.

William Walter Joyce was February 19, 1876. He died April 6, 1934, and was buried in the Witten Cemetery. His headstone indicates that he was married. He was a teacher at the Pleasant Glade School. This compiler's grandmother was one of his students.

George W. Joyce was born January 19, 1879 (headstone says 1880). His wife was Mary S. Joyce, who was born June 26, 1892 and died January 5, 1971. He died January 8, 1944 in St. Joseph's Hospital in Fort Worth. His last permanent address was 2721 Frazier Street in Fort Worth. He was a retired Frisco employee. He lies buried in the Witten Cemetery in Colleyville.

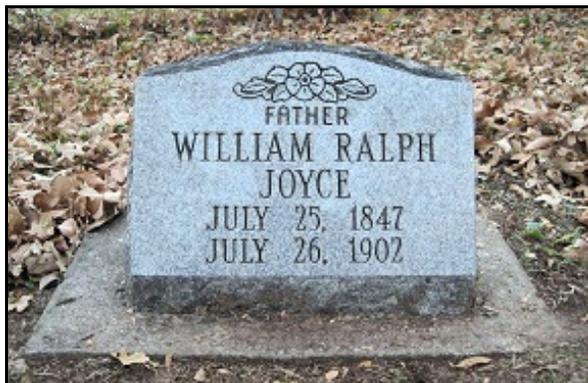
One of the children was Mabel Martha Joyce, who married James S. Shivers (1884-1945). She was born July 31, 1882 and died November 30, 1972 at Brookhollow Manor nursing home in Grapevine. Her last permanent residence was at Route 1 Box 225 at Smithfield in Tarrant County. She was buried in Smithfield Cemetery. This compiler remembers seeing and talking to her once when he was cleaning the Witten Cemetery.

Pearl Joyce was born in February 1888. At the time of her brother's death in 1938, she was married to a Mr. Harris and was living in Enid, Oklahoma.

Aubrey J. Joyce was born in 1891. He lived with his mother at Bransford in 1910. He died March 4, 1941 at Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas and was buried in Grapevine Cemetery. His wife, Maude Bogart Joyce (1893-1920), lies buried beside him.

Earl Joyce was born in 1895. He died in 1904 and was buried in the Witten Cemetery.

Lota Joyce was born May 31, 1901 and died June 30, 1975 in Harris Hospital in Fort Worth. She was married to a Mr. Haverty. Her last permanent residence was in Fort Worth at 4761 East Lancaster Street. She was an antique dealer. She lies buried in Parker Memorial Cemetery in Grapevine.



2nd wife of William R. Joyce