



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Henry Keller

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Henry Keller was a native Missourian who came to settle in northeast Tarrant County in the early 1870's. He lived in the Keller area for the rest of his life, and died just after the turn of the century. He served in a Texas Confederate Cavalry regiment. Although Keller received its name during the time he lived in this community, no one knows for whom it was named.

Several people have placed biographical information about Henry Keller on the internet, principally at Ancestry.com. He was born January 29, 1842 in Missouri, and was a son of Isaac D. Keller (1810-1880) and his first wife, Bessie Bennett (1812-1848). Shortly before his birth, Henry's parents had moved to Missouri from Greene County, Tennessee. Both Henry's parents died and are buried in Sullivan County, Missouri.

In 1850 Henry was seven years old and was living with the family of William Bennett (probably his uncle) in District 59 of Linn County, Missouri. After Henry's mother's death in 1848, Henry's father, Isaac D. Keller, and his two oldest sons, James and John, moved to Clark County in the Oregon Territory, where they appear as farmers in the 1850 census. By 1853, Henry Keller's father had returned to Missouri and was remarried there in Sullivan County.

At some time during the 1850's Henry Keller left Missouri and settled in Texas. He appears in the 1860 census of Fannin County in the family of several of our other veterans, the Lamkins, who later came to the Mount Gilead-Keller area. They lived in the part of Fannin County served by the post office at Ladonia. Henry was eighteen years old and was working as a day laborer. His future wife and her family, the Sebastians, appear on the same page of the census. One of the Lamkins in the family where he lived, Ezekiel, would soon become his brother-in-law.

In what may have been a double ceremony performed by Rev. S. G. Atkins, Henry Keller was married to Rachel Ann Sebastian, while Ezekiel Lamkin was married to Rachel's sister, Lucinda Sebastian. Both marriages were performed in Bethlehem Church in Fannin County, Texas on June

17, 1861. They were daughters of Martin Chandler Sebastian (1799-1874) who died in Fannin County, and his wife, Mourning Smith (1800-1883), who lies buried at Paradise, Wise County, Texas. Rachel was born about 1843 in St. Francois County, Missouri. Family sources say she died about 1900 at Keller, Texas. She has no readable headstone.

Henry Keller and his soon-to-be brother-in-law, Ezekiel Lamkin, both served the Confederacy in Co. C, 22<sup>nd</sup> Texas Cavalry. One record says he joined the regiment at Park Hill, C.T., on August 26, 1861, while another says he joined on December 17, 1861. He was mustered into the service at Fort Washita, in modern-day Oklahoma, on February 25, 1862. He was twenty years old, five feet six inches tall, had black hair, black eyes, and a dark complexion. He was a farmer. He presented himself for service riding a horse worth one hundred fifty dollars and with rigging worth twenty-five dollars. The regiment was also known at some times as the 1st Indian Regiment Texas Cavalry. During the month of May or June he was paid fourteen dollars for the hire/use of his own gun for fourteen days. The last reference card in his file says he had been absent since February 12, 1864.

The 1870 census taker found Henry and his family living in Fannin County, Texas' precinct 4, in the area served by the post office at Honey Grove. Both Henry and Rachel were twenty-seven years old. They had the following children with them: Robert 8, Isaac 6, Alice 4, Nanny 2, and a female whose name appears to be Isory, born in January of 1870.

Henry appears in the 1870 agricultural census of Fannin County with a small farm of fifteen acres. He owned two horses, four cows, six other cattle, and twenty hogs. All his livestock was valued at two hundred fifty-five dollars. He had on hand three hundred bushels of Indian corn.

By the time the 1875 Tarrant County tax rolls were made, Henry Keller was the owner of eighty acres of the J. A. Dunham survey, worth six hundred dollars. This property is about one and one-half miles southeast of the land he owned in 1895, and is in the Mount Gilead area.

The census taker in 1880 found Henry living in Precinct 4 of Tarrant County. With him and Rachel were five children: Robert, Isic, Alice, Nancy, and Izara Keller.

Henry also appears in the 1880 agricultural census next-door to his brother, Philip. Henry owned one hundred acres of land, sixty acres of which was under cultivation with the other forty acres in woods. The total value of his farm, including land, fences and buildings, was one thousand dollars. His farming implements were worth seventy five dollars and his livestock was worth three hundred fifty. He estimated the value of all his farm production in the past year at seven hundred dollars.

He owned four horses and three mules, four milk cows, and four cattle of other classes. Four calves had been dropped in the past year on his place. He had sold two cattle in the past year, and had churned one hundred fifty pounds of butter. He owned fifteen hogs and forty chickens. He estimated he had gathered one thousand two hundred dozen eggs in the past year, which to this researcher, at least, seems impossible. He may have meant one hundred dozen.

He had twenty acres in Indian corn which made one hundred fifty bushels, eight acres in oats which made three hundred bushels, and twenty-four acres in cotton which made nine bales. He had cut twelve cords of wood off his place, valued at two dollars per cord.

Henry Keller's home appears on Sam Street's December 1895 map of Tarrant County. It was in present-day Westlake, and sat along the west side of Roanoke Road a few yards west-northwest of the west end of Garden Street.

Henry appears in the 1900 census of Tarrant County in the town of Keller. He was a widower living with the family of his son, Isaac H. Keller. Both Henry and Isaac were listed as farmers, working on rented land. Henry did not apply for a Confederate pension from the State of Texas.

Family internet sources say Henry Keller died in 1901. He has no readable headstone in any northeast Tarrant County cemetery. It seems probably that he lies buried in either Bourland Cemetery or Mount Gilead Cemetery.

The following short paragraphs are brief sketches of the five children who appear with Henry Keller's family in any of the census records.

Robert Valentine Keller was born May 12, 1862. He married Lee Anna V. McCain (1866-1935) in November 1882. She was the daughter of another of our veterans Robert I. McCain. Robert Keller died May 12, 1939 in a hospital at 704 West Second Street in Fort Worth where he had been for three days. His last permanent residence was in Keller, Texas. He was buried the next day in Bourland Cemetery in Keller, Texas.

Isaac Henry Keller was born in December, 1864. He married Ara Arena Fowler (1870-1949) in Johnson County, Texas on December 23, 1886, and was living with his family in the town of Keller when the 1900 census was taken. Family sources say he died in or before May, 1910, at which time his widow and children were living at Grandview in Johnson County, Texas. About 1912 she was remarried to Thomas Rufus Billingsley.

Alice Keller was born about 1866. Family sources say she was married to Aurelius Delphus "Buddy" Bourland, Jr., (1862-1931) in Fannin County, Texas on December 11, 1883. She died about 1886.

Nancy Keller was born about 1868. She was still alive with her parents when the 1880 census was taken. There is no readable headstone for her in northeast Tarrant County, Texas.

Isora Ann Keller was born January 4, 1870. She married her Robert J. McCain (1866-1923) on October 26, 1887 in Tarrant County. Robert's father, Thomas J. McCain, was another of our veterans. She died at her home in Precinct 3 of Tarrant County at 8 p.m. on July 28, 1939, and was buried in Keller's Bourland Cemetery beside her husband.