



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

John Jackson Koonce

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Mr. Koonce's Confederate service is confirmed both by his obituary in the Grapevine Sun and by his wife's application for a Confederate pension. A biographical sketch and a several family photographs appear in the Grapevine Historical Society's Grapevine Area History (1979).

Mr. Koonce was born in Bedford County, Tennessee on December 15, 1832. On September 20, 1857, he was married to Nancy Elizabeth Kiser (Kizer). She was born April 14, 1843 in Bedford County, Tennessee.

Koonce enlisted as a private in Co. K, 41st Tennessee Infantry on November 26, 1861 at Camp Trousdale in Sumner County, Tennessee. He was taken prisoner at the fall of Fort Donelson, Tennessee on Feb. 16, 1862, and was interned at Camp Morton, Indiana until his release. On December 1, 1862 he rejoined his regiment and was severely wounded in a battle near Vicksburg, Mississippi on July 10, 1863. He was later captured near Atlanta on July 22, 1864, and arrived at the military prison at Louisville, Kentucky where he was held until being transferred to Camp Chase, Ohio on July 30. He was released from Camp Chase on April 2, 1865.

In 1878 Mr. and Mrs. Koonce joined a wagon train for Texas, bringing with them their seven children, all of whom were born in Bedford County. They settled on land in Tarrant County on the Grapevine Prairie which is now a part of the DFW airport.

Their children were Mary Roan "Molly" Koonce, 1859-1931, who married James Riley Forbes; Frances C. "Fannie" Koonce, born in 1861 and married Charles Winfrey; Aneliza "Liza" Koonce, born in 1866 and married Tom Boling; William M. "Bill" Koonce, 1868-1938, who never married; Edmond L. "Edd" Koonce, 1870-1931, who married his youngest brother's widow, Ela Dunn Koonce; John Crunk Koonce, 1872-1941; and Robert F. "Bob" Koonce, 1874-1917.

Koonce's first wife, Nancy Elizabeth, died of pneumonia at Grapevine, Texas on October 19, 1881. She lies buried in Grapevine Cemetery. On August 8, 1882, Koonce was remarried to Mrs. Sarah "Sallie" Wood Mullendore, who had two children, John and Adrienne Wood.

About 1910 John and Sallie Koonce left their prairie farm and moved into the town of Grapevine. He died there on August 5, 1916. His death certificate records that he died at 9:19 p.m. of heart disease and senility. An obituary for Mr. Koonce appeared in the Grapevine Sun on August 12, 1916: *"JOHN JASPER KOONCE, who has been a citizen of Grapevine community for thirty years or more, and who resided for the past several years in Grapevine, died quite suddenly at his home last Saturday evening about 8 o'clock from heart failure. He had suffered from disease of the heart for some time, but was not confined to the bed and frequently made daily visits to the post office and markets and on Saturday morning spoke of feeling unusually well. He and his wife were sitting on their front porch talking until 7:30 o'clock or after Saturday evening, when he decided to retire for the night. Walking into the bed room he began complaining, and after a short while the family physician was summoned, but Mr. Koonce died in a few minutes. J. R. Wood and Mr. Koonce's son, John, had been called and were present when he died. Funeral services were conducted at the Methodist church Sunday afternoon at 4:30 by the pastor, Rev. Geo. F. Kornegay, and attended by an audience that filled the church. Mr. Koonce was born December 15, 1832. He was an Ex-Confederate soldier, having served during the four years of war between the states. He was a member of the Forty-first Tennessee Regiment of infantry. He came to Texas in 1878 and has been a respected citizen. He is survived by a wife, four sons and three daughters, the sons all residing at present in this vicinity. Thus an old patriot and pioneer citizen has passed away, but the memory of his quiet, steady life, his genial smile and steady hand-grasp will abide. The Sun joins with the entire community in sympathy to the bereaved companion and children."*

When Mrs. Koonce applied for her pension in 1920, she said JJK had died August 4, 1916. She said she had married him on August 8, 1882 in Tarrant County, Texas. She was seventy-four years old, born in Lee Co., Mississippi. She said she had lived near Grapevine in Tarrant County since 1879. Her file contains an affidavit by Martha A. Coble of Grapevine, who lived in Bedford County, Tennessee during the war and knew Mr. Koonce while he was in service. S. W. Sutton of Grapevine also made an affidavit in which he said he knew Mr. Koonce was a soldier. She died in Grapevine on June 17, 1936, and was buried beside her husband at Grapevine.

