



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

John Benjamin Franklin Ladd

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John Benjamin Franklin Ladd was a native of Kentucky who served in a local Confederate militia unit and returned home to the Mount Gilead Community, where he remained for several years. He later moved to Palo Pinto County where he died in 1924.

Family genealogists have placed considerable data about Mr. Ladd and his connections at ancestry.com. He was born in Kentucky on December 3, 1844, and was a son of James Miles Ladd and his wife, Adaline (Simpson) Ladd.

By 1850 the family lived in District 1 of Christian County, Kentucky. James M. Ladd was farming on land he owned. His son, John, was five years old and had two younger siblings. The Ladd family was well-established in Christian County by 1850, and is still thriving there a century and a half later.

About 1859 John M. Ladd moved his family to Texas and settled in Beat 5 of Parker County, one county west of Fort Worth. John was fifteen years old when the census was taken in 1860. As the 1860's began the Comanches and Kiowas became so troublesome that the Ladds moved back east away from the frontier. By 1863 John's father had died and his mother, Adaline, had settled in Tarrant County where she appears in the tax lists in 1863 and 1864. She was remarried to John T. Hill about 1867. She died in 1886 and was buried in Mount Gilead Cemetery near Keller.

By his own statement to the census taker in 1910, John B. F. Ladd was a Confederate veteran. His name appears with his father's on a muster roll dated July 1861 of Captain William W. McGinnis's Company of "Mounted Volunteers or Rangers" as part of the 20th Brigade of Texas Militia. This fact would suggest that the elder Mr. Ladd may have made the move back from the frontier with the family and that he died in the Tarrant/Denton County area.

A note about McGinnis's Company appears in the Confederate pension application of Edward J. Lipscomb of Grapevine, who served in it with the two Ladd men. Grapevine resident B. R. Wall said in 1931 in an affidavit in Lipscomb's file, "*Col. McGinnis lived between here and Roanoke, Texas and died when I was a small boy. I have often heard the people speak of this organization as a cavalry troop which chased bushwhackers and deserters....*" J. S. Lipscomb said of his brother, Edward: "*He rode a bright sorrel horse named Quantrell, [and] was engaged in hunting deserters.*"

On August 6, 1867 J. B. F. Ladd registered to vote in Tarrant County. He said he had been in Texas for eight years and in Precinct 3 of Tarrant County for six. This information, along with the fact that both John and his father were members of the same militia company, seems to strongly suggest that his father was alive and made the move with them away from the frontier, and that they settled in Tarrant County about 1861.

On August 30, 1868, he was married to Mary Louisa Lamkin, the daughter of John Lamkin and his wife, Synthia Louisa (McCain) Lamkin. Mary was born April 7, 1847 in Tippah County, Mississippi. They were married in Fannin County, Texas. Mary lived only a short time and died in the Mount Gilead area of Tarrant County on March 26, 1870. No records have survived to show they had any children together. She probably lies buried in an unmarked grave in Mount Gilead Cemetery. She appears in the 1870 mortality schedule of Tarrant County but the cause of her death was recorded as unknown. Her father died a little less than five months later on August 18.

When the census taker arrived in the Mount Gilead Community in Tarrant County in 1870 he found John Ladd living as a single man within a group of his extended family members. His next-door neighbors on one side were his mother and step-father and their family. Two houses away on the other side was the family of his former father-in-law, John Lamkin. In that year John Ladd owned real estate worth five hundred dollars and personal property worth one hundred dollars.

He appears in the 1870 agricultural census of Tarrant County. He owned forty acres of improved land and twenty which were unimproved. His farm was worth four hundred dollars and his implements were worth fifteen. He owned one horse, five working oxen, and five other cattle. He owned a number of hogs but the numeral is not legible in the microfilm copy available. His livestock had a total value of one hundred thirty dollars.

Family sources report that Mr. Ladd was remarried about 1871 in Fannin County to Grace Elizabeth Walker, a daughter of Hearn and Emilee Walker. She was born April 1, 1849 in Illinois. They had a number of children together.

J. B. F. Ladd appears in the 1875 Tarrant County tax list as the owner of forty-six acres of land in northeast Tarrant County. Forty acres of the property was in the J. A. Dunham survey and was worth eight dollars per acre. Six acres were a part of the John Martin survey and were worth twenty-five dollars. His mother, Adaline Ladd, had owned the Dunham survey property as early as 1863. Both surveys are now near the eastern edge of the city limits of Keller. In addition to the land he owned four horses or mules worth a total of sixty dollars, two cattle worth fifteen dollars, and five goats or hogs worth five dollars.

A rough idea of the location of Mr. Ladd's real estate is as follows. The J. A. Dunham survey was a rectangle one mile north-south by one-half mile east-west and containing three hundred twenty acres. Its northwest corner is at the present-day intersection of Johnson Road and Keller-Smithfield Road North. Johnson Road now lies along the survey's north line. The survey's northeast corner is at about the intersection of Johnson Road and Bobbi Court. No other modern-day streets lie along its other boundary lines.

The John Martin survey sits adjacent to the north half of the Dunham survey. The Martin survey is a square, one-half mile on each side and contains one hundred sixty acres. Modern streets define three of its boundaries: Johnson Road on the north, Pearson Lane on the east, and FM 1709/Keller Parkway/Southlake Boulevard on the south. Its west line goes south from the Johnson Road-Bobbi Court Intersection to FM 1709.

Mr. Ladd and his family appear in the 1880 census in Precinct 4 in Tarrant County. The names of their neighbors suggest they were still living in the Keller area. With Mr. and Mrs. Ladd were four of their children: James F., Ada, John L., and Mary L. Ladd.

A window into Mr. Ladd's activities here may be gained from the entries for him in the 1880 Tarrant County agricultural census. In that year he owned a farm which included thirty acres of tilled land and twenty acres of permanent pasture. He also had sixty-two acres of woodland and twelve other acres being used for an unspecified purpose. He estimated the value of his farm at one thousand dollars, of his farm equipment at one hundred, and of his livestock at one hundred twenty. He estimated the value of all his farm production in 1879 at two hundred twenty-five dollars.

In 1880 he owned three horses, five milk cows, and nine cattle of other classes. Seven calves had been dropped on his place in the past year; he had purchased six cattle and sold nine. He estimated he had produced one hundred eighty-two pounds of butter in the past year. He owned twenty "barnyard fowl." His nine acres of Indian corn had made eighty bushels, his five acres of oats had made one hundred eleven bushels, and his ten acres of cotton had made three bales. He had a one-acre peach orchard containing fifty trees from which he had picked twenty bushels. He had cut one dozen cords of wood off his place in the past year.

By 1900 the Ladds had moved west and settled at Salesville in Precinct 5 of Palo Pinto County, Texas. By that time they had only one child still at home with them, Minnie F. Ladd, who was born in December 1888. Mrs. Ladd told the census enumerator she had given birth to eight children, six of whom were still living.

In 1910, Mr. and Mrs. Ladd were living alone in Precinct 5 of Palo Pinto County. Mr. Ladd told the census taker he was a Confederate veteran. Ten years later they were in the same place, and their next-door neighbors were the family of their son-in-law, Sam M. Hopkins. In this census, Mr. Hopkins' wife is shown as "Lemmer L." Hopkins. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Ladd applied for benefits based upon his Confederate service.

John Benjamin F. Ladd died at his home at Salesville in Palo Pinto County, Texas on April 10, 1924. His death certificate says his death was caused by paralysis and apoplexy. He was buried in Rock Creek Cemetery. J. L. Ladd of Salesville was the informant for the death certificate.

Mrs. Ladd survived just over four years, and died of cancer at Salesville on September 15, 1928. She was buried beside her husband the next day.

Mrs. Ladd once told a census taker she gave birth to eight children, six of whom were still alive in 1900. The following list accounts for six of them. It was compiled from census records, internet genealogy sources, and Texas death certificates.

James F. or T. Ladd was born about 1872. He was still alive with the family in 1880.

Ada Ward Ladd was born November 4, 1873. She died December 28, 1901, and was buried in Rock Creek Cemetery.

John Luther Ladd was born June 10, 1876. He married Sarah J. Herring (1879-1935) on October 29, 1896. He died at Salesville, Palo Pinto County, September 28, 1948. He was buried in Salesville Cemetery.

Mary L. Ladd was born in March 1879. She married Samuel Hopkins about 1898. They lived in Palo Pinto County in 1900.

Bertie Ladd was born October 9, 1885. She died January 26, 1896 and was buried in Rock Creek Cemetery.

Minnie R. Francis Ladd was born December 28, 1888. She was married to Juble Earl Radford (1886-1979). She died December 2, 1925 at Salesville in Palo Pinto County. She was buried the next day in Whitt Cemetery in Parker County, Texas.