



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Urias Pleasant Martin

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Urias Pleasant Martin, known here as “Uncle Rias,” was born January 15, 1832 in Union County, Illinois to Urias Martin (1795-1855) and Keziah (Williams) Martin (1800-1878). He and his family were members of a group of related families who settled in the area of present-day Southlake from Union County, Illinois. The family had settled here by October 22, 1855, when Urias’s father died and was buried in the Hood Cemetery.

Urias P. Martin served from 1862 until 1865 in Co. B, Well's Battalion of Texas Cavalry. Thomas A. Neace made an affidavit for him, saying they had joined together at Fort Washita in the Indian Territory in December 1862. They served mostly under Gen. D. C. Cooper. Neace's brother, Charlie Neace, of Pilot Point, Denton County, gave the same information in an affidavit he made to help Mrs. Martin with her pension application. Urias’s records in the National Archives say he was a private in Scanlon’s squadron of Well’s Battalion. He enlisted on June 20, 1863 at Fort Arbuckle [Oklahoma] for three years; the enlisting officer was William Jackson. No other information is found in his file.

Urias’s first wife was Sarah Hogan, who was born February 23, 1836 and died February. 20, 1872. She lies buried with many of her Martin relatives in the Hood Cemetery.

His second wife was name Elizabeth, and she was born September 18, 1845. Her headstone contains no death date. When she applied for a Confederate widow’s pension in 1909, she said she married Mr. Martin in 1874 along the Denton-Tarrant County line. She said she came to Texas in 1872, and had lived at Route 1, Roanoke, since 1873. She died near Grapevine on February 29, 1932 and was buried beside Urias in Hood Cemetery.

On March 8, 1872 Martin patented the one hundred-sixty-acre U. P. Martin survey in present-day Southlake. Both the survey and Urias’s home are shown on Sam Street’s 1895 map of Tarrant County. The survey is located, in modern-day terms, in Southlake. Virtually no modern streets follow its original survey lines; White’s Chapel Road lies along its east line for a short distance just

south of the survey's northeast corner. State Highway 114 cuts [northwest-southeast] across its southwest corner. Much of Kirkwood Boulevard, East, curves through the northern and eastern halves of the survey a short while after Kirkwood goes east from Highway 114. Kirkwood Boulevard reaches the north line of the survey about where the street curves from northbound, to eastbound, to southbound. Urias's home is shown along Sabre Drive, about seven hundred yards south of Sabre's northern intersection with Kirkwood Boulevard, East.

Urias's headstone in the Hood Cemetery says he died March 4, 1904. He died in Tarrant County. A short note about Martin's death appeared in the Grapevine Sun on March 5, 1904: *"Just as we go to press we learn that Mr. U. P. Martin died about midnight Thursday night. Mr. Martin leaves a wife and 9 children, besides a host of friends to mourn his death. He will be greatly missed."*

An obituary for Mr. Martin appeared in the Grapevine Sun on March 12, 1904: *"IN MEMORIAM. Mr. U. P. Martin, one of the oldest and best citizens of Tarrant county, died at his home near Dove, March 3, 1904. He had been a patient sufferer for a long time. Bro. Martin was 72 years old, came to Texas in 1853, pre-empted a home and lived on same until his death. He was converted during the war and on his return home united with the Lonesome Dove Church and was baptized by A. J. Hallford, but soon afterward he changed his opinion relative to the doctrine of the church and united with the Primitive Baptist Church, and lived as close to the principles of Christianity as any one I ever knew; in fact, during my 40 years acquaintance with him, I never heard aught against him; not even a criticism. He was moral by nature, respected the laws of society, was a devoted Christian, a model gentleman, a kind husband, and an indulgent father. He leaves a wife and nine children to battle with life without the cheery smile, the kind and encouraging words of that best friend--father. E. NEWTON"*

Family files at ancestry.com show that Urias Martin was the father of a total of eleven children in his two marriages. With his first wife, Sarah Hogan, he was the father of Jasper Newton Martin (1855-1906); Joseph P. Martin (1857-1867); James Alexander Martin (1859-1931); Martha Adeline Martin (1862-1932); Laura Geneva Martin (1866-1945); Leander Jackson Martin (1869-1929); and Lemuel Thomas Martin (1869-1922).

In his second marriage, to Elizabeth Byrd, he was the father of Jane Martin (1876-1959); Cordelia Martin (1877-1877); Nora Etta Martin (1881-1962); and Meekly Walker Martin (1883-1962).

