



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Jesse J. Newton

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Jesse J. Newton, a charter member of Pleasant Run Baptist Church in present-day Colleyville, was born in McMinn County, Tennessee on October 10, 1846. He was a son of a Baptist minister, William Newton (1818-1861), and his wife, Jane S. (Smith) Newton (1821-1902). J. J. Newton, his mother (Jane S. Newton), brother (John Milton Newton), and first cousin, (Elihu Newton), were all charter members of the Pleasant Run Baptist Church in 1877. J. J. Newton's grandfather, Edward Newton, was also a pioneer Baptist preacher.

By the time he was four years old, J. J. Newton's father had moved the family to Broom Town Valley in Chattooga County, Georgia. Ten years later, in 1860, the family lived at Cave Spring in Floyd County, Georgia. The Newtons owned a single female slave, forty years old, in 1860.

J. J. Newton was a soldier in the Confederate army in Company K, 43<sup>rd</sup> Tennessee Infantry. This regiment was also known as the 5<sup>th</sup> East Tennessee Volunteers and as Gillespie's Regiment. He volunteered for twelve months' service on October 17, 1861 at Ooltewah, Hamilton County, Tennessee. James W. Gillespie was the enlisting officer. According to the records, he "absented himself without leave" from November 4, 1862 until some date in April (the 4<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, or 24<sup>th</sup>), 1863, when he rejoined the regiment. He was captured at Vicksburg, Mississippi on July 4, 1863, and was paroled five days later on July 9. He was discharged at Decatur, Georgia on September 15, 1863 because he had been under the age of conscription at the time he entered the service. At his discharge he was five feet, ten inches tall, had a dark complexion, black eyes, and black hair. Before he left the service he signed a receipt for back pay of \$144.76. In his pension application, he said he "...was in parole camp..."

Newton came to Texas about 1867, according to a statement he made when he applied for a Confederate pension in 1913. When he registered to vote in 1869, he said he had moved to Texas about 1867, and to Tarrant County and Precinct 3 in about January of 1869. The State of Texas paid pensions to both Mr. and Mrs. Newton.

Newton married Elizabeth Jane Jones in Tarrant County on May 25, 1873. She was born September 26, 1847 in Morgan County, Illinois, and was a daughter of Tarrant County pioneers Lewis Westmoreland Jones and Elizabeth M. (Lingle) Jones. In November 1853, Jones built a cabin on his claim at present-day Smithfield and moved into it. The Joneses lived there until 1856, when her father rented his farm and moved to Birdville, Tarrant County. Birdville at the time was the county seat of Tarrant County. There he and a partner opened a shop for building and repairing cabinets, and doing other general types of woodwork. He patented the 284-acre L. W. Jones survey in present-day North Richland Hills on March 24, 1857. It was there that Elizabeth Jones grew up, and her father lived the rest of his life.

Newton patented the 160-acre J. J. Newton survey in present-day Colleyville on September 5, 1874. It was a rectangle, longer north-south than east-west. The survey's eastern boundary is present-day Bransford Road. Its northern boundary was about where a line, stretching west from the west end of Shelton Drive, would be and its western boundary was about where a line extending south from Bettinger Drive would be. Its southern line was about where Timberline Drive South is now. As late as 1877 J. J. Newton still owned half of it; by 1878 it was all in the hands of another of the Pleasant Run founders, his first cousin, Elihu Newton.



When the 1880 census was taken, Newton and his wife and children were living in Stephens County, Texas. In Newton's Confederate pension application, he said he and his wife and children moved to Jones County about 1883, and they were living on a Nugent, Texas mail route as late as 1913.

J. J. Newton died of nephritis on June 28, 1923 in Abilene, Taylor County, Texas, possibly at the home of his son, Sam Newton. He was buried in the Fort Phantom Hill Cemetery in Jones County, beside his son, Jessie, who had died in 1900. J. J. Newton's grave was unmarked until April 20, 2007, when Mike and Doris Jo Patterson took a Veterans Administration marker to his grave and placed it there.

Within only a few days of Mr. Newton's death, Mrs. Newton moved to Coleman County, Texas, where her post office address was

the town of Burkett. About 1934 she moved again, to Lampasas, Texas, where she died of old age at her home on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street on March 1, 1937. She was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Lampasas. Her grave is unmarked.

J. J. and Elizabeth J. Newton were the parents of nine children, five of whom were still alive at the time the 1900 census was taken. They were George W. Newton (born about 1873, dead by 1900), Fannie Newton (b. 1875), Annie Newton (born about 1878, dead by 1900); Jessie J. Newton (1880-1900); Mary Newton (born 1881); Laura Newton (born 1884); Lila Newton (b. 1887), and Samuel Franklin Newton (1891-1988). There was one other child who died young whose name has not been discovered.