



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

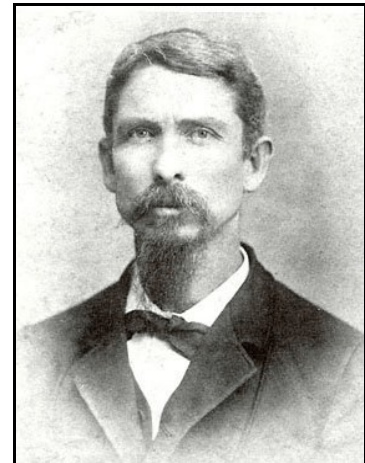
Rev. Elihu Newton

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Rev. Elihu Newton was born January 23, 1845 (some family sources say 1843) in Tennessee, a son of Isaac and Mary (Fitzgerald) Newton. Not long after Elihu was born, his father moved the family to Walker County, Georgia, where they appear in the 1850 census. Family sources also say the Newtons lived during the 1850's in Hamilton County, Tennessee and Catoosa County, Georgia.

The census taker in 1860 found Isaac Newton and his family living in Precinct 7 of Hunt County, Texas. Elihu is shown in that census as a fifteen-year-old boy.

It was well-known to residents of this area that Newton served in the Confederate Army with General Richard M. Gano. The only mention of his service which has survived in the National Archives is a note that Elihu Newton, of Tarrant County, was detailed to Julian Fields, "A.Q.M. C.S.A."



According to information Elihu gave when he registered to vote in 1867, he and his family moved to Texas about 1855 and to northeast Tarrant County about 1862. On December 24, 1866, Elihu married Mary Elizabeth White, sister of William H. White and Alexander F. White. Mary (White) Newton was born September 10, 1843 and died September 12, 1923. She was the daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Smith) White, pioneers of the Pleasant Run Community in present-day Colleyville. She came to Tarrant County with her parents from Missouri in 1858.

Newton and his wife were charter members of Pleasant Run Baptist Church on April 7, 1877, and on August 2, 1879 he became the first minister to be ordained by that church. He served in the Texas House of Representatives during the 20th Legislature (Jan. 11, 1887-April 4, 1887 and April 16, 1887-May 15, 1888). With T. B. Maddox of Fort Worth, he also represented Tarrant County in the Twenty-third Legislature from January 10 through May 9, 1893.

The 1880 census taker found Elihu Newton and his family living in Precinct 3 of Tarrant County south of Big Bear Creek. With him were his wife and seven of their children: Saccie, Fifer, Annie, Clarie, Lewis, Ada, and Myrtle. Also living with them was Mr. Newton's sister, Carrie J. Newton, who was born about 1847 in Tennessee. Their next-door neighbor was a long-time friend, disabled Confederate veteran, and fellow Baptist preacher, Lucratus H. Foster.

A short biographical sketch of Mr. Newton appeared in Personnel of the Texas State Government..., compiled and published by L. E. Daniel in Austin, Texas in 1887: "*E. NEWTON. The subject of this biographical notice, Honorable E. Newton, of Tarrant county, was born in Bradley county, Tennessee, on the twenty-third of January, 1845. Having immigrated to Texas early in life, he received his education in the common schools of Tarrant county, Texas where he now lives. He is a farmer and a minister in the Missionary Baptist Church. In the late war between the States, Mr. Newton belonged to the command of General R. M. Gano, and was active in Arkansas and the Indian Territory. His wife was Miss M. E. White. His family consists of eight children. He is a Mason, and belongs to the Farmers' Alliance. He was elected to a seat in the Twentieth Legislature of the State of Texas from the Thirty-fourth district. He is a quite [sic] legislator, and not demonstrative. He does not make many speeches, but is prompt and watchful.*"

In 1895 Newton was living in the Bransford Community (in present-day Colleyville) on the J. J. Newton survey, along the west side of Bransford Road in the vicinity of where Beverly Drive intersects it. When the 1900 census was taken, Mrs. Newton said she had given birth to nine children, five of whom were still living.

Mr. and Mrs. Newton appear in the 1900 Tarrant County census. In that year, Mrs. Newton said she had given birth to nine children, only five of whom were still living. Their family included their son, Oscar Newton; their daughter, Lete Newton; a granddaughter Wilmer Hargrove (born in September 1890); a married daughter Myrtle Steadman (born in December 1879) and two of her children, Zena (born in July 1896) and Harley (born in July 1898); and Mrs. Newton's widowed brother, Lewis Cass White.

A lengthy obituary for Mary E. Newton, portions of which are missing, appeared in the Grapevine Sun on September 20, 1923: "*Mary Elizabeth Newton At Rest. Mary E. White was born in Kentucky Sept. 10, 1843. In her early life her parents moved to Missouri, and in 1858 they moved to Tarrant County, Texas. On December 24, 1866 she was married to E. Newton. Nine children came to bless the home, six girls and three boys. These six daughters have all preceded their mother to the better land. Bro. Newton, their three sons, L. C. White her brother and a large number of relatives and friends are bereft of her companionship. Sister Newton was not converted till after her marriage. It was during a protracted meeting being held at Pleasant Run Baptist Church that she was converted, joined the church and was baptized by her husband. For more than 57 years she was _____ to be the loving and faithful companion of her husband. She was a faithful Christian, a _____ wife and loving mother; _____ and loved by all who _____. _____ taken ill at home _____ Newton in Fort _____ Newton was _____ Oklahoma. _____ Sept. 12 _____ of God to _____ lived eighty years _____. Her funeral was held in the Baptist church at Grapevine last Thursday afternoon, services being conducted by Rev. J. M. _____ W. Good. Her body was laid to rest in the White's Chapel Cemetery. The church, community, and loved ones have lost a faithful and true friend.*"

He died April 21, 1925, and lies buried in White's Chapel Cemetery. His death certificate says he died at the home of his son, Oscar, at 819 West Daggett Street in Fort Worth. He died of prostatic hypertrophy and pyelitis.

His obituary appeared in The Grapevine Sun: "*REV. E. NEWTON DIES. Rev. Elihu Newton, who died Tuesday afternoon, April 21st, at the home of his son, Fifer, in Fort Worth, was born in Tennessee in 1845, and at the age of twelve came to Texas with his parents, who settled west of Grapevine between Bransford and Smithfield. He had been a Baptist Minister for 60 years, was converted at the old Mt. Gilead Baptist Church and began active work at once. Bro. Newton enlisted in the Confederate army during the Civil war under Gen. Gano of Dallas. After his return, he married Miss Mary White of Bransford. Nine children were born to this union, three of whom survive him, Fifer and Oscar of Fort Worth and Lewis of Wichita Falls. He also is survived by two brothers, Alfred, a Baptist Minister of Arkansas, and Billie of Oklahoma, and 18 grand children and 11 great grand children. Bro. Newton was one of the most widely known and best loved Ministers of Tarrant County, having served as Pastor sometimes two and three different calls at the same place at some 14 or more churches in Tarrant and surrounding counties. His last pastorate with the Grapevine Church was in 1903-1905 and it was through his efforts that the present Baptist Church was built, but before its completion it was necessary for him to leave on account of poor health following an illness from small-pox, and he moved to Ochiltree in August, 1905. When his health was sufficiently recovered he began preaching again, serving as County Missionary of Ochiltree County and organized the Baptist Church at Ochiltree, the first church in the county. He lived in the west about 10 years, moving to Dalhart, Dumas, Tolbert, Vernon, and again to Ochiltree, always doing Missionary work if not a pastor. He then returned to Tarrant County and then to Grapevine where he resided until the death of his wife in Sept., 1923, and then went to make his home with his son, Oscar, of Fort Worth. His last pastorate was with the Pleasant Run Baptist Church. During Gov. Hogg's administration he served two terms in the Legislature and while in Ochiltree served two terms as County Judge. Funeral services were conducted at the Grapevine Baptist Church Wednesday afternoon, April 23rd [illegible] and interment at the White's Chapel Cemetery.*"

Newton's children included Sarah "Saccie" Newton; Alfred "Fifer" Newton; Annie "Anna" Newton; Clara (Mrs. Sandy) Wall; Lewis Newton; Ada Newton, Myrtle Newton, Oscar Newton and Leta Newton. Annie and Clara were twins.

Sarah "Saccie" Newton was born September 14, 1867 and died April 4, 1892. She was buried in White's Chapel Cemetery, and in 1979 still had a readable headstone. The death certificate of one of her children shows her husband's name as William Robert Cook. Her headstone shows her as the daughter of E. and M. E. Newton, rather than as the wife of Mr. Cook.

Fifer Newton was born April 29, 1869. He married Ada "Icy" Byas. He died January 25, 1962 in All Saints Hospital in Fort Worth. He worked for many years as a construction man for one of the telephone companies. He lies buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

Anna (Annie) Newton was born March 11, 1871. She died January 12, 1892 and is buried in Smithfield Cemetery. Her stone carries her married name, Hargrove, but shows her to have been the daughter of E. and M. E. Newton. Her husband was R. S. Hargrove (1855-1891).

Clara Newton was born March 11, 1871. She married Sandy Alexander Wall, and died May 8, 1902. She is buried in the same lot with her father in White's Chapel Cemetery.

Lewis W. Newton was born September 9, 1874. He died at 1636 East Cannon Street in Fort Worth on October 4, 1956 and was buried in White's Chapel Cemetery. He was a retired grocery merchant.

Ada Newton was born November 28, 1875 and died July 8, 1892. Like her sister Saccie, she had a readable headstone in the late 1970's.

Myrtle Newton was born December 17, 1879. Her headstone at White's Chapel Cemetery gives her married name, Steadman, but shows her as the daughter of E. and M. E. Newton, She died June 16, 1900. The death certificate of one of her children shows her husband's name as George Steadman.

Oscar Newton was born December 21, 1881. He married Alma Perry Smith (1885-1958) about 1905. He was city tax collector for Fort Worth for a time. He died at Harris Hospital in Fort Worth on October 26, 1957, and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Fort Worth.

Leta Newton was born in December, 1884. She was married in Fort Worth at the Court House in 1905 to W. Carlos Yoakley. A notice of their marriage appeared in the Grapevine Sun on Saturday, June 15; the marriage having taken place on "Thursday of last week." She died in Ochiltree County, Texas at the home of her father at 3:30 a.m. on December 31, 1907. Her husband later returned to Tarrant County and died in a Fort Worth hospital in April, 1958. He was buried in Shiloh Cemetery in southern Denton County.

