



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Rev. Levi “Lee” Newton

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Rev. Levi “Lee” Newton, one of northeast Tarrant County’s pioneers, lived near Grapevine during the 1860’s. After serving in a Confederate regiment, he later moved to Parker and Wise Counties, and died in his early forties. He was the older brother of another of our veterans, Rev. Elihu Newton.

Levi Newton was a son of Isaac and Mary (Fitzgerald) Newton. While Levi was still a small boy, his father moved the family to Walker County, Georgia, where they appear in the 1850 census. Family sources say the Newtons also lived during the 1850’s in Hamilton County, Tennessee and Catoosa County, Georgia.

Isaac Newton moved the family to Texas about 1858. When the 1860 census was taken, they were living in Precinct 7 of Hunt County, Texas. They moved to northeast Tarrant County about 1862.

Levi Newton entered the Confederate service in Dallas County on March 1, 1862. He became a private in Capt. W. H. Witt’s Company of Darnell’s Regiment of Texas Mounted Volunteers. Darnell’s regiment subsequently became the 18th Texas Cavalry Regiment. Capt. Witt’s Company became an independent command and was later assigned to the 34th (Well’s) Texas Cavalry as Company B. One single record of Newton’s service with Co. B of Well’s Battalion has also survived. He appears on a muster roll for that organization for June 30, 1862-June 30, 1863, with the added information that he had enlisted at Trinity Mills in Dallas County, and that he owned the Confederate States a sum of \$2.25. The only other details of his service which have survived were those included by his widow in a short biographical sketch she wrote years after his death.

When the 1880 census was taken, Lee and Sue Newton were living in Wise County in Precinct 1. Mr. Newton’s occupation, lawyer, and those of his neighbors suggest he was probably living in the town of Decatur. They had two of their children with them: Joseph Newton (born about 1876) and Lee Newton (born about 1878). Also living with the family was Mr. Newton’s niece, Emma Allen

(born about 1862); and William Allread (born about 1869), whose relationship to the family was not specified. According to a statement Mrs. Newton made in 1900, both Joseph and Lee Newton were still alive at that time.

A short biographical sketch appeared in the Texas Historical and Biographical Magazine, published by J. B. Link at Austin, Texas in 1891: ***“REV. LEE NEWTON was born in Bradley county, Tenn., August 7, 1842. He was the son of Isaac and Mary Newton, the eldest of five sons, four of whom, like their father, were Missionary Baptist preachers. Three still survive. Of five girls, only two survive. He professed faith in Christ, and was baptized by Eld. T. H. Holland, and became of a member of the New Prospect church in Hamilton County, Tenn., in October, 1856. He removed with his parents to Texas about the year 1858, and settled in Van Zandt county, where he enjoyed the freedom of a “cowboy’s” life until the war of 1861. During this time the family resided in Hunt, Tarrant, Wise and Dallas counties. He volunteered in Captain Allison’s company, from Dallas county, and was engaged in the battles fought in the trans-Mississippi department for two years. He was then captured and conveyed as a prisoner to Rock Island, Ill., where he remained until the close of the war. He then returned to his home in Tarrant county. September, 1868, he was ordained to the gospel ministry by the Halford Prairie Missionary Baptist church. The presbytery consisted of Elds. W. W. Mitchell, pastor, and W. W. Harris. January 17, 1869, he was married to Miss Sue G. Battle, at Lewisville, Denton county, Texas. The fruits of this marriage were eight children, only two of whom survive. During the later part of ’69 he was missionary for the West Fork Association. In 1870 he removed to Weatherford, Parker county, where he taught a literary school during the week and preached to churches in the country on Sundays, among which was that of Veal Station. In 1871 he was again missionary of the West Fork Association, and in riding over the sparsely settled counties of Parker, Jack and Wise, encountered many difficulties ;and ran many narrow risks of being scalped by the wild Comanches, who roved at large over the prairies. In 1871 he became the editor of a paper issued at Weatherford as organ of the “Temple of Honor,” a society of Templars then in the State. This paper was continued for some time at that place, and then removed to Dallas. The paper being discontinued, he removed, in 1874, to Decatur, in Wise county, and commenced the practice of law, in which business he continued with remarkable success until his death, which occurred January 1, 1883. He was twice elected county attorney, which office he filled at the time of his death. –Mrs. S. G. L.”***

After Mr. Newton’s death, Mrs. Newton was remarried to William B. Long in Wise County on October 31, 1888, who was nineteen years her senior. By 1900 they were living in Precinct 3 of Grayson County, and were both in their second marriages. They had no children with them from either marriage, but Sue again said she had given birth to eight children, only two of whom were still alive. Her death certificate records her birth in Texas on May 28, 1847, a daughter of R. J. Battle and Susan S. Port, both natives of Mississippi. She died at 4813 Bowser Street in Dallas on March 15, 1928, and was buried in Decatur, Wise County, Texas. She does not now have a readable headstone in Wise County.

Family genealogists report that Mrs. Newton’s parents were Robert J. Battle (1819-1892) and Susan Green Fort (1824-1867), who died in Hunt County, Texas and Bowie County, Texas, respectively. The report that Susan Green Battle was born at Boston, Bowie County, Texas.

Family sources at Ancestry.com also report the following seven children for Mr. and Mrs. Newton: Mary Effie Newton, Robert Lee Newton, Wade Hampton Newton, Minnie Newton, Joseph Fort Newton, Lee Newton, and William Burton Newton. There was apparently one other child who died young.

Mary Effie Newton was born December 4, 1869 and died March 31, 1870. Robert Lee Newton was born May 26, 1871 and died October 2, 1877. Wade Hampton Newton was born June 4 and died October 4, 1873. Minnie Newton was born August 18, 1874 and died June 6, 1876.

Joseph Fort Newton was born July 21, 1876. He was a clergyman at Sanders, Kentucky when he registered for the World War I draft in 1918. He died in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in January, 1950.

Lee Newton was born May 12, 1878 and was dead by 1900. William Burton Newton was born February 10, 1881; he was working as a physician in Fort Dodge, Iowa when he registered for the draft for World War I in 1918.

Apparently neither Lee, Susan Newton Long, or any of the Newtons' children who died young have readable headstones in any Wise County cemetery.