



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

William G. Nuckolls

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William G. Nuckolls was born in Hardin County, Tennessee in 1830. He was a Confederate veteran of a Tennessee cavalry regiment. He came from Tennessee to the Keller area in or soon after 1880, and remained there the rest of his life. He lies buried in Birdville Cemetery.

William G. Nuckolls was born in Hardin County, Tennessee on February 2, 1830. By 1840 his father, William Nuckolls (1807-1897), had moved to Hardeman County, Tennessee, where the family appears in the census. Family sources at ancestry.com say Mr. Nuckolls' mother was Betsy Ann Campbell, who was born May 15, 1807 and who died at Nuckolls Mills, Hardeman County, Tennessee on March 8, 1845.

At the time the 1850 census of Hardeman County was taken, William G. Nuckolls was a twenty-year old farmer living with his widowed father, William Nuckolls, who was born about 1804. The only other member of the household was a laborer named James Cross, who was thirty-four years old. William senior owned real estate valued at six thousand dollars. He also owned eighteen slaves. By 1860 that number had grown to twenty.

Luckily for us, a biographical sketch for one of Mr. Nuckolls' sons was published in B. B. Paddock, History and Biographical Record of North and West Texas (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1906), Vol. II, pp. 491-492. Speaking of Mr. and Mrs. Nuckolls, it said: "...*William G. and Eliza (Polk) Nuckolls, now resident farmers near Keller, in Tarrant county, Texas, where they settled in the year 1880. His father and mother [William and Eliza] were natives to Tennessee, the former born in Hardin county, February, 1830, and a son of William Nuckolls, an early settler there. William Nuckolls was a Colonel of the Tennessee militia, in the old training days, and Kentucky contributed him from her population toward the early settlement of the state. His ancestors were Virginians. The Polks were from Maury county, Tennessee, of the Scotch line and from North Carolina to that county. Shelby Polk was the grandfather of our subject and his daughter Eliza died in Tarrant county, Texas, in 1890...The issue of William G. and Eliza Nuckolls were: Charles, Macon county,*

Tennessee; Mollie, wife of R. O. Newsom, of Mansfield, Texas; William S. and Lenora, deceased wife of James Burnett, left a son in Tarrant county...”

The statement in the Paddock sketch seems unusual, given the facts that William Nuckolls, Sr. would have been nearly sixty years old when the War began, and that he was a slaveowner.

When the 1860 census was taken, William G. Nuckolls and his family lived in Hardeman County in that part of District 6 which lay outside of the town of Bolivar. Eliza said she was born about 1835. The children with them in that year included Charles E. (born about 1852), Mary O. (born about 1853), William S. (born about 1855), and Leona? Z. (a female born about September 1859). Mr. Nuckolls owned a substantial amount of real estate but no slaves.

William G. Nuckolls’ military records are very scant. He served the Confederacy as a private in Captain James J. Neely’s Company (the Hardeman Avengers) of Tennessee Volunteers. He enlisted on December 1, 1861 at Columbus, Tennessee for a term of twelve months. This company held several designations, the last of which was Co. E, 7th (Duckworth’s) Tennessee Cavalry. No other record of his service has survived.

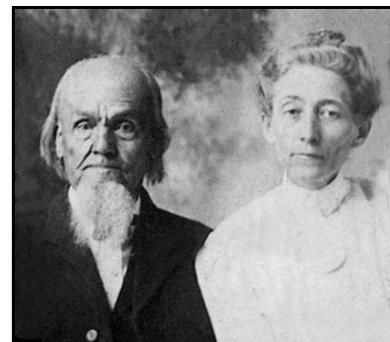
A younger relative of Mr. Nuckolls named William W. Nuckolls also served in the same company and regiment. A short history of the regiment’s activities may be found at:

<http://www.tngenweb.org/civilwar/csacav/csaduck.html>

At the time the 1870 census was taken, Mr. and Mrs. Nuckolls lived in District 3 of Fayette County, Tennessee, in the area served by the post office at Somerville, Tennessee. They had all four of their children with them in that year: Charley (born about 1851), Mollie (born about 1853), William (born about 1855), and Lenora Nuckolls (born about 1859). Mr. Nuckolls was farming.

While still living in Hardeman County, Tennessee, William G. Nuckolls served for a time as a deputy sheriff. Mr. Nuckolls and his wife appear in the 1880 census of Hardeman County in District 4. They had only one child with them, Nonie Nuckolls, who was born about 1860; this was the “Leona” shown with them in the 1860 census.

Mr. Nuckoll’s first wife died in 1890, according to a published biographical sketch of one of her children. She lies buried in Birdville Cemetery. Mr. Nuckoll’s second wife was a widow with three children, Ruth Margaret (Jones) McCoy, who was born in Tennessee on May 20, 1864. She was a daughter of John and Margaret Jones. William and Ruth Nuckolls had no children together.



William & Ruth Nuckolls

W. G. Nuckolls’ home appears on the 1895 Sam Street Map of Tarrant County. At that time he lived south of old downtown Keller along the east side of what is now Whitley Road, about due west of the west dead-end of Calais Court.

When the 1900 census was taken, Mr. and Mrs. Nuckolls were living in Precinct 4 of Tarrant County. Three of her children from her first marriage were living with them: John C., Octavia, and James W. McCoy.

Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Nuckolls applied for Confederate pensions from the State of Texas. Mr. Nuckolls was not a member of the R. E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth.

When the 1910 census was taken at Keller, Mr. and Mrs. Nuckolls had only Octavia still living with them. Mrs. Nuckolls told the census taker she had given birth to only three children, and all three were still living. Mr. Nuckolls said he was a veteran of the Confederate army.

At the taking of the 1920 census, Mr. and Mrs. Nuckolls lived in the Keller area in Precinct 4 of Tarrant County, Texas. They had no children living with them, but appear in the census schedules to be living with family of a son-in-law, Edwin K. Miller, and his wife, Octavia, who was born about 1892 to Mrs. Nuckolls in her first marriage.

An interesting article on Mr. Nuckolls appeared in the [Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#) on February 8, 1920. It included a photograph of him made outdoors at his home. The article says: "*KELLER MAN GIVES REUNION BANQUET ON 90TH BIRTHDAY. W. G. Nuckolls of Keller celebrated his ninetieth birthday Feb. 1 with a dinner to his relatives and friends at Keller. Nuckolls, who, in spite of his age, is very active, can walk several miles, and splits all of the wood his family uses, is one of the oldest citizens of Keller. He settled near Keller fifty years ago, coming from Tennessee, and has been in and around Keller since.*

Nuckolls cast his first vote in a presidential election in 1852, voting for Franklin Pierce the fourteenth President of the United States, who was a Democrat. And Nuckolls has always voted the Democratic ticket, except shortly after the Civil War, when he voted for Horace Greeley. Nuckolls served in the Confederate armies, and voted for Greeley, he says, because he was instrumental in freeing Jefferson Davis from prison. Nuckolls voted for Wilson for re-election in The Star-Telegram's straw voting contest.

Nuckolls is a lifelong Baptist, and has been a Mason for sixty-three years. He claims to be one of the oldest Masons in the State. His second wife, Mrs. Ruth Nuckolls, is living, and he has five children, three stepgrandchildren, and a number of grandchildren living.

Those who attended his birthday party were: Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Bobb, Miss Ellis Bobb, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. McCoy, Misses Bessie Halt and Rose Winifred McCoy, Mrs. M. F. Gates, Miss Dorothy Turbeville, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Crittenden and Margaret Crittenden, all of Fort Worth; H. E. Happ of Tennessee; Mrs. J. W. McCoy of Pilot Point; Lewis Bourland, Mr. E. K. Miller, Kenneth Miller, Helen Ruth Miller, all of Keller, and the pastor of the Keller Baptist Church."

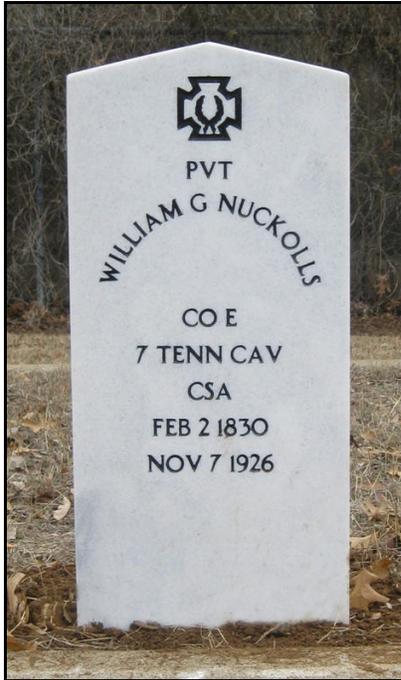
Family sources report that Mr. Nuckolls died in 1927. By 1930 his widow, Ruth M. Nuckolls, was living at Keller, east of the railroad, in the home of her son-in-law, Kenneth E. Miller. She died in St. Joseph's Infirmary in Fort Worth at 8:30 p.m. on February 3, 1936. Her death was caused by arteriosclerosis and chronic pyelitis. She was buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery the next day.

Both the 1860 census and the 1906 biographical sketch in B. B. Paddock's book name only four children of William G. and Eliza J. Nuckolls. They were Charles E. Nuckolls, William S. Nuckolls, Mary O. "Mollie" Nuckolls, and Lenora Z. Nuckolls.

Mary Ophelia "Mollie" Nuckolls was born March 2, 1853. She married R. O. Newsom. She died in Precinct 1 of Johnson County, Texas on April 14, 1932, and was buried at Mansfield in Tarrant County.

William Shelby Nuckolls was born in Hardeman County, Tennessee, January 31, 1854. By 1906 he was a substantial ranchman and farmers of Clay County, Texas. The biographical sketch of W. S. Nuckolls continues in History and Biographical Record of North and West Texas: "*...The school advantages of William S. Nuckolls were not at all good and he acquired only a scant knowledge of the three r's, experience doing the rest. He attended a subscription school at Bolivar, Tennessee, when a young man and made the most of his advancement there. He began life as a tenant of the farm and prospered some from the start. When he came to Texas he went to Austin by rail and there bought a horse and began his search for a location. He stopped in Tarrant county and again became a tenant on some other man's farm. In 1884 he came into Clay county and entered an eighty acre tract near Buffalo Springs--scrap land belonging to the state--and upon this he began the erection of the superstructure of his modest fortune. It was the stock business that led him into the channel of success and as his profits came he invested in lands from time to time, his first purchase being one of three hundred and twenty acres on Buffalo creek, six hundred and forty acres of the Harris and O'Connor tract, three hundred and twenty acres of the James Harris tract, four hundred and ninety acres of the William Shields tract and another three hundred and twenty acre piece of the James Harris land, making, in all, two thousand one hundred and seventy acres, six hundred and fifty of which is devoted to the products of the farm. Mr. Nuckolls made the acquaintance of hard work early life and it has remained his fast and sincere friend through life. Its effects have told upon his constitution and the tread of fifty- one years has left traces of premature age and the tinge of gray and the furrowed brow tell the extent to which his vital energies have been taxed. In 1900 he took up residence in Dallam county, where he entered four sections of land and made his home in the far northwest until he proved up on his claim, returning to Clay county with his family at the close of 1904. June 23, 1895, William S. Nuckolls and Georgie Fair were married in Bellevue, Texas. Mrs. Nuckolls is a daughter of Michael and Louisa (Rohrer) Fair, from Cumberland county, New Jersey. Her parents resided in Washita county, Oklahoma, and have children: Alice E., wife of Richard Johnson; Ellen K., wife of Charles Walker; Harvey; Lydia B., who married John Bridges; Mrs. Nuckolls, born in New Jersey, July 4, 1871; Irene, wife of Frank Johnson; and Josephine, married Lee Burson. The children are nearly all located near their parents and are engaged in farming or are living on the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Nuckolls' children are: Willie C., born January 31, 1897; Winnifred, born September 22, 1898, and Lawrence, born October 2, 1901. The Nuckolls allied themselves with Democracy in politics and the grandfather and the father of our subject were more or less in the service of the native heath. William Nuckolls, our subject's grandsire, was a Union man during the Rebellion, but his son, William G., served in the arms of the south. The latter was a deputy sheriff at Bolivar, Tennessee, but his son, of this review, has not made politics his business or even a pastime. The family are Christians of the Baptist faith and Mr. Nuckolls is a firm believer in the teachings and good works of the Master."*

Lenora Z. "Nona" Nuckolls was born (according to her headstone) August 1, 1863. She married J.T. Burnett. She died July 31, 1888 in Tarrant County, and was buried in Birdville Cemetery in present-day Haltom City, Tarrant County.



New headstone installed by
E. W. Taylor Camp, #1777, SCV
February 23, 2013

