



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### George Coleman Piersall

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George Coleman Piersall was born February 15, 1840 in Kentucky. He came to Texas in 1858. He lived with his sister, Mrs. Thomas Higgins, for a time both before and after the Civil War. If his sister, Mrs. Higgins, was still living at the same place in 1895 as he was when the war began, Piersall would have been living with the Higgins family in present-day Southlake somewhere in the vicinity of the west end of Robin Street, south of Dove Road, west of State Highway 114.

Piersall enlisted in Confederate service in Co. A, 9<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry, in Tarrant County, Texas. Official records show that he joined the 9<sup>th</sup> Texas on October 14, 1861 at Camp Reeves, Texas. His service ended January 18, 1865 when he was captured at Iuka, Mississippi. With other prisoners he was forwarded to Louisville, Kentucky on January 27, 1865; he entered the military prison there the next day. On February 1, 1865 he was sent to Camp Chase, Ohio, where he arrived on February 3. He remained at Camp Chase until his release on June 13, 1865. While in the service he was slightly wounded somewhere on the right half of his body.

Piersall and his wife, Museleet Drue, were married about 1870. When the 1900 census was taken, Mrs. Piersall said she had given birth to seven children, five of whom were still alive. Mrs. Museleet Piersall was born in Texas on January 21, 1852 and died June 12, 1903. She was buried in White's Chapel Cemetery.

When the 1880 census was taken, George C. Piersall and his wife, Musaleet, were living in Precinct 4 of Jack County, Texas. They had three children with them: Mattie M., (age 7), Seaborn M. (age 6) , and George Piersall (age ten months and born in August 1879). They were farming.

The family appears in the 1880 agricultural census for Jack County. In that year they owned a farm consisting of eleven acres of cultivated ground and one hundred forty acres of woodland. The farm was worth two hundred dollars, and their farming equipment was worth fifteen dollars. Their livestock was worth eighty dollars. Mr. Piersall estimated the value of all his farm productions for the year 1879 at ninety-three dollars. He owned two horses. He had two cattle during 1879, but both

had died or strayed. He had produced twenty-one pounds of butter during the year. He owned six hogs and eighteen chickens. He did not report any crop production during 1879, but said he had cut eighteen cords of wood off his property.

In 1918 Piersall contacted the Texas pension authorities and told them he had moved to Oklahoma. At the time, he was living in Gray, Beaver County, Oklahoma with his son-in-law, W. C. Creed. He also told them he was almost completely disabled for further work by his exertions during the war.

Piersall died January 20, 1925, probably at the home of his daughter, Mattie Creed, in Oklahoma. Some records in his Oklahoma pension file suggest that he may have died at Liberal, Kansas. Some of the members of the Piersall family who died prior to the time George left Texas lie buried at White's Chapel Cemetery.

George C. Piersall lies buried in Liberal Cemetery in Liberal, Seward County, Kansas. He has a stone from the veterans administration which records his Confederate military service.

An interesting oral tradition concerning Piersall and his friend, Augustus R. Creed, was recorded in 1968 by Bemer Creed (it has been slightly edited for punctuation and capitalization): *"August R. Creed and George C. Piersall were young men from Missouri and, craving adventure and excitement, joined the [Confederate] Army and served four years during the Civil War. Many times the company was very low on rations, and one day during a lull in battle it seemed each side was taking a rest when these two ambitious boys heard some hogs in the cornfield near their camp. Of course the hogs [were] making the usual grunting noise hogs make when in a corn field hunting for something to eat. Well, the boys thought, now is the time to make a hit with the old man (their commanding officer) by bringing in some fresh meat for supper. They took their guns and slipped out into the corn field, and saw a couple [of] fine shoats. They thought... just what they wanted for supper. But there was a problem...they knew the enemy was only a few hundred yards away. If they shot a hog the enemy would likely open up in reply. Well, in a whisper they talked it over while Augustus was scratching one hog's side. George was ready to knock it in the head with the stock of his gun. They thought this the best and safest way to do it. The aim was right between the eyes. George took a long swing and just at that second the hog raised his head up and got hit square on the nose. The gun went off just back of George's shoulder. The hog let out a blood curdling squeal and tore out for home. Needless to say, Augustus and George headed for camp on the double. Just their luck, [they] met the C.O. who said "Here boys, what's all the excitement, who shot and why?" Well, they were nearly out of breath but finally told him why they were out in the corn field and just what had happened. He sort of grinned and turned away and said "sounds reasonable, don't let it happen again." At the end of the war the boys thought they had done their bit for their country and had enough excitement for a while, went home to Texas, found girls, wooed them and married."*

George and Museleet Piersall were the parents of the following seven children: Mattie Matilda (Mrs. William Colby) Creed, Sebrim M. Piersall, Alphoretta Joanne Piersall, George W. Piersall, Joseph W. Piersall, Vannie M. Piersall, and Beulah Myrtle Piersall.

October 29 - 1918  
Dear Mr. Controller I will  
drop you a few lines to let  
you know that I live  
in Oklahoma now I will  
drop my Pension in Texas  
I can draw an Okla Pension  
Take my name off the  
Penton Books from  
G. C. Piersall

