



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

William M. Quayle

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William M. Quayle lived at Grapevine when the War began. He raised the first company to leave Fort Worth for the Civil War. Many northeast Tarrant County men spent time under Quayle's command. Additional material about Quayle may be found in the Confederate Veteran, Vol. 10 (1902). He was a brother of Amos M. Quayle, in whose biography some details of William's early life may be found.

The following article by David Paul Smith appears in the Handbook of Texas Online (Texas State Historical Association): "QUAYLE, WILLIAM (1825-1901). William Quayle, Civil War officer, was born in Kirk Michael Parish, Isle of Man, on October 18, 1825. His parents came to America when he was a child and settled in Ontario County, New York. He attended Canadagua Academy. He went to sea for nearly ten years and eventually became a captain. He later traveled in Europe and Asia and was broken in health upon his return to America. He moved to Texas in the 1850s and settled near Grapevine, where he served as a district clerk, district judge, and chief justice of Tarrant County. He was opposed to secession; nonetheless he organized Company A, Ninth Texas Cavalry, the first company to leave Tarrant County for Confederate service. As lieutenant colonel he commanded the regiment at the battles of Pea Ridge and Corinth but soon returned to Tarrant County in poor health. Shortly after Quayle's return he won election to the state Senate and took his seat in February 1863. He served as co-chairman on the Joint Committee on Frontier Protection and worked to push through the bill to transfer the Frontier Regiment to the Confederate Army and to form the state-supported Frontier Organization. In January 1864 Governor Pendleton Murrah appointed Quayle major in command of the First Frontier District, the nineteen organized counties on the state's northwestern frontier. From headquarters at Decatur, Quayle struggled throughout the spring and summer to maintain order in this, the most complex and difficult district to manage in the entire frontier organization. As well as patrolling against Indian raids, his men were kept busy searching for deserters, draft dodgers, and renegades. By summer's end, with his health failing, Quayle requested to be relieved. His replacement, James Webb Throckmorton, took command of the district on December 13, 1864. Quayle served briefly as Throckmorton's second-in-command

until March 1865, when poor health required him to take a furlough. At the end of the war Quayle joined other Confederate officers and moved to Mexico for several years. He returned to Texas briefly, then moved to Missouri, where he lived the remainder of his life. He first married Sarah Henderson of Mississippi, then Elizabeth Terrill of Missouri. Quayle died at his home in Moberly, Missouri, on August 8, 1901.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: *Confederate Veteran*, August 1902. Hans Peter Nielsen Gammel, comp., *Laws of Texas, 1822-1897* (10 vols., Austin: Gammel, 1898). Julia Kathryn Garrett, *Fort Worth: A Frontier Triumph* (Austin: Encino, 1972). David Paul Smith, *Frontier Defense in Texas, 1861-1865* (Ph.D. dissertation, North Texas State University, 1987). Texas Legislature, *Senate Journal*, 9th Leg., 1st called sess., 1863; 10th Leg., reg. sess., 1863. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Washington: GPO, 1880-1901)."

Because of the esteem with which many people in the Grapevine area remembered William Quayle, after he died the Grapevine Sun ran a lengthy obituary for him on August 24, 1901: "*COL. WM. QUAYLE DEAD. An Old Land Mark and Pioneer of Tarrant County Passed Away. Col. William Quayle, after a short illness, passed to the great beyond at 3 o'clock on the morning of the 8th instant at Moberly, Mo.*

"Col. Quayle was a native of the Isle of Man and was born October 18, 1825, and had thus lived to ripe age of nearly 76 years. He was a man of much individuality and had seen life in all its phases. In 1827 Mr. Quayle's parents came to America and located in Ontario county, Western New York. Here he spent his early boyhood and received his college training in Canadagua Academy, and, though his opportunities were limited, he received a fair English education.

"At the age of 16 he went to sea and for twelve years he was rocked in the cradle of the deep. He rapidly rose to the rank of captain, and his life was one of great interest, visiting all parts of the world. He found a fascination in the sea. which did not lose its flavor until its treacherous waters betrayed him. In 1852 his vessel was wrecked off the coast of Greenland. After this Mr. Quayle gave up his seafaring life. From Greenland he went to Liverpool, disposed of his cargo, settled with his man and traveled extensively in the East.

"In 1858 he came to Tarrant county and settled at Birdville, which was the county seat at that time, where he engaged in farming and merchandising. In 1854 he was married to Miss Sarah Henderson, daughter of a Presbyterian minister. There were three children born to them. His wife died in 1860. He served four years as district clerk, also three years as county judge. In 1861 he laid aside his judicial robes and assumed those of the warrior. Though originally a Whig and opposed to secession, yet his true heart warmed in defense of the home of his adoption, and after the 'Lone Star State' seceded, Mr. Quayle boldly took his stand with the Confederacy to fight with those whom he loved. He raised one of the first companies that went out of Tarrant county, which went to Grayson county where the 9th Texas regiment was organized, and he was elected Lieutenant Colonel. It was here that he was married the second time. His intended wife, Mary Terrill, in company with her brother, was coming to Texas, and they met at Camp Reeves, in Grayson County, where they were married in the presence of his company by the Rev. J. M. Binkley. After the marriage his wife came on to her husband's home and took charge of his affairs, while he went on with his command. He was engaged in several fights with Indians, and was in the battles of Elkhorn,

Corinth, etc. While engaged in active service he was smitten with camp fever and compelled to return to his home. After his recovery he organized another company and returned to the fray. Following this he was elected to the State Senate and later was appointed commander of the 5th Frontier District, with headquarters at Decatur.

“At the end of the war Colonel Quayle went to Mexico. He remained there three years, then after living for two years on the western coast of Texas, moved to Randolph county, Mo., in 1869. Shortly after coming to Missouri he was elected and served a term in the State Legislature, and in 1882 was a congressional candidate on the Greenback ticket. For years after retiring from public life Col. Quayle lived at his home one mile south of Moberly, Mo., and engaged in the quiet pursuits of the farmer. A few years ago he moved to Moberly and took up the home in which he died.

“He leaves to mourn his death a wife and 7 children, Sidney, Mrs. Katie Setliff, of Tennessee, Papie, Jack, Charles, James, and Maude, besides several relatives and a host of friends.”

Family sources report more details about Mr. Quayle’s marriages and children. He was married first in 1857 to Sarah J. Henderson, who died in 1860. They had two children: William H. Quayle and Sidney Quayle. After Sarah’s death, William married Mary E. Terrill, a daughter of Rev. Benjamin and Delilah (Crisler) Terrill. They had six children: Sarah "Katie" Quayle, who married Rev. John Sutliff; Papie L. Quayle; Charles L. Quayle, who married Dora Goodfellow; Jack Alexander Quayle; James “Jim” Terrill Quayle; Benjamin Quayle, and Maud Quayle.

