



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

William Milton Robinson

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William Milton Robinson was a native of Illinois who arrived with his family in Tarrant County by 1850. He served in a local Confederate cavalry unit, and took a leading role in the development of Fort Worth after the War. At the time the War ended he owned a considerable amount of real estate in northeast Tarrant County. He died in Fort Worth in 1908, and was buried at Cleburne in Johnson County.

William M. Robinson was born in Bond County, Illinois on June 23, 1823. Around 1848, William and his wife, Ann Madison, were married. She was born August 25, 1825 in Kentucky, and died in Johnson County, Texas on April 14, 1888.



Photo courtesy of Jo Ann Rowley-Minhoto

By the time the 1850 census was taken in Tarrant County, Texas, William M. “Robertson” his wife Ann, and their one-year-old daughter Medora had settled here. B. B. Paddock, in his History of Texas: Fort Worth and the Texas Northwest, Vol. 4, in a biographical sketch of one of the Robinsons’ friends from Illinois, Marquis D. L. Gracey, said “...and he [Gracey] continued to live in Bond County, Illinois until 1846, when, at the age of thirteen, he came to Texas with the family of W. M. Robinson. It was a long and difficult journey, and the party traversed the entire distance with wagons and teams, passing through Indian Territory. They located at what later became Lisbon, a few miles south of Dallas....”

It seems likely this is where W. M. Robinson lived before moving to Tarrant County. When he registered to vote in 1869, he indicated he had lived in Texas about two years before he settled in Tarrant County.

[New information appears in blue.]

Several references to Mr. and Mrs. Robinson appear in the Diary of Jonathan Hamilton Baker (1832-1918), who taught school in Tarrant County in 1858: These excerpts appeared in [Footprints](#) and were shared with us by a Robinson descendant, Jo Ann Rowley-Minhoto.

"Wed. June 2: 23 pupils today. Started a class in arithmetic. Behavior better. I am boarding with William M. Robinson 1/2 mile from school. He appears to be a very clever and accommodating man and I also like the appearance of his wife. Board and washing to cost me \$8.00 per month."

"Sat. June 5: Spent most of the day writing letters to my friends. At intervals I attended to some fishhooks and caught several very fine "cats." The day has been pleasantly cool. Mr. Robinson finished stacking his wheat, and I am told that people in the neighborhood are threshing out their wheat. Wheat did well in this section and there is a large surplus this year. Corn is in silk and tassel and looks fine."

"Sun. June 13: After my regular morning lessons I rode on the prairie with Mr. Robinson until about 1 o'clock. In the afternoon I went to Birdville to church, and heard Parson Scruggs hold forth upon various points of doctrine."

"Thurs. June 17: 30 in school today and on the whole everything passed off quite well. My cold still quite bad. In the evening I helped Robinson rob 2 bee trees. Found them very rich. The bees were ill and stung us several times."

"Fri. Aug 6: I took a walk of about a mile this morning out on the prairie east of Birdville. On my return I found breakfast ready and ate with a good appetite." [It must have been Ann who made the breakfast, as they had no servants nor slaves.]

W. M. Robinson was thirty-eight years old when he enlisted for a one-year term in Captain Thomas G. Berry's Company, Sims' Regiment of Texas Volunteers. This company subsequently became Co. A, 9th Texas Cavalry, in which many other Northeast Tarrant County men also served. He was mustered into the Confederate service on October 14, 1861 at Camp Reeves. He had traveled one hundred fifty miles to the rendezvous, and presented himself for service riding a horse worth one hundred fifty dollars and with equipment worth twenty dollars. On the last day of the year he was with the regiment at Fort Gibson, in present-day Oklahoma. At some time in March through June 1862 he was sick in camp, and at some point in July or August of the same year he was confined in a hospital. He was discharged on the first anniversary of his enlistment, October 14, 1862. He later served for a time in Co. A, 20th Brigade Texas State Militia. On a report dated at Camp Gano on January 24, 1864, Mr. Robinson was shown on a sick furlough for ten days, which began on January 18, 1864.

Robinson appears in the 1865 tax list of Tarrant County with the following real estate: one hundred ten acres of the Kitty (Catherine) House survey, one hundred twenty acres of the Washington Bradshaw survey, two hundred seventy acres of the J. Overton survey, three (or five) hundred acres of the J. Baugh survey, and one town lot in Fort Worth valued at six hundred seventy dollars. He also owned one hundred thirty cattle worth five hundred twenty dollars, and three horses worth ninety dollars. All the real estate lay in northeast Tarrant County except the town lot in Fort Worth

and the Baugh survey property. The Bradshaw and Overton surveys are adjacent to each other and lie east of the old Randol Mill site and north of the river, on land which is now undeveloped bottomland. The House survey is in the Euless area, with its northwest corner at about the intersection of Highway 10 and Pipeline Road [North].

Fort Worth businessman and promoter, K. M. Van Zandt (1836-1930), in his autobiography, Force Without Fanfare, mentioned his friend W. M. Robinson twice: “...*Many stories can be told of life in Fort Worth during the years we struggled to build a great city. Among the men were many who helped to build Fort Worth. I recall....Milt Robison... A small school was started prior to 1861, but it was discontinued during the War. The Masonic Lodge owned a building that had fallen into disuse, and we were told that we could use it as a school building if we would make the necessary repairs. With the help of Dr. C.M. Peak, W.H. Milure, and Milt Robison we raised seventy-five dollars and bought a load of flour, which we sent by ox wagon to East Texas where it was traded for materials to repair the Masonic Hall...*”

Mr. Robinson and his family appear in the 1870 census of Tarrant County's Precinct 1. Mrs. Ann Robinson said she was born in Kentucky. They had six children with them: Volney, Florida, Ermin, Francis M., Dolphus, and William W. Robinson. He was a stock raiser who in that year owned real estate valued at three thousand dollars and personal property worth six thousand dollars.

When the 1880 census was taken, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson and their son, Adolphus, were living in Somervell County, Texas in Precinct 4. Mr. Robinson was working as a cattle dealer, and his son was working as a laborer.

By the time Mrs. Ann Robinson died on April 14, 1888, the family had moved to Johnson County, Texas. Mrs. Robinson was buried in Cleburne Memorial Cemetery. Mr. Robinson did not apply for Confederate veterans' benefits from the State of Texas. He died in Fort Worth at his daughter's home on September 5, 1908. He was buried beside his wife in Cleburne. [Some family members are not sure that Mrs. Robinson died in Johnson County. They believe that she may have died in Eastland County or possibly some other location. There are no notations for either burial in the Find-A-Grave listing of Cleburne Memorial Cemetery.](#)

A short notice of his death appeared in the Dallas Morning News on September 8, 1908, “*Mortuary Report. Special to the News. Fort Worth, Tex. Sept. 7—William Robinson, aged 85 years, died Saturday at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Charles Lukes of Wheeler street. He is survived by six sons and daughters, Mrs. Flora Haley of Cleburne, Mrs. Frank LaCaste of Gainesville, Mrs. W. C. Turner and Mrs. Charles Lukes of Fort Worth, Dolphus Robinson of West Texas and Volney Robinson of El Paso. The remains were sent to Cleburne for interment.*”

Because Mrs. Robinson died before the taking of the 1900 census, we have no source to tell us the number of children she and Mr. Robinson had, nor how many of them survived until 1900. The following short paragraphs detail the lives of seven of the Robinson children whose names appear in the census records.

Medora Robinson was born in Tarrant County April 28, 1849. She died in Fort Worth at her daughter's home at 1729 Alston Avenue on October 31, 1935, and was buried at Gainesville, Texas. She married William Clayton Turner (1846-1920), who was himself a Confederate veteran. They were still living in Tarrant County when he applied for and was granted a pension; Medora Turner applied for her widow's pension from Cooke County, Texas. They lie buried there in Fairview Cemetery.

Volney Robinson was born in May 1852.. Family members at ancestry.com record several marriages for him: first to Josephine Nunn (one source says in Tarrant County on May 2, 1874 while a second source says in Johnson County on May 28, 1874; she died on or about August 16, 1881 in Fort Worth), second to Sallie Johnson in Johnson County on April 27, 1882; and third to Lena Roberta Briscoe about 1891. In 1880 he lived in Fort Worth where he was a saloon keeper. In 1883 he operated the El Paso Bar in downtown Fort Worth. In 1900 he lived at Marine in Tarrant County. In 1920 he lived at Hot Springs in Sierra County, New Mexico. He died in Fort Worth on February 5, 1925, and lies buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

Florida Robinson was born about 1853.. She was still alive with the family in 1870. She may be the Flora Haley mentioned in her father's obituary.

Ermine R. Robinson was born January 14, 1856. She married Charles Louck. She died February 15, 1927 in Fort Worth, and was buried in Cleburne Memorial Cemetery in Johnson County.

Frances M. Robinson was born July 5, 1857. She was married to a Mr. Patrick. In 1920 she and her widowed daughter, Mrs. F. P. Reagan, lived together in the Polytechnic section of Fort Worth; their house number was 800 but the name of the street is not readable in the census microfilm. In 1930 she was a widow living with the Paul E. Rast family in Fort Worth at 2563 University Avenue. She died in Fort Worth, Texas on December 13, 1936, and was buried in Cleburne Memorial Cemetery.

Dolphus Robinson was born January 4, 1859. He worked for many years as a cattle inspector. He died at Dalhart, Dallam County, Texas on December 30, 1932.

William W. Robinson was born about 1861. He was still alive with the family in 1870.