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Rob Yoder, County Coordinator

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Samuel P. Shaffer

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Samuel P. Shaffer was a native Virginian who served the Confederacy in a Texas artillery unit. He arrived in northeast Tarrant County in the 1870's and probably remained here until some point in the 1890's. He later moved for a time to Henderson County before finally moving to Hamilton County where he died in 1906.

Samuel P. Shaffer was born December 9, 1839 in Washington County, Virginia. Family internet sources say he was a son of William Shaffer and his wife, Margaret, both of whom died in Morgan County, Tennessee. Some internet sources report his middle name as Parrott and Parriott.

Descendants report that on September 30, 1857 in Monroe County, Tennessee, Samuel Shaffer married Nancy Lorena Pendergrass, who was born February 23, 1840. Family sources say she was born in Cherokee County, North Carolina, and was a daughter of John A. Pendergrass (1816-1871) and his wife, Jane Lowrey (1816-1896), both of whom died in Crawford County, Arkansas.

By 1860 the Shaffers had settled in Fannin County, Texas. He and his wife and one daughter lived in Beat 4. They were farming but did not own their own real estate. They owned personal property worth two hundred dollars.

Mr. Shaffer served the Confederacy as an artilleryman in a Texas unit. No records of his service have survived in the National Archives, although some records of his brother's service have. Both his brother and a comrade, Jesse Stroud, made affidavits in 1903 attesting to Mr. Shaffer's service in Howell's Texas Battery. It was also known as the 11th Field Battery, Texas Light Artillery (Howell's Company).

Howell's Battery was organized during the spring of 1862. The unit primarily served in the Indian Territory attached to the Trans-Mississippi Department. It reported two casualties at Newtonia, Missouri on September 30, 1862 and twenty-two at Old Fort Wayne in present-day Delaware County, Oklahoma on October 22, 1862. In December, 1863 about seventy-five effectives were

present. Later the company was assigned to the 6th Artillery Battalion and ended the war at Doaksville in southeast Oklahoma in June, 1865. Its commander was Captain Sylvanus Howell.

In 1870 the family still lived in Fannin County, in Precinct 4 in an area served by the post office at Honey Grove, Texas. Samuel was farming and owned three hundred dollars worth of personal property. Two children were with them: Amanda and William.

The census taker found the Shaffer family in Precinct 3 of Tarrant County in 1880, in the part of the precinct south of Big Bear Creek. The fact that they buried some of their children in Calloway Cemetery in Euless would seem to suggest they lived in that area. In that year they had five of their children living with them: Margaret, Nola E., Fannie, Lennie, and Joseph Shaffer.

Samuel Shaffer appears in the 1880 Tarrant county agricultural census. He owned a farm consisting of nineteen acres of cultivated ground and one hundred acres of unimproved land, not in woodlands. He estimated the value of his farm at seven hundred dollars and of his farming implements at thirty-three dollars. He owned livestock valued at eight hundred seventy-five dollars. He estimated the value of his farm production in 1879 at one hundred ten dollars. He owned five horses, thirty milk cows, and seventy cattle of other classes. Twenty calves had been dropped on his place in the past year, and he had purchased four cattle. Five head had died, strayed, or otherwise been lost. He estimated he had made one hundred pounds of butter in the past year. He owned forty barnyard fowl, which had produced one hundred dozen eggs in 1879. He had five acres in Indian corn which had produced one hundred twenty-five bushels. His ten acres of wheat had made one hundred bushels. He had a four-acre cotton patch which made one bale.

By 1900 the Shaffers had settled in Precinct 1 of Henderson County, Texas. Three of their children were with them: Joseph, Franklin, and Daniel Shaffer. Mrs. Shaffer may have misunderstood the census taker's question about the number of children she'd borne, because she said she had given birth to only three, all of whom were still living.

Mr. Shaffer applied for a Confederate veterans' pension in 1903. He lived at Athens in Henderson County, Texas at the time, and said he had been at that address about eight years. He said he was feeble, and suffered from a rupture and chronic hemorrhoids. He said he enlisted in the Confederate service in April 1862, and served about three years in Howell's artillery battery in Albert G. Pike's command. His property when he applied for the pension consisted of two cattle and two horses, worth a combined total of one hundred dollars.

Two men made affidavits in support of Mr. Shaffer's service. One of them, Jesse Stroud, had been his neighbor in both Fannin and Tarrant Counties. When the affidavit was made Mr. Stroud lived at Carlton in Hamilton County, Texas. Within a short time Mr. Shaffer and his wife moved there. Mr. Stroud said he first knew Mr. Shaffer "...in the army in the Ind Terr. I was in Howell's Artillery and served with him from 1863 to close of war."

Samuel P. Shaffer's brother, W. J. Shaffer, said he had known Samuel since Samuel's infancy in Virginia. He said they (Samuel, W. J., and Jesse Stroud) had enlisted in Fannin County and had served a little over three years.

Dr. Percy Larkin, M.D. of Hamilton County examined Mr. Shaffer and said, "He is suffering from piles & he is also ruptured on one side."

Samuel P. Shaffer died on October 5, 1906 at Carlton, Hamilton County, Texas. Mrs. Nancy L. Shaffer died August 25, 1909 at the same place. Both lie buried with readable headstones in Carlton Cemetery.

Mrs. Nancy L. Shaffer of Hamilton, Hamilton County, Texas applied for a Confederate widow's pension in 1907. She said she and her husband had moved to Hamilton County in December 1905. She gave their marriage date as October 1857. She said her husband was discharged April 29, 1865.

Obtaining a complete list of the children of Samuel P. Shaffer has been problematic. Family sources at ancestry.com do not agree in some cases with the documentary evidence.

Family sources report a son named William Elcaney Shaffer, born in Lamar County, Texas on October 5, 1857 and who died in 1868. He does not appear with the family in the 1860 census.

The 1860 Fannin County census shows the couple with only one child, "Marget M." and the child is clearly shown as a female. Family sources report a son named Morgan Shaffer, who was born November 25, 1859 and who died October 11, 1866 in Fannin County, Texas. He does not appear in the census with them.

Margaret Shaffer was born about 1859. She was the only child with the family in the 1860 census of Fannin County, Texas but she does not appear with them in the 1870 census. There was a Margaret Shaffer in the family in 1880, but she was only ten years old.

Amanda L. Shaffer was born September 28, 1861. She has a broken headstone in Calloway Cemetery in Eules, Texas. She married Joseph J. Neier (1845-1923), a native of Switzerland, about 1880. The remnant of her headstone shows that she died March between the 20th and 29th of March, inclusive, at some date during the 1880's. Family sources say she died March 28, 1884. Her headstone names her as the daughter of S. P. and N. L. Shaffer. Mr. Neier was remarried in Tarrant County on November 19, 1884.

William Shaffer was born about 1866. He was with the family with the census was taken in Tarrant County in 1870, but was absent in 1880. There is no readable headstone for him in northeast Tarrant County.

Margaret Shaffer was born about 1870. When Calloway Cemetery was inventoried in 1956, a stone for "Magie Guill" Shaffer was found. No dates were recorded for it in the inventory. It was not located when the cemetery was surveyed in 1980. Family sources report that her name was Margaret W. Shaffer, that she was born in 1870, and that she died March 28, 1884...the same date as that reported for her sister, Amanda.

Nola E. Shaffer was born about 1872. When Calloway Cemetery was inventoried in 1956, a stone for "Nalie" Shaffer was found. No dates were recorded for it in the inventory. It was not located when the cemetery was surveyed in 1980. Family sources report her birth date as September 28, 1872 and her death date as 1890.

Fannie Belle Shaffer was born March 13, 1874. She married Thomas H. Stroud (1875-1936). She died at her home at Route 6, Dublin, Texas at 7:15 p.m. on August 22, 1945, and was buried in Cottonwood Cemetery at Dublin.

Lennie Ellen Edge was born February 1, 1877...in Tarrant County according to her death certificate. She married John W. Edge (1879-1971). Her last permanent address was 703 Sheridan Street in Dublin. She died in the Dublin Hospital in Erath County, Texas at 11:55 p.m. on January 29, 1970. She was buried in Cottonwood Cemetery.

Joseph Harrison Shaffer was born December 29, 1879. He married Fredonia Bell Gentry (1879-1955). He lived at Dublin when he registered for the draft in 1918. He died January 13, 1946 in Wichita Falls, Texas, and was buried in Burkburnett Cemetery. His death certificate says his father was born in Washington County, Virginia.

Benjamin Franklin Shaffer was born March 16, 1881. He married Frances Cornelia Johnson (1882-1962). He worked for many years in the produce business. He died at his home at Route 4, Tyler, Smith County, Texas at 2 a.m. on June 29, 1943. He was buried in Pleasant Retreat Cemetery.

Daniel Ambrose "Doc" Shaffer was born July 10, 1884. About 1906 he was married to Leona Walker. He married Della M. Price in Denton County, Texas on July 20, 1916. In 1930 he and his wife lived at Dexter, Chaves County, New Mexico. He died in Wichita Falls, Texas on April 16, 1946 and was buried there in Hillcrest Cemetery.

When Calloway Cemetery was inventoried in 1956 a stone for "Porter" Shaffer was found. No dates were recorded for it in the inventory. It was not located when the cemetery was surveyed in 1980. Family sources report a daughter named Elizabeth Porter Shaffer, who was born February 16, 1888 and who died in 1891.

