



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Jeremiah Fields Sherwood

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Jeremiah Fields Sherwood was a native of Indiana who came to Texas with his parents in 1847. He served in a Texas cavalry unit and became a well-known Methodist minister in northeast Texas. He was posted by the Methodist church at Grapevine for a time during the 1880's, and buried a child in Grapevine Cemetery. He died in a Dallas hospital in 1931 and lies buried in Kaufman County.

Jeremiah Fields Sherwood was born July 9, 1842. Mr. Sherwood himself wrote that he was born in Washington County, Indiana, and his obituary gives the location as Live Walnuts, Indiana, twenty-five miles from Louisville, Kentucky. He was the son of Rev. Jeremiah Sherwood (1802-1867) and his wife, Sarah Elrod (1802-1867), both of whom are buried in Mount Zion Cemetery in Rockwall, Rockwall County, Texas. The area in which they lived and are buried was a part of Kaufman County until Rockwall County's creation in 1873.

The 1850 census taker found the family living in Kaufman County, Texas, where Jeremiah Sherwood, Sr. was a Methodist preacher. Jeremiah F. Sherwood was eight years old, and was the youngest of six children in the family at that time. The family did not own any real estate in 1850.

In 1860, the Sherwood family is found in Kaufman County in the area served by the post office at Rock Wall, Texas. Jeremiah F. Sherwood was seventeen years old and was the only one of his siblings still living with his parents. He was working as a farm laborer. His father was still a Methodist preacher.

J. F. Sherwood married Mary Ann Rogers on November 21, 1861. She was born in Jackson County, Tennessee on January 18, 1845, according to her death certificate. She was a daughter of Joseph B. Rogers (1813-1880) and his wife, Nancy (Brooks) Rogers (1815-1898), who came from Tennessee to Texas about 1851. The Rogerses were living in Collin County, Texas when the 1860 census was taken. The family owned one slave in that year. Joseph and Nancy Rogers lie buried in Bethel Cemetery at Frisco in Collin County.

Mr. Sherwood served the Confederacy in Co. I, Martin's Regiment, 15th Texas Cavalry. No trace of his service has survived in the National Archives, but comrades with whom he served made affidavits in support of his pension claim and the pension was granted.

The census taker in 1870 found Jeremiah F. Sherwood and his family living in Precinct 1 of Collin County, Texas, in the area served by the post office at McKinney. Mr. Sherwood was farming on land he owned which was worth one thousand eight hundred dollars, and he owned personal property worth six hundred fifty dollars. They had three children with them in that year: Fannie, Leonidas, and Joseph Sherwood.

The family lived in Precinct 2 in Hopkins County, Texas when the next census was taken in 1880. Mr. Sherwood listed his occupation as a minister. They had five children with them in 1880: Fannie, Lee, Joe, Earnest, and Locky Sherwood.

The 1870's, 1880's, and 1890's were decades of constant moving for the Sherwoods as he was assigned to many locations in Texas and Oklahoma. A complete list of them appeared in Rev. Sherwood's 1931 obituary in the Dallas Morning News. He lived at Grapevine in Tarrant County at the time his son, Ernest, died on March 13, 1886. Mr. Sherwood's name appears in the Tarrant County tax listings of tax paid on personal property in that year.

The census taker in 1900 found the family at Wynnewood, in the Choctaw Nation of the Indian Territory, in present-day Oklahoma, in Township 2, North Range 1, East. Rev. and Mrs. Sherwood had only one child with them: Nannie N. Sherwood, who was born in Texas in May 1887. Mrs. Sherwood said she had given birth to eleven children, only four of whom were still living.

When the 1910 census was taken Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood lived alone in Precinct 1 of Dallas County. According to a statement Mrs. Sherwood made, none of their children had died since the taking of the census ten years earlier. In that year, they lived in a rented home on Lemmon Avenue.

On August 18, 1911 while a resident of R.F.D. 5, Dallas, J. F. Sherwood applied for a Confederate pension. In that application, he said he had been at Dallas two years "the last time." For some reason this initial application was not granted, and in 1913 he applied again. By that time he was a resident of Terrell, Kaufman County. He said he was born in Washington County, Indiana on July 9, 1842. He said he came to Texas in 1847 and had resided in the state since that time except for seven years he lived in Oklahoma. He said he had returned to Texas permanently prior to January 1, 1900. He had been living at Terrell, Texas for eighteen months when he applied for his pension on July 28, 1913. He said he enlisted in Texas about December 1862 and served until the end of the War. He said he left the Army at Houston, Texas in the last part of May, 1865.

Mr. Sherwood's pension file contains a mortuary warrant which includes statements by the undertaker, T. W. Archer, and Dr. B. E. Park, the attending physician at the Dallas hospital.

In 1920 when the census was taken the Sherwoods lived in Terrell, Texas at 902 Lawrence Avenue. Their five-year-old grandson, Charles B. Parchman, was living with them. Mr. Sherwood attended the 1921 Confederate Veterans Reunion held at Mexia, Texas, a photograph of which appears on the Kaufman County Genweb site.

Mary Ann Sherwood died at her home at 902 Lawrence Avenue in Terrell at 7:55 a.m. on September 26, 1924. Her death was caused by a cerebral hemorrhage and arteriosclerosis. She was buried two days later in Oakland Cemetery at Terrell.

Rev. Sherwood's death certificate discloses that he died at 1:15 a.m. on March 2, 1931 at Dallas Methodist Hospital. The cause of death was listed as acute myocardial degeneration and failure with pellagra as a contributing factor. The certificate says Rev. Sherwood had lived in Dallas for about two years.

A lengthy tribute to Rev. Sherwood, complete with a photograph, appeared in the Dallas Morning News on March 3, 1931: ***“Oldest Methodist Pastor, Uncle Bud Sherwood, is Dead. Funeral to be held at Terrell for Veteran of Texas Pulpits. Uncle Bud Sherwood, the oldest Methodist pastor in Texas, is dead.***

Uncle Bud as the Rev. J. F. Sherwood, 89, was known, and beloved by thousands of his converts over the State, passed away at 7:15 a.m. Monday after a long illness at Dallas Methodist Hospital—an institution for which he raised funds and which has a room dedicated to Uncle Bud and Aunt Mary Sherwood.

Uncle Bud had spent many weeks on his cot at Methodist Hospital some time ago, suffering from pellagra.

‘It was caused by neglect of diet, by improper food,’ explained Dr. J. H. Grossclose, his friend for many years.

Pioneer, Civil War soldier, frontier farmer, and the circuit-riding prophet of Methodist evangelism, he gave little heed during his many years of preaching the gospel to what he ate, what he wore, or where he slept.

Bares Suffering With Smile. His suffering was borne with a smile, and though very deaf, he always appeared glad to have visitors. When he knew the end was coming, he smiled, and said ‘I want to go home!’

He loved to talk of his wife, Aunt Mary, who was his companion for sixty-three years before she died in 1924, at their little cottage home in Terrell.

‘Let me tell you how that sweet woman went,’ he said one day. ‘She had been suffering for many weeks. Then just a few days before she died, she got easy and lay there in a sort of sweet sleep. I was sitting beside the bed one day when she opened her eyes laughing. She seemed to be saying something so low I couldn’t hear. I asked the nurse what she was saying. She told me Aunt Mary was singing an old hymn, You Can Have All the World, but Give Me Jesus, Give Me Jesus. And she closed her eyes, smiling like that, and never opened them again.’

It was the song, he said, that she had sung at so many of his revival services, where she always led the singing, in the old days of circuit riding and preaching.

Celebrated Sixtieth Wedding. On Nov. 21, 1921, Uncle Bud and Aunt Mary celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary at their home in Terrell. A special service in their honor was held in the First Methodist Church and they received many presents. Twelve of their most intimate friends presented them with a purse of gold. In 1912, when Mr. Sherwood assumed the superannuate relation, their friends presented them with the little cottage in Terrell for their home.

Mr. Sherwood was born July 9, 1842 at Live Walnuts, Ind., twenty-five miles from Louisville, Ky. His father moved the family to Texas in the spring of 1847, going by steamboat down the Mississippi to New Orleans and by steamboat from there to Shreveport. Thence the family journey in a covered wagon to Kingsborough Fort, where Kaufman now stands. They lived there until 1859, when they moved to Dallas.

Mr. Sherwood's father owned a farm along the bank of the Trinity River, which included the block of land north of where the Union Terminal now stands. His father conducted an implement store for a number of years at the location now known as the Kahn corner. His two brothers built the Dallas City Mill, an old-time waterwheel flour mill, on the eastern bank of the Trinity River, near where the Dallas approach of the viaduct is now. The aged minister chuckled as he observed that few people would believe now that the channel of the Trinity River has shifted westward several hundred yards, in the fifty years that have passed since his brothers built their flour mill, to grind the corn and wheat for the sprawling village of Dallas, beside the Trinity River.

Recalls Old French Town. And the modern city of skyscraper that is Dallas would hardly believe, said he, that fifty years ago there wasn't a house west of the Trinity until one reached French Town, ten miles west of Dallas. He pointed out the window of the Methodist Hospital to fast-growing Oak Cliff. French Town is now forgotten, except to a few old residents who remember where it used to be.

There was no church in Dallas in those early days Mr. Sherwood recalled, and for several years after the family reached Dallas, a general worship was conducted in the Tannehill Lodge Masonic Hall, located in the second story of a frame building several blocks north of the site of the present court house.

In 1861, the first year of the Civil War, Uncle Bud and Aunt Mary, then Miss Mary Rogers of Collin County, were married. Their first housekeeping was in a little house on his father's farm, north of the site of the present Union Terminal.

A few months after their marriage, Uncle Bud and his two brothers enlisted in the Confederate Army. He served in Carpenter's company, from Collin County, a unit of Morton's Regiment in Gueneau's Brigade. He saw service during the war in the states west of the Mississippi. He came through the war 'without a scratch' although his horse was shot down under him during the battle of Cabin Creek, in Northern Arkansas. The preacher-veteran laughingly recalled that he caught a stray Missouri mule and rode him away from the battleground.

Farmed in Collin County. After the war in 1868, Uncle Bud and Aunt Mary, with their family, now grown to two children, moved to Collin County and he farmed there for three years.

'I had thought all my life that I should preach, so, in 1870, I entered the Methodist conference in Collin County and began preaching,' he said simply.

Here again, in his story, recurred that note of unselfishness that predominated throughout his life: His first year's salary, he said, amounted to \$335, paid in corn, potatoes, pumpkins, and wheat.

'But, I never thought of the salary,' he protested, when it was remarked that this was a scant salary for a wife and two children to care for.

'The great need of the world today is the gospel, as Christ preached it,' he said fervidly.

The world is growing worse, apparently, he said. Satan has all the forces of evil at work trying to overthrow the kingdom of Heaven. The venerable revivalist remarked the present time as the 'latter days' mentioned in the Bible prophecy, when it would be predicted there would be 'wonders in Heaven and Earth.'

'Autos, Radio, Planes!' 'Fifty years ago," he exclaimed, 'who would have believed that today we would have automobiles, airplanes flying through the Heavens? And who would have thought of the radio?'

That the world is growing worse, is demonstrated by the fact that 'No such unthinkable crimes were widespread fifty years ago as those of which we read every day now in the newspapers.' But there was no alarm in his manner as the aged man remarked of this. 'The prophecies are being fulfilled and God will triumph.'

Altogether in his nearly sixty years, he held nine pastorates and nine parsonages.

He began as a circuit-riding preacher near Greenville, then a little village in the black mud as he described it. His first preaching was at Caddo Mission, where he worked two years. Then he transferred to Lone Oak circuit, preaching there three years. Next he was sent to Sulphur Springs, spending four years there. Centerville College was founded in Sulphur Springs while he was preaching there. He recalled proudly that Dr. W.D. Bradfield was licensed to preach under his ministry.

Pastorates Served. Following the traditional Methodist policy of transferring ministers, Uncle Bud served successively at Kellerville, returning to Sulphur Springs to spend ten years, then went to Grapevine, served in Red River County, in Norman, Ok., was presiding elder in the Wynnewood district of Oklahoma three years, preached in Durant, Ok., two years, was sent to Quinlan, then to Bailey, Fannin County; later was transferred to Paris, then came to Cochran's Chapel in North Dallas for two years, and last served at College Mound near Terrell. He entered the superannuate relation in 1912 because of failing health.

Friends of the veteran minister and his wife having presented them with a cottage home in Terrell, there they passed their remainder of their days.

Pressed to estimate the number of converts he had made, Mr. Sherwood first insisted that would be 'boasting' but finally admitted that he had received more than 5,000 members into the Methodist church and believed there must have been fully that many more who were converted under his ministry but who entered other churches.

Of the eleven children born to Mr. Sherwood and his wife, three are living, two daughters, Mrs. W.F. Edmondson of Brownsville, Mrs. Fannie Chambers of San Francisco, and a son, Lee E. Sherwood of Kansas, City., Mo. Surviving also are two granddaughters, Mrs. F. L. Eggrer of Olustee, Ok., and Miss May Parchman, student of the North Texas State Teachers College, Denton; a grandson Charles Brooks Parchman of Port Arthur. M. B. Sherwood, Conference teller of the North Texas annual conference is a nephew.

Funeral Thursday. Funeral services will be held at 4 p.m. Thursday at the Methodist Church at Terrell. The body probably will be taken overland to Terrell Thursday morning. The Rev. W. L. Tittle, pastor of the First Methodist Church at Denton, will officiate, assisted by a number of preachers who were converted under the ministry of Mr. Sherwood and others with whom he was associated intimately.

Among the active and honorary pallbearers will be Sam P. Cochran, Dr. W. D. Bradfield of Southern Methodist University, the Rev. T. J. Beckham, Joe M. Worsham, all of Dallas; Prof. Sam P. King of Sulphur Springs; H. A. Ables, C. Y. Horn, and Lynn Allen of Terrell; the Rev. George F. French, presiding elder of the Denton district; Dr. Groseclose of Dallas Methodist Hospital, the Rev. B. H. Webster of Dallas, A. P. Rogers of Frisco, The Rev. J. A. Old of Terrell and the Rev. W. T. Whiteside, presiding elder of the Greenville district, will also take part."

A shorter death notice appeared in the same newspaper on March 5. It named only two children: Lee Sherwood of Kansas City, and Mrs. W.F. Edmonson of San Benito, Texas. It also added the fact that the Archer-Cox Funeral Home was in charge of the services.

It has been difficult to compile a list of Rev. Sherwood's children, given that so many of them died young and between the census years. The 1890 federal census, which was destroyed by fire, might also have furnished the names of one or more of their children. This is also complicated by the facts that the family moved so often and that at least seven of the children died before the vital statistics registry law was passed in Texas. No obituaries for any of Rev. Sherwood's children appeared in the Dallas Morning News in the period 1885-1931. No Texas death certificates of any persons who may have been his children have enough information on them to positively identify them as his children. The following list accounts for ten of the eleven.

Fannie Sherwood was born, according to family sources at ancestry.com, on January 9, 1862. They report she married John Green Chambers (1861-1909). She died in Tulare County, California on October 24, 1957. Her father's 1931 obituary states she was then living in San Francisco. California death records shown her name as Fannie Fields Chambers and report her dates as January 11, 1863 and October 24, 1957.

Leonidas E. Sherwood was born in March 1865. About 1887 he and his wife, Louisa Belle, were married. In 1900 he and his family lived in Fannin County, Texas, where he was a dry goods

salesman. In 1920 he and his wife, Louisa B. Sherwood, were living with their family in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, where he worked as a traveling salesman. He was living in St. Louis in 1931, according to his father's obituary. One source at ancestry.com reports his name as Lee Alonza Sherwood and his birth as March 1, 1865.

Family sources at ancestry.com report the birth of a son, John Sherwood, on January 5, 1867.

Joseph Sherwood was born about 1868. He was still with the family when the census was taken in 1880. Family sources report that he married Mattie P. Lyster (1871-1929) and had at least two children. There is a headstone in the IOOF Cemetery in Norman, Cleveland County, Oklahoma for one Joseph W. Sherwood who may be this son. The stone records a birth date of February 18, 1868 and a death date of August 15, 1897. Rev. Sherwood's obituary records the fact that he spent some time working at Norman, Oklahoma, and his pension application indicates that his time in Oklahoma was prior to 1900. Mattie (Lyster) Sherwood, a widow, was in Hopkins County, Texas with her parents and her two children when the 1900 census was taken.

Family internet sources report a daughter named Effie E. Sherwood, who was born December 29, 1873 and died July 14, 1878.

Earnest E. Sherwood was born January 19, 1875. He died on March 13, 1886 while his father was working with the Methodist church in Grapevine, Tarrant County, Texas. He has a readable...but quickly eroding...headstone in Grapevine Cemetery.

Lochie Virginia Sherwood appears in records at ancestry.com with a birth date of January 9, 1878. She married William Fleming Edmondson (1876-1942). They lived for many years in Red River County, Texas. She died September 18, 1962 in Los Angeles, California. One internet source reports her name as Lecitie Virginia. California vital statistics records show her birth date as September 1, 1878, and her name as Lochie V. Edmondson.

Nannie Nelson Sherwood was born in May 1887, according to the 1900 census. Some internet family sources say she was born May 27, 1886. She married Charles Bradford Parchman (1879-1936), and died about 1919 in Texas. Mr. Parchman appears in the 1920 census of Red River County with a wife named Lillie.

One internet source also reports two other daughters, Lena Mamie Sherwood and Mary Loving Sherwood, without suggesting any dates for their births or deaths. To this source's credit, it was the only one who included the son Ernest who was buried in Grapevine Cemetery, though they were not aware of his death date or place.