



# TARRANT COUNTY

## TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### John D. Starr

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John D. Starr was a Confederate veteran who lived at Grapevine when the War began. He was a son of Grapevine pioneer Daniel Starr (born 1813) and his wife, Angeline (Levicee) Starr (born 1812). John was born in Monroe County, Illinois on January 14, 1845. When the Grapevine Area History was published in 1979, it contained an article about Rev. Daniel Starr and his family, researched and written by Vonnie Looper Munnerlyn. It said, in part: “...*Stories of the vast prairie of Texas must have attracted the Starrs. In about 1854 they loaded their wagon and headed south, southwest, unloading for the last time in Grapevine. Soon came their last child, Rachael Angeline, Oct. 27, 1855...*”

John D. Starr served the Confederacy as a private in Co. A, 34<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry, as did many other northeast Tarrant County men. His service records in the National Archives in Washington show he enlisted On October 3, 1862 at Newtonia, Missouri under M. W. Deavenport for a term of three years. He was shown present on a company muster roll for February 28-June 30, 1863, he had not yet been paid his bounty for enlistment. He became sick and was left in a convalescent camp near Alexander, Louisiana on September 25, 1863.

He was captured in battle at Yellow Bayou, Louisiana on May 18, 1864, and was received as a prisoner at New Orleans on May 21. He was still there when a roll of the prisoners was made on July 7. On July 22, 1864, he was sent to the mouth of the Red River and was officially exchanged there. He was on detached service after March 1, 1865.

An original discharge remains in his file. It says he originally joined the company at the age of seventeen at Grapevine, Texas on January 15, 1862, and traveled from there to the regimental rendezvous at Fort Washita in the Cherokee Nation. He was six feet tall, hard dark hair, dark eyes, and a dark complexion.

Family sources in Grapevine knew that John D. Starr was married at least twice; first to Mary Jane Edwards, and second to Mary E. Coots.

John's family appears in the 1870 census of Tarrant County. With him in that year were his wife, S. Starr (born about in Missouri), his daughter Annie L. Starr (born about 1864), and his daughter N. E. Starr (born about 1868).

When the 1880 census was taken, John D. Starr and his family were living at Grapevine. Included in his family were his wife, Mary E. Starr (born about 1861 in Texas); Anna L. Starr (a daughter, born about 1866); Nancy E. Starr (a daughter, born about 1868); and Daniel N. Starr (a three-day-old son born in February of 1880 whose name has been marked through). It is obvious that John D. Starr had a previous marriage.

Before the turn of the century, John D. Starr and his family moved to Oklahoma. When the 1900 census was taken, John D. Starr's one-year-old son, Luther S. Starr, was living with the family of F. M. and E. V. McCracken(?) in Pike County, Arkansas. Luther's birth date is shown as August, 1898. This circumstance seems to suggest that Luther's mother may have died at or soon after his birth.

The 1910 census taker found John D. Starr and his family in District 182 of Township 4, McCurtain County, Oklahoma. Mr. Starr told the census taker he had been married four times, and Mrs. Fannie Starr said she had been married thrice. Mrs. Starr said she had given birth to only one child, and that one child was still living. Also living with them were three of Mr. Starr's children: Luther Starr (born about 1899 in Oklahoma); Dean Starr (born about 1891 or 1893 in Oklahoma); and a married daughter, Maude A. Long (born about 1883 in Arkansas). It may be that Maude Long was in fact Fannie Starr's child, and not John D. Starr's.

Mr. Starr applied for a Confederate pension on July 22, 1915 while a resident of Garvin, McCurtain County, Oklahoma. An old comrade in Co. A, Norvel J. Granberry, made an affidavit for him in support of his pension application. Starr said he was dismounted at Van Buren, Arkansas in 1862, and at war's end was a member of Co. A, 18<sup>th</sup> Dismounted Texas Cavalry. He and his wife are buried in Forest Hill Cemetery in McCurtain County, Oklahoma, west of Idabel and south of Garvin. The internet transcription of this cemetery shows his birth and death dates as January 14, 1845 and September 23, 1911. Fannie S. Starr's dates are September 25, 1861 and October 15, 1953.

Fannie Starr's pension file indicates that he died September 23, 1917 near Idabel in McCurtain County, Oklahoma.

His widow, Fannie Starr, applied to Oklahoma for a Confederate pension early in 1918. She said she was 54 years old, a native of Nashville, Arkansas, and that she married John D. Starr at Nashville on May 18, 1904. Her application is very hard to read on the negative microfilm.



The older lady seated on the porch is Angeline Starr, the mother of soldiers John D. and William N. Starr. She is shown seated with her younger son, Barton H. Starr, who was Grapevine's first mayor. This old home, located on West Wall Street in Grapevine, stood until the 1990's.