



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

James William Terrill

Compiled by Michael Patterson
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James William Terrill was native of Missouri. He settled in northeast Tarrant County before the War, and had extensive family connections here. He served in a local cavalry unit, and eventually became captain of his company. He led a distinguished life after the war, working as a teacher and minister. He fathered a large family of teachers and scholars; one of his sons was Valedictorian of Yale in 1903. Extensive research has been done on his family, and much material has been placed online. This compiler knew one of his daughters-in-law and worked on historical projects with her.



James William Terrill
during wartime

Much of the family information in this biography was taken from the excellent Terrill family website to be found online at <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wayland/terrill/pafg09.htm> That

compiler noted that “In August of 1995, I received a letter from a descendant, Jean Terrill Thurman Baker of 361 Iliaina Street, Kailua, Hawaii 96734. She enclosed a photograph of this family and the 11 children who had been born at the time of the photo. I have corrected the information I have on this family to agree with hers as she is more knowledgeable on the line.”

James William Terrill was born in Randolph County, Missouri about 1837. He was a son of Rev. Benjamin Terrill (1811-1877) and his second wife, Delila Smith Crisler (1816-1883). Benjamin Terrill was a widely-known Missionary Baptist preacher. The family was very prominent in the area around Moberly, Missouri.

James' father, Benjamin Terrill, wrote in 1870 of the family's move from Kentucky to Missouri: *“...When 21, I was married to Frances M. Bishop, who was called to rest from toil and care two years later. On the second day of June, 1836, I was united in marriage to Delilah S. Crisler of Boone County, Kentucky. The fall (?) of the same year we immigrated to Missouri, in the*

company of two other brothers, James and Elder Jesse Terrill, and settled near the present site of Moberly. At the time, the closest church was Mt. Ararat in Howard County. Our first membership was with that church. Afterwards we went into the organization of the church at Huntsville.”

When the 1850 census was taken, James was living with his parents and siblings in Prairie Township of Randolph County, Missouri. James was thirteen years old.

In 1860, James' parents, Benjamin and Delila Terrill, joined the Bear Creek Baptist Church in present-day Euless; they joined by letter from Sweet Spring Church in Randolph County, Missouri. Later, they returned to Missouri. Tax records in Tarrant County, Texas say that in 1860 Benjamin owned two hundred seventeen acres of the James Rogers survey, worth one thousand three hundred dollars. James Terrill appears in the tax list with no real estate. There is no James Rogers survey in northeast Tarrant County; this may be another case of a survey being mistakenly referred to by the name of an owner subsequent to the patentee or grantee of the original tract.

James W. Terrill enlisted in the Confederate service at Fort Worth on March 8, 1862 for a term of twelve months. He became a private in Captain Michael D. Kennedy's Company of the 15th Texas Cavalry. This company subsequently became Co. E. He was twenty-five years old. He presented himself for service riding a horse worth two hundred fifty dollars, and with equipment worth twenty dollars. He was mustered into the Confederate service at McKinney, Texas on March 10, 1862. He was elected to the rank of 2nd lieutenant on May 20, 1862. One muster roll contains the notation that he was "Returned to company for duty on October 25, 1862." By December 31, 1862 he was 1st lieutenant of the company.

Along with most of his regiment he was captured at Arkansas Post, Arkansas on January 11, 1863. He was forwarded from St. Louis, Missouri to Camp Chase, Ohio on January 27, 1863; he arrived at Camp Chase on January 30. At the time, he was described as five feet eight inches tall, twenty-six years old, with a dark complexion, dark eyes, and dark hair. He was transferred to Fort Delaware on April 10, 1863. He was paroled at Fort Delaware on April 25, and was forwarded to City Point on April 29 for exchange.

He became captain of Co. E on December 1, 1863, upon the resignation of W. O. Yantis, another of our veterans. On April 14, 1864, he was granted a furlough to return to Texas. He resigned his commission on August 31, 1864. His file contains an original signed copy of his resignation; it states the fact that the company at that time contained ten enlisted men and three commissioned officers. Terrill stated that he was a Missourian while the other two officers were Texans. He asked for permission to re-enlist as a private in Major General Price's command in the Trans-Mississippi Department. Terrill also said he was a Christian minister, and that he would be more able to function as one after the transfer. On February 17, 1865 he was admitted to the Way Hospital in Meridian, Mississippi for treatment of a wound. His file contains several signed requisitions and pay vouchers.

Mr. Terrill was married four times; each wife lost one child in infancy, but twelve of his children lived to adulthood. His first marriage, to Ariminta S. "Minta" Bradley took place on May 23, 1861 in Callaway County, Missouri. The marriage record there mentions the fact that he was a resident

of Tarrant County, Texas. Ariminta S. "Minta" Bradley was born about 1837 in Callaway Co., Missouri. She died in 1865 in Mexico, Randolph Co., Missouri.

After Arminta's death, Mr. Terrell was married in Callaway County, Missouri on April 30, 1867 to her sister, Elizabeth Martha Bradley. Elizabeth Martha Bradley was born about 1841. She died February 6, 1873 in Randolph Co., Missouri. A local obituary of Mrs. Bettie Terrill mentioned that she was wife of the President of Mt. Pleasant College, and that she was the daughter of Fountain Bradley of Callaway County.

Mr. Terrill and his family are found in the 1870 census in Salt Spring Township, Randolph County, Missouri. The census shows him to be President of Mount Pleasant College. Three of his children were with the family: Maud, Menta, and a five-month-old son who had not been named.

Mr. Terrill's third marriage was to Nancy Coleman "Colie" Hamilton, who was born March 4, 1852. They were married February 22, 1874 in Renick, Missouri. The notice of their marriage in the local newspaper mentioned that her husband was President of Mount Pleasant College and that they were married at the home of the bride's father, Dr. Thomas L. Hamilton, by Elder S. A. Beauchamp. She later taught at Winchester Normal School with him in Tennessee.

Mr. Terrill's fourth marriage was to Lily Mott Estill, with whom he had no children. She born May 22, 1855 in Franklin County, Tennessee, and was a teacher at Winchester Normal School, at which Mr. Terrill was President. Family sources at ancestry.com say she died in October, 1940, and was buried in the city cemetery at Winchester, Franklin County, Tennessee.

In the early summer of 1876 Mr. Terrill and his family left Missouri for their new home in Winchester, Tennessee, where he was to continue teaching. Two items appeared in the Moberly Daily Enterprise; one on February 23, 1876 said "Terrill, James -- President of Mt. Pleasant College, has sold his property in Huntsville & will remove to Winchester, Tennessee, Rev. S. A. Beauchamp succeeds him." A second appeared on June 21, 1876: "Terrill, J. W. -- & family, left Huntsville for their future home at Winchester, Tennessee, on Saturday last; "

Mr. Terrill and his family appear in the 1880 census in Winchester, Franklin County, Tennessee. His family included his wife, Colie Terrill, seven of his children, and a number of boarders. He was working as president of a normal school. A lengthy account of his life published in 1918 in the Dallas Morning News details his moves during the last part of his life.

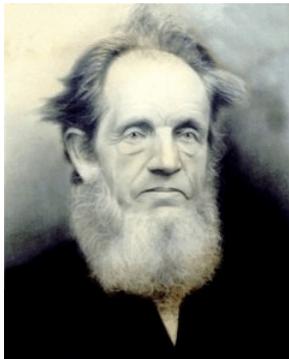
James W. Terrill's Texas death certificate indicates he died of apoplexy at 6:30 p.m. on February 11, 1918 at San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas. He was buried in Dallas, Texas in Oakland Cemetery in section 11, space 47. On March 31, 1939, his body was moved to Hillcrest Cemetery's mausoleum in another section of Dallas.

One of several notices of his death appeared in the Dallas Morning News, February 11, 1918: "**J.W. TERRILL, WELL KNOWN EDUCATOR, DIES. OCTOGENARIAN, CIVIL WAR VETERAN, AND FOUNDER OF THREE COLLEGES PASSES AWAY. Word has been received here of the death of James W. Terrill, well-known educator and Civil War veteran, at 6:30 o'clock last night**

at San Angelo, where he moved several years ago from Dallas on account of his health. Mr. Terrill was born in Randolph County, Missouri, in 1837. He first came to Texas at the beginning of the Civil War and served for four years as a Captain in the 4th Texas Cavalry, largely made up of Tarrant County men. After the war he returned to Missouri, where he was the founder and first president of Mount Pleasant College at Huntsville. About forty-two years ago he moved to Winchester, Tenn., becoming the head of the Winchester Normal School. Later he founded and was president of Terrill College at Dechard, Tenn. Many students of each of these schools are now located in Texas. Twelve years ago he retired from school work and located in Dallas to be near his son, M. B. Terrill, founder of the Terrill School. He resided here until his failing health necessitated the move to San Angelo. He received a severe wound in the Civil War, his left lung being shot entirely away, this contributing to the frailty of his constitution.”

On the following day, February 12, under “DEATHS IN DALLAS,” the following was printed: *“Terrill. The body of James W. Terrill, 81 years old, who died at San Angelo Sunday, will be received in Dallas this morning and funeral services will be held at the residence of M. B. Terrill, 4930 Swiss avenue, at 2:30 o’clock this afternoon. Burial will be in Oakland Cemetery.”*

A lengthy tribute to Mr. Terrill appeared in the Dallas Morning News on February 17, 1918: ***“LIFE SKETCH OF JAMES W. TERRILL. WAS PROMINENT AS EDUCATOR THROUGHOUT SOUTH. Took Lead In Movement for Prohibition in Tennessee When Forty Pupils Quit School Because of Stand.***



Rev. Benjamin Terrill

James William Terrill, the oldest of the six children of the Rev. Benjamin Terrill and Delilah Crisler Terrill, was born at Moberly, Mo., March 16, 1837. At about 20 years of age he removed with his parents to Texas, locating in Tarrant County near Grapevine, and at 21 he was ordained as a minister in the Baptist Church on Bear Creek. For fifty-four years he was as active in the ministry as his educational duties would allow. At the breaking out of the Civil War the family returned to Missouri, and Mr. Terrill was soon married to Araminta Bradley of Fulton. Bringing his wife to Texas and leaving her at the home of Jeff Estill, he went to Fort Worth and enlisted in the Confederate Army and was made Captain of Company E of the Fifteenth Texas Infantry. Roger Q. Mills being his regimental Colonel and Pat Cleburne his division General. Captain Terrill was known as a brave soldier, and at Atlanta he was wounded three times, his left lung being destroyed by a Minie ball. The reconstruction period, after the close of the War, he spent in Mexico, where his wife died. Believing that he could not long endure the wretched health and suffering due to the wound, he took his only child, a daughter, back to his old home in his native state, where, under the care and nursing of loved ones, his health improved and he soon became identified with the educational work of that section teaching his first school at Sweet Springs, Mo., where he attracted so much attention that he was elected to the presidency of Mount Pleasant College, Huntsville, Mo., a then famous Baptist institution. It was here that President Terrill—fir he was thus designated by all who knew him during that period of his life—first manifested that mental power and force and utter fearlessness in the part of the right in moral issues that made him afterward a leader among men in every community in

which he lived, until advanced aged undermined his vigor. President Terrill was given the honorary degree of M. A. by the University of his State.

Recognized as Able Teacher. To illustrate the position of importance attained by Mount Pleasant College during his presidency, the whole body of teachers, numbering several hundred, attending the State Normal at Kirksville, Mo, was brought by Dr. Joseph Baldwin, then its head and later professor of psychology in the State Normal, Huntsville, Texas, and the author of texts on school management and pedagogy, to witness the teaching of this man. The Dr. J. M. Greenwood, a long time the superintendent of schools of Kansas City, speaking to a body of men of that city in 1903, said that President Terrill was the ablest teacher and wielded the most powerful influence in the molding of character over his pupils that he had ever known.

Finding it necessary that he should remove to a warmer climate because of new trouble with his old wound, he located in Winchester, Tenn., without thought of again engaging in teaching. He brought with him a family of five children, three of whom—a son and two daughters—were born to his second wife, Bettie Bradley Terrill, whom death took from him while at Huntsville, and an infant daughter born to his third wife, Colie Hamilton Terrill. A great love for the profession of teaching drew him into the various teachers' institutes held in Franklin County and vicinity, where he was soon marked as a newcomer with ideas somewhat revolutionary in educational practices as it was then believed in thereabouts. A year in teaching a country school known as Centennial Academy, about five miles from Winchester, resulted in the leading educators of Middle Tennessee finding a path through the woods to this little academy and further resulted in such pressure being brought to bear that Mr. Terrill founded the Winchester Normal, where, during a period of eleven years under his leadership, thousands of young men and women from every Southern State—hundreds going from Texas—attended and were taught not only of books, but of the vital facts of manhood and womanhood. During this period he placed the stamp of his ideas and individuality upon all of the schools and that part of the State. [The Mount Pleasant College at which he taught burned to the ground on July 15, 1882].

Praised as Educator. A leading citizen of Middle Tennessee, writing in December, 1916, of the influence of his work said: 'The work of Mr. Terrill as an educator and temperance advocate has left an impression in Tennessee and adjacent States for the elevation and influence as a teacher still live and are helpful to many who may not know from whom they originated.'

But here also he inaugurated the pioneer work in behalf of prohibition in Tennessee. His first speech against the saloon resulted in the loss of forty pupils from his school on the following day. The county and town through generation after generation had been under the domination of the saloon and the fight to exterminate it was bitter. Mr. Terrill, recognized as the leader of this fight and warned that he would be killed if he did not desist, was shot at; his home was set afire, and he was hanged in effigy by his enemies. Assisted by other brave and true men of that historic little town e routed and kept out the saloon during the years he continued to reside there.

In order to procure satisfactory buildings and a suitable location on the main line of a railroad for the further development of his educational ideals he removed to Decherd, Tenn., in 1889 and founded the Terrill College, where he continued until 1903 with the same success and prominence the work he had carried on at Winchester. It is worth while mentioning as a further evidence of

the forced of the personality of the man, that of the twelve children—four sons and eight daughters—surviving him nine for considerable periods of their lives have been teachers.

Retired on Account of Health. Advancing age and health seemingly completely broken caused him to retire from his profession. His remaining years were a fight for the prolongation of life, and, removed from the public eye, he was for a time in California, in Kansas and in Dallas, in which last named place he will be remembered by the boys of the Terrill School of the first and second years as a man of a lovable and kindly nature, with now and then a faint glow of the fire of the soul within already smoldering to its ashes.

In 1908 he took up his residence in San Angelo and, together with his fourth wife, Mrs. Matt Estill Terrill, to whom he was married in 1896, became identified in 1911 with the Christian Church at that place. Partial paralysis fastened upon him in 1915 and he suffered another stroke in 1916. Thus weakened, his bodily strength gave way into complete collapse on Feb. 8 and on Feb. 10 he passed into the beyond.

Attending his funeral services, both in San Angelo and the following day in Dallas, there were many of his old pupils present, representing every school he had taught in life, to rise up and call him blessed and to tell the friends of his last years of the man of heart and brain he had been in the days of his strength.”

In his first marriage, Mr. Terrill was the father of at least two children, one of whom died young and the other was Minte Maude Terrill, who was born May 22, 1862 at Grapevine, Texas. She married John Morgan Hopkins, with whom she had no children. She died in 1950 in Kaswick, Virginia. Family sources at ancestry.com say the child in this first marriage who died young was named James William Terrill, Jr., and that he was born and died in 1863.

In his second marriage, Mr. Terrill was the father of at least four children, one of whom died young. The three surviving children were Menter Bradley Terrill, Alma Terrill, and Laura Clayton Terrill.

Menter Bradley Terrill was born February 11, 1868. Nicknamed "Brother," he was Valedictorian of the Yale College Class of 1903, and a biographical sketch appears in the History of the Class of 1903 Yale College. He died at his home in Dallas at 4936 Live Oak Street on February 24, 1931, and was buried in Oakland Cemetery. An extensive obituary for M. B. Terrill was printed in the Dallas Morning News on February 25, 1931; the next day a more traditional death notice appeared which gave extensive information about the locations of his siblings and other family members. Because of the unusual amount of useful material contained in Mr. Terrill's death notice in the Dallas Morning News on February 26, 1931, it is here reproduced in full: ***“Terrill, M. B., age 63 years, died Tuesday morning at his home, 4936 Live Oak. Survived by his wife, Mrs. M. B. Terrill; mother, Mrs. J. W. Terrill; three brothers, H. H., Dallas; J. C. of Coral Gables, Fla.; C. S. of Kansas; eight sisters, Mrs. John M. Hopkins of Charlottesville, Va.; Mrs. Alma Thach of Hongkong, China; Mrs. Henry A. Turner of Marysville, Mo; Mrs. A. B. Leigh of Hutchinson, Kan.; Mrs. Lyda Walling of Clear Water, Fla.; Mrs. O. M. Thurman of Summit, N. J.; Mrs. E. B. Thurman of Evanston, Ill.; Miss Jamie Terrill of Charlottesville, Va. Funeral 3 p.m. Thursday from the residence. Burial in Oakland Cemetery. Pallbearers: Cedric Burgher, George Watson, Alvin Lane, Devereux Dunlap, Roston? DeWitt; Dr. Curtis Rosser, Philip Lindsley, and Henry***

D. Lindsley. Arrangements in charge of Ed C. Smith and Bro. Undertaking Company.” Mr. Terrill’s body was moved from Oakland Cemetery to Hillcrest Cemetery in Dallas on May 31, 1939.

Alma Terrill was born on February 17, 1870. Her brother’s obituary in 1931 says she was living in Hong Kong, China. She married Stephen Dunbar Thach. Family sources at ancestry.com say she died in New York City on April 16 (or July 16), 1958. She was called “Sookie” by some family members.

Laura Clayton Terrill was born on February 4, 1873. She died in Marysville, Missouri on June 5, 1948. Her nickname was “Claytie” or “Clate.” Her brother’s obituary said she was married to Henry A. Turner. Family sources say his name was Henry Albert Foster.

In his third marriage, Mr. Terrill was the father of at least nine children, one of whom was a daughter who died young. The surviving children included Blanche Melvin Terrill, Lyda Smith Terrill, Harriet Laurence Terrill, Mary Quayle Terrill, Holman Hamilton Terrill, Colyar St. Clair Terrill, Jonah Crisler Terrill, and Jamie Terrill.

Blanche Melvin Terrill was born May 26, 1875. Her nickname was “Cutchie.” She married Alfred B. Leigh of New Jersey and lived in Hutchinson, Kansas in 1931. Family sources say she died in September 1957.

Lyda Smith Terrill was born February 8, 1877. Her nickname was “Lyla.” She married William Joe Walling in Franklin County, Tennessee on August 24, 1899, Family sources at ancestry.com show that she died on January 17, 1909, but she appears as a survivor in the obituary of her brother who died in 1931, and was living at that time at Clearwater, Florida, where she appears in the 1930 census as a widow working at a hotel.

Harriet Laurence Terrill was born on September 18, 1878. She was known as “Hattie.” She married Oliver M. Thurman and lived in Summit, New Jersey in 1931, where her husband worked as vice-president of a life insurance company. Family internet sources say she died March 1, 1959.

Mary Quayle Terrill was born May 28, 1882. Her nickname was “Cricket.” She married Edwin B. Thurman and lived in Evanston, Illinois in 1931.

Holman Hamilton Terrill was born September 8, 1884. His first wife was Inez Hines (March 15, 1889-November 3, 1958). His second wife was Catherine Estill of Grapevine, a daughter of Grapevine oldtimers Frank and Weechie (Yates) Estill. He died March 3, 1966 in Dallas, Texas. After his death, Catherine moved back to Grapevine. This compiler knew her and worked on historical projects with her.

Colyar St. Clair Terrill was born September 30, 1886. His nickname was “Col.” In 1931 he lived in Kansas. Family sources say he died February 17, 1960.

Jonah Crisler Terrill was born September 7, 1888. He was known at one time or another as “Chris” or “Joe.” He lived in Coral Gables, Florida in 1931.

Jamie Coleen Terrill was born September 7, 1891. She lived in Charlottesville, Virginia in 1931, and in Kenwick, Virginia in 1966. She was apparently never married, and died in June, 1976.

The following article on James William Terrill was published in the July 2013 issue of Historical Tidings, published by The Franklin County (TN) Historical Society. It is included here with the permission of the author, Jerry T. Limbaugh.

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Volume 45, Number 3

JULY 2013

ANNUAL MEETING

at

George Gray Plantation Home
228 Waggoners Drive, Bolivar

on

Monday, July 15, 2013, 8 p.m.

Join us for the 45th Annual Meeting of the Franklin County Historical Society at the George Gray Plantation Home in Bolivar. The meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Monday, July 15, 2013. The meeting will be held at the George Gray Plantation Home, 228 Waggoners Drive, Bolivar, Tennessee. The meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Monday, July 15, 2013. The meeting will be held at the George Gray Plantation Home, 228 Waggoners Drive, Bolivar, Tennessee.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide a forum for the members of the Society to discuss the history of the county and to elect officers for the coming year. The meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Monday, July 15, 2013. The meeting will be held at the George Gray Plantation Home, 228 Waggoners Drive, Bolivar, Tennessee.

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TERRILL EVALUATION BILL

AS ALL WHO BELIEVE IN THE VALUE OF HISTORY AND HERITAGE, WE URGE YOU TO SUPPORT THE TERRILL EVALUATION BILL.



Monument for the Terrill Evaluation Bill, located in Bolivar, Tennessee.

The Terrill Evaluation Bill

The Terrill Evaluation Bill is a bill that would require the Tennessee Historical Commission to evaluate the historical significance of properties in the state. The bill would also require the commission to report on its findings to the General Assembly.

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The Bill Number
House Bill 1000
County Name
Franklin

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E-NEWS

It is our effort to deliver our printing and mailing costs, as well as our membership and subscription costs, at the lowest possible price. Please contact us at info@franklincountyhistoricalsociety.com or call us at 931-962-1476.

Civil War Sesquicentennial Feature

Do you have a copy of your Civil War soldier's obituary? You are invited to send a good quality photo and a copy of the obituary annotated with the name of the newspaper and date of publication to the Franklin County Historical Society, Attn: Jerry Limbaugh; P. O. Box 130, Winchester TN 37398 or attach high resolution scans to an e-mail addressed to jtlimbaugh@usa.net. Include a brief biography or family genealogy, is you wish.

JAMES WILLIAM TERRILL (1837-1918) – FOUNDER OF THREE COLLEGES

(Submitted by Jerry T. Limbaugh, 4623 Lynchburg Rd., Winchester TN 37398; e-mail: jtlimbaugh@usa.net. With contributions by Michael E. Patterson of the E. W. Taylor Camp, #1777, of Sons of Confederate Veterans, based in Bedford, Tarrant County, Texas and family information from Amy McDaniel as posted in the **Menter Terrill Family Tree** on Ancestry.com.)



Twenty-five year old James William Terrill, a Baptist minister, enlisted for Confederate service at Fort Worth, Texas, on March 8, 1862 in Captain Michael D. Kennedy's Company (subsequently became Company E) of the 15th Texas Cavalry. He presented himself for service riding a horse worth two hundred fifty dollars, and with equipment worth twenty dollars. Private Terrill's unit was mustered into the Confederate service at McKinney, Texas, on March 10, 1862. He was elected to the rank of Second Lieutenant on May 20, 1862, and on October 25, 1862, he was promoted First Lieutenant of the company. ¹

Along with most of his regiment he was captured at Arkansas Post, Arkansas, on January 11, 1863. He was forwarded from St. Louis, Missouri, to Camp Chase, Ohio, on January 27, 1863; he arrived at Camp Chase on January 30. At the time, he was described as five feet eight inches tall, twenty-six years old, with a dark complexion, dark eyes, and dark hair. He was transferred to Fort Delaware on April 10, 1863. He was paroled at Fort Delaware on April 25, and was forwarded to City Point, Virginia, on April 29 for exchange. He rejoined his unit then assigned to General Bragg's Army in Tennessee.

Terrill became Captain of Co. E on December 1, 1863. He resigned his commission on August 31, 1864 noting that the company at that time contained only ten enlisted men and three commissioned officers. Terrill stated that he was a Missourian while the other two officers were Texans. He asked for permission to re-enlist as a private in Major General Price's command in the Trans-Mississippi Department. Terrill also said he was a Christian minister, and that he would be more able to function as one after the transfer.

Family records report that Captain Terrill was severely wounded on August 31, 1864 at Jonesboro, Georgia, during the defense of Atlanta: "Capt. Terrill was commanding [the picket line]...two mules were shot from under him, several minor wounds [were] received in the shoulder and arm, then a minnie ball hit him squarely in the breast.... Capt. Terrill lost consciousness [and] was left for dead...[He] finally reached...[the Wayside Hospital in Columbus, Mississippi [where] an operation was performed by Dr. Robert Wendel...[The doctor] removed two ribs and a large part of the left lung without giving any anesthetic whatever...Capt. Terrill slowly recovered. But even his wife knew naught of this until a gaunt shadow of a man unexpectedly darkened her doorway six or eight months later. Her husband back from the dead! None of his many letters had ever reached her." ²

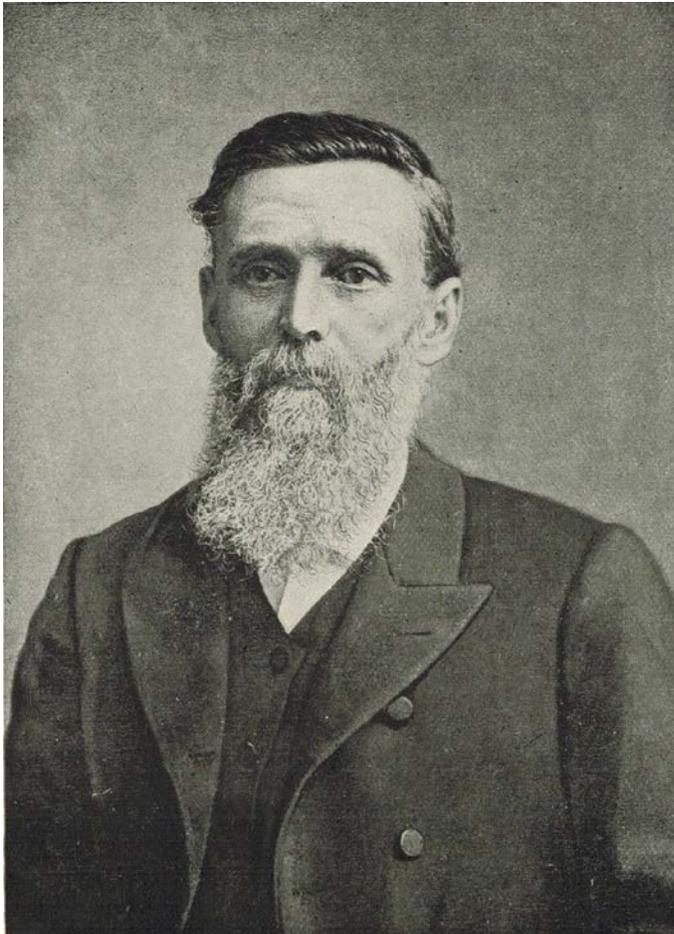
¹ Photo courtesy Michael Patterson. The 15th Regiment, Texas Cavalry was organized in the early summer of 1862 with about 1,000 men. Some of its members were raised at Fort Worth and Wolfe City, and in Wise and Hood counties. After serving in the Department of Texas, it was dismounted and ordered to Arkansas. Here the unit was captured at Arkansas Post in January, 1863. Exchanged and reorganized, it was consolidated with the 6th and 10th Regiments and assigned to the Army of Tennessee. It participated in many battles from Chickamauga to Atlanta, endured Hood's winter operations in Tennessee, and fought in North Carolina. Few surrendered on April 26, 1865. (Regimental overview from the National Park Service's Civil War Soldiers and Sailors database at <http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>).

² Some details from the material contributed by Catherine Estill Terrill (1910-2002) in the Terrill family vertical file. Robert Searcy Wendel received his professional education at the Louisville Institute in Louisville, Kentucky, and practiced medicine in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Dr. Wendel was appointed surgeon, in the Confederate Army May 30 1862. He served in hospitals in Dalton, Georgia, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Forsythe, Georgia, and Columbus, Mississippi.

At the close of the war, Captain Terrill went to Buena Vista, Mexico, where his first wife and their second child died in 1865. James William Terrill was married four times and raised a large family. He married first on May 23, 1861, in Callaway County, Missouri, to Araminta Suggett Bradley (1835-1865); the second time on April 30, 1867, in Callaway County, Missouri, to Elizabeth M. Bradley (1841-1873), a sister to his first wife; the third time on February 22, 1874, in Randolph County, Missouri, to Nancy Coleman "Colie" Hamilton (1852-1895) and fourth April 5, 1896 in Franklin County, Tennessee, to Lilah Matt Estill (1855-1941), a daughter of Francis Thomas Estill (1823-1878) and his wife Catherine Heslip Garner (1827-1884) of Winchester. The children were:

- Minta Maude Terrill (1862-1950)
- James William Terrill (1863-1865)
- Menter Bradley Terrill (1868-1931)
- Alma "Sookie" Terrill (1870-1958)
- Laura Clayton Terrill (1873-1948)
- Blanche Melvin "Cutchie" Terrill (1875-1961)
- Lyda Smith Terrill (1877-1959)
- Harriet Laurence "Hattie" Terrill (1878-1959)
- Mary Quayle "Cricket" Terrill (1882-1966)
- Holman Hamilton Terrill (1884-1966)
- Colyar St. Claire "Col" Terrill (1886-1960)
- Jonah Crisler "Joe" Terrill (1888-1961)
- Jamie Coleen Terrill (1891-1976)

An obituary for Professor Terrill was published in the Thursday, February 14, 1918, issue of *The Truth and Herald*, Winchester, Tennessee: ³



News was received here Monday morning of the death of Prof. James W. Terrill, which occurred in San Angelo, Texas, Sunday, at 6:30 p.m.

Prof. Terrill was for a number of years President of Mt. Pleasant College, Huntsville, Mo. In 1876 he came to Franklin County where he taught one year at Centennial School House. Then for several years was connected with Profs. Clark and Bledsoe at the Winchester Normal. In 1890 he founded Terrill College where he taught a very successful school for several years.

In 1902, his health failing, he left for California, later going to Dallas, where he assisted his son, M. B. Terrill, in a school there. For the last few years he has lived in San Angelo. His remains were taken to Dallas, Texas, where funeral services and burial were conducted Tuesday afternoon.

He is survived by his wife and 12 children, viz: Mrs. John Hopkins, Lake Placid, New York; Prof. M. B. Terrill, Dallas, Tex.; Mrs. Stephen Thatch, Lake Placid, New York; Mrs. Henry Foster, Maryville, Mo.; Mrs. Al Leigh, Hutchinson, Kan.; Mrs. Lyda Walling, Dallas, Texas; Mrs. Oliver Thurman, Boston; Mrs. Edwin Thurman, Cleveland, Ohio; Holman Terrill, Dallas; Colyar Terrill, New Ulysses, [Kansas]; Chrisler Terrill, Spanish Honduras; Miss Jamie Terrill, Lake Placid, New York.

Many readers of the Truth and Herald were students of Prof. Terrill, and will read with sorrowing hearts the account of his death and will share with the bereaved family their sorrow.

³ Photo of Professor Terrill courtesy Joy Gallagher and was scanned from The Normal Monitor of May 1889.

A tribute to Professor Terrill followed in the Thursday, March 14, 1918, issue of *The Truth and Herald* as follows:

CAREER OF FAMOUS TENNESSEE TEACHER

Prof. James W. Terrill, Formerly Head of Winchester and Decherd Schools

Prof. James W. Terrill, formerly a prominent Middle Tennessee educator, conducting schools at Winchester and Decherd, died Feb. 10, at San Angelo, Texas, at the age of 80 years. Announcement of the death of Prof. Terrill was made in the daily press at the time. The Dallas News devoted nearly a column to sketch of his life, saying in part:

James William Terrill, the oldest of the six children of the Rev. Benjamin Terrill and Delilah Crisler Terrill, was born at Moberly, Mo., March 16, 1837. At about 20 years of age he removed with his parents to Texas, locating in Tarrant County near Grapevine and at 21 he was ordained as a minister in the Baptist church on Bear Creek. For fifty-four years he was as active in the ministry as his educational duties would allow. At the breaking out of the civil war the family returned to Missouri and Mr. Terrill was soon married to Araminta Bradley of Fulton. Bringing his wife to Texas and leaving her at the home of Jeff Estill he went to Fort Worth and enlisted in the Confederate army and was made captain of Company E of the Fifteenth Texas Infantry, Roger Q. Mills being his regimental colonel and Pat Cleburne his division general.

Capt. Terrill was known as a brave soldier, and at Atlanta he was wounded three times, his left lung being destroyed by a minnie ball. The reconstruction period, after the close of the war, he spent in Mexico, where his wife died. Believing that he could not long endure the wretched health and suffering due to the wound, he took his only child, a daughter, back to his old home in his native state, where under the care and nursing of loved ones, his health improved and he soon became identified with the educational work of that section, teaching his first school at Sweet Springs, Mo., where he attracted so much attention that he was elected to the Presidency of Mount Pleasant college, Huntsville, Mo., a then famous Baptist institution.

Finding it necessary that he should remove to a warmer climate because of new trouble with his old wound, he located in Winchester, Tenn., without thought of again engaging in teaching. He brought with him a family of five children, three of whom – a son and two daughters – were born to his second wife, Bettie Bradley Terrill, whom death took from him while at Huntsville, and an infant daughter born to his third wife, Colie Hamilton Terrill. A great love for the profession of teaching drew him into the various teachers' institutes held in Franklin county and vicinity, where he was soon marked as a newcomer with ideas somewhat revolutionary in educational practice as it was then believed in thereabouts. A year in teaching a country school known as Centennial Academy, about five miles from Winchester, resulted in the leading educators of Middle Tennessee finding a path through the woods to his little academy and further resulted in such pressure being brought to bear that Mr. Terrill founded the Winchester Normal, where during a period of eleven years, under his leadership, thousands of young men and women from every Southern state – hundreds going from Texas – attended and were taught not only of books, but of the more vital facts of manhood and womanhood. During this period he placed the stamp of his ideas and individuality upon all of the schools of that part of the state.

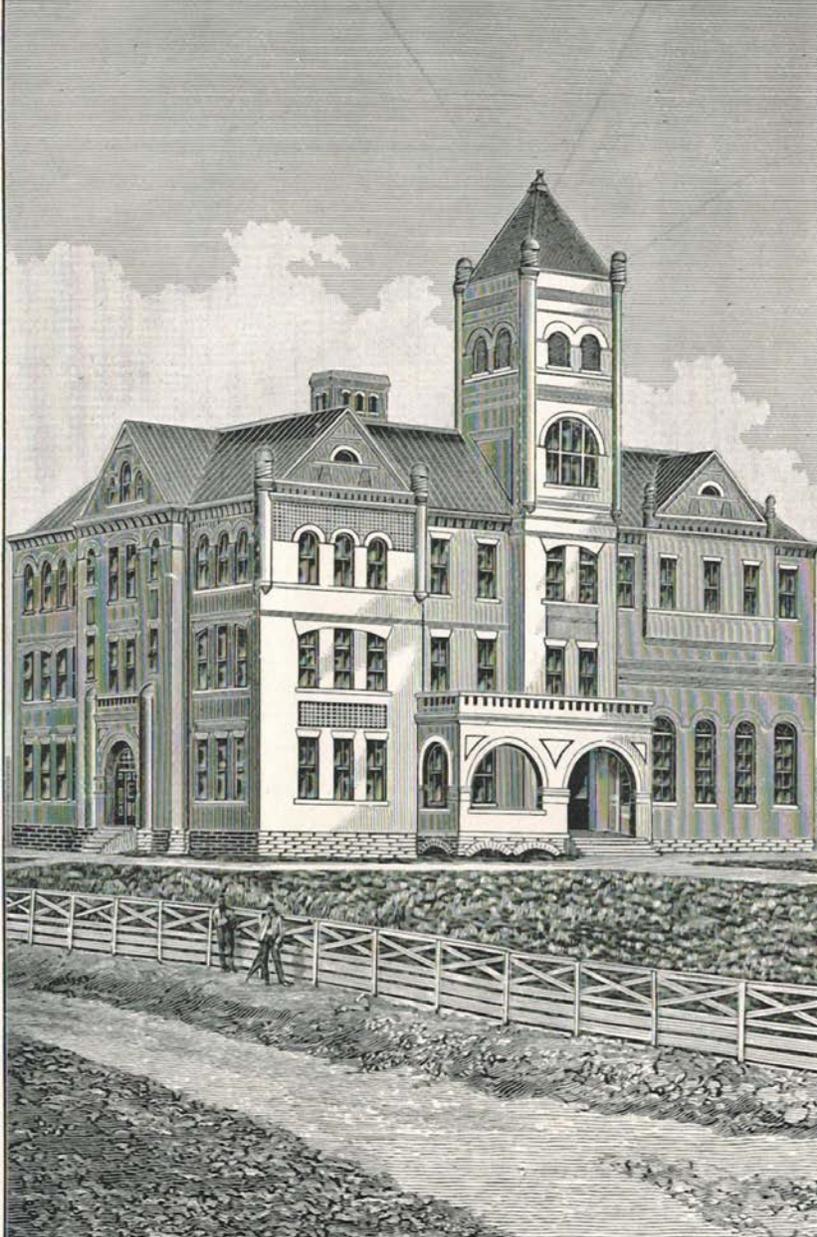
Here also he inaugurated the pioneer work in behalf of prohibition in Tennessee. His first speech against the saloon resulted in the loss of forty pupils from his school on the following day. The county and town through generation after generation had been under the dominion of the saloon and the fight to exterminate it was bitter. Mr. Terrill, recognized as the leader of this fight, and warned that he would be killed did he not desist, was shot at; his home was set afire, and he was hanged in effigy by his enemies. Assisted by other true and brave men of that historic little town he routed and kept out the saloon during the years he continued to reside there.

In order to procure satisfactory buildings and suitable location on the main line of a railroad for the further development of his educational ideas he removed to Decherd, Tenn., in 1889 and founded Terrill College, where he continued until 1903 with the same success and prominence the work he had carried on at Winchester. It is worth while mentioning as a further evidence of the force of the personality of the man, that of the twelve children – four sons and eight daughters – surviving him nine for considerable periods of their lives have been teachers.

Advancing age and health seemingly completely broken caused him to retire from his profession. His remaining years were a fight for the prolongation of a life, and removed from the public eye, he was for a time in California, in Kansas, and in Dallas, in which last named place he will be remembered by the boys of the Terrill school of the first and second years as a man of a lovable and kindly nature, with now and then a faint glow of the fire of the soul within already smouldering to its ashes.

In 1908 he took up his residence in San Angelo and together with his fourth wife, Mrs. Matt Estill Terrill, to whom he was married in 1896, became identified in 1911 with the Christian church at that place. Partial paralysis fastened upon him in 1915 and he suffered another stroke in 1916. Thus weakened, his bodily strength gave way into complete collapse on Feb. 9 and Feb. 10, he passed into the beyond.

Attending his funeral services, both in San Angelo and the following day in Dallas, there were many of his old pupils present, representing every school he had taught in life....



The accompanying drawing is an architectural rendering of the Terrill College building in Decherd. Designed by Chattanooga architect Reuben Harrison Hunt (1862-1937) and built in time for classes to begin in January 1890 with 225 students and a faculty of ten members.

Successful for a time, Professor Terrill was not able to sustain the college; his health failing and the student body declining, he sold the building and lot of about eleven acres to Robert S. Harris and his wife Susan Wood Harris of Chula Vista, California, in 1903. For two years Professor Richard Wagoner ran a private school but the attendance was so small he abandoned the effort. ⁴

In early 1905, Rev. Hugh Calvin Smith of Chicago promoted the establishment of an orphans home and school for the Order of Railway Conductors of America at Decherd. Smith projected the opening of the O. R. C. Orphans Home and School as a successor to Terrill College on June 1, 1905. It appears that the conductor's union declined to have anything to do with the scheme. ⁵

In October 1905, Robert S. Harris and his wife Susan Wood Harris sold the Terrill College, its campus, "all the school fixtures and furniture, engine, pump, and everything connected" to the directors of Franklin County School District 20 for \$1,250.00 in cash and ten annual school warrants aggregating the sum of \$7,650.00.

In 1907 the State Legislature abolished office of District Directors and put schools under the management and control of a County Board of Education with a District Board of Advisors (Acts of 1907, Chapter 236). The Legislature also authorized the School Directors of the 20th District to transfer the Terrill College, campus, equipment, furniture, etc., to the "High School Board or Board of Education of Franklin County" without money considerations (Acts of 1907, Chapter 259). ⁶

⁴ See the Franklin County Historical Review, Volume XVI, Number 1, 1985 for extensive coverage of the history of the Winchester Normal and Terrill College. Deed from James W. Terrill and Matt E. Terrill to Robert S. Harris and Susan Wood Harris, dated September 10, 1903 (recorded in Franklin County, Tennessee, Deed Book 27, page 139).

⁵ Copy of Hugh Calvin Smith's promotional materials shared in 2013 by Thurston Bridges, a Manchester, Tennessee, antiquarian. According to an article published in *The Railway Conductor* (Volume XXII, 1905, Cedar Rapids, Iowa), the Order of Railway Conductors instructed their secretary to inform the Rev. Hugh Calvin Smith "that the Order positively declines to have anything whatever to do with him or his schemes."

⁶ Deed from Robert S. Harris and Susan Wood Harris to the School Directors for the 20th School District, dated October 9, 1905 (recorded in Franklin County, Tennessee, Deed Book 27, pages 411-412). Deed from School Directors J. W. Mason, Harry Nicholson, and L. B. Davidson to H. H. Horton, J. T. Rennolds, W. N. Taylor, Geo. Erwin, Will Hudgins, Joe Bratton and Hugh Caperton, the "Board of Education for the High School of Franklin County", dated May 31, 1907 (recorded in Franklin County, Tennessee, Deed Book 30, page 178).



The building was jointly used by the Franklin County High School and the Decherd Elementary School until 1949 when the high school was consolidated with Winchester's Central High School and moved to the site on the boulevard. The Decherd Elementary School used the building until 1975 when the building was demolished making way for a new elementary school. The Decherd Bicentennial History of 1976 reports that the cornerstone of the Terrill College and about 2,000 bricks from the building were used in the construction of facilities for Decherd City Park.

This image of the Terrill College building shown here is from a postcard and probably dated about 1906. (Franklin County High School, Decherd, topical file).

James W. Terrill Home in Winchester



In 1876 James W. Terrill purchased the James H. Estill house in Winchester; James Terrill and his wife Matt Estill Terrill sold the house and lot to Mrs. Anna Walmsley in 1899. Today, this property is included in the Moore-Cortner Funeral Home complex, 300 First Avenue, N.W. (Franklin County Historical Review, Volume XVI, Number 1, 1985, page 84; photo by George Hopkins, 1972).