



TARRANT COUNTY

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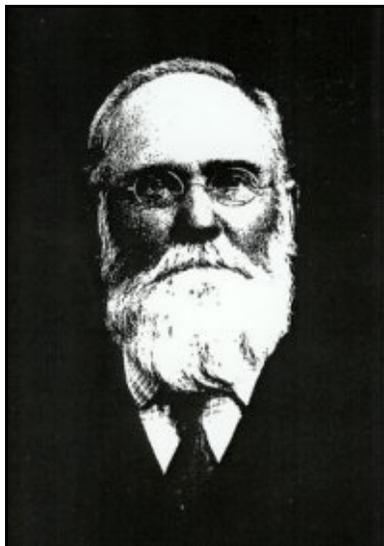
Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Samuel Houston Thompson

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Samuel Houston Thompson was born June 18, 1845 in Marshall County, Alabama, a son of Texas Revolutionary veteran Thomas Jefferson Thompson and his wife, Tillitha (Prentice) Thompson. Samuel appears in the 1850 census with his parents and a younger brother at Red Hill, Marshall County, Alabama.

Houston Thompson was named by his father out of respect for General Sam Houston of the Texas army. Family legend says Houston Thompson was bitten by an alligator in Alabama when he was young. About 1860 Thomas J. Thompson moved the family to Tarrant County, Texas.

Samuel Houston Thompson was a Confederate soldier. He, like many other northeast Tarrant County men, was a member of Capt. William W. McGinnis's company of "mounted volunteers or rangers" which was raised in 1861 in Precinct 3 of Tarrant County. As the war progressed and many more young men came of age

here, more joined the company.

Samuel and his father, Thomas J. Thompson, signed the voter registration list on adjacent lines when they registered to vote in Tarrant County on August 10, 1867. Both men said they had been in Texas since about 1858, and in Precinct 3 of Tarrant County since about 1860. Both said they were natives of Alabama.

Thompson patented the S. H. Thompson survey of 158.5 acres on August 14, 1874. It was a square, one-half mile on each side. Its northern border corresponds to today's Continental Drive from Davis Boulevard on the west to Peytonville Avenue on the east; the southern portion was crossed by Big

Bear Creek and included parts of present-day Keller. It extended south for one-half mile from those two points on Continental. The survey directly south of it was patented by Houston Thompson's father. In 1895, Houston Thompson lived on his survey in present-day Southlake in the vicinity of the southeast corner of the intersection of Continental Drive and Davis Boulevard.

He told the 1910 census taker he was a Confederate veteran. Houston Thompson died August 9, 1923, and lies buried at Mt. Gilead Cemetery near his wife and father. No obituary appeared for him in the Fort Worth newspaper. No obituary was printed in the Grapevine Sun in any of the surviving issues from that time. No death certificate was filed for Mr. Thompson. No obituary for him has been found in the Fort Worth newspapers.

Sam Houston Thompson married Mary Ann Stevens Byas, who was born October 26, 1847 and died February 14, 1899. She was a step-daughter of Abram L. Byas, and a step-sister of four Confederate soldiers who enlisted in this community. Mary Ann's mother was Melviney Higginbotham Stevens when she married Abram L. Byas. Descendants do not know whether Mr. Byas adopted Mary, or if she simply started using his last name since she was so young when her mother married Mr. Byas. Houston and Mary Thompson had eight children: Charlie J. Thompson, Taylor Thompson, William Thompson, Amanda (Mrs. Calvin) Haire, Rosie (Mrs. Harve) Harris; Tillitha (Mrs. Jock) Blevins, Georgia Thompson (married first to Charles Cross, then to Mose Buffington), and Alice (Mrs. Frank) Gandy.

A newspaper called the Keller Kourier was published for a short time around the turn of the last century. In the issue of February 17, 1899, is found: ***"The remains of Mrs. S. H. Thompson were interred at Mount Gilead cemetery Wednesday afternoon. Rev. S. J. Forgy conducted the funeral service at the grave."***

