



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

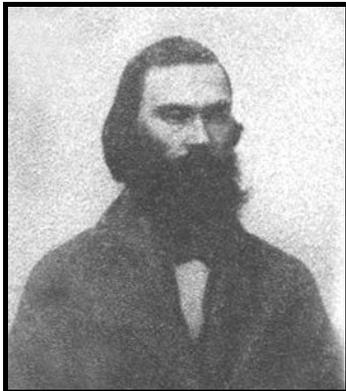
Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Green Granberry Thornton

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Green Granberry Thornton was a Confederate veteran of an Alabama regiment who lived for several years at Grapevine. He and his family later moved to Cooke County, Texas, and then on to Oklahoma before his death. This biographical sketch was prepared from material supplied by one of his descendants, Randall Miller.

Green Granberry Thornton was born January 30, 1836 in Muscogee County, Georgia, and was a son of Green H. Thornton (1795-1865) and his wife, Rhoda (Skelton) Thornton (1806-1869). By the time the 1840 census was taken, Green H. Thornton and his family were well-established and prospering; in that year they owned seven slaves.

When the 1850 census was taken, Green G. Thornton was living with his parents and siblings in Muscogee County, Georgia. The Thorntons were increasingly well-to-do farmers and slaveowners in that year; they owned seventeen slaves ranging in age from forty-four to less than one year old, nine females and eight males.

On July 27, 1858, Green G. Thornton married Martha Ann Pipkin in Barbour County, Alabama. She was born in 1841 in Barbour County, and was a daughter of Haywood Pipkin (1812-1893) and his wife, Emily C. (Jones) Pipkin (1816-1849). Haywood Pipkin represented Bullock County, Alabama in the State Legislature during the Reconstruction years of 1866-1867.

By the time the 1860 census was taken, the Thorntons had moved to Barbour County, Alabama. In that year, Green G. Thornton's father owned thirty-two slaves. Green G. Thornton himself owned three. In that year, Green and Martha Thornton had their first child, Charles, who is shown in the census as a one-year-old boy.

Green G. Thornton served the Confederacy as a soldier from Alabama. He originally enlisted at Auburn, Alabama on April 2, 1862 for a term of three years in Captain Carter's Company of Alabama Infantry. This company subsequently became Co. C of the 45th Alabama Infantry. Another record in his file says he enlisted at Enon, Alabama on March 11, 1862 for a term of three years. At his enlistment, he was a farmer born in Georgia, was twenty-five years old, was 5' 6" tall, had a dark complexion, gray eyes, and dark hair. He was captured at the disastrous (for the Confederacy) Battle of Franklin, Tennessee on November 30, 1864, and was forwarded from Nashville, Tennessee to Louisville, Kentucky on December 2, 1864. On December 3 he had arrived at the military prison in Louisville, and was sent on to Camp Douglas on the same day. He arrived at Camp Douglas on December 6. Prisoner of War records show him to be a resident of "Barber Co., Ala." He was discharged from Camp Douglas, Illinois on June 18, 1865. Stories he told later in life indicate that he walked most of the way back to Alabama, depending upon people who lived along the route for food.

After November, 1869 Green Thornton and his family had left Alabama and settled at Grapevine in northeast Tarrant County, Texas. They appear in the 1870 Tarrant County census with three children. If the data in this census is correct, they made the move to Texas between November 1869 and August 1870.

In the 1880 census enumeration of Tarrant County's Precinct 3, Green and his family are shown in District 94, which lay north of Big Bear Creek. Green's occupation is shown as "rancher." Their daughter, Euphemia, is shown in this census as having been born in Texas; in 1870 her birthplace was shown as Alabama.

About 1882 the Thorntons moved to Cooke County, Texas and settled at Sivells Bend. Green G. Thornton died August 4, 1894, possibly in Scullin, Murray County, Oklahoma, possibly at their ranch at Sivells Bend. He lies buried in Bearhead Cemetery in the Sivells Bend area, west of FM 1201 on County Road 437.

Mrs. Martha Thornton was living as a widow on Chickasaw Street in Marietta, Love County, Oklahoma when the 1910 census was taken. She told the census taker she had given birth to seven children, four of whom were still living. With her were her daughter, Ella Thompson (also a widow) and two of Ella's grandchildren, Oma and Maudie Thompson.

Ella used the name Evelyn Thompson after she was married in 1895 Cooke Co., Texas. Oma Green Thompson (a male) was born September 11, 1896 in Cooke Co., Texas and died September 27, 1947 in Powell Co., Montana. Alyne (Maude) Thompson changed her name early in life, and never used Maude even as a middle name. She was born April 25, 1903 in Ada, Pontotoc County, Indian Territory and died March 19, 1990 in Orange County, California. Alyne Thompson married Randall V. Miller in 1927 in Chicago, Illinois.

Apparently Mrs. Thornton began the steps in 1915 to apply for a Confederate pension from the State of Oklahoma. A notation appears in his file in the National Archives which says information had been requested from the Oklahoma Board of Pension Commissioners.

The children of Green and Martha Thornton included Charles Thornton, Jesse Lee Thornton, Mary Francis Thornton, Euphemia Thornton, William Dozier Thornton, and Ella Evelyn Thornton. Family tradition suggests that they may have lost two children while living at Grapevine, with perhaps one of them a son who was killed by lightning. Charles Thornton was born about 1859 in Alabama. He apparently died before 1870. Jesse Lee Thornton was born about 1862, and was still living in 1880.

Mary Francis Thornton was born January 1, 1867. She married James Elbert Rose (1857-1936) on October 19, 1882 in Cooke County, Texas. She died March 27, 1926 in Love County, Oklahoma.

Euphemia Thornton was born in November, 1869. She married Jefferson D. Rose (1863-1939) in Tarrant County, Texas on September 8, 1889. She died February 1, 1940 in LeFlore County, Oklahoma.

William Dozier Thornton was born May 8, 1872 in Tarrant County, Texas. He married Carrie Murray (1880-1966) in Pickens County, Indian Territory, on August 21, 1898. He died January 29, 1940 in Coal County, Oklahoma.

Ella Evelyn Thornton was born December 17, 1877. She married John William Thompson (1873-1936) in Love County, Oklahoma on March 10, 1911. She died March 24, 1972 in Orange County, California.

Two of Green G. Thornton's sons-in-law were brothers, James Elbert Rose and Jefferson D. Rose. James Elbert Rose who married Francis Thornton was a famous rancher in the Marietta, Oklahoma area. He apparently owned four thousand acres in Oklahoma and one thousand in Texas. His brother was Jefferson Davis Rose who married Euphemia Thornton (brothers married sisters) and they lived in Hickory Township near Sulphur, Indian Territory. The Rose boys were from Fannin County, Texas originally and were sons of Thomas Rose, a veteran of the Mexican War and a Colonel in the Texas Cavalry during the Civil War. He also settled in Sivells Bend.



Headstone of Mrs. Thornton in Lakeview Cemetery, Marietta, Love County, Oklahoma.



Bearhead Cemetery, Cooke County, Texas



Close-up of inscription at left.