



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

John W. Trigg

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John W. Trigg was a Confederate veteran who lived near Bear Creek in far-eastern Tarrant County. He lies buried just inside Dallas County in the Sowers Cemetery, where he died in 1909.

One census source gives John W. Trigg's birth date as April 1832. His father, Hayden Trigg (1793-1857), was a native of Bedford County, Virginia. By the time the 1850 census was taken, Hayden and his family were living in Bedford County, Tennessee. A biographical sketch of John W. Trigg's older brother, Daniel C. Trigg, was published in the Lewis Publishing Co., History of Texas, Together with a Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties, (Chicago, 1895). A portion of it pertinent to John W. Trigg's family background says: "...Mr. Trigg's parents were Hayden and Juda (Worder) Trigg. Grandfather Trigg, also named Hayden, was a native of the Old Dominion, a veteran of the Revolutionary war, and an early settler of Kentucky. He was a member of the Kentucky Legislature for several terms. The father of our subject [John W. Trigg] was born in Virginia, went from there to Kentucky, and thence to Tennessee, where he died in 1856. He was a farmer and slave-owner and a prominent man in his community...The mother of [John W. Trigg] passed away in 1841. She was a devoted member of the Baptist Church, and was a true Christian in every sense of the word..."

John and his wife, Esther M. Trigg, were married in Tennessee about 1854. There is a family tradition that Esther's maiden name was Hitch. They came to Tarrant County from Tennessee about 1858. They buried one of their children in the Hitch Cemetery not long after; Judith M. Trigg (August 11, 1857-August 11, 1859). Several other family members are also buried there.

Mr. Trigg served first in Co. A, Gano's Texas Squadron, in which he enlisted March 6, 1862 at Witt's Mill in Dallas County, Texas. He appears as a Second Lieutenant on a roll dated April 6, 1862. He presented himself for service riding a horse worth \$150 and with equipment worth \$30. His initial enlistment was for twelve months. One paper filed with his records in Gano's Squadron shows him to have been a soldier in Co. A, 7th Kentucky Cavalry, with "date of promotion May 6,

1982, and date of resignation, death, or transfer of promotion June 25, 1862.” An original handwritten resignation of his commission, dated June 18, 1862, signed by Trigg, remains in his file in the National Archives. There is also a signed statement in support written by Richard M. Gano, and a letter to the Confederate Secretary of War.

Mr. Trigg was later a 1st Lieutenant of Co. G, Stone's 2nd Regiment Partisan Rangers. He appears on a regimental return dated April 1865. His name appears on a roll of prisoners of war on the federal Gun Boat Forest Rose dated May 10, 1865; they were forwarded to the U. S. Provost Marshall General of the Department of Mississippi, for exchange or parole. Many years later Trigg gave testimony for Thomas B. McCallister when McCallister was trying to obtain a Confederate pension.

Mr. Trigg registered to vote in Tarrant County on August 31, 1867. He said he was a native of Tennessee, and had been a resident of Precinct 2 of Tarrant County for nine years.

John and Esther Trigg and their family appear in the 1870 census of Precinct 2, Tarrant County. With them were a daughter, Fannie W. Trigg (born about 1859); and a son, Joseph H. Trigg, born about 1861.

When the 1880 Tarrant County census was taken, John W. Trigg and his wife were living in Precinct 3, south of Big Bear Creek. Mr. Trigg said he was born in Tennessee to two native Virginians. Mrs. Trigg, shown in the census as eleven years her husband's senior, said she was born about 1820 in Kentucky to two Virginians. They had one child with them, Haiden J. Trigg, born about 1861 in Texas.

John W. Trigg's home appears on the 1895 Sam Street Map of Tarrant County. In terms of modern-day geography, it was located in far east Fort Worth, off the south end of the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport land, south of State Highway 183, east of Amon Carter Boulevard, roughly a few yards due west of the intersection of FAA Boulevard and Cambridge Drive. A mention of J. W. Trigg in the Lewis Company's 1895 biography of his brother, Daniel C. Trigg, says: “...*John, who came to Texas in 1857, resides on a farm adjoining that of his brother, Daniel C...*”

The 1900 Tarrant County census gives Mr. Trigg's birthdate as April 1832, while Esther's is shown as May, 1821. They had been married forty-six years, hence they must have been married about 1854. Mrs. Trigg said she had given birth to four children, only two of whom were still living. Their son, Hayden Trigg, was still living with them, and his birthdate is shown as April, 1861; he was a widower in that year.

J. W. Trigg's headstone in Sowers Cemetery in Irving, Dallas County, simply gives the year dates of his birth and death...1833 and 1909. Esther Trigg's dates are shown as 1824 and 1914. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Trigg applied for a Confederate pension in Texas, nor does either of them have a death certificate on file. No obituaries were placed in the Grapevine Sun for them.

An obituary appeared for Mr. Trigg in the Dallas Morning News on September 30, 1909: “*DEATH OF A PIONEER CITIZEN. Mr. Trigg of Grand Prairie Succumbs to Paralysis. Deputy Sheriff*

Hayden Trigg informed the sheriff's office yesterday morning of the death of his father, which occurred Tuesday night at his home in Grand Prairie. Mr. Trigg was 78 years of age, and a pioneer of Dallas County. His death was due to paralysis, with which he was stricken on Sept. 20, and from which he never rallied."

Three of the Triggs' four children were Judith M. Trigg, Fannie W. Trigg, and Joseph Hayden Trigg. Judith M. Trigg (August 11, 1857-August 11, 1859) lies buried in the Hitch Cemetery just inside the eastern Tarrant County line and north of the West Fork of the Trinity River.

Fannie W. Trigg was born about 1859, and was probably married before the taking of the 1880 census. Her mother's statement to the census taker in 1900 suggests that Fannie was still alive at that time.

Joseph Hayden Trigg was born in Texas on April 15, 1861, He died at his home in Precinct 8 of Dallas County on May 31, 1946, and was buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in Irving, Dallas County.

