



# TARRANT COUNTY

## TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Perry Wesley Tunnell

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Perry Wesley Tunnell was a veteran of a north-central Texas cavalry regiment who settled in Tarrant County during the 1870's. Later in life he moved to Wise County, where he died in 1911.

Several researchers have placed material at Ancestry.com dealing with Perry W. Tunnell and his family. They say Mr. Tunnell was born in Calhoun County, Alabama on August 20, 1839, and was a son of James Tunnell (1812-1861) and his wife, Elizabeth Ellis (1815-1899), who died in Smith County and Van Zandt Counties, Texas, respectively.

Around 1850 James Tunnell moved the family to Texas. We have been unable to find the family in the census of that year in any state.

Perry Wesley Tunnell was married first in Van Zandt County, Texas to Julia Ellen Dameron (or Damron) on May 29, 1859. In 1860, P. W. Tunnell and his wife, Ellen, were living at Garden Valley in Smith County, Texas. Ellen was sixteen years old and a native of Arkansas. They had one child with them, Nathaniel, who was born in Texas in the spring of 1860. The family's next-door neighbors were Perry's parents and siblings.

Perry W. Tunnell served the Confederacy as a private in Co. E, Stone's Regiment of Texas Cavalry. This regiment subsequently became the 6<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry. Mr. Tunnell's records in the National Archives show that he enlisted in Dallas, Texas on September 7, 1861 for a term of twelve months. He came riding a horse worth one hundred thirty dollars and carrying equipment worth twenty dollars, which included one rifle and a Bowie knife. He traveled sixty miles to the rendezvous at Dallas on that day. He said he was twenty-two years old.

On a muster roll for the months of November and December 1861, there is a curious but very clear notation which says "Sick at Cant Washing." He was in Texas on a furlough for the period January

17-February 27, 1862. On the roll for March and April, 1862, he was shown sick in a hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. By May and June he was back with the regiment. By the time the rolls were made for November and December, 1863, he was away from the regiment on detached service. He was present for duty at the time of the last surviving muster roll of the regiment, for May and June, 1864. An account of the 6th Texas Cavalry's service during the War may be found at: <http://www.geocities.com/sixtzcavrgtcsa/6thtexascavalryregiment/index6.html>

*When the 1870 census was taken, one Perry Tunnell and his family were living in Canton Beat in Smith County, Texas, in the area served by the Troupe post office. This Perry Tunnell's wife, Mary, was born about 1846 in Alabama. This Perry Tunnell appears on the same page with the family of one Enoch Tunnell who is the correct age to have been his father. Perry and Mary Tunnell have no children with them, thus this must not be Perry Wesley Tunnell.*

We have not located Perry Wesley Tunnell and his family in the 1870 census. His son, Beron A. Tunnell, told a military recruiter in 1906 that he (Beron) was born in Comanche County, Texas about 1872. Perry W. Tunnell patented a one hundred sixty acre tract of land in Comanche County on March 9, 1877.

Perry W. Tunnell and his family appear in the 1880 Tarrant County census in Precinct 3 in the area north of Big Bear Creek. Mrs. Tunnell's name has been lined through, since she died in the spring of that year. The children in the family included Reuben W., Mary S., William, Beron A., Ida E., and Marvin G. Tunnell. All the children were born in Texas.

Mrs. Julia E. Tunnell appears in the 1880 mortality schedules of Tarrant County's Precinct 3. She died in March, 1880 of typhoid fever. The schedule says she was born in Arkansas to two Tennesseans, and that she was born about 1844. She has no standing readable headstone in any northeast Tarrant County cemetery.

Mr. Tunnell married a widow with at least two children, Mrs. Sarah Permelia (Perry) Creed in Tarrant County on September 7, 1880. Mr. Tunnell appears in the 1880 Tarrant County tax list as the owner of twenty-eight and one-half acres of the C. M. Throop survey and seventy-one acres of the W. H. Mann survey, worth a total of three hundred dollars. He also owned farming implements worth ten dollars, two horses or mules worth fifty dollars, two cows worth twelve dollars, five hogs worth five dollars, and five dollars in miscellaneous personal property.

In modern-day terms, this acreage is in the Cities of Westlake and Southlake. The C. M. Throop survey is a square, one mile on each side, and is almost entirely in Westlake. The southeast corner of the survey is at or very near the intersection of Peytonville Road and Dove Road, west of Highway 114 and a little over one mile south of the Denton County line. The Mann survey adjoins the Throop survey on the east, and is mostly in Southlake.

Sarah (Perry) Creed Tunnell had at least two children in her first marriage to Mr. Creed: Nancy "Nannie" Rose Creed (1875-1960, who was never married) and Oliver Smith Creed (1879-1943), who died in Wichita Falls, Texas. According to Oliver's death certificate, his father's name was

Smith Creed. We have been unable to find any more definite information concerning this man, if indeed "Smith" was his correct given name.

By 1900 Perry Tunnell had moved the family to Precinct 7 in neighboring Wise County, Texas. His wife, Sarah, said she had given birth to twelve children, ten of whom were still living. The children with them in that year included Nannie R. Creed (Mrs. Tunnell's by her first husband), and Sarah, Perry, Robert, Ross, Eva, Thurman, Catherine, and Fleta Tunnell.

Perry W. Tunnell died in Wise County, Texas on March 20, 1911. He was buried in the Bridgeport East Cemetery in Bridgeport, Wise County. He shares a double headstone with his wife there. No issues of the Wise County Messenger have survived from the time Mr. Tunnell died, so no obituary for him has been located.

In 1915, Mrs. S. Tunnell applied for a Confederate widow's pension while she lived at 1924 San Jacinto Street in Dallas. She said she married Mr. Tunnell in Tarrant County on September 9, 1880 (two days after the county records show the marriage). She said she was a native of Dallas County, Texas, and was fifty-seven years old (thus born about 1858). She said she had moved to Dallas County about 1912.

She said her husband served in Co. E, 6<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry. The company was raised in Smith County, Texas. An affidavit by J. C. Tunnell said Perry Tunnell enlisted in Capt. Jack Wharton's Company in Kaufman Co, Texas in 1861 and served four years.

An affidavit by M. Scott of Crawford Co., Arkansas said Mr. Tunnell was wounded at Salsberry, Tennessee about October 1863 in the right leg.... "...I carried deceased off the battleground as aforesaid, and was with him after he was wounded. I met deceased several times since the War, one time at Dallas, twice at New Orleans, once at Louisville and once at Memphis. The deceased and I have been in regular correspondence since the year 1900."

Sarah Permelia Tunnell died at 306 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Ballinger, Runnels County, Texas on October 16, 1935. Death took place at 5:15 a.m. as a result of bilateral bronchial pneumonia. Her death certificate says her maiden name was Perry, and that she was born in Dallas County on April 15, 1857. The informant for the death certificate was R. P. Tunnell of Ballinger, Texas. Her body was sent back to Bridgeport for burial. No obituary appeared for her in the Wise County Messenger.

None of their children who may have died young have readable headstones in Wise County, Texas or in any cemetery in northeast Tarrant County, Texas. The following list of Mr. Tunnell's children from both marriages has been compiled from public records and material posted at ancestry.com by descendants.

Reuben Wesley Tunnell's descendants at Ancestry.com report that he was born December 3, 1865 and died in 1911 in Mountain Home, Elmore County, Idaho.

Mary "Mollie" Susan Tunnell was born January 7, 1868. She married William Henry Drake in Wise County, Texas on December 16, 1885. By 1900 she and her family were living in Jack County, Texas, and by 1920 had moved to Dallas County. She died July 16, 1943 in Denver, Colorado.

William Tunnell was born (according to his death certificate) in Smith County, Texas on January 5, 1868. The 1880 census suggests the actual date may have been 1870. He was a farmer. His last permanent address was in McLennan County, Texas. He died at the Austin State Hospital in Austin, Travis County, Texas on November 14, 1948, and was buried at Stephenville, Texas. He was a widower at the time of his death.

Beron A. Tunnell was born about 1872. He joined the U. S. Army from his home in Fort Worth, Texas on February 2, 1906, and told the induction officer he was born in Comanche County, Texas. He was a painter by trade.

Ida E. Tunnell was born about 1874. She was with her father's family in 1880.

Marvin G. Tunnell was born about 1876. He was with his father's family in 1880.

Sarah Elizabeth Tunnell was born January 13, 1882. Her married name was Smith. She died in Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas on June 19, 1964 and was buried in Crestview Memorial Park in Wichita Falls.

Sanford Perry Tunnell was born March 22, 1883 at Bridgeport, Texas. He worked as a dry goods salesman. He died in the Oaklawn Nursing Home in Dallas (his last permanent address was 2716 The Mall in that city) on February 23, 1965 and was buried in Restland Memorial Park in Dallas. His wife, Bessie, survived him.

Robert Pierce Tunnell was born in September of 1884. He was living with his parents in 1900 in Wise County.

Jesse Ross Tunnell was born at Bridgeport on July 25, 1886. He worked as an accountant for a beverage bottling business. He died in the Crestview Nursing Home in Dallas (his last permanent address was 722 Blaylock Drive in that city) on March 30, 1969. He was entombed in the Hillcrest Mausoleum in Dallas.

Eva Pauline Tunnell was born April 26, 1888. She married a Mr. Middleton. She died June 8, 1973 in Lakeside Rest Home in Benbrook, Tarrant County, Texas, and was buried in Greenwood Memorial Park in Fort Worth. Her last home address was 1000 McKinley Street in Fort Worth.

Thurman Cornelius Tunnell was born May 8, 1891. He was a veteran of World War I, and worked as a civil service employee. He died at his home at 69 E. 37<sup>th</sup> Street in San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas on June 3, 1961. He was buried in Lawnview Memorial Gardens in San Angelo.

Leona Katherine Tunnell was born March 10, 1893 at Bridgeport, Texas. She died at 4700 Birchman Street in Fort Worth, Texas, but had lived before that in Wichita Falls, Texas. Her

married name was Koontz. She died February 19, 1949 and was buried Georgetown Cemetery in Georgetown, Texas. Her husband predeceased her.

Fleeta Maxine Tunnell was born November 9, 1898 at Bridgeport. She died at her home at 907 West Elm in Olney, Young County, Texas on July 5, 1963. She lies buried in Olney Cemetery. Her married name was Jeffery.

