



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

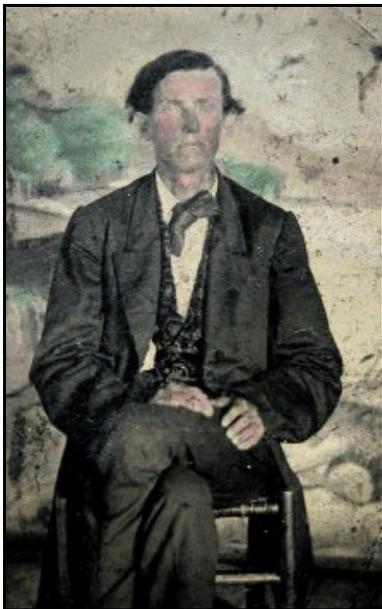
Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Richard McKelvey Wade

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Richard M. Wade

Photo courtesy of:  
Mrs. Algura Beggs Hedgpeth

Richard McKelvey Wade was a Texas cavalryman who died in his late twenties in the present area of Bedford or Colleyville about five years after the War ended. He lies buried in the old Spring Garden Cemetery, along Cheek-Sparger Road in the north part of Bedford, east of Jackson/Central Drive.

According to his headstone, R. M. Wade was born November 29, 1841. He was orphaned at an early age and came to Denton County, Texas with an uncle. Family sources say he was born in Kentucky. The sole census records in which we have found him shows his birthplace as Missouri.

Richard M. Wade enlisted as a private in Capt. George B. Pickett's Company of the 15<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry. He was twenty-two years old when he enlisted on January 2, 1862 for a term of twelve months. He was mustered into the Confederate service at McKinney in Collin County on March 10. He presented himself for service riding a horse worth one hundred twenty-five dollars and carrying equipment worth twenty-five dollars. This company subsequently became Company B. He was detailed as a teamster for forty days beginning on May 20, 1862. He was not present (having been sent to the Trans-Mississippi on detail) when most of the regiment was captured at Arkansas Post on January 11, 1863. He was still serving west of the Mississippi River at the time of the last surviving muster roll of the regiment, which covered the period of March and April, 1864. He and his wife's first cousin, Samuel A. Woods, show the same enlistment and mustering data in the 15<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry.

In 1864, Mr. Wade married Susanna Witten, a daughter of James Zachariah William Witten (1817-1879) and his wife, Paralee Margaret Stephens (1822-1875), early settlers of the Bedford area who lived at one time on the A. J. Woodson survey in northeast Tarrant County. J. Z. W. Witten was brother of S. C. H. Witten, one of the first settlers and largest landowners in present-day Colleyville. Susanna was born in Spring Garden, Missouri in 1845. After Mr. Wade's death, she married Samuel A. Davis of the Mount Gilead community. They were married in Tarrant County on December 31, 1870. She brought her three children to the marriage and Mr. Davis brought his three; then together they had three of their own. She died near Keller, Texas on March 28, 1896 and was buried in Mount Gilead Cemetery.

Robert M. Wade and his family appear in the 1870 Tarrant County census in Precinct 2. His wife and three children were with him. Wade's next-door neighbors were the family of Samuel A. Woods (his wife's first cousin).

Wade's census entry shows he owned real estate in that year, but we have been unable to locate him in the tax lists. Samuel A. Woods land holdings have been located, so Woods' location gives us an approximate location of Wade's home as well. In the 1870 tax lists, S. A. Woods is shown as the owner of one hundred sixty acres of the W. H. Jasper survey, and one hundred sixty acres of the A. J. Jasper survey. This land sits between the old community centers of Bedford and Euless, west of FM 157, south of Harwood Road and north of Pipeline Road.

Luckily for descendants and local historians, one of Mr. Wade's great-granddaughters, Algura Beggs, wrote a term paper for Northwest High School many years ago; in it she recounted a great deal of family oral history told to her by Mr. Wade's daughter, Paralee Britain. For decades Miss Beggs (now Mrs. Hedgpeth) of Haltom City has collected family stories, papers, and photographs. Her collection is an impressive one. A portion of her paper, entitled "The Life and Stories of Grandma and Grandpa. Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Britain," is reproduced here: ***"The background of Grandma first—Great-grandpa, Richard Wade, was born in the State of Kentucky. Just what year I do not know. At the age of three his mother died and his father died when he was seven. He was still very young when his uncle, John Milhollen, brought him to Denton County. There he was raised. When he reached the age of sixteen, Grandpa [Wade] began a freight line from Dallas, Texas to Shreveport, Louisiana. His team was composed of six yoke of oxen.***

***Great-grandma, Susanna Witten, was born in Missouri near the Osage River. She came to Texas at the age of fourteen in a covered wagon. They came to what is now, Bedford, Texas.***

***Great-grandpa and Great-grandma [Wade] met in Denton County, near Denton. They were married in the year 1864. Three children were born to them. The second, my grandma, Paralee Jane Wade, born in the year 1867, at Aurora, about one mile west of Rhome in Wise County. When only a baby, they moved to San Antonio, where they lived for eight months. The family then moved to Bedford, Tarrant County. They moved in a covered wagon which Uncle Andy Witten, great-grandma's brother, drove, because great-grandpa had TB and wasn't able to drive. They had to stop at a little town in Ellis County for a few days so great-grandpa could rest before traveling on. They built a home at Bedford. Shortly after, great-grandpa died in November 1869 when grandma was two years old. He was twenty-seven years old when he died. Grandma still has a pine bat that great-grandpa put her name on. After great-grandpa died, Great-grandma***

*sold the home and went to live with great-great-grandpa, James Witten, in Denton County. Great-great grandpa [Witten] owned herds of horses. Because of this he had to move to Tarrant County so the Indians would not steal them. The Indians came into Denton and Wise County. Later on he moved to Wise County but had to leave the horses behind. Great-grandma [Wade] and a great bundle stayed in Tarrant County to make the crop. Grandma went to her first school in the Illinois settlement. Her first teacher was Mr. Grif Ford. Where Rhome is now was Mr. Witt Tanner's farm. His wife taught school in her home. Grandma's sister and uncle went to this school.*

*About this time by the name of George Nite lived between Rhome and Aurora, he built a lane from the road to his house. Indians used this lane to drive stolen horses. Great-great grandpa's riding mare was stolen also. The Indians stole the last horse great-great-grandma [Witten] had.*

*When Grandma was seven years old they moved back to Tarrant County, and Great-Great Grandpa [Witten] bought a farm seven miles west of where Keller is now. The railroad wasn't there then. Grandma and her sister, brother, and Uncle then went to the Lone Star schoolhouse. Great-great grandpa had to plow a furrow through the tall grass so the little kids wouldn't get lost.*

*Not long afterward great-great grandma died, and great-great grandpa wasn't satisfied there so he again moved back to Aurora. He died the first of May that same year. The children went to a school at the old square schoolhouse on the hill above the town. There was a young man grandma went to school with who was stolen by the Indians when just a boy. His grandfather's name was Alverson, his name was John Ledbetter. The Indians named him Buckskin Bob, and that was what he went by at school. Grandma said he would talk in Indian language and then say it over in English.*

*After two years grandma and her mother [Susanna Witten Wade], with two uncles, moved back to Tarrant County. After two years, she married again. Great-grandma that is. She married S. A. Davis in 1879 when grandma was twelve years old. Great-grandpa [Samuel A.] Davis had three boys by a previous marriage and after her marriage they had three children. The oldest boy, Perry, was a resident of Justin for many years and was in charge of the water works. [The narrative continues with information about other persons in the family not directly related to Mr. Wade.*

Mr. Wade's headstone records his death on December 20, 1870. He was buried in the Spring Garden Cemetery along the south side of present-day Cheek-Sparger Road, east of its intersection with Central Drive/Jackson Drive. The cemetery was neglected for decades. Mr. Wade's daughter, Paralee Britain and members of her family visited the site around 1940 and took a few photographs, in which Mr. Wade's stone and its upright footstone may be seen still standing. The cemetery was nearly forgotten until developers began working in the area in the early 1980's. Mr. Wade's headstone and a few others were rescued and placed in other cemeteries nearby. This compiler and Mr. Wade's descendants took his headstone to Mount Gilead Cemetery and placed it beside the stone of his wife, Mrs. Susanna Davis, where it remains today.

Mr. and Mrs. Wade had three children: Margaret Frances Wade, Paralee Jane Wade, and James Richard Wade. All three lived to adulthood and had families of their own.

Margaret Frances Wade was born November 29, 1865, near Aurora. Wise County, Texas. She married Thomas Bogard Bourland in Tarrant County on December 22, 1881. She died September 18, 1920 at Vernon, Wilbarger County, Texas.

Paralee Jane Wade was born near Aurora, Texas on May 9, 1867. She married William Samuel Britain on February 4, 1886 at Double Springs (Mt. Gilead area) in Tarrant County. She died May 6, 1953 at Haslet, Tarrant County, Texas. She was buried at Bourland Cemetery in Keller, Texas.

James Richard Wade was born February 20, 1870 in Tarrant County. His wife's name was Virginia. He died October 25, 1934 in Precinct 6 in Wilbarger County, Texas. He was buried in Eastview Cemetery in Vernon, Texas.



R. M. Wade's headstone as it last appeared in Spring Garden Cemetery back in the 1980's. Photo by Michael E. Patterson





Paralee Jane Wade (born 1867), daughter of Richard McKelvey Wade. Courtesy of Mrs. Hedgpeth.



Mr. Wade's widow, Susanna (Witten) and her second husband, Samuel A. Davis. Courtesy of Mrs. Algura Beggs Hedgpeth.



Paralee Jane (Wade) Britain and her son, W. S. Britain, in the old Spring Garden Cemetery in Bedford when R. M. Wade's headstone and footstone were still standing. Photo about 1940. Courtesy of Mrs. Hedgpeth.