



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### William H. Boswell

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William H. Boswell was a native of Tennessee who served in a Texas cavalry regiment. He died near Keller in 1876 and is buried there in an unmarked grave in Mount Gilead Cemetery.

William H. Boswell was born in Tennessee on October 19, 1829. We have been unable to locate any good candidates for him in the 1850 census index of Tennessee.

Mr. Boswell and his wife, Harriett A. Burnett, were issued a marriage license in Fayette County, Tennessee on December 5, 1853. Harriett was born about 1833 in Tennessee. Researchers at ancestry.com say she was a daughter of John O. Burnett (1798-1854) and his wife, Sallie Harris. In 1850 John O. Burnett was a well-to-do farmer in Civil District 11 of Fayette County. In that year, he owned fourteen slaves and had a full-time overseer working for him.

In the late 1850's the Boswells immigrated to Texas, and by 1860 they had settled in Denton County. William H. Boswell and his family appear in the 1860 census of Denton County, Texas, in the part of the county served by the post office at Speers Mill [the post office there was discontinued in 1866]. Mr. Boswell was working as a stock herder. He owned no real estate, but owned personal property worth seven hundred dollars. He was thirty years old, and a native of Tennessee. His wife, Harriett, was twenty-seven, and born in Tennessee. They had three children with them: John O. Boswell, born about 1854 in Tennessee; Robert Boswell, born about 1857 in Tennessee; and William H. Boswell, born late in 1859 in Texas.

William H. Boswell enlisted in the Confederate army at Denton, Texas on April 24, 1862 for a term of three years. He presented himself for service on a horse worth one hundred forty dollars and with equipment worth twenty-five dollars. He became a private in Capt. E. B. Kearby's Company of DeMorse's Regiment of Cavalry. This company subsequently became Co. A, 29<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry.

On January 28, 1863 Mr. Boswell was detailed to work in the quartermaster's department as a wagon driver. No further records of his service have survived.

By 1870 the family had moved across the line into Tarrant County and was living in the area of Mount Gilead east of Keller. In the census of that year, Mr. Boswell appears as a farmer who owned seven hundred dollars worth of real estate and three hundred dollars worth of personal property. He and Mrs. Boswell had three children with them: a son R. B. who was twelve, a son W. H. who was ten, and a daughter M. L. who was four.

Mr. Boswell and his family appear in the 1870 agricultural census of Tarrant County. His farm included eighteen acres of improved land and ninety-two acres of woodland. He estimated the value of his farm at seven hundred dollars and of his farming implements at fifteen dollars. He owned two horses, one mule, and two milk cows. He had four cattle of other classes, thirty sheep, and thirty hogs. All his livestock was valued at two hundred fifty dollars. He had on hand two hundred fifty bushels of Indian corn, forty bushels of oats, and twenty-five pounds of tobacco.

Mr. Boswell died February 5, 1876 at his home east of Keller in northeast Tarrant County. He was buried in Mount Gilead Cemetery beneath a structure of dressed red sandstone, sometimes known as a "cairn." A small red sandstone tablet was engraved with his name, birth date, and death date, and was fitted into the west end of the structure. By the 1970's the tablet had been broken and portions of it were missing, but enough of it was readable to obtain his name, birth, and death dates.

The widow, Harriett Boswell, appears in the 1880 census of Precinct 4 of Tarrant County. She headed a family which included four children: William, age twenty; Mollie L., age fourteen; Emma, age nine; and Thomas, age seven.

Harriett A. Boswell appears in the 1880 agricultural census for Tarrant County. She owned a farm consisting of forty-five acres of tilled land and sixty-five acres of woodland. The total value of her farmland, buildings, and fences was set at one thousand one hundred dollars. Her farming implements and machinery were worth seventy-five dollars, and her livestock was worth two hundred dollars. She estimated that in the past year her total farm production was valued at six hundred dollars. She owned two horses, six milk cows, and two other cattle. Four calves had been dropped on her place in the past year. She had churned two hundred pounds of butter. She owned ten hogs and twenty chickens. She estimated she had gathered four hundred dozen eggs in the past year. They had twenty acres in Indian corn, which had made four hundred bushels; six acres of oats which had made one hundred sixty bushels and fourteen acres of cotton which had made eight bales. They cut fifteen cords of wood off their place, and it was valued at two dollars per cord.

One Mrs. William Boswell applied for a Confederate widow's pension in Tarrant County. She was not Harriett (Burnett) Boswell, the widow of William H. Boswell.

The census records have recorded the names of the following children of William H. and Harriett Boswell: John O. Boswell, Robert B. Boswell, William H. Boswell, Mollie L. Boswell, Emma W. Boswell, and Thomas Boswell. The following short paragraphs will attempt to give a few details of their lives.

John O. Boswell was born in Tennessee about 1854. He was with the family when the census was taken in 1860, but was not with them in 1870.

Robert B. Boswell was born about 1857 in Tennessee. He was still with the family when the 1870 census was taken, but was not with them in 1880.

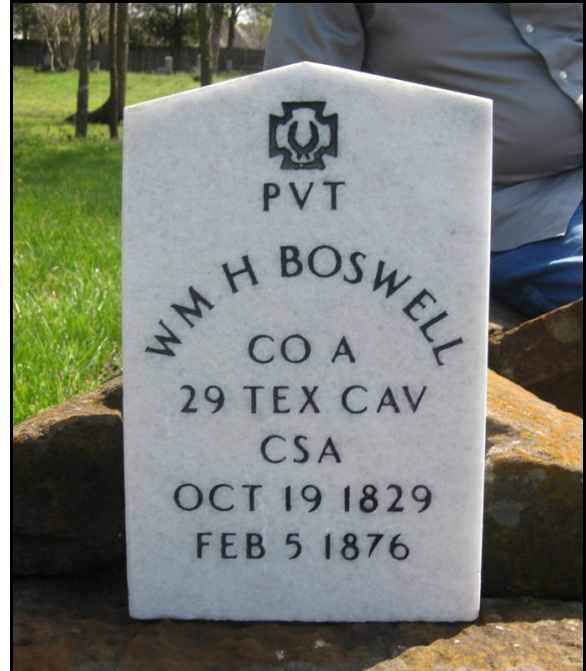
William H. Boswell was born in late 1859. According to the 1860 census he was the first of the children to be born in Texas. When the 1920 census was taken, he was still living in the Mount Gilead neighborhood as a single man. One William Boswell, an inmate of the county home, died in Fort Worth on January 25, 1923 and was buried in Fort Worth's Greenwood Cemetery. The informant was the superintendent of the home, and he estimated Mr. Boswell's age at sixty-two. The death certificate contains no information as to parents.

Mollie L. Boswell was born about 1866. She was still living with her mother's family when the 1880 census was taken.

Emma W. Boswell was born in Tarrant County on December 10, 1870. She was married to a Mr. Browning. Her death certificate says parents were William H. Boswell and Harriett Burnett. In 1900 there was an Emma Boswell, born in 1870, a single lady living in Precinct 1 of Tarrant County, boarding with the family of Jacob Umphrey and working as a seamstress. She was a native of Texas, and both her parents were Tennesseans. Emma Boswell Browning died in Dallas Methodist Hospital at 6 p.m. on September 14, 1950. Her last permanent address was 705 South Winnetka in Dallas. She had been a resident of Dallas for about twelve years. She was survived by one daughter, Mrs. W. G. McPeek of Dallas. She was buried in Hillcrest Memorial Park in Dallas on September 16. The daughter was Winifred B. McPeek, wife of William G. McPeek; Mr. McPeek died in 1962. The wording of Emma's obituary and that of William G. McPeek, her son-in-law who died in 1962, suggest that Winifred may have been Mr. McPeek's second wife and that Winifred may not have had any children.

Thomas Boswell was born about 1873. He was still with the family when the 1880 census was taken.

The only person to be found in the Texas Vital Statistics records who is obviously a child of William H. and Harriett A. (Burnett) Boswell is their daughter, Emma Browning.



The man in photo is E. W. Taylor SCV camp member Jimmy Reynolds. The new headstone was placed by Taylor Camp on March 30, 2013, to replace old broken tablet.