



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Wallis E. Burrough

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Wallis E. Burrough applied for a Confederate pension on May 20, 1924, while living at Grapevine. He said he served for two years in the Winchester, Tennessee Home Guards, and was discharged in April, 1865.

Burrough was born in May, 1848 in Winchester, Franklin County, Tennessee. His father, Joseph Michael Burrough, was a well-to-do coach maker in Winchester at the time the Civil War began. He married Wallace's mother, Elizabeth Jane Estill, in Franklin County, Tennessee on December 8, 1840. She died there while Wallace was still a baby, on May 9, 1849, and Wallis's father later remarried. It seems reasonable to speculate that Wallis may have been named for his maternal grandfather, Wallis Estill. According to records at Ancestry.com, Wallis's mother and Grapevine pioneer Jefferson Estill were half-brother and sister.

Wallis Burrough grew up in a slave owning family which included five slaves in 1850 and seven slaves in 1860. A childhood friend of Wallis's remembered that the Burrough family lived one block west of the square in Winchester, Tennessee.

Burrough moved to Texas about 1871, and to Grapevine about 1884. When the 1880 census was taken, he was living in Tarrant County and was clerking in a store. His wife, Mattie, was born in December, 1853 in Tennessee to two native Tennesseans. They had their only child, Frank W., born in August, 1875 in Texas, living with them.

In his pension application, Wallis said he served as a lieutenant in the company which was "*an independent command behind the lines for home protection.*" While attending a Confederate veterans reunion in Memphis, Burrough traveled back to his old home in Franklin County and obtained affidavits from childhood friends who wrote that he was captured and imprisoned for some time at Fort Harris on Elk River, about five miles north of Winchester. He served as a courier for mail between Winchester and some of its soldiers, gathered and moved livestock for the army, etc.

He said, probably correctly, that his service benefitted his home community much more than it would have had he been a member of a regularly regiment mustered into the Confederate service.

The census taker in 1910 found Burrough and his wife, Mattie, living on rented land in the Grapevine area. Wallis was still working as a clerk in a dry goods store.

Burrough continued to live at Grapevine until about the spring of 1925, when he moved to Big Spring, Texas to live with his son. He died there on September 29, 1925. A short obituary for him appeared in the Grapevine Sun on October 8, 1925: *"DIED. Mr. W. E. Burrough, age 76 years, died at the home of his son, F. W. Burrough and family at Big Springs, Texas, Tuesday, September 29th, at 1:00 p.m. after an illness of about two weeks. Mr. Burrough is well known in this community, having lived here for a number of years, and moving to Big Springs about six months ago. His body was laid to rest in the Odd Fellows cemetery at Big Springs."* His grave is marked with a readable headstone.