



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

James S. Chapman

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James S. Chapman served the Confederacy in a Missouri cavalry regiment. He settled near Grapevine and married the daughter of a prominent area doctor. After she died in 1875, he moved to Denton and remained there the rest of his life.

Family genealogists at ancestry.com say he was born in Randolph County, Missouri in February 1843 and was a son of Benjamin James Chapman and his wife, Frances Terrell. Several members of this Terrell family settled at Grapevine and this may account for Mr. Chapman coming here. Some other families from Randolph County, Missouri, including the Quayles and Goodfellows, had also settled at Grapevine.

Mr. Chapman enlisted in the Confederate service on October 6, 1862 in McDonald County, Missouri. He agreed to serve for the duration of the War and became a private in Co. K, 3rd Missouri Cavalry. This unit was known by several different designations, but was finally named the 6th Missouri Cavalry by the Confederate War Department. He last appears in the regiment's records on a muster roll for January and February 1864, at which time he was present for duty.

In either 1864 or 1865 Mr. Chapman came to Tarrant County. Bertie Cates Allen, who was born in 1852, recalled that James Chapman taught at the Minter's Chapel School for a time during 1865, 1866, and 1867.

By 1870, and after a stint of teaching south of Grapevine, he moved to Denton for a time. In that year he was recorded as a single man, twenty-seven years old and working as a school teacher. He was boarding with the family of Thomas Egan, a sixty-five-year-old farmer. Also in the family was one Arthur Chapman, two years of age. Within a short time James married his first wife, Mary Jane Lipscomb, the daughter of a pioneer Grapevine physician, Dr. Dabney M. Lipscomb.

On August 2, 1873 an article appeared in the Fort Worth Democrat which reported a meeting of the citizens of Tarrant County's Precinct 3 at Spring Garden (along the north line of Bedford, along the south side of Cheek-Sparger Road, about one-quarter mile east of Central Drive). They were to elect delegates to the county democratic convention to be held in Fort Worth on August 2. J. S. Chapman was one of those nominated.

J. S. Chapman was the second superintendent of the Grapevine Masonic Institute, serving from 1873 until 1875. He succeeded another of our veterans, William P. Bishop.

Mr. Chapman appears in the 1875 tax list of Tarrant County as the owner of real estate in the Ambrose Foster survey. This survey lies in the immediate area of downtown Grapevine.

An historical article by William C. Edward in the Denton Record Chronicle on March 20, 1955 mentioned J. S. Chapman as an early-day teacher in the town of Denton: "...Among the early day instructors were J. S. Chapman and E. B. Keyte, both of whom I came later to know. Chapman afterward abandoned the teaching profession for business..." These schools were taught in the Masonic Hall and were gradually improved until they were called high schools. Active for many years in the Masonic Lodge, on September 8, 1890 J. S. Chapman served as secretary at the laying of the Masonic cornerstone at the North Texas State Normal College. This building was destroyed by fire in 1907.

Mr. Chapman's first wife was Mary Jane Lipscomb, a daughter of Dr. Dabney M. Lipscomb, one of the pioneers of Grapevine. She was born October 20, 1838 in Carroll County, Mississippi, and moved to Tarrant County just before the War. She was shown as a teacher in the 1860 census of Carroll County. The family settled south of Grapevine and a little northwest of the Minter's Chapel community. Three of her brothers were Confederate soldiers. She and Mr. Chapman were probably married about 1871. She died October 14, 1875. She was originally buried in the Lipscomb Family Cemetery on the DFW Airport Property. Her grave was among those moved to Grapevine Cemetery in 1969 during the airport construction.

James Chapman's second wife was Margaret L. Griffith, who was born at Summit, Alabama on April 7, 1852. In her pension application she gave her birth date as April 7, 1860. She said she came to Texas on July 15, 1876, and moved to Denton about 1880. Mrs. Chapman said she and her husband were married August 25, 1879 in Blount County, Alabama. She told the census taker in 1900 that she had given birth to four children, all of whom were still living. At that time, only her three youngest sons were living with the family.

When the 1880 census was taken the Chapman family lived in Denton on Oak Street. Mr. Chapman was a cattle raiser. He and his second wife, Margaret, had one daughter with them, Mary R. Chapman, who was born about 1879. Neither of the two surviving children from his first marriage were living with him. They were living with their Lipscomb grandparents south of Grapevine in Tarrant County.

Mr. Chapman kept in contact with his friends and family in Grapevine. A notation was found among the papers of E. A. Hall, the Grapevine blacksmith, where on January 28, 1886 Mr. Chapman had paid a bill of \$16.45 by giving Mr. Hall forty-seven bushels of corn.

J. S Chapman was a member of the Sul Ross Camp No. 129 of United Confederate Veterans at Denton.

Mr. Chapman died in Denton on March 20, 1906, and was buried in Denton's IOOF Cemetery. No death certificate was filed for him. He has an upright marble headstone furnished by the Veterans Administration. An obituary for him appeared in the Grapevine Sun on March 24: *"DIED. Last Tuesday, March 20th, Mr. James S. Chapman died in Denton from an attack of grip. He was born in Randolph county, Mo., on Feb. 11, 1843, and lived in that county until the breaking out of the civil war, when he enlisted under Joe Shelby and followed that gallant leader until the close of the war. He came to Texas just after the surrender and lived in Tarrant and Denton counties till his death. He, in common with frail humanity, had his faults, but his many manly virtues showed he was endowed with wonderful will power and great energy. He experienced many ups and downs in the battle of life, but fought on bravely, whether he was up or down. Mr. Chapman used to live in this community, and at one time he was President of Grapevine College. He has many friends here who will indeed regret to hear of his death. Another good man has crossed the Great Divide. Peace to his ashes."*

Mrs. Chapman applied for a Confederate widow's pension in 1930. She said she believed her husband lived at Moberly, Missouri at the time he enlisted. On June 14, 1932 she returned to Guntersville, Alabama to help care for an older sister, Mary W. Lusk. Mrs. Chapman remained there until July 24, 1933, when she returned to Denton. Her absence caused an interruption in her pension payments and her file contains several letters back and forth trying to get the problem resolved.

Mrs. Chapman's death certificate says she was a daughter of Robert Griffith and his wife, Emily Van Zant. She died at 3:10 a.m. on January 15, 1947 at her home at 508 South Elm Street in Denton. The cause of death was listed as senile debility. She was buried the next day beside her husband in the IOOF Cemetery.

The records seem to indicate that Mr. Chapman had seven children. He and Mary Jane Lipscomb had three, and he had four in his marriage with Margaret L. Griffith.

Dabney Lipscomb Chapman was born September 30, (his headstone says 1872, his death certificate says 1873). He was a lifelong bachelor and worked for many years as a dentist. He died of cancer at 11 p.m. March 9, 1927 at his home at 700 South Third Street in Waco, McLennan County, Texas. He was originally buried in Lipscomb Cemetery, but was moved to Grapevine Cemetery in 1969 while the DFW airport was being built. An interesting obituary for him appeared in the Grapevine Sun on March 17, 1927.

Millicent "Millie" Chapman was born January 7, 1874. She married William D. Clark. Her last home was at Grapevine. She died in Fort Worth in Harris Hospital at 5:30 a.m. on December 17,

1952. Her body was taken to Tennessee and she was buried in the Clark family cemetery in Winchester, Tennessee.

“Little Jun.,” the infant son of J. S. and M. J. Chapman, died October 28, 1875 at the age of three months, exactly two weeks after his mother. He was buried in the Lipscomb Cemetery beside her, but was moved along with her in 1969 to Grapevine Cemetery to make room for the new airport.

Mary R. Chapman was born about 1879. She appears in the 1880 census with her parents as a one-year-old as of June 1, 1880. There is a headstone with the Chapmans in the IOOF Cemetery in Denton for one Mary Francis Chapman, who was born November 1, 1880 and died October 16, 1883. Her stone says she is the daughter of J. S. and M. L. Chapman. If the birth date on the headstone is correct, then it seems they probably lost Mary R. Chapman before Mary Francis’ birth and named the second child for the first.

There is one argument in favor of Mary R. Chapman and Mary Francis Chapman having been two different persons. When the 1900 census was taken, Mrs. James S. Chapman said she had given birth to four children, all of whom were still living. Some part of this statement had to be untrue...she had either given birth to at least five children, or, if only four, one of them must have then been dead by that time. Add to the mystery the fact that the 1927 obituary of Dabney L. Chapman in the Grapevine Sun mentions his living sister, his step-mother, and his three half-brothers, all by name. It does not mention a fourth living half-sibling, so the fourth child was most almost surely dead by that time.

James Griffith Chapman was born August 21, 1885. He was never married, and worked for many years as a service station attendant. His final residence was the old family home at 508 South Elm Street in Denton. He died in the Denton Hospital and Clinic at 7:30 a.m. on May 25, 1955, and was buried the next day in the IOOF Cemetery.

Thomas B. Chapman was born April 18, 1888. He served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps during World War I. He worked for several years as a sales manager for Fant Milling Company in Sherman. His last permanent home was at 1122 North Hopson Street in Sherman, Grayson County, Texas. He died in Baylor Hospital in Dallas at 11:16 a.m. on March 24, 1958. He was buried in the IOOF Cemetery in Denton.

Ben C. Chapman was born May 21, 1890. He worked for many years as a farmer and cattle raiser. He died at 5 p.m. on January 15, 1953 at his home on a rural route outside of Marshall, Harrison County, Texas. His wife survived him. He was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Harrison County.



The headstones for both Mary and her infant were moved from Lipscomb Cemetery during DFW Airport construction.