



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Dr. Lilburn Howard Colley

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Dr. Lilburn Howard Colley is the man for whom the city of Colleyville is named. He was born at Colley Hollow near Waynesville, Pulaski, Missouri, on September 5, 1843, the son of Cyrus Colley and his wife, Elizabeth (Howard) Colley. Cyrus Colley was a prominent man in the community who served at various times as both County Judge and County Commissioner.

Lilburn enlisted in the Union army on July 30, 1864 at Waynesville, Missouri for a term of one year. When he enlisted, he was unable even to write his name. He served as a private and a musician in Co. A, 48th Missouri Infantry. At the time of his enlistment, he was 5'10" tall, had a light complexion, blue eyes, and brown hair. He served first as drummer for the company. He was transferred from his position on June 1, 1865 and became principal musician for the company. He was discharged June 29, 1865 at Benton Barracks, Missouri.

After the war, Colley continued to live in Pulaski County until June 1875 when he moved to Chariton County, Missouri. At Salisbury, Chariton County, he was married to Martha Sabrina Fowks on May 19, 1879. She was born September 2, 1860.

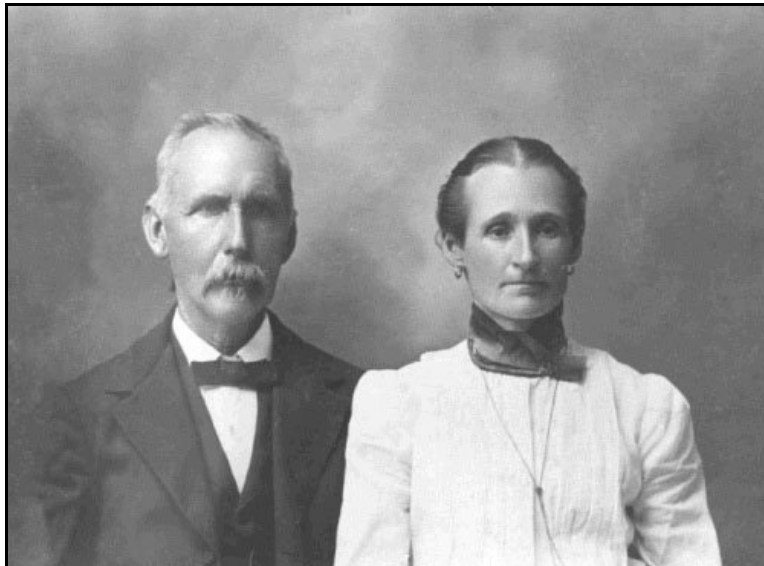
On October 12, 1880, Colley and his new wife left Missouri and settled first in Parker County, Texas. They also lived in Wilbarger County for a time. In October, 1885, the Colleys arrived in northeast Tarrant County. They settled near the west end of present-day Shelton Drive at its intersection with Bransford Road. Dr. Colley became a respected physician and election official for the Pleasant Run School District. In 1895 Dr. Colley was living in present-day Colleyville at about the intersection of Bransford Road with the railroad and L. D. Lockett Road.

He helped many of the area Confederate veterans get their pensions from the state of Texas. In 1900, Colley filed an application for a federal pension based upon his Civil War service. In 1905 they moved to another home which sat on the T. J. Poulson survey south of Glade Road a short distance east of its intersection with Bransford Road. His homesite is now on the campus of Bransford Elementary School.

In 1914 when Walter Couch opened a grocery store in a two-room building near the Colleys' home, Dr. Colley suggested naming the community Colleyville. Mrs. Colley died of cancer at her home in Colleyville on February 22, 1914. An obituary for her appeared in the Grapevine Sun issue of February 28, 1914: *"DIED. Last Sunday morning about five o'clock, Mrs. L. H. Colley, wife of Dr. L. H. Colley, died at their home near Bransford, of cancer. She leaves a husband, 1 daughter, and 3 sons. She was a member of the Baptist church. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. W. H. Day and buried at Smithfield Monday afternoon."*

Dr. Colley continued to live in his home, but was visiting with his daughter, Ethel, in Wichita Falls, Texas when he died October 26, 1924. Both Mr. and Mrs. Colley are buried along the south fence at Smithfield Cemetery. Dr. Colley's funeral was conducted by the members of the Smithfield Masonic Lodge, assisted by members of the Keller and Grapevine Lodges. In the 1980's Dr. Colley was honored with a Texas Historical Marker which now stands in front of the Colleyville Library. The marker application essay begins on the next page.

Dr. and Mrs. Colley were the parents of four children: Ethel Janett Colley, Thaddeus Constantine Colley, Darius Plutarch Colley, and Cyrus Levi Colley. Like his father, Thaddeus C. Colley became a widely known doctor here. Oldtimers here referred to them as "Old Dr. Colley" and "Young Dr. Colley." As an interesting aside, Walter Couch, in whose store Dr. Colley suggested the name for Colleyville, had an accident about 1899 in which one of his legs was so mangled it had to be amputated. Dr. Colley and another of our veterans, Dr. Riley B. Zachary, completed the amputation on the Couches' kitchen table. Walter Couch survived the surgery some ninety-three years, and died just short of his hundredth birthday in 1992.



Dr. Liburn H. and Martha Colley

