



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

John Turner Goldsmith

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John Turner Goldsmith was Confederate veteran who served in a Tennessee cavalry unit. He lived for a time during the 1870's in northeast Tarrant County before moving to Jack County, where he spent many years. He died in Oklahoma in 1911, and lies buried there.

Family internet sources say Mr. Goldsmith was born on July 10, 1824 in Greenville County, South Carolina. He was a son of John Alexander Goldsmith (1788-1825) and Elizabeth Marshbanks (1789-1830). They also say Mr. Goldsmith and his wife, Naomi Bryan Corn, were married on August 1, 1846 in North Carolina. She was born in North Carolina on April 2, 1832.

J. T. Goldsmith and his new family appear in the 1850 census of Buncombe County, North Carolina. Mr. Goldsmith was twenty-four years old; Naomi was seventeen. Their oldest son, William M. Goldsmith, was one year old.

Census data suggest the Goldsmiths moved left North Carolina about 1857 and settled in Tennessee. The family appears in the 1860 census of Washington County, Tennessee's District 2 in the area served by the post office at West's Store. John was working as a day laborer. The children with them in that year were William M., Manerva, Sarah, John, and Margaret. They had arrived in Tennessee between the births of John and Margaret.

John T. Goldsmith served the Confederacy as a private in Co. H, 5th Tennessee Cavalry. He enlisted at Jonesboro, Tennessee on January 7, 1863, and was soon placed on duty "taking up conscripts by order of Capt Blair Pro Mar Jonesboro." Another record shows his enlistment on the same date at Knoxville for a period of three years; that record shows him on mounted duty for one hundred thirteen days, with a bounty due of fifty dollars. On a muster roll prepared at Tunnel Hill, Georgia on March 11, 1864, Mr. Goldsmith appears as missing since the Battle of Chickamauga.

Federal records show he was captured near Chickamauga on September 19 or 20, 1863. On October 1, 1863 he was forwarded to Louisville, Kentucky, ostensibly for exchange, but it did not materialize. He was received at the military prison at Louisville on the next day, and was immediately forwarded to Camp Douglas. He arrived at Camp Douglas on October 4, 1863, and remained in custody there until March 14, 1865. On May 13, 1865, he took the oath of allegiance to the federal government. The document shows he was a resident of Washington County, Tennessee, was five feet six inches tall, and had a light complexion, dark hair, and hazel eyes. On the next day, he was forwarded to Point Lookout, Maryland, released, and told to report to Jonesboro, Tennessee.

When the 1870 census was taken, the family still lived in Washington County, Tennessee. They were located in District 1, being served by the Jonesboro Post Office. The children in the family included William; a daughter named S. M.; a female named D. J., born in Tennessee about 1853 who may not have been a daughter; a son named J. A.; a daughter named M. A.; a daughter named H. J.; a son named J. F.; a daughter named M. A.; a daughter named Lucinda; and a son named J. F. A. Goldsmith, born in September 1869. Also in the family were Mr. Goldsmith's son-in-law, Jo. B. Kirk, his wife (and Goldsmith's daughter) M. E. Kirk, and their son, William Kirk, who was two years old.

By 1875 the Goldsmith family had come to Texas and settled at some point in Precinct 3 in Tarrant County. In that year, they did not own any real estate, but James T. Goldsmith is shown in the tax list as the owner of two horses or mules worth fifty dollars, ten cattle worth fifty dollars, and five goats or hogs worth five dollars.

Certainly the most striking event of the family's life while in Tarrant took place on November 24, 1877. It was reported the next day in The Fort Worth Daily Democrat and involved James T. Goldsmith's son, John Alison Goldsmith, although the article mistakenly referred to him as Bill Goldsmith. The article said, ***"A DEAD SHOT. The Sad End of a Notorious Horse Thief. Yesterday morning, White Collins, deputy sheriff, started out with two other deputies, in search of the notorious horse thief, Bill Goldsmith, who was widely known throughout this part of the State, as a desperate and fearless character, as well as an unscrupulous horse thief, and who will be remembered by many as being the same man who nearly killed our jailer a year ago last fall, in making his escape.***

"Information came that he was visiting one of his brothers, living east of Birdville. They proceeded to the place, captured him, and started with their prisoner on their return home.. All four were mounted on horses. Collins and Goldsmith were in the lead, while the other deputies were following on behind. As they reached a point on the road leading to Denton, about half a mile east of the ferry on the Trinity, Goldsmith suddenly urged his horse and started on a run, intending to make his escape. As he was entering the brush adjoining the road, one of the party behind fired, and the ball struck Goldsmith in the middle of the back, passing through his body; he fell from his horse and died in the course of a half hour.

"A coroner's jury was summoned. White Collins as witness, was unable to state which one of his deputies had done the shooting, both having disappeared shortly after the shooting. The verdict of the jury as to the effect, that deceased came to his death by a pistol shot in the hands of one

party unknown to them. A messenger was dispatched to his brothers and after putting the body on the top of a log cabin roof close by, to keep it from the hogs, the jury returned to the city. The body was probably taken possession of later in the evening by his relatives.

“The shooting occurred about 10 o’clock yesterday morning, and the coroner’s inquest commenced about four o’clock. And so ends the eventful career of one more notorious Texan.”

Some of the other Goldsmith sons ran afoul of the law, both in Texas and Oklahoma. This compiler has seen an account of the other sons, but cannot now locate it. When found, it will be added to this account.

About 1878 the Goldsmiths left Tarrant County and moved west, settling in Precinct 3 of Jack County, south of Newcastle near the town of Truce. They appear there in the 1880 census. By that time, there were six children with their parents: Mary A., Lucinda, Minerva, Jonathan, Oliver, and Thomas Goldsmith.

J. T. Goldsmith also appears in the agricultural census of 1880 for Jack County, Texas. He was working twenty acres of tilled land, and had one hundred forty acres of woodland or brushland. He estimated his farm to be worth three hundred dollars, and his farming implements to be worth sixty dollars. His livestock was worth four hundred dollars. He estimated the value of all his farm productions in 1879 to be worth four hundred fifty dollars. He owned four horses, fourteen milk cows, and five cattle of other classes. Sixteen calves had been dropped on his place in the past year, he had sold thirty-five head, and two head had died. He estimated he had produced five hundred pounds of butter in 1879. He had thirty hogs and a half-dozen laying hens. He had five acres in Indian corn which had produced two hundred bushels, and six acres in cotton which had made four and one-half bales.

Mr. Goldsmith appears in the 1900 census of Jack County’s Precinct 3 as a widower. He claimed to have been born in July 1824. He lived with his daughter, Minnie A. Ferguson, her husband William Ferguson, and her children. This information disagrees with some family sources which say Mrs. Goldsmith died in Montague County, Texas on August 25, 1909.

Mr. Goldsmith applied to the State of Texas for a Confederate soldier’s pension in February 1900. He said he lived at Truce in Jack County, which was a community about four miles south of Newport. He said he had been living at Truce since about 1878. He said his health had been permanently damaged by smallpox and by exposure he suffered while being held at Camp Douglas during the War. He also claimed to be blind in one eye and generally disabled. Dr. D. D. Swearingen of Jack County examined him and added that Mr. Goldsmith had an inguinal hernia. He confirmed that Mr. Goldsmith was blind in one eye and had only partial sight in the other. Mr. Goldsmith said his property included forty-three acres of land worth four dollars per acre and one colt worth five dollars. He claimed service in Co. H, 5th Tennessee Regiment.

According to family genealogists, John Taylor Goldsmith died in Beckham County, Oklahoma on December 12, 1911.

The following list of John T. Goldsmith's children was compiled from a variety of internet, family, cemetery, and vital statistics sources. Vital data on these children is often found conflicting from one source to the next.

William Marion Goldsmith was born February 1, 1848. Family sources say he married Nora A. Bradley as his second wife on October 2, 1892 in Montague County, Texas. He died May 29, 1902 Spokane, Washington and is buried in the Greenwood Cemetery there.

Manerva Elizabeth Goldsmith was born January 29, 1851. She married Jo. B. Kirk about 1867 while the family still lived in Washington County, Tennessee. Family sources say she died May 5, 1896 in Montague County, Texas.

Sarah Melinda Goldsmith was born February 12, 1853. Before 1876, she married another of our veterans, Thomas Moore Riley, in Tarrant County, Texas. Before 1880 they moved to Montague County, possibly at the same time John T. Goldsmith moved. Mr. Riley and his wife settled about one and one-half miles south of Stoneburg. After Mr. Riley's death in 1896, she was remarried to James Howard about 1898. She died in Montague County, Texas on October 26, 1901, and was buried beside Mr. Riley in Oak Hill Cemetery in Montague County.

John Alison Goldsmith was born October 10, 1855. While still a young man he apparently became involved in crime, and was jailed at least once in Tarrant County, before escaping. He was shot and killed by sheriff's deputies in Tarrant County on November 24, 1877, and was buried in present-day Colleyville in the Riley Cemetery along Brown Trail. At that time, the land was owned by his sister and her husband, Thomas M. Riley. The newspaper account of his death appears earlier in this biographical sketch.

Margaret Alice Goldsmith was born June 20, 1858. She died at Bowie, Montague County, Texas on September 21, 1933. Her married name was Jacobs.

Hester Jane Goldsmith was born January 1, 1860. She married David Henson Hawkins (1848-1934) on March 11, 1875. She died January 16, 1934 at Lubbock, Texas.

James Toliver Goldsmith was born January 13, 1863. Family sources say he died August 6, 1878 in Jack County, Texas.

Mary Ann Goldsmith was born April 20, 1866. She married Thomas Bedford Faver (1864-1948) in Jack County, Texas on September 18, 1884. She died in Snyder, Scurry County, Texas on August 3, 1952, and was buried in Snyder Cemetery.

Ella Lucinda Goldsmith was born, according to family sources, on February 2, 1866, but it seems more likely the year would have been 1868. She married Willis Argalus Faver (1865-1947) in Jack County, Texas on January 10, 1886. They were in Scurry County in 1900. She died January 9, 1943 and was buried in Archer City Cemetery in Archer County, Texas.

“Minnie” Apolis Goldsmith was born January 27, 1870. She married William M. Ferguson about 1888, and was living with her husband and children in Jack County, Texas in 1900. They were at Hunter Township, Tillman County, Oklahoma in 1920. Family sources say she died May 29, 1958 in Lincoln, Idaho.

Jonathan Riley Goldsmith was born September 12, 1872. He died in Jefferson, Oklahoma in January 1918.

Oliver Franklin Goldsmith was born January 11, 1875. He married Clara Frances Beach Jameson in 1905 in Comanche, Oklahoma. He died November 23, 1964 in Stanislaus, California.

Thomas Turner Goldsmith was born June 20, 1877. He married Bertha Meier on February 28, 1909 in Beckham County, Oklahoma. Mr. Goldsmith was in the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in Pittsburg County, Oklahoma in 1920. He died August 14, 1945 at Fort Supply, Oklahoma. He lies buried in Sayre-Doxey Cemetery in Sayre, Beckham County, Oklahoma.