



# TARRANT COUNTY

## TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### William Smith Gray

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William Smith Gray was one of three brothers who were living in the Grapevine area when they enlisted in the Confederate Army. After the War, he left Tarrant County and spent his last years in Brown County, Texas. Family sources at ancestry.com report that he was a son of Hiram Arthur Gray and his wife, Martha (Smith) Gray.

William Smith Gray was born December 29, 1839 in Yalobusha County, Mississippi, the eldest son of Hiram A. Gray (who was born in Kentucky) and his first wife, Mary A. Smith (who was born in Mississippi). When the 1850 census was taken, William Gray was a ten-year-old boy living with his father's family in the Southern Division of Carroll County, Mississippi.

Hiram Gray moved his family to Tarrant County in the 1850's. Some records indicate they made the move about 1859. In 1860, H. A. Gray appears in the Tarrant County, Texas tax lists; in that year he owned no real estate.

W. S. Gray was a member of the West Fork Guards, part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Brigade of Texas State Troops. He was also a second sergeant in a company raised by William Quayle. He spent about one year as a private in Co. A, 9<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry.

W. S. Gray enlisted and was mustered into the Confederate service on October 14, 1861 at Camp McCulloch, under W. C. Young, for a term of twelve months. He had traveled one hundred fifty miles to the rendezvous and brought with him a horse worth eighty-five dollars and equipment worth twelve dollars. He said he was twenty-one years old. He became a part of Capt. Thomas G. Berry's Company of Sims' Regiment of Texas Volunteers, which subsequently became Co. A, 9<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry.

On the last day of December, 1861, he was at Fort Gibson in present-day Oklahoma. On a regimental muster roll for March and April, 1862, he was listed as absent "Detailed with horses." A subsequent muster roll shows that service began on April 16, 1862 and that it was performed at Des Arc, Arkansas. He remained there through the end of October. On the regimental roll for November and December, 1862, the notation is made: "Discharged and final statements given in Texas. No date given."

William S. Gray appears in the 1865 Tarrant County tax list, but he had no real estate or personal property listed. He paid only poll tax.

The 1870 census taker found William and his family living in Precinct 2 of Tarrant County. His next-door neighbors were two of our other veterans, Thomas P. Youngblood and Ambrose H. Boyd. Mr. Gray said he was thirty years old and a native of Mississippi. He owned \$460 worth of real estate and \$100 worth of personal property. His wife, Maria M. Gray, was twenty-seven years old and a native of Pennsylvania. They had four children with them, all born in Texas: Hiram A. Gray (born about 1863), Laura B. Gray (born about 1865), Martha E. Gray (born about 1867), and an infant female who had not been named, born in February, 1870.

At some point in the 1870's Mr. Gray and his family left Tarrant County and moved to the Byrd's Store Precinct in Brown County, Texas. They appear there in the 1880 census. W. S. Gray was working as a miller. He said his father was born in Kentucky and his mother was born in Alabama. His wife, M. M. Gray, said she and both her parents were born in Pennsylvania. They had five children living with them: a son, H. A. Gray (born about 1863); and four daughters: L. B. Gray (born about 1866), N. E. (born about 1869), M. J. Gray (born about 1872), and Vic. E. Gray (born about 1875).

The census taker in 1900 found the family living in Precinct 2 of Brown County. The first Mrs. Gray had died, and Mr. Gray had remarried about 1888. His second wife, Mary Ella McCullough Gray, was born in Collin County, Texas on May 10, 1865. She had given birth to three children, two of whom were still alive. They had five children living with them, three from Mr. Gray's first marriage, and two from the second. They were Effie V. Gray, Laura B. (born in 1866), Martha E. (born in 1868), James H. (born in August 1890), and George W. (born in 1894).

Ten years later, in 1910, the Grays were still living in Brown County, but were listed in Precinct 1. They four youngest children shown in the 1900 census were still living with them. Mr. Gray said he was a Confederate veteran.

In 1920, Mr. Gray and his wife, Mary E. Gray, were living in Brown County, Texas on the May and Holder Road. Two of Mr. Gray's daughters from his first marriage, Bell Gray (born about 1870), and Lizzie (born about 1875), were living with them.

Descendants who have posted material at ancestry.com say Mr. Gray died August 21, 1922 in Brown County, Texas. Mrs. Mary Ella (or Ellen) McCullough Gray survived until April 25, 1946, when she died at her home in May, Texas. She was buried in Pleasant Valley Cemetery in Brown County. Neither of them applied to the State of Texas for a Confederate pension.

One of the children was Martha Elizabeth Gray, who was born September 22, 1868. She was never married. She died at her home in May, Brown County, Texas on September 20, 1940. She was buried in Pleasant Valley Cemetery in Brown County. On her death certificate, her mother's name was shown as Mariah Lewis.

Effie V. Gray Driskill was born at May, Texas on September 5, 1880. She died on August 22, 1971 at the Twilight Acres Nursing Home in Rising Star, Eastland County, Texas, where she had lived for the past two and one-half years. She was buried in May Cemetery, The informant for her death certificate was her son, Raymond Driskill.

Victoria Evaline Gray Driskill (family sources say her name was Victoria Evangeline Gray) married Isaac Green Parker Driskill in Brown County, Texas on July 21, 1895. He was the son of another of our veterans, William Franklin Driskill. Her death certificate says she was born September 15, 1875, and died at her home in North Forth Worth at 1613 Gould Street on July 14, 1960. She was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

James Hogg Gray was born August 30, 1890 in Brown County, Texas. He died in Brownwood, Texas on August 31, 1975. He was buried in May Cemetery. He was survived by his wife, Myrtle Gray.

George Watterson Gray was born at May, Texas on September 18, 1894. He was a veteran of World War I. He died December 2, 1974 at Brownwood, Brown County, Texas, and was buried in Eastlawn Memorial Park there. He was a retired U. S. Postal clerk.

