



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

William Jefferson Harrelson

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William Jefferson Harrelson was a native of South Carolina who served the Confederacy in an Arkansas infantry regiment. He came to northeast Tarrant County from Alabama late in life, died in 1910, and lies buried in Lonesome Dove Cemetery.

Family sources posted online say William Jefferson Harrelson was born in Spartanburg County, South Carolina on July 19, 1836, and was a son of Gideon (1802-1883) and Sarah (Alexander) Harrelson (1808-1885), both of whom lie buried in Union United Methodist Church Cemetery at Wellington, Calhoun County, Alabama.

When the 1850 census was taken, the Harrelson family was found in District 29 of Benton County, Alabama. He appears as "William Heraldson." Judging from the data given about the children they must have made the move from South Carolina to Alabama between about 1843 and 1849. William appears in the census as a twelve-year-old boy in a family made up of his parents, Gideon and Sarah Harrelson, and six Harrelson children. Although the microfilm is difficult to read it appears that Gideon Harrelson owned a fairly large farm. It is worth noting that their next-door neighbors were Richard and Permelia Lanford, whose son, John Albin Lanford, was a Confederate veteran who also immigrated to the Grapevine-Southlake area. In later years one of William Harrelson's daughters married a son of John A. Lanford and they settled near Grapevine.

By 1860 William was no longer with his father's family, who by that time had moved to Ranges 5, 6, and 7 in Calhoun County, Alabama. William's father, Gideon, was beginning to prosper; in that year he owned six slaves who were housed in one slave house.

We have not positively located William Harrelson in the 1860 census. There was in that year one William Harrelson, twenty-three years old and a native of South Carolina, working as a laborer in Union County, Arkansas in the area served by the post office at Union Springs, Arkansas.

Mr. Harrelson was a member of the Stonewall Jackson Camp of United Confederate Veterans which was established in Grapevine in February, 1900. He told his comrades he served the South in Co. G, 9th Arkansas Infantry, in Bradley's Brigade. His records in the National Archives show he initially enlisted on October 12, 1861 in Union City, Tennessee for a term of nine months. On a muster roll for November and December 1861 he appears absent sick in Atlanta, Georgia. By the time the roll was prepared for January and February, 1862 he was back on duty. On February 27, 1862 he again became sick and was again left at Atlanta. On a roll for January and February 1863 he was absent sick at Edwards Depot; by the time the March and April rolls were made he was back and ready for duty. He was present with the regiment through the end of 1863. At some point in July or August 1864 he was sick in Macon, Georgia.

No more material specific to his service is to be found in his record files in the National Archives. A good short history of the regiment's service may be found at:

http://web.archive.org/web/20071212052703/http://asms.k12.ar.us/armem/welch/ar_infy.htm

Family internet sources say Mr. Harrelson was married in Calhoun County, Alabama on January 26, 1869 to Eveline Hardin. Some sources give her name as Nancy Emeline Hardin. She was born about 1846 in Alabama. Census records suggest she may have been the daughter of A. A. Hardin, at hatter who lived in Peaks Hill, Calhoun County, Alabama in 1860, and his wife, Amanda. Eveline Hardin appears with the family in 1860 as a girl fourteen years old and born in Alabama.

Mr. Harrelson appears as "W. Harelson" in the 1870 census of Precinct 6, Calhoun County, Alabama. They lived in the area served by the post office at Peak Hill, Alabama. With him were his wife, "Eveline," their son, F. K. Harrelson, who was born in May, 1870; and two Harden children, Joe Harden and L. Harden, eleven and nine years old, respectively. It seems likely they were his wife's younger brothers.

The family appears in the 1880 census of Calhoun County, Alabama in Beat 6. Mr. and Mrs. Harrelson have three children with them: Amanda, Laura, and a boy named Hallby, who was six years old.

When the 1900 census of Tarrant County was taken, Mr. Harrelson was living as a boarder in the home of another of our veterans, Moses Smith, in the Grapevine-Southlake area. Mr. Harrelson said he was born in July 1836. He was working as a day laborer and owned no real estate. There is no readable headstone for Mrs. Harrelson in any northeast Tarrant County cemetery.

Mr. Harrelson's obituary was printed in the Grapevine Sun on August 6, 1910. The microfilm, which has now been in continual use for more than thirty years, is becoming worn and degraded. The first part of the obituary is now unreadable, but the last part reads: "...*day afternoon. It seems, from what we can learn, that Mr. Harrelson had a chill on Monday, on Tuesday afternoon about 2 o'clock he was visited by some of his near neighbors and was found smoking his pipe, apparently getting along very well. A short time after someone called again and found him dead.*" August 6 was on a Saturday, so if he died on Tuesday he would have died on August 2, 1910. His grave in Lonesome Dove Cemetery is marked with a well-made commercial upright monument.

Using census records, we have discovered the names of only four children of William and Eveline Harrelson: F. K. Harrelson, Amanda Harrelson, Laura Harrelson, and Hallby Harrelson. Family sources online name some others who were born after the taking of the 1880 census: John, Joseph, and Nannie Harrelson.

F. K. Harrelson was born in May, 1870, and appears with his parents in the 1870 census in Calhoun County, Alabama. Since he was not with them in 1880, it seems likely he died in childhood in Alabama.

Amanda E. Harrelson was born April 29, 1870. She was married in Calhoun County, Alabama on December 23, 1890 to William Bluford Lanford (1868-1950), a Baptist minister who was ordained by the Lonesome Dove Baptist Church. The family lived in Grapevine in 1900. Mr. Lanford died in Bowie, Montague County, Texas, and is buried in Montague County. Amanda Harrelson Lanford died at the home of her son, W. J. Lanford, on Route 4, Potter's Lane in Mesquite, Dallas County, Texas at 3 p.m. on July 31, 1952. She was buried in Lonesome Dove Cemetery on August 2. Her obituary in the Dallas Morning News did not mention any surviving siblings.

Laura Harrelson was born about 1873. She was still with the family when the 1880 census was taken.

Hallby Harrelson was born about 1874. He was still with the family when the 1880 census was taken.

