



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

John Randolph Heaslett

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John Randolph Heaslett was a Confederate veteran from Tennessee who lived for a few years after the War at Grapevine before finally moving to Collin County. He lies buried there in McKinney.

According to his Confederate pension file submitted in 1913, he was born in Bedford County, Tennessee on July 21, 1839. His death certificate shows that he was a son of William Heaslett and Luvinia Hubbard, both natives of Tennessee. William Heaslett was born about 1773 in North Carolina, and was about thirty-three years older than John's mother, Luvinia, who was born about 1806 in Tennessee.

In 1850, John R. Heaslett was living in District 24 in Bedford County, Tennessee with his parents and siblings. He grew up in fairly comfortable circumstances; in 1850 his father owned nine slaves: two adult males, two adult females, three boys, and two girls.

He served the Confederacy in Co. A, 17th Tenn Infantry, having enlisted in May? 1861. He was discharged or paroled on August 11, 1864. His name appears on a list of "killed, wounded and missing, in Cleburne's Division, Hardee's Corps, A. T., in the battle of Murfreesboro, Tenn., Dec. 31, 1862" with the notation that he was severely wounded in the hand; with that notation made January 16, 1863.

He appears on a register of the Invalid Corps, with his date of retirement August 11, 1864, with a designation of total disability. Heaslett said in his Confederate pension application that he "retired as a disabled soldier on August 11, 1864 in camp near Chaffin's Farm, Virginia and was afterwards captured by Sherman in his raids through Georgia, then furloughed February 16, 1865." His name appears on a "Muster Roll of a detachment of paroled and exchanged prisoners at Camp Lee, near Richmond, Va.," dated February 17, 1865.

When the 1870 census was taken, John Heaslett was working as a farm laborer and living alone in District 24 of Bedford County. His widowed mother, Luvina, was living alone only two houses away. A year later he and his wife, Orrie, were married in Bedford County.

The 1880 census found the family still in Bedford County in District 24. In John's household were his wife, Orrie (born about 1847 in Alabama to a Tennessean father and an Alabamian mother) and six children: Willie (a son, born about 1872); Ola (born about 1874); Lena (born about 1876); Johnnie (a son, born about 1878), and Emma (probably born in early fall in 1879). Also with the family was John's mother, "Malvina," born about 1806 in Tennessee.

John R. Heaslett was a member of the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth. He is shown on one of their rolls as a resident of Grapevine in 1884.

Around 1897 the Heaslett family settled in Collin County, where the 1900 census taker found them living in District 2 of Precinct 1. Mr. and Mrs. Heaslett had eight children living with them: Ola (born September 1873); Lena G. (born January 1876); John R. (born September 1877); Mary E. (born July 1879); Berta? A. (born July 1881); Samuel B. or R. (born July 1884); Carrie R. (born January 1886); and Henry G. (born May 1890). Mrs. Heaslett said she had given birth to eleven children, eight of whom were still alive. This census indicates that their move from Tennessee to Texas took place between July of 1879 and July of 1881.

Ten years later, in 1910, the family appears in the census of Collin County in District 25 of Precinct 6. In that year, Mrs. Heaslett is shown as the mother of nine children, all of whom were still living.

When Mr. Heaslett applied for a veteran's pension in 1913, he stated that he had moved to Texas in 1880, and had lived at Rt. 1, Allen, Collin County, Texas for sixteen years. The commissioner of pensions in Austin mailed a letter to the family on December 28, 1916 stating that they had received from Mr. Heaslett his original discharge papers.

Mr. Heaslett's death certificate shows that he died in McKinney, Collin County, at 2:40 p.m. on January 29, 1928. Oddly, it shows his birthdate correctly as July 21, 1839 but his age at death as 86 years, 6 months, and 8 days. He was a native of Tennessee. He was a retired farmer. He died of "Sanality," and was buried in Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney.

Heaslett's widow, Orrie Heaslett, applied for a pension on February 6, 1928. She said he had died in Collin County on January 27, 1928. They were married in Bedford County, Tennessee on February 1, 1871. She said she was born in Tennessee on August 22, 1846, and had lived in Texas for forty-seven years. Her post office in 1928 was McKinney.

Orrie Heaslett died in Precinct 1 of Collin County on December 23, 1933. Her death certificate shows that she was born August 22, 1846 in Scottsboro, Alabama. She was a daughter of J. W. Brooks and a Miss Hudgins. She died at 10:40 a.m. of angina pectoris and hypertension, and was buried beside her husband in Pecan Grove Cemetery.

One of their children was Ola H. Isabell, the wife of H. H. Isabell. Ola was born in Tennessee on September 6, 1873 and died in McKinney, Collin County, Texas on April 6, 1932.

Another daughter was Mary Emma Popplewell, who was born July 30, 1879 in Tennessee, and died June 26, 1948 in Allen, Collin County, Texas.

Another of their children was Bertie Allen Dye, who was born July 16, 1881 at Grapevine, according to her death certificate. She died May 18, 1964 at Cisco, Eastland County, Texas, and was buried in Gunsight Cemetery in Breckenridge, Texas.



The VA bronze marker for Mr. Heaslett has incorrect dates...they are those of his wife.