



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### John Stuart Hukill

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John Stuart Hukill was one of only a handful of men who settled in Tarrant County who fought on both sides of the War, first as a Confederate and then as a Federal. His great-great granddaughter, Ruby Wallace, furnished most of the material in this sketch.

John Stuart Hukill was born July 26, 1842 in Washington County, Arkansas, the third child of James Scott Hukill and Mary Shannon. He lived in the Washington County, Arkansas area until some time during the early part of 1860, when it is believed his family moved to Sebastian County, Arkansas.

Sometime in 1861 John became a private in the Fort Smith Rifles, also called Company A, under Captain J. H. Sparks. His company was among five companies that took part in the Battle of Oak Hill, which was fought on August 10, 1861.

John later enlisted in the Confederate Army as a private in Co. G, 34<sup>th</sup> Arkansas Infantry, Brooks Regiment on June 19, 1862, in Sebastian County, Arkansas. One record in his file says he enlisted on July 20. This regiment was designated at various times as Brook's Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Arkansas (Brook's) Arkansas Infantry, and 34<sup>th</sup> Arkansas Infantry. Company G was recruited in Sebastian County, and was commanded by Captain James B. Hensley of Washington County. John enlisted for three years; it is not known when he was discharged out of this unit. He was listed on the company muster roll for April 30 to August 31, 1863; this roll contains a notation that he was elected from private to corporal on August 11, 1863.

John Stuart Hukill had two full brothers, Mark M. Hukill and James Scott Hukill, Jr. who also served in this same regiment.

On the same day as James' election to corporal, his brother John was also elected to the same rank. Mark M. Hukill had been elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant of the regiment on October 1, 1862. None of the

Hukill brothers have any Confederate regimental records after August 11, 1863. An interesting online history of the regiment may be found at:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/34th\\_Arkansas\\_Infantry\\_Regiment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/34th_Arkansas_Infantry_Regiment)

In almost all cases when a Confederate soldier changed sides during the War it came about as a result of his capture and imprisonment by the federal forces. No records of John Hukill's service after August 31 have survived, but it seems likely that probably happened to him. Release from prison could be obtained by joining the Union army under some circumstances. Oral traditions among the descendants of Mark M. Hukill say he was persuaded to join the Union army while in a federal prison. Like his brother John, Mark also later served in the Union army in Co. B of the 18<sup>th</sup> Iowa Infantry, although Mark did not join the regiment until January 5, 1864. He served as a hospital steward while in Union service, and later became a well-known country doctor in Arkansas.

On December 28, 1863, John S. Hukill volunteered as a private in Company B, commanded by Wm. M. Duncan, in the 18th Regiment of Iowa Infantry, commanded by Col. John Edwards, which was a Union Army division. He was honorably discharged at Little Rock, Arkansas on the 20th day of July, 1865. At the time he enlisted, the 18<sup>th</sup> Iowa was garrisoned at Fort Smith. It took part in Steele's Campaign against Camden, Arkansas from March 22 until May 15. It was at Prairie D'Ann on April 9-12; at Moscow on April 13; at Poison Springs on April 18; and at Jenkins Ferry on the Saline River on April 30. After that time it served garrison duty at Fort Smith until July, 1865. Finally it was ordered to Little Rock and was mustered out there on July 20, 1865.

An original signed copy of John S. Hukill's enlistment paper has survived in his Union file in the National Archives. Dated January 2, 1864, it confirms his age and his birth in Washington County, Arkansas. When he enlisted he was six feet three inches tall, and had blue eyes, a fair complexion, and light hair. He was a farmer. He enlisted in the Union service at Sugar Loaf Valley. He was due an enlistment bounty which was paid to him in intervals.

On June 25, 1866, John Stuart Hukill married Mrs. Adelia Ann Bush Davis in Sebastian County, Arkansas, a daughter of Dr. John B. and Rachel Piper Monroe Bush.

Adelia's first husband, John Davis, died of pneumonia on February 25, 1864 in a military prison in Clarksville, Arkansas. She and John Davis had one child, Palemon Cage Davis, born about 1859. It was told by a family member that Adelia Ann had made the statement that she was about the only woman she knew of who had a husband who fought for both sides of the war.

John Hukill and his family are listed in 1870 in the census of Pittsburg Township in Johnson County, Arkansas. They lived in the area of the county served by the post office in Clarksville, Arkansas. Mrs. Hukill's son by her first marriage, Palemon, is with them. There is also one daughter named "Millet?," born about 1868; a son John who was born in May 1870; and a man named Taylor Wooley, age twenty-four, in the family. Mr. Hukill was a farmer. He owned no real estate, and is not shown as the owner of any personal property.

John first applied for pension benefits based on his Union service on April 7, 1874. He stated that at Clarksville, Arkansas in the fall of 1864 he contracted a disease of the lungs by having a severe attack of pneumonia. He received treatment for it at the regimental camp at Clarksville. He had another attack in the spring of 1865. He estimated that he was fifty per cent disabled from being able to do his farming activities. At the time he made his application his post office was Greenwood in Sebastian County, Arkansas.

After their marriage John S. and Adelia had six children, the last being born sometime in late 1879 or perhaps early 1880. According to family traditions, the baby was a girl and died at birth. Adelia Ann died on March 10, 1880 and it is speculated that she may have died during childbirth. No one named Hukill or any variant appears in any of the surviving 1880 mortality schedules for Sebastian County, Arkansas.

John Stuart Hukill bought seven acres in Sebastian County, Arkansas on February 16, 1876. This same acreage was sold November 24, 1888 by John and his second wife, Mrs. Eliza A. Wilhite Tucker. They were living in Tarrant County, Texas on that date.

It is not known if Adelia Ann died in Arkansas or Texas. In the 1880 census records of Johnson County, Texas, taken June 9th, 1880, John Stuart Hukill was listed as a widower. How long he had been in Texas is not known. In that year Mr. Hukill and his son, Stewart, lived with the family of Obediah Marsh. None of the other children were with him. John was working as a farm laborer. He is known to have been living in Sebastian County, Arkansas up until 1878, when the fifth son, Oscar Young (Dank) Hukill was born on January 29th.

The 1880 mortality schedules of Precinct 1, Johnson County, Texas, offer a tantalizing clue. The person doing the microfilming inconveniently cut off the left page of the documents, which completely erased the surnames. However, the records show one Delia Ann someone, age thirty-seven and a native of Arkansas, who died in March 1880 of "dropsy of the heart." She had been living in Johnson County for two years.

On October 10, 1880, at Bedford, Tarrant County, Texas, John Stuart Hukill married Mrs. Eliza A. Wilhite Saunders Tucker.

Mr. Hukill made another declaration for an invalid's pension while living in Tarrant County, Texas in July, 1890. At that time he was living at Birdville. He died about six months later on January 23, 1891 at Birdville, Tarrant County, Texas, and was buried in the Birdville Cemetery. He has no marker.

The following paragraphs seek to give short accounts of John S. Hukill's children.

William Molette Hukill was born about 1868. The 1870 census shows this child as a female named "Millet?" When the 1880 Johnson County, Texas census was taken, twelve-year-old William "Hukul" was living with the family of William H. Kugle in the same precinct as John S. Hukill.

John Wallace Hukill appears in the 1870 census with the notation that he was born in May of the year. The census taker did not record the month and day of his visit. His headstone says he was born August 15, 1870. In 1880, Wallace "Hucol" was ten years old and living with the family of Winnie S. Boyd in the same precinct of Johnson County, Texas as John S. Hukill. John Wallace Hukill married Frances Saline Caroline "Fannie" Phelps (1870-1958), a daughter of Jefferson Phelps on September 10, 1891 in Tarrant County, Texas. He and his wife and children appear in the 1900 census at Bedford in Tarrant County. He died April 13, 1937 in Rains County, Texas and was buried in Salem Cemetery at Alba, Wood County, Texas.

Mark Hukill was born about 1873. He was seven years old and living with the family of Ephraim A. Harper in Johnson County, Texas when the 1880 census was taken. Like his father, John S. Hukill, Mark lived in precinct 1.

Stewart Hukill was born about 1875. He appears as a five-year-old boy in the 1880 census.

Oscar Young (Dank) Hukill was born on January 29, 1875 in Tarrant County, Texas, according to his death certificate and headstone. Some Hukill descendants say he was born in 1878. At the age of two, Oscar appeared in Precinct 1 of Johnson County, Texas with the family of William K. Franklin. Oscar married Katie L. Barton (1876-1942), who lies buried beside him. He died of heart trouble at 5 p.m. on October 21, 1950 at Colorado City in Mitchell County, Texas. His last permanent residence was at Lindale in Smith County, Texas. He was buried in Dover Cemetery at Lindale.

Family tradition says the last Hukill child was a girl who died at or soon after birth in about 1880.



New stone installed by  
E. W. Taylor Camp, Sons of  
Confederate Veterans  
March 16, 2013

VOLUNTEER ENLISTMENT.

STATE OF

Arkansas



TOWN OF

Fort Smith

I, John S. Hunkill born in Washington Co in the State of Arkansas aged Twenty two years, and by occupation a Farmer Do HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE to have volunteered this Second day of January 1864, to serve as a Soldier in the Army of the United States of America, for the period of THREE YEARS unless sooner discharged by proper authority: Do also agree to accept such bounty, pay, rations, and clothing, as are, or may be, established by law for volunteers. And I, John S. Hunkill do solemnly swear, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America, and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies or opposers whomsoever; and that I will observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the Rules and Articles of War.

Sworn and subscribed to, at Searcy, Miss. this 2nd day of Jan 1864, before James M. Higgins 2nd Lieut Co B 18th Iowa

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have carefully examined the above-named Volunteer, agreeably to the General Regulations of the Army, and that, in my opinion, he is free from all bodily defects and mental infirmity, which would in any way disqualify him from performing the duties of a soldier.

J. H. Allen 18th Iowa Vol EXAMINING SURGEON.

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have minutely inspected the Volunteer, John S. Hunkill previously to his enlistment, and that he was entirely sober when enlisted, that, to the best of my judgment and belief, he is of lawful age; and that, in accepting him as duly qualified to perform the duties of an able-bodied soldier, I have strictly observed the Regulations which govern the recruiting service. This soldier has Grey eyes, Auburn hair, Fair complexion, is 6 feet 3 inches high.

James M. Higgins 2nd Lieut Co B 18th Regt of Iowa Infy Volunteers, RECRUITING OFFICER.

Mustered into the service of the United States, in Company 1st Regt of Arkansas Cavalry, the 5th day of January 1864, at Fort Smith Ark

1st Regt of Iowa Infy Volunteers, on the 5th day of Jan 1864, at Fort Smith Ark

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