



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

George Washington Hunt

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George Washington Hunt was a native of Kentucky who served in a north-central Texas frontier cavalry unit. After the War he moved from place to place, living at various times in Missouri and Kansas before returning to Texas. He lived at Keller in 1900. By 1910 he returned to Fannin County where he had lived as a boy and where his parents lie buried. He died in Fannin County in 1914.

George W. Hunt was born in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky. His birth date appears on his headstone as July 13, 1842. He was a son of James McCord Hunt (1807-1865) and his wife, Hannah (Minton) Hunt (1806-1886), both of whom died in Fannin County, Texas and who lie buried there in Coontown Cemetery.

When he applied for a Confederate pension Mr. Hunt said he had come to Texas in 1848. However, the family was still in Muhlenberg Co., Kentucky when the 1850 census was taken. They lived there in District number one where James Hunt was farming his own land which was valued at four hundred dollars. George W. Hunt was nine years old.

By 1860 the family had settled in Beat 3 in Fannin County, in an area served by the post office at Bonham, Texas. George's father was working as a Baptist minister. He owned a farm worth five hundred dollars, and personal property worth the same amount. George was eighteen years old. Census data in one of the adjacent Hunt families suggests they had made the move to Texas by about 1854. The Fannin County Hunts were not slave owners.

Mr. Hunt's records in the National Archives are very sparse. He is found in only a few records as a member of Moore's Company (designated at various times as Co. H and I) of Bourland's Regiment Texas Cavalry.

Much has been written about Bourland's Cavalry Regiment. It was organized during the spring of 1863 and served in the Trans-Mississippi Department. The purpose of this unit was to guard the northern border of Texas and at times, therefore, it was called the Border Regiment. It confronted the Federals in the Indian Territory and Texas, and saw duty on the Texas frontier working to keep the Comanches and Kiowas out of the settlements. On October 13, 1864 it took part in the Battle of Elm Creek in Young County, Texas, one of the most dramatic and stirring clashes of Texans and Southern Plains Indians ever. Several accounts of the battle, from both Texan and Kiowa participants, have been recorded. On January 1, 1865, Bourland's Regiment reported four officers and five hundred sixty-four men fit for duty. The regiment surrendered in June.

On July 5, 1864 a formal request was made by Captain John A. Fraley for twelve men to be released from various companies of Bourland's Regiment "...To meet the increasing demand for bread stuff on this [illegible] it is absolutely necessary to have men detailed to run their threshers..." George W. Hunt of Moore's Company was one of the men detailed. No other records specific to Mr. Hunt have survived.

Family sources say Mr. Hunt and his wife, Emily Perilee Cox, were married in Cedar County, Missouri on November 18, 1866. Family sources say she was born in Warrick County, Indiana, and was a daughter of John Cox. She was born in April 1849. It would be interesting to know the circumstances which caused them to be married there, since both lived in Fannin County, Texas in 1860 along with their parents. It does not seem likely Emily would have returned to Missouri during the War for safety concerns, because Fannin County, Texas was far removed from both Indian problems and the problem of bushwhackers from which many areas of Missouri suffered.

At the time the 1870 census was taken, Mr. Hunt and his family lived in Lynn Township in Cedar County, Missouri. He owned no real estate, but had personal property worth five hundred dollars. They had two children with them, Ida F. and James M. Hunt; James was born in April 1870.

Census records suggest they left Missouri and moved to Kansas about 1878. By 1880 they had moved to Olivet Township in Osage County, Kansas. They had five children with them: Ida F., Charles M., Arva Jane, May, and Dora C. Hunt. Other records suggest that some of these names may have been mistakenly recorded.

Mr. Hunt appears in the 1880 agricultural census for Osage County, Kansas. He was a sharecropper on a farm consisting of thirty acres of cultivated land and ten acres of unimproved land which was not in woodlands. He estimated the farm was worth six hundred dollars. His farming implements were worth one hundred dollars and his livestock was valued at two hundred. He estimated his 1879 farm productions were worth three hundred dollars. He owned two horses, five hogs, and fifteen chickens which he estimated had produced seventy-five dozen eggs in the past year. He had twenty acres of Indian corn which had produced two hundred bushels, two acres of oats which had made seventy bushels, and four acres of wheat which had made forty bushels.

By 1900 Mr. Hunt, his wife, and their son, Bertie, had settled at Keller, Texas. There they farmed on rented land. They said they had been married since about 1866. She said she had given birth to nine children, five of whom were still alive. Only their son, Burt, was still living with them.

George W. Hunt and his family appear in the census in 1910 in Precinct 1 of Fannin County, where they lived along the Bonham and Leonard Road. Mr. Hunt said he was born about 1842, and had been married about 1866. Mrs. Emily P. Hunt was born about 1849 in Indiana, and had given birth to nine children, five of whom were still living. They had only one child with them, Bert, who was born in Kansas about 1887.

Mrs. Emily P. Hunt died in Fannin County, Texas on April 16, 1910. She was buried in Whiterock Cemetery at Bailey in Fannin County. Her grave is marked with a simple fieldstone containing only her initials and her years of birth and death.

When Mr. Hunt applied for a Confederate pension in 1913, he said his command had been disbanded in April 1865. At the time he applied his address was Route 3, Lamasco, Texas. Mr. Hunt said he served from March 1863 until April 1865 in Co. E, Jim Bolin's [Bourland's] Regiment of Cavalry.

George D. F. Whiting of Bells, Texas, made an affidavit in support of Mr. Hunt's claim and said the company served on the Texas frontier. He and George W. Hunt were in Moore's Company of Bourland's Regiment.

Mr. Hunt died October 1, 1914, and was buried in Whiterock Cemetery at Bailey in Fannin County, Texas. Mr. Hunt has an upright marble headstone supplied several years ago by the veterans administration. Oddly, it says he served as a 4th sergeant in "Co. E 11th Brig. Cav. CSA." This unit designation is confusing because it cannot be found in any other surviving records. Mr. Hunt himself said he served in Moore's Company of Bolin's [Bourland'] Regiment.

Obtaining a list of George W. Hunt's children has been problematic. Family sources at ancestry.com and federal census sources are not in agreement, and in at least one case it seems obvious the census record was made incorrectly. On two different occasions Mrs. Hunt told census takers she had given birth to nine children, only five of whom were still living in both 1900 and 1910. The following list accounts for those five: Ida Florence Hunt; James/Charles M. Hunt; Arva/Jane/Zena/Arlis Hunt; Cecil Theodore Hunt; and Bert N. Hunt. Notes about the others have been included as found.

Ida Florence Hunt was born about 1868, as evidenced by her age in both the 1870 and 1880 census. She told the 1900 census taker she was born in October, 1871. Her death certificate records her birth date as October 15, 1874. She married Steve McCoy about 1895 in Grayson County, Texas; he was dead by the time the 1900 census was taken. She appears in the 1900 census as a widow, born in Missouri to a Kentuckian father and an Indianan mother. She married Arthur H. Cooper in Grayson County, Texas on October 16, 1905. She died April 29, 1953 in Arlington, Tarrant County, Texas. Her death certificate confirms her father's name as George W. Hunt and her birthplace as Missouri. Her burial place as recorded on her death certificate is inconclusive, but she probably lies buried in Arlington in either Moore Memorial Gardens or Parkdale Cemetery.

The 1870 census lists a son named James M. Hunt, born in April 1870. Family sources show a son named Charles M. Hunt who was born in 1870, and this is borne out by the 1880 census. There is no James with the family in 1880. Descendants report that Charles M. Hunt died January 30, 1912 in Truman, Poinsett County, Arkansas.

The 1880 census lists a Hunt daughter named Arva Jane Hunt, born about 1875 in Missouri. Descendants report a daughter named Zena Arlis Hunt, born in Missouri on September 5, 1875. She married Noah Fate Ledbetter (1873-1952). Family sources at ancestry.com show their marriage on November 16, 1898 in “Craighead County, Texas,” but Craighead County is in Arkansas. The marriage does not appear in the Craighead County, Arkansas records. The 1900 census of Fannin County shows her to be the wife of Fate M. Ledbetter, and shows her given name to be Arvie Z. or J.; it also says she was born in Missouri. The 1920 census of Runnels County, Texas shows her given name as Zena, and correctly gives her birthplace as Missouri, and her father’s as Kentucky. She is named Zena Ledbetter in her brother’s 1941 obituary. She died at 3:32 a.m. on July 8, 1952 in St. John’s Hospital in San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas. Her last permanent home was at 1627 Magnolia Street in San Angelo. She was buried in Miles Cemetery in Runnels County, Texas.

The 1880 census lists a daughter, May Hunt, born about 1877 in Missouri. Family sources report a son named Melvin Ellis Hunt, who was born in 1878. He died July 24, 1893. No son named Melvin was with the family in 1880.

The 1880 census very clearly lists a daughter named Dora C. Hunt, who was born in August 1879 in Kansas. There is a death certificate for one Cecil Theodore Hunt, a proven child of this couple, who was born in Kansas on August 11, 1879. The similarity of the names is striking, but the census taker got the sex of the child incorrect. One wonders how many other errors were made in the 1880 listing. He married Mary Frances Appleby, an descendants have placed a considerable amount of material on him and his family on ancestry.com He died at 11:50 p.m. on November 5, 1969 at a hospital in Greenville, Hunt County, Texas. His usual address was Leonard, Fannin County, Texas. His death certificate shows his parents as George W. Hunt and Emily Cox. He was buried in Leonard Cemetery in Fannin County.



Mrs. George W. Hunt's headstone

Family sources report a son named Van R. Hunt who was born about 1880. He is said to have died September 16, 1883.

Family sources report a son named Bevil M. Hunt born in 1885. He is said to have died August 9, 1892 in Joplin, Jasper County, Missouri.

Burt Nathan Hunt was born in Missouri on July 19, 1888. The 1900 census shows his birth as July 1886. Burt Hunt was living in Fannin County in 1910 with his wife, Mandy A., whom he had married about 1904. Family sources at ancestry.com say he married Elizabeth Bailey, and that he died in Dallas, Texas on November 5, 1941. His newspaper obituary names his wife as Annie Lee Hunt. He lies buried in Laurel Land Memorial Park in Dallas. His survivors included three of his siblings: Ida Cooper, Zena Ledbetter, and Cecil Hunt.

