



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

Copyright © 2008-2010. All rights reserved.

Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Joseph Allen Leverett

Compiled by Michael Patterson
Copyright 2008-2010. All rights reserved.

Joseph Allen Leverett was a Confederate veteran who lived for a time in the old Bransford Community in present-day Colleyville a few years after the turn of the century. He served for most of the War in the Confederate Army, then became a Galvanized Yankee and went west to fight the Northern Plains Indians.

Leverett was born November 10, 1842 in Polk County, Georgia. Some family sources suggest that he may have been born in Paulding County, and that in the 1850's his father, Burrell Leverett, moved the family to Polk County.

Joseph enlisted in Polk County on July 25, 1861 as a private in Co. D, 20th Georgia Infantry. He was captured at the Battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, and was imprisoned at Point Lookout, Maryland. He took the oath of allegiance to the federal government on February 2, 1864 and became one of the "Galvanized Yankees," joining Co. A, 1st United States Volunteer Infantry.

Leverett's records as a Union soldier are extensive. He was enlisted in the Union army on January 23, 1864 at Point Lookout, Maryland. At the time, he had gray eyes, brown hair, a light complexion, and was 5' 10" tall. On May 15, 1864 he was absent from duty because he was on Provost Guard at Norfolk City. He was appointed Lance Corporal on June 23, 1864. His records say he deserted at Red Wood, Minnesota on September 29, 1864. He was apprehended at Henderson, Minnesota on October 2, 1864 by Captain McCree and was confined under sentence of court martial at St. Paul, Minnesota.

He rejoined the company from confinement at Fort Snelling on August 11, 1865. He was finally mustered out at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas on May 10, 1866. From November 1864 into June 1865 he was under arrest at Fort Snelling, Minnesota awaiting trial by court martial. On June 16, 1865 he was released from arrest and detailed as a cook at Fort Snelling. On August 11, 1865 he was

released from cook's duty and was returned to regular service. From November 1865 into February 1866 he was on duty as a teamster. An interesting list of equipment is included in Leverett's records after he left his post: *One Enfield Rifle and gun sling, one cartridge box and brass plate; one card box, belt, and plate; one bayonet scabbard, one waist belt and plate (buckle); forty rounds of ball cartridge and [percussion] caps; one tompon; one haversack; one knapsack and pair of greatcoat straps; one cap letter; one figure, one bugle, one eagle, one pair ___ sealer; one canteen and strap, and one cap box and pick.*

By 1880 Leverett was living near his father's family in Travis County, Texas. Leverett's wife's given name was Frances. In 1910, Joseph lived at Bransford in Tarrant County on the Smithfield-White's Chapel Road with his nephew, William M. Farmer, and with Mr. Farmer's father, James Y. Farmer, also a Confederate veteran.

After leaving Bransford, Joseph moved to Bridgeport in Wise County, where he lived on Stephens Street in 1920. He lies buried beneath a federal military gravestone in the Old Town Cemetery in Bridgeport. The stone contains no dates of birth or death. His death does not appear in the Texas Vital Statistics records. On March 3, 2007, a new bronze headstone was dedicated at his grave, recognizing his service in the Confederate army.

An obituary for Joseph Leverett appeared in one of the Wise County newspapers. A clipping of it has survived among his descendants: *"UNCLE JOE LEVERETT. The subject of this sketch was born in Polk county, Ga., Nov. 10, 1842, and died at Bridgeport, Texas, Nov. 4, 1922, following a stroke of paralysis sustained only a short time ago. Joseph A. Leverett (Uncle Joe as he was familiarly known) was a good man. He joined the Baptist church when he was about 20 years old and was a consistent member until his death. He was also a Master Mason for nearly 60 years. He was a soldier in the Civil War for four years and a Ranger two years. His walk before God and man was exemplary. The funeral was conducted from the First Baptist church by the pastor, Rev. A. D. Roberts, Sunday afternoon, after which the body was tenderly consigned to mother earth in Old Town cemetery. The great concourse of people that gathered at the church and the long cortege that followed to the cemetery were eloquent tributes to the high esteem in which Uncle Joe was held by the people of Bridgeport."*



Joseph A. Leverett's headstone at Bridgeport, Texas

