



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

Copyright © 2008-2011. All rights reserved.

Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Thomas Jefferson McPherson

Compiled by Michael Patterson
Copyright 2008-2011. All rights reserved.

Thomas Jefferson McPherson was a Confederate soldier in Co. K, 54th Alabama Infantry, as confirmed in his pension application and his obituary in the Grapevine Sun. There is a great deal of information on Mr. McPherson and his family in the Grapevine Area History (1979). Bettie McPherson Simmons wrote the article for the book on Thomas Jefferson McPherson, which is reproduced here in its entirety: *“All out for Grapevine,” called the conductor on the arriving train from Duke Alabama, December 1893. This as an exciting time for members of the McPherson family and their friends who were to make their new home in Grapevine...*

“Thomas Jefferson McPherson was born March 4, 1844 near Fort Payne, Alabama to George Washington McPherson and Polly (Kitchen) McPherson. Mary Josephine Starling was born October 14, 1846 in Cherokee County, Alabama near Blue Pond, Alabama to Houston Abraham Starling and Eliza Jane (Harkrider) Starling.

“As a young boy Thomas Jefferson McPherson enlisted with southern troops in Company K, 54th Alabama Regiment Civil War 1861-1865. He was furloughed May 28, 1863 due to wounds while in battle. While on a stretcher at a train station waiting for medical treatment, a woman finding him very ill, with permission took him to her home and nursed him back to health.

“After the war Thomas Jefferson McPherson and Mary Josephine Starling were married on October 15, 1865. Eleven children were born to them: Lorenzo Dow (1866-1950); Mary Jane (1868-1941) who married Tom Burgess; George Houston (1871-1957); Nora Bell (1873-1960) who married Moman Livingston; Thomas Walter (1875-1953); William Charles (1877-1976); John Henry (1879-1959); Woodard Hoyt (1883-1884); James Harrison (1881-1959); Nancy Florence (1886), and Pluma May (1888-1964).

“In 1893 Thomas Jefferson McPherson sent his eldest son Lorenzo Dow to Grapevine to visit. He had received letters from friends who had moved to Texas telling about the rich farm land and good

crops there. While in Grapevine, Lorenzo Dow McPherson rented the Millard Farm near old Bushong Bridge for his father. He returned to Alabama with a story of a land of "milk and honey." The family then prepared for the move to Grapevine.

"The Woodall, Usery, Starling and Lansford families were recruited to make the move also. It was decided that the men and boys would travel by wagon. Lorenzo Dow McPherson was to remain in Alabama and take charge of selling the McPherson possessions and to later accompany the women and children on the passenger train to Grapevine. Three days before departure, Mary Jane McPherson, the oldest daughter, married Tom Burgess. They were to remain in Alabama and make their home.

"Late in October 1893 the train of wagons departed. Extra horses were brought. Campsites were found along the route. One particular campsite was near an outdoor brush arbor gospel meeting in progress. After supper the travelers attended the services.

"After forty days on the road, the weary travelers came through the town of Paris, Texas, arriving in Grapevine "December 2, 1893. They took a bath in Denton Creek near the Bushong Bridge.

"Soon Thomas Jefferson was meeting his wife Mary Josephine and other children from Alabama at the Cotton Belt railroad depot in Grapevine. The family was together again.

"After five years on he rented Millard farm, Thomas Jefferson purchased 360 acres from P. D. Hudgins out of the Freeman, Herring, Whitman Survey and in December 1898 he moved his family to the two story frame dwelling there. The house had been built on August 21, 1886, according to the inscription on a large rectangular rock used as a front step.

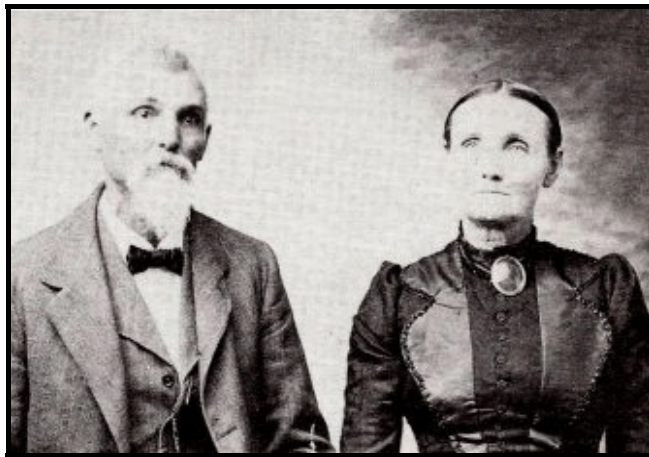
"Eight of the McPherson children married and reared families on farms in and near Grapevine. After the death of Thomas Jefferson December 12, 1930 and Mary Josephine October 13, 1932, the two youngest McPherson daughters, Nancy Florence and Pluma May maintained the family farm. At the time of this writing, April 17, 1978, Nancy Florence who is 91 years of age has a lifetime estate on the family farm now owned by a granddaughter of Thomas Jefferson McPherson, Bettie McPherson Simmons and husband, John W. Simmons. Bettie McPherson Simmons, the youngest daughter of John Henry McPherson, was born in the house to which her grandfather moved his family in December, 1898."

Mr. McPherson filed an application for a Confederate pension in 1922. In it, he stated he was at home on furlough from 1864 until the end of the war. He said he was born in Alabama, had been in Texas about thirty years in 1922, and in Grapevine for twenty-six. He served in Company K, 54th Alabama Infantry, having enlisted in May 1861 and serving until September 1864.

Mrs. McPherson applied for a pension in 1930. Her folder bears a note which says "Dead 10/19/32. She said her husband died December 12, 1930 in Tarrant County. She married him October 5, 1865 in Cherokee Co., Alabama. She said he got out of the army in the spring of 1865. She had been a resident of Texas sine December 8, 1893. She was 84 years old on October 14, 1930.

An obituary for T. J. McPherson appeared in the Grapevine Sun on December 18, 1930: "*T. J. MCPHERSON, AGE 86 YEARS, BURIED LAST SUNDAY. Funeral services for Thomas J. McPherson, a Confederate Veteran, who died at his home near Grapevine last Friday at the age of 86, were held at the Methodist Church last Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. L. Pat Leach of Hillsboro, his former pastor, assisted by Rev. W. H. Day of Streetman and Revs. D. W. Nix and L. W. Seymour of Grapevine, conducted the services, with the Masonic Lodge No. 288 in charge of the services at the Grapevine Cemetery. Mr. McPherson was born in DeKalb County, Alabama, and came to this community in 1893. He served as a member of Company K of the Fifty-fourth Alabama Regiment during the Civil War. He is survived by his wife, four daughters, Misses Plumer and Florence of Grapevine; Mrs. Mollie Burgess of Wellington, Ala., and Mrs. Nora Livingston of Fort Worth, and six sons, Dowell, George Houston, John Henry, William Charles, James Harris, and Thomas Walter, all of Grapevine. He is also survived by one brother of Carrollton, Ga., one sister of Comanche, Texas, thirty-two grandchildren and eleven great grand children.*"

Mrs. McPherson's obituary appeared in the Grapevine Sun on October 20, 1932: "*MRS. MARY JOSEPHINE MCPHERSON DIES. The funeral services of Mrs. Mary Josephine McPherson was conducted at the Grapevine Methodist Church, Friday, October 14. R. E. Briggs, the pastor, officiating, assisted by E. N. Strother, pastor of the Baptist church. Mrs. McPherson was born October 14, 1846, at Round Mountain, Alabama, and at her death she lacked one day of being 86 years of age. She was married to T. J. McPherson, October 5, 1865. To this union were born eleven children, all of them except one living. Mrs. McPherson was converted and joined the Methodist Church in 1859. She moved to Texas from Duke, Alabama, in 1892 and settled near Grapevine and has lived in the same community ever since. She is survived by ten children: six sons, L. D., G. H., T. W., W. C., J. H., and J. [sic] H., Jr. (Dock); and four daughters. Mrs. Mollie Burgess, Wellington, Alabama; Mrs. Nora Livingston, Fort Worth; Miss Florence and Miss Pluma McPherson of Grapevine. There are thirty-two grandchildren and sixteen great grandchildren. She is also survived by two brothers, W. A. Starling, Denton; and W. B. Starling, Blanket, Texas; and one sister, Mrs. Florence Wilson of Round Mountain, Alabama. Interment was made in the Grapevine cemetery.*"



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. McPherson



FATHER MOTHER
T. J. MCPHERSON MARY JOSEPHINE
MAR. 4, 1844 OCT. 14, 1846
DEC. 12, 1930 OCT. 13, 1932

To forget is life's endeavor;
Love's remembrance just forever.