



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

John R. Wallace

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John R. Wallace was a long-time physician in Tarrant County who served in a local Texas infantry unit. He survived until 1906 when he died at Keller and was buried in Bourland Cemetery.

John R. Wallace was born August 9, 1830 in Fauquier County, Virginia. He came to Texas about 1849 and settled first in San Augustine County. By 1855 he had arrived in Tarrant County, where he remained for the rest of his life.

Circumstantial evidence seems to suggest that Dr. Wallace was a relative of Benjamin Rush Wallace, also a native of Fauquier County, Virginia, who came to Texas in 1837 and became rich working as an attorney and statesman both in the Republic of Texas and the newly-formed State.

Dr. John R. Wallace is mentioned in the estate settlement of John S. Roy, who died in Tarrant County in 1855. Dr. Wallace presented a bill for fifty-six dollars for visits and medicine for both Mr. Roy and his son on September 13, 17, 18, and 19, 1855. He was paid \$44.37 in settlement of his account.

Mr. Wallace's father-in-law, J. W. Satterwhite, died about the early part of 1856 in Tarrant County, and Mary Elizabeth Satterwhite was named as one of his minor heirs. About 1859, J. R. Wallace had married her and the Satterwhite administrators no longer had any responsibility toward her. Her headstone records her date of birth as April 4, 1844.

J. R. Wallace served as a private in Co. E, Young's Regiment of Texas Infantry. This regiment was subsequently known as the 12th Texas Infantry. He was twenty-nine years old at the time of his enlistment at Fort Worth on April 30, 1862. At some point in July or August 1862 he was sick on a detachment at Tyler, Texas. Absent on a forty-day furlough from September 8, 1862. No further records in his file in Washington.

By 1863 J. R. Wallace appeared in the Tarrant County tax lists. In 1865, Dr. Wallace was shown as the owner of four horses worth one hundred thirty-six dollars; he owned no real estate in that year. John R. Wallace and his family appear in the 1870 census of Precinct 2 in Tarrant County. With him was his wife, Mary E. Wallace, who was a native of South Carolina. They had three children living with them: Elizabeth M. Wallace, John H. Wallace, and Mary W. Wallace. John was working as a physician.

The Fort Worth Democrat of July 19, 1873, included a note that at Birdville the Democratic Executive Committee had met to elect the delegate to the County Convention to be held in Fort Worth on August 2. A. F. Leonard was called to chair with E. Farmer as secretary. A committee to draft resolutions was appointed; it was made up of I. D. Parker, Henry O'Neal, Jeff Earle, C. B. Daggett, F. Smith and Dr. Wallace.

In 1880 the Wallaces were listed in precinct 4 of Tarrant County. The children with them in that year were E. Millie, born about 1861; John H. born about 1863; Mary W., born about 1870, Virginia about 1875, and Daisey A., born about 1877.

In 1885 Dr. Wallace owned one hundred forty-three acres of the John Edmonds survey worth one thousand four hundred dollars, twenty-five acres of the W. H. Slaughter survey worth seventy-five dollars, four acres of the Samuel Needham survey worth forty dollars, and six parcels of land in the town of Birdville. He also owned two carriages or buggies worth fifty-five dollars, ten dollars worth of farming implements, two horses or mules worth eighty dollars, five cows worth fifty dollars, and fifteen dollars worth of miscellaneous personal property.

Luckily for Wallace descendants, an excellent biographical sketch of one of Dr. Wallace's sons-in-law, John F. Hovenkamp, appeared in 1895 in the Lewis Publishing Company's Memorial and Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties, Texas. It contained a considerable amount of information relative to Dr. Wallace: *"... October 15, 1885 is the date of his [Hovenkamp's] marriage, at Keller, this county, to Miss Mildred Wallace, daughter of Dr. J. R. Wallace, a native of Fauquier county, Virginia, who came to Texas in 1849, settling in San Augustine county, and afterward coming to Tarrant county, in 1853. Dr. Wallace is a graduate of a medical college of Philadelphia, and is today one of the oldest practicing physicians of Tarrant county. He was engaged in merchandising at Jefferson, Texas, some years, as a member of the firm of Waterhouse, Wallace, and Company. He moved back to Tarrant county in 1860. He married Elizabeth Satterwhite, and they had five children, namely: Mrs. Hovenkamp; John H.; Mary W., who married J. O. Meacham; Virginia and Daisy. Mrs. Wallace's brothers are John W. Satterwhite, who died in San Bernardino, California; a prominent attorney who represented that county in the Legislature ten years and was State Senator at the time of his death; T. D. Satterwhite, of Tucson, Arizona, who held a government position in Washington under President Cleveland's first administration. He was Probate Judge at Tucson one term; he is now serving as Territorial Judge of that Territory..."*

In the 1900 census of Tarrant County, Dr. Wallace and his family appear in Keller. He and his wife said they had been married forty-one years, so they must have been married about 1859. They had only two children with them in that year: Virginia, who was born in October of 1875; and Daisy A., who was born in April of 1877.

A check of the Fort Worth newspaper around the time of Mr. Wallace's death did not reveal any death notice or obituary for Dr. Wallace. A short notice appeared in the Dallas Morning News on May 6, 1906: ***“Death of Dr. J. R. Wallace. Special to the News. Fort Worth, Tex. May 5. News has been received in this city announcing the death of Dr. J. R. Wallace of Keller Thursday night. The funeral was held yesterday.”***

A mention of Dr. Wallace's death also appeared in the Journal of the Texas State Medical Association, Vol. 2, No. 7: “Dr. J. R. Wallace, long time Tarrant County resident, May 5, 1906 at Keller.” Mrs. Wallace's headstone records her date of death as October 8, 1917. No Confederate veteran's or widow's pension applications for Dr. or Mrs. Wallace were filed in Texas. Neither Dr. nor Mrs. Wallace had a death certificate filed.

In 1910 Mrs. M. E. Wallace and her daughter, Virginia, were living together in Precinct 4 of Tarrant County. Mrs. Wallace said she was born in South Carolina, and that she had given birth to five children, all of whom were still living. Virginia was working as a teacher in a private school.

As is nearly always the case, the dates of birth and death in all records of Dr. Wallace's children do not agree with each other. Their five children included Mildred Elizabeth Wallace, John Henry Wallace, Mary W. Wallace, Virginia Wallace, and Daisy A. Wallace.

Mildred E. Wallace was born November 15, 1861. She married John F. Hovenkamp, and an excellent biographical sketch of the couple appears in the Memorial and Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties, Texas, published by the Lewis Publishing Company in 1895. She died at her home at 114 Penn Street in Fort Worth at 5 p.m. on August 15, 1947. She was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

John Henry Wallace was born December 18, 1862. He died November 26, 1960 at Keller, Texas. He was a retired druggist. He died at 2:45 p.m. and was buried in Bourland Cemetery.

Mary W. Wallace was born in November 1869. She married James O. Meacham about 1891 and was living at Keller, Texas with her husband and children in 1900. Interestingly, their next-door neighbors in that year were the family of Henry C. Wallace (born about 1828 in Virginia) and his wife, Rebecca Wallace (October 1836).

Virginia Wallace was born October 23, 1878. She died at her home at 2421 Ross Street in Fort Worth on May 6, 1939. She was the wife of J. W. Vaughn. She was buried in Bourland Cemetery in Keller.

Daisy A. Wallace was born April 9, 1881. She died in Methodist Hospital in Fort Worth at 1 p.m. on January 19, 1942. Her last permanent address was 2431 Ross Street in Fort Worth. Her married name was Harris. She was buried at Bourland Cemetery.

As an interesting aside, future researchers may wish to look for a tie between Dr. John R. Wallace and Henry C. Wallace, who lived beside Dr. Wallace's daughter in 1900.

Henry C. Wallace lived until 1900 and was buried in Mount Gilead Cemetery in Keller. By 1850, this Henry C. Wallace was living in San Augustine County, Texas in the household of Benjamin Rush Wallace, a prominent merchant, attorney, and politician who also came to Tarrant County during the Civil War and died near present-day Euless in 1878.

