



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Silas R. Whitney

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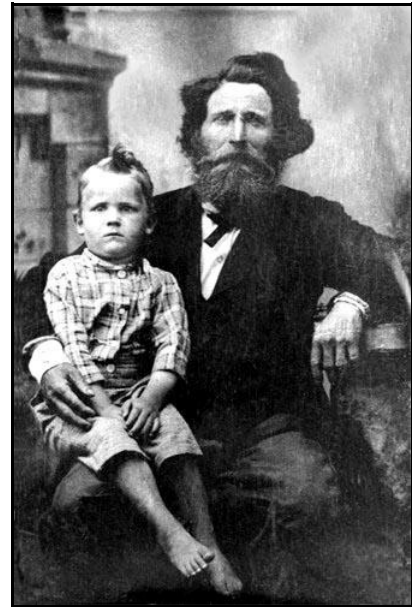
Silas R. Whitney was a native of Louisiana who served in an Arkansas infantry regiment. By 1880 he was living in northeast Tarrant County in the Grapevine area. He died in Hunt County, Texas.

Mr. Whitney was born about 1837 in Louisiana, probably in Catahoula or Caldwell Parish where his father lived in 1830 and 1840, respectively. Family sources at ancestry.com say he was a son of Arthur J. Whitney and his wife, Anna Rawls, who were married in 1819 in Franklin Parish, Louisiana.

By 1850 the family had moved to Arkansas and settled in Veasey Township in Drew County. In the census of that year Stephen was thirteen years old and was living with his parents and siblings. They owned no real estate but were farming on land owned by someone else.

Both Silas' parents died in Drew County, Arkansas during the 1850's. When the 1860 census was taken he was living in Barehouse Township, Drew County, in a family headed by his brother-in-law, W. R. Barry, the husband of his sister, Lizzy. Silas was twenty-two years old and was working as a wheelwright.

On September 1, 1860, Silas Whitney received a land grant of two hundred acres in Drew County. The grant specifies the metes and bounds of the property: "...the north half of the southeast quarter, the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter, the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter, and the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section three in township fourteen, south of range six, west, in the district of lands subject to sale at Champagnolle, Arkansas..."



Silas R. Whitney and his son, Jim,  
about 1885

He was married to Mary Ann Johnson in Drew County, Arkansas on February 5, 1861. She was born July 30, 1842 in Fayette County, Alabama, and was a daughter of Thomas K. Johnson and his wife, Sarah Ann Cason. She came with her parents and siblings to Drew County, Arkansas about 1852.

Silas enlisted in the Confederate service for a term of three years on May 3, 1862 at Monticello, Drew County, Arkansas, and was mustered in there on the same day. He became a private in Captain Gibson's Company of Arkansas Infantry. This company subsequently became Co. B of the 26<sup>th</sup> Arkansas Infantry. At other times the group was known as Morgan's Battalion Arkansas Infantry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Trans-Mississippi Infantry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Arkansas Infantry, and Morgan's Regiment Arkansas Infantry.

He was wounded in the Battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas on December 7, 1862 and was sent home to recuperate. His file in the National Archives contains several original papers relating to the army furnishing him transportation home and back to his regiment. On January 14, 1864 he was transferred to Col. Monroe's regiment of cavalry by order of General Holmes. No other records relating details of his service have survived.

We have been unable to locate the family in the 1870 census. On February 18, 1871 Silas R. and Mary A. Whitney of Jefferson County, Arkansas deeded their interest in a tract of land which was a part of Mrs. Whitney's father's estate.

The 1880 census taker found the Whitneys living in Precinct 3 of Tarrant County, Texas, north of Big Bear Creek. The names of their nearest neighbors in the census suggest they probably lived in present-day Southlake. Three of their children were with them: Thomas A. Whitney, [Mrs.] Julia A. Prisciller, and California [Caldonia] Whitney.

Family genealogists say Silas R. Whitney died at Greenville, Hunt County, Texas in 1897. They supply the names of the following children for them: Mary Lou "Molly" Whitney, Julia B. Whitney, Thomas Alfred Whitney, Caldonia Whitney, Emma Whitney, James Lafayette Whitney, and Francie Whitney. The following short accounts of their lives are taken principally from records placed at ancestry.com by Whitney descendants.

Mary Lou "Molly" Whitney was born December 23, 1863. She married Sam J. Dickey in Texas in 1883, and Lewis A. Lawson (1869-1941) about 1908 in Greer County, Oklahoma. She and her first husband lived in Quanah, Hardeman County, Texas in 1900. In 1910 they were in Jackson County, Oklahoma; in 1920 they were in Wichita County, Texas, and by 1930 they had settled at Burkburnett in Wichita County. She died at Burkburnett on April 30, 1944 and was buried in Burkburnett Cemetery.

Julia B. Whitney was born August 9, 1865. She married James Claiborne Purciller (1849-1904) in Denton County, Texas on March 21, 1880. In 1900 they lived at Noble in the Oklahoma Territory. About 1902 they returned to Texas. By 1910 she was a widow with eight children living at 287 Cedar Springs Avenue. She died in Dallas of uterine cancer on August 23, 1910. She was buried there in Oakland Cemetery.

Thomas Alfred Whitney was born March 4, 1868. He married Ida Belle Stout (1876-1911) in Greer County, Texas on June 4, 1893. He was married second to Synthia Crumbley (1880-1923) and third to a lady named Elizabeth. In 1900 he and his family lived in Red River County, Texas; in 1910 they were at Quanah in Hardeman County; in 1920 and 1930 they lived in Cooke County, Texas. Descendants say he died in El Paso County, Texas on January 29, 1941. We have been unable to locate a Texas death certificate for him. The headstone for this man sits in Bethesda Cemetery in Johnson County, Texas, along with that of Ida Belle (Stout) Whitney.

Caldonia Whitney was born May 3, 1875. She married Robert Burton Watts (1861-1954) on December 19, 1889 in Navarro County, Texas, and they had ten children. In 1900 they lived at McKinney in Collin County, Texas; in 1910 they were at Quanah in Hardeman County. Caldonia died on Christmas Day in 1918 at Wapanucka, Johnston County, Oklahoma. She was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Wapanucka. Her husband remarried and died in California.

Emma Whitney was born about 1877. She does not appear with the family in the 1880 census. If she died here she does not have a readable headstone in any northeast Tarrant County cemetery.

James Lafayette Whitney was born July 3, 1880. He married Etta Bailey about 1901 at Quanah, Texas, and they remained there until at least 1910. About 1926 he married Gildie Ann Valentine; by 1930 they lived in Garland County, Arkansas. He died October 30, 1943 in Tulare County, California.

Francie Whitney was born about 1882.