



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

Copyright © 2008. All rights reserved.

## George L. Gause

Submitted by Erin B. Jennings

Biography originally published in 1895 in **History of Texas, together with a biographical history of Tarrant and Parker counties**, Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois.

---

**G**eorge L. Gause, one of the leading business men of Fort Worth, and one of the leading undertakers of the Lone Star State, was born in Missouri, on January 1, 1859, and is the son of the late Colonel W. R. Gause, a prominent and well-remembered lawyer of this city.

Colonel W. R. Gause was a native of Pennsylvania, where he was born in 1826. With his parents he removed to Indiana, while a boy, and he was reared at Brownsville, that State, where he also attended school, securing a good English education. When about sixteen years of age he left the parental roof, and in 1849 he went to the gold fields of California, where he remained five years, accumulating, during that time, what was in those days considered a good sum of money. Returning from California to Indiana he engaged in teaching school, at the same time reading law, as he had determined to prepare himself for the legal profession. He was admitted to the bar at Liberty, Union county, Indiana, and shortly afterward was united in marriage with Amanda Louthen, a daughter of George Louthen. In 1854 he removed to Gentry county, Missouri, and there practiced his profession until the breaking out of the late war. In 1860 he enlisted in the Third Missouri Volunteer Infantry, and served throughout the entire war, being promoted during the service to the rank of Colonel. He was at the siege of Vicksburg, where he received a wound from a piece of shell, which sent him to the hospital for a time. He saw much hard service, participating in many campaigns through the Southern States, and was for a time a prisoner of war. At the close of the war he joined his family in Missouri, where, for the time being, he engaged in the stock business, buying and shipping horses and mules for the markets of Vicksburg and Jackson, Mississippi. In 1866 he located near Jackson, Mississippi, and soon afterward removed into the capital city and opened a law office, and for several years practiced law in that city and in Vicksburg. In 1870 he removed to Fort Worth and engaged in the practice of his profession, and for a number of years was a prominent and successful practitioner in the courts of the State and the United States. He became identified with politics during that time, and represented the Democratic party, of which he was a stanch member, in the Sixteenth Texas Legislature. His health failing, he for a short period sojourned at Galveston, endeavoring to rebuild his frail and shattered constitution, but returned to Fort Worth in 1876, where he continued to reside

until his death, which occurred at Dallas, in 1882. He was great lover of fine horses in the South, and it was while at Dallas attending the fair that his final and fatal illness overtook him. His wife had died in 1867, leaving two children, viz.: George Louthen, and Jessie, now Mrs. Allen, of Palmyra, Missouri.

George L. Gause was educated principally in Missouri and Mississippi, attending both public and private schools. He, like his father (as is characteristic with the male members of the Gause family), began life for himself before attaining his majority. He clerked and followed other avocations for several years, among other things spending three years at work on a ranch in Clay county, Texas. Returning to Fort Worth from the ranch, he entered the law office of Pendleton & Cooper and read law, expecting to follow in the footsteps of his father and chose the law as a profession. After his admission to the bar he opened an office, but, within a short time thereafter, he was forced to abandon the law and seek a vocation which would permit of plenty of outdoor work. Leaving the law office he engaged in stock-trading, as he is a natural born trader, and, in fact, traded and bought about everything that was for sale in which he saw money. Soon he drifted into real-estate speculation, and in that he was also successful, and in a few months found his capital had increased very materially. In 1882, he "traded" himself into the livery business, and in 1887 he erected the Palace Livery Stable, one of the finest livery barns in Fort Worth. In 1886 he engaged in the undertaking business, and in order to prepare himself for an intelligent management of this modern art, he went to Galveston and took a course of lectures in the art of embalming and preparing the dead. Later he went to New York and took a course of lectures under Renard; then to Cincinnati, where he took a course under Clark, and then to St. Louis, where he took another under Lutz, receiving diplomas from all three of those well-known instructors. To-day Mr. Gause is considered the most scientific embalmer and experienced funeral director in Fort Worth, and one of the best in the South. His undertaking establishment and morgue are in the Gause Block, wherein is also located the Palace Stable, on Weatherford street, corner of Taylor.

In his fraternal relations Mr. Gause is a member of the Knights of Pythias order, of which he is an old Past Chancellor. He is also a member of the Uniform Rank of this order. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mr. Gause was married in March, 1889, to Miss Mamie Frost, whose mother's name was Holden. To this union one daughter, Louise, has been born.

As a citizen, Mr. Gause ranks high in Fort Worth. He has always taken an active interest in the promotion of all enterprises and movements looking to the improvement and development of the city, and has been liberal with his time and means in that direction. As a business man he has met with success, simply by exercising the talents and ability with which nature endowed him, aided by a commendable amount of industry, enterprise, ambition and pluck.

