



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Thomas S. Denton

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Thomas S. Denton was a Confederate veteran of a Mississippi infantry regiment who lived for several years in the north part of Bedford. He eventually settled in Comanche County where he died.

Mr. Denton told pension officials in Texas he was born in Meriwether County, Georgia about 1836. Census information suggests he was the son of Benjamin F. Denton (born about 1805 in Virginia). B. F. Denton appears in Meriwether County in the 1840 census. Mr. Denton moved his family from Georgia to Tippah County, Mississippi's District 2 at some time in the 1840's.

Thomas Denton told the 1900 census taker he was born in April 1836. A recently-made transcription of Comanche County cemetery records shows his birth date as April 9, 1839.

B. F. Denton appears in the 1850 census of Tippah County, Mississippi with a wife, Ailsey M. Denton (born about 1818 in South Carolina). The ages of his children suggest she may have been a second wife. Thomas appears as a fourteen-year-old boy, and his younger brother, Andrew J. Denton (who later made a deposition for him when he was applying for a Confederate pension) is shown as ten years old. Andrew J. and Thomas Denton served in the same company and regiment during the War.

Mr. Denton's records in the National Archives show that he enlisted March 15, 1862 at Woodville, Mississippi, becoming a private in Co. K, 16th Mississippi Infantry. He received a fifty-dollar enlistment bounty on April 4, 1862. He enlisted for three years or the war. On the muster roll for March and April, 1862, he is shown sick in a hospital at Stanardsville, Virginia. By the time the rolls were made for May and June, 1862, he had been moved to a hospital in Lynchburg, Virginia, where he remained at least through the end of October. On the roll made for November and December 1862 he was sick on furlough at home. Another roll made for March and April 1863 says he had been absent from the regiment since August 1, 1862.

His name appears on a list made by the Medical Director's Office in Richmond, Virginia, as having been admitted to Buchanan Hospital on April 21, 1863. By the first of May 1863 he was back on duty, where he remained at least until the end of June 1863. He spent another period of time in July and/or August 1863 sick in a hospital in Richmond.

At the beginning of September 1863 he was recovered, but was back in the hospital in Richmond on October 5, 1863 when he received an issue of clothing. Recovered yet again, he was on duty until he was wounded on May 15, 1864 and placed in a field hospital.

He had recovered from his wounds and was back on duty by the first of July 1864. He was still on duty, faithful to the last, and was captured and paroled with General Lee's Army at Appomattox, Virginia on April 9, 1865.

An excellent overview of this very active regiment's service may be found at <http://www.norfield-publishing.com/16ms/16over.htm>. Beginning with about nine hundred fifty men and officers in 1861, it surrendered four officers and sixty-eight men in 1865 at Appomattox Court House, Virginia...Thomas S. Denton among them.

We have not positively located this Thomas S. Denton in the 1870 federal census. There was one man named Thomas S. Denton, born in Georgia about 1836, who was living as a single man in 1870 in Bird Township in Jackson County, Arkansas. He was working as a farmer, and owned ten thousand dollars worth of real estate. He had two freedmen working with him, Henry Purdy and Maria Welks.

Thomas Denton told pension officials he came to Texas in February, 1873. The Tarrant County marriage records show that Thomas Denton married Mattie E. Handley on January 2, 1879. In her pension application many years later, Mrs. Denton said the marriage took place in Tarrant County on January 1, 1879.

Thomas and Mattie Denton appear in Precinct 3 of Tarrant County in the 1880 census. The names of his neighbors suggest that he lived somewhere along the present-day line between Bedford and Colleyville, in the area of the intersection of Cheek-Sparger Road and Jackson Road.

This is confirmed by information in the 1880 Tarrant County tax list where T. S. Denton is shown as the owner of sixty acres of the G. Teeters survey worth three hundred sixty dollars, as well as one horse or mule worth twenty-five dollars, two cows worth twelve dollars, and four hogs worth four dollars.

The north line of the Garrett Teeter survey follows today's Cheek-Sparger Road. The south line of the survey follows Harwood Road. The survey is one mile north-south by one-half mile east-west. The northwest and northeast corners of the survey are along Cheek-Sparger Road about one-quarter mile west and east of Jackson Drive. The entire survey is now in Bedford.

By the time of the 1900 census, Mr. and Mrs. Denton had moved to Eastland County, Texas and were living in that part of Precinct 5 which lay north of the Texas Central Railway. Mr. Denton was

working as a landlord. Mrs. Denton said she had given birth to no children, and by that time was past childbearing age. Mr. Denton said both his parents were Virginians. Mrs. Denton said hers were both South Carolinians. Mr. Denton told pension officials he moved to Comanche County, Texas about 1903.

Thomas S. Denton of the town of Comanche, Comanche County, Texas, applied for a pension on July 1, 1909. He said he was surrendered with General Lee at Appomattox Court House.

He said he served from March 1861 to April 1865 in Co. K, 16th Mississippi Infantry. His brother, Andrew J. Denton of Garner, Eastland County, Texas made an affidavit for him in which he said Thomas was very feeble and was under treatment of a doctor for cancer.

The census taker in 1910 found Mr. and Mrs. Denton living alone in Comanche, Comanche County, Texas. He said he was born about 1836 in Georgia to two Virginian parents. Mattie was born about 1847. Both had been married only once. Mattie's parents were both Georgians, and Mr. Denton said he was a Confederate veteran.

Mr. Denton's widow, Mattie, applied for a Confederate widow's pension. She said her husband died January 25, 1913 in Comanche County, Texas. [The recent Comanche County cemetery transcription says January 25, 1918] She was sixty-six years old and a native of Lagrange, Georgia. She said she came to Texas in 1877, and had lived at Comanche for nine years. When the 1920 census was taken, she was living alone in the town of Comanche. She died May 8, 1921 in Comanche; her death was caused by chronic myocarditis, senility, and senile dementia. She was buried beside her husband in Antioch Cemetery in Comanche County, Texas.

Mrs. Denton's death certificate adds the information that her maiden name was "Hanley," that she was an invalid, and that she died from chronic endocarditis, arteriosclerosis, chronic arthritis, and senility. She died at 1:35 a.m. The informant was J. H. Shropshire of Route 5, Fort Worth.

