



# TARRANT COUNTY

## TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### John Wesley Driver

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John Wesley Driver was a Confederate veteran of a Texas infantry regiment. He married, as his second wife, a daughter of Bedford pioneer Jacob Mosteller. He lived in the Birdville area for several years during the 1870's and 1880's. He later moved to Navarro County, where he died.

Mr. Driver was born October 9, 1835 in Alabama. Census records suggest that he was a son of Thomas Driver, who was a resident of Greene County, Alabama when the 1850 census was taken. Thomas was born about 1811 in North Carolina. John W. Driver appears in that family as a fifteen-year-old boy.

When the 1860 census was taken, "Wesley" Driver was listed in Freestone County, Texas as a twenty-five-year-old native of Alabama. With him was his wife, Mary, who was born about 1836 in Alabama. They had one daughter, Frances M. Driver, who was born about 1859 in Texas.

Wesley's Driver's next-door neighbors were the family of the same Thomas Driver who was in the Greene County, Alabama census in 1850. The birthplaces of Thomas Driver's children make it appear that he came to Texas from Alabama about 1854. Thomas was the owner of seven slaves and a considerable amount of real estate.

Mr. Driver was a Confederate soldier in Co. I, 12<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry. The regiment was also known as Young's Texas Infantry and the 8<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry. He enlisted at Fairfield, Texas on February 17, 1862 for a term of one year. At some point during September or October of that year, he was confined to his tent because of sickness. On a roll made in December, 1862, he is noted as being sick in Little Rock, Arkansas. On March 7, 1863, he was granted a furlough because of sickness. He was with the regiment on a roll made for January and February, 1864.

“West” Driver appears in the 1870 census of Freestone County, Texas. He was thirty-three years old, and a native of Alabama. He had no wife with him, but had two children: F. M. Driver, age eleven; and Sarah Driver, age eight, both born in Texas.

As his second wife, John Wesley Driver married a widow, Mrs. Sarah Ellen (Mosteller) Elrod. She was a daughter of Jacob Mosteller, who brought his family to the Birdville area in northeast Tarrant County. Sarah was first married in Bartow County, Alabama on June 2, 1861 to William E. Elrod. Mr. Elrod was born December 5, 1841. He lived only a short time after the marriage, and died on October 11, 1861. He was buried in the Mosteller Family Cemetery. Sarah was a sister of another of our veterans, Marion Monroe Mosteller.

In her application for a Confederate widow’s pension, Mrs. Driver said she was married to Mr. Driver on January 2, 1865 in Freestone County, Texas. The records of Freestone County show the marriage of J. W. Driver to Sarah E. Elrod on January 2, 1872. Mrs. Driver must have been mistaken, since her future husband is shown without a wife in the 1870 census.

By the time the 1880 census was taken, John W. Driver and his wife and children were living in the Birdville community in Tarrant County. Their next-door neighbors were Mrs. Driver’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Mosteller. Mr. and Mrs. Driver had five children with them: Minnie, Annie, Belle, Bertie, and Thomas. All the children were born in Texas. A statement Mrs. Driver made to Texas pension officials many years later suggests that the family left Tarrant County and moved to Navarro County about 1887.

On July 7, 1899, Mr. Driver applied for a Confederate veteran’s pension, claiming service in Co. I, Young’s Texas Infantry. He gave his address as Powell, Texas. He said he turned sixty-four years old on October 9, 1898, thus his birth date would be October 9, 1835. He said he suffered from rheumatism, heart disease, and old age. He owned two horses worth fifty dollars, two cows worth thirty dollars. A doctor who examined him said he was disabled due to “premature age.”

The 1900 census of Precinct 7, Navarro County, Texas lists the Driver family with six children: Annie, Belle, Berta, Willie, Jim, and Carl. Mrs. Sallie Driver said she had given birth to nine children, six of whom were still living.

Mrs. Driver said in her pension application that John Wesley Driver died in Navarro County, Texas on February 16, 1905. He lies buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Corsicana, Texas. His headstone records his Confederate service, but does not include his dates of birth or death.

Mrs. Driver appears in the 1910 census in Precinct 1 of Navarro, in a family headed by her daughter, Annie Reppond, who herself was a widow with one daughter. By this year, Mrs. Driver said only two of her children were still alive. Belle Driver, then aged thirty-four and still single, was also with them. If the statement here is true, Annie and Belle were the only two surviving Driver children, but there is a death certificate for another daughter, Willie, who survived until 1969.

Sarah Emily Driver applied for a Confederate widow’s pension in Corsicana, Navarro Count, on April 10, 1905. She said she was sixty years old, and had been living in Navarro County for eighteen

years. She married J. W. Driver in Freestone County on January 2, 1865. He died in Freestone County on February 16, 1905.

Mrs. Sarah E. Driver died at Stringtown, Corsicana, Navarro County, Texas on June 27, 1920. She was born in Georgia on May 14, 1845, and was a daughter of Mostela and West. She died of Bright's disease and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Corsicana. The informant was Bell Driver of Corsicana.

Minnie Driver was born about 1872. She died in or before 1900.

Anna E. "Annie" Driver Reppond was born October 6, 1874. She died in Corsicana on November 18, 1935. She was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Corsicana beside her husband, John T. Reppond, who was born March 10, 1872. He died March 12, 1903.

Belle Morris was born in Freestone County, Texas on April 1, 1876. She died in Navarro County Memorial Hospital in Corsicana on May 19, 1958, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Corsicana. She was a widow. She was still unmarried at the time of her mother's death in 1920.

Berta(ie) Driver was about 1878. She was alive when the 1900 census was taken, and dead when the census was taken ten years later.

Thomas Driver was born in January 1880. He died in or before 1900.

Willie Mae Driver Green was born September 20, 1884. She died in Navarro County Memorial Hospital in Corsicana on January 6, 1969. She was buried in Resthaven Memorial Park in Corsicana.

Jim Driver was born in May, 1885, according to the 1900 census. He apparently died before the 1910 census was taken.

Carl B. Driver, born January 19, 1887 in Freestone County, Texas, who died in St. Paul's Sanitarium in Dallas on September 15, 1916. He was buried in Corsicana, Texas. The informant for the death certificate was Mrs. C. B. Driver of 1919 Trinidad Street, city not named.

