



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

David B. France

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David B. France was a Union veteran of an Indiana heavy artillery battery who lived at Grapevine in 1900. Before that he worked for many years in Denton County in a pottery. His descendants have an excellent photograph of him, taken within a group of his children and their families. He probably lies buried somewhere in the Grapevine area in an unmarked grave.

There is information posted on ancestry.com which seems, to this researcher, to have confused the identities of at least two men...this David B. France and one David M. France, who died in 1928 in Ohio.

The fact that David B. France was a potter in Denton County in 1880, born in Ohio about 1841 to a Pennsylvanian mother, led to the discovery of a David B. France in Muskingum County, Ohio in 1870 who was a journeyman potter. The 1870 man was also the son of a Pennsylvanian mother, and was born about 1841 in Ohio. It seems quite possible that the two men were the same. The 1870 man can be fairly easily traced back to 1850 in Muskingum County, and possibly earlier. His mother was Eliza France, who was born in Pennsylvania about 1815.

There was a family headed by a lady named Eliza France in Putnam, Springfield Township County, Ohio in 1840. She was born between 1810 and 1820. She had only two children living with her...a boy under five years old and a daughter under five years old. Her next-door neighbor was William Weaver. *Oddly, this same woman apparently appears in the 1850 census with a number of children named France who would have been born after 1840. Could she have been remarried after 1840 to another man named France, who died before the taking of the 1850 census? Could she have taken in the orphans of another France couple?*

The 1850 census taker found David B. France living in Putnam, Muskingum County, Ohio in a family headed by his mother, Eliza France, who was born in Pennsylvania about 1815. David and

his five siblings were all born in Ohio. David B. France was nine years old. His siblings were Harrison, Margaret, Howard, John, and Mary. There was another David France, also nine years old, also living in Putnam with the family of William Weaver... *the man who is listed as Eliza Frances next-door neighbor in 1840.*

The family appears in the 1860 census of Putnam, Springfield Township, Ohio as "Francis." It is headed by Eliza Francis (born about 1815 in Pennsylvania), and the family included her children: Howard (born about 1843 and a moulder by trade), John (born about 1846 and apprenticed to a potter); Mary Ellen (born about 1848); and David (born about 1843 and working in boating). Their next-door neighbor, Hugh McDonald, was a "Stone Ware Moulder."

David B. France told census officials in Denton County, Texas in 1890 that he was a Union soldier in Co. G, First Indiana Heavy Artillery Battery. Records of the Indiana Adjutant General show he was enlisted on March 3, 1864 and was discharged on January 13, 1866. A condensed history of the battery may be found on the web at: <http://www.civilwararchive.com/Unreghst/uninarty.htm> Mr. France served in the western theatre during the War.

When the 1870 census was taken, David B. France and his mother were living together at Putnam, Springfield Township, Muskingum County, Ohio. She said she was born about 1814 in Pennsylvania. He was born in Ohio about 1841, and was working as a journeyman potter.

When the 1880 census was taken, Mr. France was listed in Denton County, Texas where he was working in a pottery business headed by Monterville Griffith. David was shown born about 1841 in Ohio to an Ohioan father and Pennsylvanian mother. His wife, Ella, was born about 1858 in Texas to a Texan father and a Tennessean mother. They had two sons living with them: Walter France (born about 1874 in Arkansas) and Harry France (born in Texas about 1877).

David B. France was listed in the 1890 Texas census of Union Veterans. He is shown living in Denton County in Precinct 1. France said he was a member of Co. G, First Indiana Heavy Artillery Battery. He served one year and nine months, having enlisted in November, 1863 and being discharged in August, 1865. His address was shown as Corinth, Texas. He said he had a disease of the ear contracted in the Union army. He applied for an invalid veterans' pension in Texas; the handwritten date appears to be September 24, 1890. He claimed service in only one Union organization during the War. This was probably in reaction to the government's passage of a bill granting pensions to veterans regardless of their financial need.

David B. France appears in the 1900 census at Grapevine in Tarrant County. He was a widower, born in Ohio in July 1841. He told the census taker both his parents were born in Ohio. He had five children living with him, all born in Texas to a mother born in Arkansas. They were: Mirtie E. France (born in January, 1884); Bertie W. (a son born in June, 1887); Willie and Lillie (twins born in March 1889); and Harl R. France (born in January 1893).

It appears that there is a notation on Mr. France's pension index card to the effect that he made a second filing on April 1, 1907 on account of his age. This was in response to another act passed by

Congress that same year which gave veterans additional funds based upon a sliding scale depending on their age.

There are no readable headstones in any northeast Tarrant County cemetery for David B. France or his wife, Ella. He has no death certificate on file in Texas. No death notice appeared for him the in Grapevine Sun's surviving issues from that period. It seems likely that Mr. France died between 1907 and 1910, inclusive.

Three of Mrs. France's children appear in an adjacent county in 1910. There was a household in Precinct 2 of Dallas County, Texas in 1910 headed by Bart France (born about 1888). With him were his wife, Laura France (born about 1891 in Texas, and three boarders. The boarders in the home included Will France (born about 1889) and his wife, Della (born about 1893); and Roy France (born about 1893).

All three of the France men were born in Texas, and all were born of an Ohioan father and a Texan mother. Their father was not with them. Bart and Will France had been married one year.

The records found thus far indicate that Peter B. France's children included Walter France, Harry France, Myrtle E. France, Bertie W. France, Willie France, and Lillie France (twins), and Harl Roy France.

Walter France was born in Arkansas about 1874. He is not mentioned as a survivor of his brother, Roy France, who died in 1914.

Harry Brant France was born March 28, 1876 in Texas. He registered for the World War draft at Perrin, Jack County, Texas in 1918. He named no wife but mentioned he had four children: Houston, Mary, Otha, and Orbra.

Myrtle E. France was born January 26, 1884. About 1901, she married Bose Luther Tillery, who was born August 1, 1879. They appear in the 1910 census at Grapevine, Texas. When Mr. Tillery registered for the World War I draft in 1918, they were living at Perrin in Jack County, Texas. Two years later, in 1920, the family was listed living at Graford in Palo Pinto, County, Texas.

Bertie W. France was born June 13, 1887. His wife's name was Laura, and she was born about 1891 in Texas. They lived in Dallas County in 1910. He is not mentioned as a survivor of his brother, Roy France, who died in 1914.

Lillie France was born March 11, 1889 in Denton County, Texas. She was married to Martin Luther Stockton on December 24, 1908. She was divorced from him in 1935. She died in Dallas, Texas about 1967.

Willie France was born March 11, 1889 in Denton County, Texas. He was married to Della Gay Stockton (1893-1979) on December 27, 1908. The lived in Dallas County in 1910. Family sources at ancestry.com say he died at Irving, Dallas County, Texas on February 12, 1911.

Harl Roy France has a death certificate on file in Texas. His name is shown on it as Roy H. France. He was born in Texas on January 10, 1893, and was apparently never married. He died at the Harris Sanitorium in Fort Worth on September 21, 1914 from the effects of a gunshot wound, He was buried in Flower Mound Cemetery on September 22, 1914. His parents were given as D. B. Glass, a native of Ohio, and Ella Glass, a native of Arkansas. His grave is unmarked.

An account of Roy France's death was printed in The Grapevine Sun: ***“ROY FRANCE SHOT SUNDAY MORNING DIES MONDAY. ACCUSED ON BOND. B. F. Majors, 61 Years Old, Says He Fired Into Office Window Covered by Laprobe. Roy France, 21 years of age, who was shot early last Sunday morning at this place, died Monday at 4 a.m. at the Harris Sanitorium in Fort Worth. A murder charge was filed against B. F. Majors, 61 years old, who was taken to Fort Worth Sunday, but was released Monday morning on \$1,500 bond. France and “Doc” Stafford, hired a horse and buggy at S. A. Wall’s livery stable at this place Saturday night to go to a dance. When they returned in the early hours of Sunday morning they became involved in a quarrel with Majors, who was in charge of the stable. According to his story they insisted on shooting craps in the office, which he refused to allow. They took possession of the office, locking Majors out, the latter claims. After he had demanded admittance several times and had been refused, he secured a revolver from another part of the stable and told the boys that if they did not open the door he was going to shoot. They still refused and he fired one shot through the window, which was covered with a laprobe, so that he could not see the position of those inside. The shot passed through [...torn...] arm and then into his abdomen. He was taken to Fort Worth at once and placed in the hospital. Majors gave himself up immediately after the shooting and waived a preliminary hearing before Justice Hellis, of this place, who went to Fort Worth with him and turned him over to the sheriff’s office. Frances’s body was brought here and buried in Flower Mound cemetery Tuesday morning. He is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Myrtle Tillery of this community and Mrs. Stockland of Irving, and a brother, H. B. France, whose address is unknown.”***