



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

Copyright © 2009-2014. All rights reserved.

Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Joseph Houston Gresham

Compiled by Michael Patterson
Copyright © 2009-2014. All rights reserved.

Joseph Houston Gresham was a Confederate veteran of an Alabama regiment who lived some of his last years in Grapevine. Researchers at ancestry.com say the family moved from Duplin County, North Carolina to Limestone County, Alabama. Quite a number of Gresham descendants of Joseph H. Gresham have posted information on the internet.

Joseph Houston Gresham was born in Limestone County, Alabama in December, 1846. Census information suggests Joseph H. Gresham was the son of Joseph G. Gresham, who was born about 1811 in Tennessee. He and his family appear in the 1850 Limestone County, Alabama census in District 4. The elder Gresham was working as a carpenter. With him were his wife, Falony [spelling?] Gresham, who was born in North Carolina about 1810. Their children included George Gresham (born about 1843) and Joseph Gresham (born about 1847). It is known from an affidavit made in support of Joseph Gresham's Confederate pension application that he had a brother named George who was also in Confederate service.

The census taker in 1860 found the family living in District 2 of Limestone Co., Alabama. Joseph G. Gresham was working as a miller. His wife, Mary Gresham, was born about 1814 in Virginia. George G. Gresham and Joseph H. Gresham (age twelve) were among the children. The occupations of their neighbors seem to suggest they may have been living in the town of Athens.

By 1860 Joseph G. Gresham had remarried to Mary Elizabeth Bates/Batts. They were married on May 17, 1852 and had one more child, John H. Gresham, born about 1854. A Mr. Batts was among those who made an affidavit supporting Mr. Gresham's Confederate service many years later.

Gresham's records in the National Archives say he was a member of Co. E, 11th Alabama Cavalry. He enlisted at Tuscumbia, Alabama on February 9, 1863 for a term of three years of the duration of the War. He was detailed as a wagoner on March 15, 1864 by order of Major Williams. At some point in 1864 he was allowed \$96 for the use of his own horse at the rate of forty cents per day.

Another record shows him to have enlisted on August 16, 1863 at Athens, Alabama for the duration of the War. His name appears on a muster roll for the period August 15, 1863 through February 29, 1864. At some point during that time he was detailed on a scout with Lieutenant McDonald, and was allowed \$78 for the use of his horse at the rate of forty cents per day. At that time he was a member of Co. E, 10th Alabama Cavalry, which was subsequently re-designated as Co. E, 11th Alabama Cavalry.

On January 13, 1865, Gresham signed an oath of allegiance to the federal government at Nashville, Tennessee. He was described as a resident of Limestone County, Alabama, with a fair complexion, light hair, and gray eyes; he was five feet ten inches tall. He had surrendered on December 25, 1864.

We have been unable to locate Mr. Gresham in the census of 1870. He and his family appear in the 1880 census in Cooke County, Texas in Precinct 6. Joseph H. Gresham appears as a 39-year-old farmer, born in Georgia to two South Carolinians. His wife, Mary, was thirty-one and was born in Georgia, as were both her parents. They had three children with them: Nancy (born about 1872), Joseph O. (born about 1876), and George G. (born about 1877). All three children were born in Texas. Also with the family were William Quillian (born about 1851 in Georgia) and his wife, Sarah (born about 1859 in Georgia). The Quillians were brother-in-law and sister-in-law of Mr. Gresham.

Family sources who have posted queries at genealogy.com believe Mrs. Gresham was Mary Hannah Quillian, a daughter of James Oliver Quillian and his wife, Mary Matilda Bramlett. Mary H. Quillian was born about 1849 in Gilmer County, Georgia. By 1860, she and her siblings and her father were living in Blount County, Alabama. Her mother was living in Gilmer County, Georgia with her (Mary Matilda's) father.

There is standing in Dye Cemetery in Cooke County, Texas a headstone for two children: Eddie and Freddie Gresham, who were born on March 23, 1882 and who died January 7, 1883. No parents' names are included, but it seems possible these may have been children of Joseph and Mary Gresham. It would seem an incredible coincidence that a set of twins should both die on the same day after having survived nearly a year.

When the 1900 census was taken, Joseph Gresham was living in Grapevine, Tarrant County, in the household of his son-in-law, Almon C. Loyd. Gresham's daughter, Nancy L. Loyd, said she was born in June 1872 in Texas. Joseph's son, Riley Gresham, also lived with them. He was born in November 1883 in Texas. Joseph Gresham's birthdate is given as December 1846 in Georgia, and both his parents were Georgians.

John Riley Gresham died at Grapevine on September 27, 1905, at the age of 21 years, 9 months, and 28 days. His death certificate reveals that he died of infection and typhoid fever. This yields a birth date of November 30, 1883. A short obituary for him appeared in The Grapevine Sun: "*DIED. Riley Gresham, aged 22 years, son of Mr. Joe Gresham, living in the south part of town, died at 1 o'clock last Thursday morning and was buried Thursday evening at Clement's graveyard about [____] south of Grapevine.*" This cemetery is now known as Parker Memorial Cemetery, along Highway 121 in the south part of Grapevine. His grave is unmarked.

Nancy L. Loyd died at her home southwest of Grapevine on January 13, 1905. Her stated age on her death certificate gives a birthdate of July 28, 1872. Her cause of death was pelvic cellulitis and abortion. She has no readable headstone in northeast Tarrant County.

J. H. Gresham applied for a Confederate pension on April 2, 1906 while he was a resident of Grapevine. He said he was sixty two years old, and had been living in Tarrant County for thirty-six years, hence he had arrived here about 1880. He said he was very feeble and had asthma. He said he suffered lasting effects from exposure to the elements during the War. He said he enlisted in the Confederate Army in Alabama in the fall of 1862, and served until the end of the War. He said he was a member of Co. C, 9th Alabama Cavalry. He said he had no property of his own, but that his wife owned one acre of land worth \$150 which her father had given her. He did not say where the land was.

Dr. A. P. Brown, who examined Mr. Gresham, said he claimed to have defective hearing by reason of an explosion of a shell from a cannon close to his head at Harristown, Mississippi. He wore eyeglasses when he read. He became short of breath after just a little exercise. He had symptoms of angina pectoris with “neuralgia of heart.”

J. R. Locke of Rt. 2, Box 45, Decatur, Texas, made an affidavit in support of Mr. Gresham’s claim. Locke said he had known Gresham about forty-three years, and had served in the same company with him. They were in Co. E, Bostwell’s (?) Regiment, 11th Alabama Cavalry. Locke said he [Locke] was captured after serving two years, and “The last time I saw him [Gresham] he was standing in line of battle near Paint Rock, Tennessee...” J. R. Locke of Wise County, Texas received a Confederate pension from the State of Texas.

It is interesting to note that Joseph Gresham’s brother, George G. Gresham, died Limestone County, Alabama about 1880 or shortly thereafter, a few years after being married to Alice Jane Locke. Alice left Alabama after her husband’s death and moved to Texas, then to Oklahoma. Family sources say they made the trip in a covered wagon and settled at Rockwall, Texas. They moved to Stonewall, Oklahoma about 1900.

James Thomas Batts of Columbia, Maury County, Tennessee also made an affidavit for Gresham. Batts said he was fifty-nine years old, and said he had known Gresham in Columbia, Maury County, Tennessee. He gave Gresham’s full name in his deposition, said he had known him “45 or 50” years, and said they were children together. Batts said Gresham was captured by the “Yankeys” within one-half mile of the Batts home, and that Gresham stopped at their house on his way home after the War.

Batts also said he had a brother in the same company and regiment as Mr. Gresham. The National Archives confirms that one W. Batts was a soldier in Co. E, 11th Alabama Cavalry. J. T. Batts may have been a relative of Joseph H. Gresham’s stepmother, Mary Betts/Batts. One of Mr. Gresham’s older sisters, Elizabeth, married a Mr. Batts.

The Dallas Morning News of October 2, 1906 carried the following short note: “*J. H. Gresham, aged about 59 years, died this morning at his former residence, 1309 East Eighteenth Street [in Fort*

Worth]. The body was shipped to Grapevine by undertaker George L. Gause for burial.” This was reprinted from a Fort Worth paper printed on October 1, thus it seems Mr. Gresham must have died on the first.

Six years later in the same newspaper, dated November 15, 1912, the following death notice appeared: “Gresham. Sherman, Tex., Nov. 14—Joe Gresham, 35 years of age, a business man in this city, died yesterday afternoon, following an attack of appendicitis. The body was shipped to Grapevine, his former home. A brother, Patrolman George Gresham, of Fort Worth, was here at the time of the death of his brother and accompanied the body to Grapevine.”

Joseph’s son, George Gregory Gresham, registered for the draft for World War I while a resident of Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas. He said he was born January 27, 1878. He was at the time working as a policeman for the City of Fort Worth. His wife was Bettie Gresham. On his death certificate, his parents names are given as Jno. Grisham and Hannah Quilton. He died at his home at 616 Luxton in Fort Worth on April 8, 1920 from gunshot wounds inflicted by an unknown person. He was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery. His birthplace as shown on the death certificate was Rockwood, Texas. The current Handbook of Texas contains only one reference for Rockwood, Texas, located in Cameron County. However, that Rockwood did not receive its name until 1890.



Cenotaph installed in Parker Memorial Cemetery on November 21, 2013 by E. W. Taylor Camp Sons of Confederate Veterans #1777.