



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Alfred Madison Hightower

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Alfred Madison Hightower was born in Lincoln County, Tennessee on January 8, 1825 (some sources say 1824). He was a son of Hugh M. Hightower and his wife, Delia (Hicks) Hightower. When Alfred was about two years old, his father moved the family to Montgomery County, Illinois, where Alfred grew to manhood. They first lived in the town of Hillsborough, but about 1838 moved to a farm outside town but still in Montgomery County.

On July 19, 1846 in Montgomery County, Alfred married Sarah J. Grantham, a daughter of James Grantham and Frances (Sights) Grantham. Sarah was born in Kentucky on August 27, 1824, and moved with her parents to Montgomery County about 1830. About 1854 Alfred and his family left Illinois to move west, but stopped for about four years in Laclede County, Missouri because of his wife's ill health. About 1858 they continued their journey, and finally settled in the present-day Smithfield area about 1858.

Hightower was opposed to secession but joined the Confederate forces when the question was decided by the Texas Legislature. He was a member of several different military groups at various times, and the official records and his own recollections made years later are sometimes at odds. On August 19, 1861 in Tarrant County, Alfred joined Capt. William Quayle's Company of mounted riflemen in Col. William Sims' Regiment of Texas State Troops. At his enlistment, he agreed to use his own horse (valued at \$175), and his own weapons. On August 20, this company was the first to leave Fort Worth to fight in the Civil War. By September 5, they were stationed at Camp Reeves in Grayson County, Texas. On October 14, they officially became a part of Co. A, 9<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry. On March 25, 1862 Alfred was appointed wagonmaster of his company, but soon became ill and was discharged from the service on July 17, 1862. At the time of his discharge, he was 6'1" tall, with a dark complexion, blue eyes, and brown hair. On August 11, 1863 he reenlisted for a term of six months as a private in Co. H, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry, Texas State Troops.

About 1894 Alfred supplied some biographical information which was included in the History of Texas, Together with a Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties. The portion of his

biography which deals with his Civil War service is as follows: “...*When the War came on he enlisted in the Sixth Texas Cavalry, which was consigned to the Trans-Mississippi Department. A year later his command was dismounted in Arkansas and ordered across the river to Corinth [Mississippi] in which battle he participated. He was also in the battle of Holly Springs, and continued in the Army of Tennessee about six months, after which he recrossed the Mississippi. Soon afterward, he was detailed as a recruiting officer, and later raised a company, of which he was Captain, and with his company entered the Tenth Texas Regiment and remained on duty until the close of the war. At the time of the surrender he was at Dallas, and from there returned home. During all his service, he was neither wounded nor captured, but on one occasion had his horse killed under him...*” As a mounted rifleman in Arkansas, he fought at Elkhorn Tavern.

In 1870 Hightower moved his family to Kansas, taking a herd of six hundred cattle with him. On September 27, 1878, his wife, Sarah J. Hightower, died. It seems likely she was buried in Kansas, even though her name and dates appear on the same stone with Mr. Hightower at Smithfield. Alfred later was remarried in Kansas to Pomelia V. Ridgeway, the daughter of C. W. Ridgeway. She was born in 1848.

About 1880 Alfred decided to move back to Texas. In his later years, Alfred was a well-known figure here, raising cattle, horses, and sheep. He stood tall, weighed over two hundred pounds, and wore a size thirteen shoe. He spoke with a heavy Scottish or Irish brogue. Alfred and his wife were members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Alfred joined the Grand Prairie (Smithfield) Masonic Lodge in 1885. Two of his sons were also active in the Lodge. In 1894 Alfred’s second wife, Pomelia, died and was buried in Smithfield Cemetery.

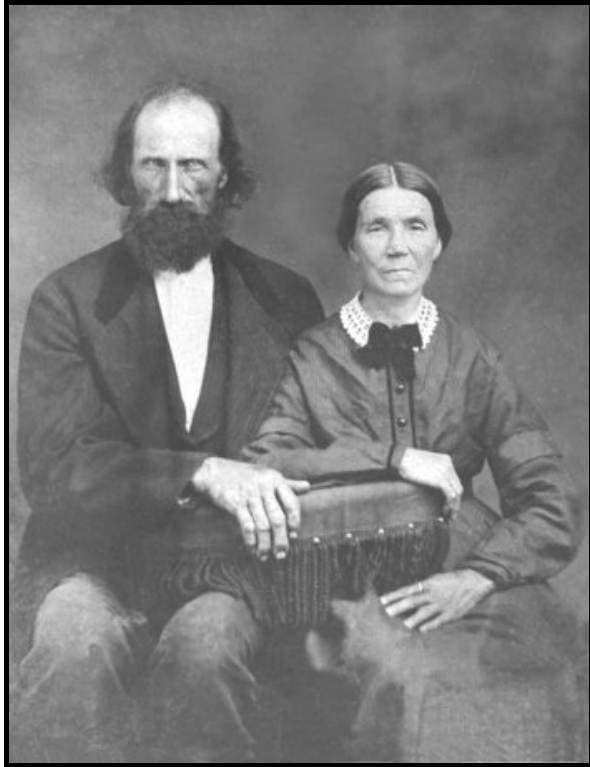
Alfred survived until April 10, 1897 (some records say April 9), and was buried beside her. Family tradition indicates he was killed by a team of runaway mules while on a trip to Arlington, Texas. His grave is marked with a Texas State Historical Marker, erected in the early 1980’s by a group of the students at Smithfield Junior High School.

Alfred’s house continued to stand into the 1980’s, and with many additions and renovations, was last occupied by his grandson, Guy Meacham. In terms of modern-day landmarks, the house sat in North Richland Hills west of Smithfield Road about one hundred yards from the spot where Newman Road intersects Smithfield Road from the east. It is still a hilltop with several old surviving post oaks.

Alfred and his first wife were the parents of: James Harrison Hightower; Daniel Hughmac Hightower; Sarah Jane Hightower, first the wife of Eli Smith and then the wife of A. B. Clark; Melvina Ellen Hightower, the wife of T. Harvey Wagoner (Wagner); Mary Elizabeth Hightower, the widow of Sion P. Thrower; Joseph Q. Hightower, and Catherine Texana Hightower, the wife of William C. Meacham.

Alfred and his second wife were the parents of three children: Alfred Ernest Hightower, Frank Gilbert Hightower, and Pomelia Virginia Hightower, who married Charley Hopkins.

The following pages contain more information on Alfred and his family in the application for Hightower’s historical marker on file with the Tarrant County Historical Commission.



Mr. & Mrs. A. M. Hightower

