



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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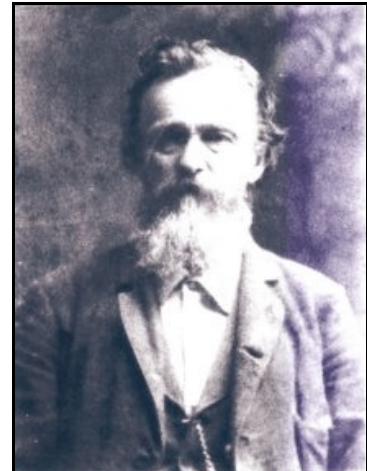
Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

George Thomas Johnson

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George Thomas Johnson was born in Greensboro, Georgia on October 19, 1839. He was a son of James T. Johnson and his wife, Corsaira (Matthews) Johnson. By the time of the 1850 census, George was living with his parents and siblings in Wilcox County, Alabama, where James Johnson was working as a lawyer. In that year, James T. Johnson owned three slaves.

Descendants report that Mr. Johnson was first married to Mathilda Hobbs, who was born November 13, 1844 in Red River County, Texas and died February 4, 1883. They were married in Red River County, Texas on August 3, 1859. She was a daughter of William R. Hobbs (1805-before 1880 in Red River County, Texas).



When the 1860 census of Red River County, Texas was taken, "Thomas" Johnson and his wife, Matilda, were living there next door to the household in which her father, William Hobbs, was living. George Johnson told his comrades in the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth that he enlisted at Boston, Texas in 1861 in Co. E, 15th Texas Dismounted Cavalry.

He took part in battles in Mississippi, Georgia, and Tennessee under Generals Bragg, Johnston, and Hood, and was captured at Atlanta. He was a prisoner of war at Camp Douglas in Illinois, and was discharged from prison in June, 1865. In his pension application he said he enlisted in Co. E, Phillip Crump's Battalion in March 1862, and that the battalion was later reorganized into the 15th Texas at Corinth, Mississippi. Later still the regiment was reorganized and called the 32nd Regiment Texas Dismounted Cavalry.

George T. Johnson's compiled military service records in Washington are fairly extensive for a Confederate soldier. He joined the Confederate Army at Camp Hospitality, at Boston, Texas, on

January 25, 1862 for twelve months, as a private in Co. E, 15th Texas Cavalry. He appears present on a muster roll for the period January 25-August 31, 1862. He appears on a roll of the same company for September and October, 1862 as an orderly sergeant, and curiously, on another roll for September 1 through December 31, 1862 as a private. During 1862 the regiment was dismounted and became known as the 32nd Texas Dismounted Cavalry.

By some time in January or February, 1863, he had attained the rank of second sergeant. On March 1, 1863 he was appointed to the rank of first sergeant, rank which he held through the end of August. He was wounded at the Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia in September 1863 and was sent to a hospital. He reenlisted at the end of his original term of twelve months.

He was admitted to the Ocmulgee Hospital in Macon, Georgia on July 22, 1864, suffering from "Vul Sclopet." He was transferred out of that hospital on the next day. He gave his residence as Red River County, Texas.

He was captured near Atlanta, Georgia on September 3, 1864, and was sent from Nashville, Tennessee to Louisville, Kentucky on October 27, 1864. He arrived in Louisville the next day. He was sent from Louisville to Camp Douglas, Illinois on October 29, 1864, and arrived there on November 1. He was released from Camp Douglas on June 17, 1865. At the time of his release, he gave his residence as Camden, Wilcox County, Alabama. He had a fair complexion, light hair, and gray eyes, and was five feet nine inches tall.

Several original papers signed by Johnson remain in his compiled military service records file in the National Archives. One is a requisition for clothing; one is a requisition for reimbursement for meals while he was on furlough from September 28 to October 12, 1863; one is a voucher for pay which he received at Brandon, Mississippi on December 21 1863; and another is a pay voucher for money he received at Meridian, Mississippi on November 1, 1863.

The census taker in 1880 found Mr. Johnson and his family living in District 129 of Precinct 5 of Wise County, Texas, at the town of Aurora. They had seven children living with them: Charles B. Johnson (born about 1865); George T. Johnson (born about 1868); Laura M. Johnson (born about 1870); Coreyre E. (a female) Johnson, born about 1872; Francis C. Johnson (born about 1874); Mary A. Johnson (born about 1877); and Jesse Johnson (born in October 1879). There is no standing, readable headstone for Mrs. Johnson or any of these children in Wise County, Texas. Some descendants at ancestry.com report that Mrs. Johnson died at Bedford, Texas in 1883.

Johnson's second wife, Louise (the 1910 census records her name as Lula), had earlier been married to a Mr. Harris with whom she had children. She and Johnson were married in Tarrant County on September 25, 1889.

In her pension application in 1913, Louise Johnson said she was sixty-seven years old, born in Bath County, Kentucky, and had lived in Texas about 40 years. She said her husband's command was raised in Red River Co., Texas. A comrade in arms wrote of him, "*He was in Co. E of 1st Texas Battalion of Cavalry, afterwards organized as the 15th Regiment owing to conflicts in the CS War Department we were finally organized and called the 32nd Texas Regiment of Dismounted Cavalry. Our service commenced in March 1862 in Arkansas and closed at the Battle of Spanish Fort.*"

When Johnson later joined the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth, he wrote, “...I was in the first battle at Elkhorn, Ark afterwards crossed the Miss River and went in to Ky and then hack into Ga Campaign in the Battles of Murfreesboro, Chickamauga and all the Battles under Bragg Johnson and Hood. Was captured at the fall of Atlanta when the Army marched to Jonesboro, went to Chicago prison (Camp Douglas) and was discharged from prison the 17th day of June the year the war ended...”

Johnson’s gravestone in Bedford Cemetery records his death on February 22, 1904; in his wife’s pension application she said it took place on February 6. His death certificate records that he died at Grapevine at 2:30 p.m. of static pneumonia and dilatation of the heart. A short note about Johnson's death appeared in the Grapevine Sun on March 5, 1904: *"DIED. Mr. G. T. Johnson, father of C. B. Johnson and who was mentioned in these columns as being very sick a few days ago, died at the home of his son-in-law, G. W. Evans, Friday of last week. He had been sick a little over two weeks with heart trouble. He was buried Saturday at Bedford."*

Both Johnson and his wife were pensioned by the State of Texas for his service. Mrs. Johnson died at the home of her son-in-law, Mahlon Hurst, on October 8, 1918, and she lies buried at Arwine Cemetery in Hurst. Her gravestone says simply “Grandma Johnson,” and records her birthdate as May 18, 1851. Her monument shows her death date as September 27, 1928.

This “Grandma Johnson” is clearly the same woman whose obituary appears in the Arlington newspaper in 1918, because she is buried with the Mahlon Hurst family and descendants identify her as the widow of George Thomas Johnson who died in 1904 and is buried at Bedford.

Mrs. Johnson told the 1910 census taker she had given birth to three children, two of whom were still alive. More research is needed to make some sense of these discrepancies.

Family sources at Ancestry.com report the following children for George and Mathilda Johnson: James Taylor Johnson, Charles B. Johnson, George Thomas Johnson, Laura Minnie Johnson, Corsyria Eliza Johnson, Francis “Frank” Cummings Johnson, Mary A. Johnson, Jesse Oliver Yoakum Johnson, and Albert S. Johnson.

James Taylor Johnson was born January 22, 1861 and died August 18, 1866, both in Red River County, Texas.

Charles Bernard Johnson was born October 19, 1866. He died August 22, 1930 at Antlers, Pushmataha County, Oklahoma. He lies buried there in the Antlers City Cemetery. He was married to Jennie Long and had at least three children.

George Thomas Johnson was born March 7, 1868. He died August 25, 1931 in Antlers, Pushmataha County, Oklahoma. He married Nora Johnson and they had at least four children.

Laura Minnie Johnson was born January 11, 1869. She married J. L. Cantrell on October 19, 1886. About 1890 she was married to William B. Johnson. She died at Bedford, Texas on December 29, 1895.

Corsyria Eliza Johnson was born February 23, 1872. She died March 28, 1933 in Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan.

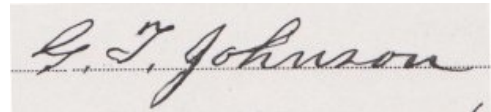
Francis (Frank) Cummings Johnson was born April 14, 1873. He married Alice Gertrude Hendrix. He died February 22, 1940 in Wolfe City, Hunt County, Texas. He lies buried there with his wife in Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Mary Anna Johnson Rogers was born in 1877 and died August 2, 1959 in Gainesville, Cooke County, Texas.. She lies buried beside her father in Bedford Cemetery.

Jesse Oliver Yoakum Johnson was born October 28, 1879. He married Ida May Balthrop at Pleasant Hill, Wise County, Texas, on August 28, 1904. He raised his family in the Gainesville, Texas area. He was living in Gainesville when he registered for the draft in 1918. He died in Gainesville on August 18, 1962 and is buried with his wife in Valley View Cemetery in Cooke County, Texas.

Albert S. Johnson was born February 19, 1882. He married Tennie Ethel Harkness. Albert died July 11, 1952 at Hedley in Donley County, Texas.

Much of the information in this biography was posted at Ancestry.com by Mr. Johnson's great-great-grandson, Wayne Johnson.



Back of George's headstone at left



George T. Johnson's stone at Bedford. This is Wayne Johnson, his great-great grandson. Photos taken 24 January 2009 the day we installed the stone.



2nd wife of George Thomas Johnson