



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

Copyright © 2008. All rights reserved.

## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Thomas Jefferson Nash

Compiled by Michael Patterson  
Copyright 2008. All rights reserved.

Thomas Jefferson Nash and his brother, William P. Nash, were among the earliest settlers at the town of Grapevine. With the recent renovation of his farmstead, he is now one of the best known pioneers as well.

Family sources at ancestry.com say Thomas was the son of Joseph B. Nash (1796 in Virginia-1866 in Denton County, Texas) and his wife, Frances Skinner (born about 1797 in Virginia). They were married in Washington County, Kentucky on October 26, 1815.

Thomas Jefferson Nash and his wife, Elizabeth Virginia Mouser, were married in Marion County, Kentucky on February 17, 1848. She was a daughter of Gabriel Mouser (1801-1840) and his wife, Nancy (Welch) Mouser (born about 1807).

When the Grapevine Area History was published by the Grapevine Historical Society in 1979, several Nash descendants wrote article and shared photographs concerning their ancestors. Felix Rowland Bell, Ronald W. Bradford, Dayna Coonrod Bradford, and Mrs. Jeff Yancy all contributed to the article about Thomas Jefferson Nash and his wife and children. Some excerpts from it follow:

*“Thomas Jefferson Nash was born March 4, 1827 in Marion Co., Kentucky...Thomas’s wife was Elizabeth Mouser, who was born October 20, 1828...Thomas and Elizabeth Nash were married before 1850....*

*“Family tradition says the Nash party camped at the present site of Grapevine on their last night before reaching Birdville. They were so impressed with the land they decided to return later and settle....*

*“In 1859, Thomas owned one hundred ten acres of land valued at five hundred dollars. By 1860 he owned two hundred forty-five acres valued at \$1,791. Thomas and Elizabeth Nash owned two farms. The home place was located on Ball Street north of the railroad tracks. The other Nash farm was on a hill east of the present First National Bank of Grapevine. Both farmhouses still stand. Jennie Yancy, Thomas’s daughter, remembered her father keeping gold hidden in a nail keg in his attic. A thin layer of nails over the top kept the gold hidden...”*

*“William P. “Uncle Bill” Nash never married and spent his entire adult life with the Thomas Nash family. Uncle Bill is reported to have cut the rocks that formed the foundation of the first Methodist Church that was ever built in Grapevine...”*

*“After moving to Grapevine, Thomas spent the rest of his life there. He died August 4, 1906, and was buried in Grapevine Cemetery. Elizabeth continued to live at the Nash home for a time after his death, but spent her last years of her life living with her daughter, Anna Belle (Nash) Groover Wheelis. Elizabeth died on June 4, 1925, and was buried beside her husband....”*

*“Few pictures remain of Thomas or Elizabeth, and none at all have survived of William. A Confederate Army pass dated May 9, 1863 says Thomas was six feet tall and fair complected, and had black hair and blue eyes. Two sketches of Thomas and his wife were made by a traveling artist, and the pictures hung for many years on the Nash wall. They were dressed formally, he in a suit and she in a gown. Thomas’s granddaughter said the suit was an added touch of formality, since her grandfather did not own a suit...”*



Thomas and Elizabeth Nash

*“Thomas and Elizabeth Nash had six children: Appalona Nash, born in 1849 in Lebanon, Kentucky, married Bailey Payne, and died in 1925; John William Nash, born in 1851 in Lebanon, married Nannie Hall, and died in Grapevine in 1935; Susan M. Nash, born in 1853 in Lebanon, married Judge Hollis, and died in 1916; Sallie J. Nash, born in 1859 in Grapevine, married Edward F. Phillips, and died in 1916; Anna Belle Nash, born in 1865 in Grapevine, married first to a Mr. Groover and second to George Wheelis, and died in 1959; and Elizabeth V. “Jenny” Nash, born in 1869 in Grapevine, married Henry H. Yancy, and died in 1952...”*

In the Grapevine Sun of March 30, 1933, D. A. Strain wrote an interesting story after interviewing one of Thomas J. Nash's sons, 78-year-old John William Nash. A part of the interview concerns the Nash family's trip to Texas: *“...Mr. Nash was born at Lebanon, Kentucky, September 14, 1851. In the year 1854, his mother, father, three children and his father's three brothers, started early one morning for Texas in an old covered wagon drawn by a yoke of oxen. They crossed the old Colbert's Ferry on the Red River, November 1, 1859 [sic], and moved to Cedar Springs, Texas, and lived there 6 months, moving from there to the old Starr place located about 3 miles north of the present site of the city of Grapevine. After living there about four years, they moved to the Henry Sudge place, about one half mile west of Grapevine. this place later became the old Nash homestead. In 1859, Grapevine was composed of a grocery store, run by Solen Dunn, and a blacksmith shop, run by a man named Thomas. Eli Jenkins erected the first residence in our city. When Mr. Nash came here, there was nothing but a bald prairie with the wooded section starting about ten miles west of town...”* The remainder of the article deals mainly with the active, interesting life of John William Nash himself.

Thomas Nash served the Confederacy as a private in Co. H, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment, Texas State Troops (6 months troops). He enlisted in Tarrant County on August 11, 1863 under General N. Terry for a term of six months. Another record in his files in the National Archives shows him to have enlisted in Tarrant County on January 27, 1864 under Col. N. W. Townes at Camp Wharton. At that time, his age was shown as 37 years. Family sources also report that both Thomas and his brother, William, served in General Gano's Grapevine Mounted Riflemen, as well as the Seventh Kentucky Cavalry, of which Gano's men became a part. Thomas's family still has the rifle he carried during his Confederate service.

Thomas J. Nash's home appears on the 1895 Street Map of Tarrant County, Texas, inside the area defined by the modern-day streets West College Street on the north, Ball Street on the east, and Homestead Drive on the east and south. The house now standing there is the house in which Thomas, Elizabeth, and Thomas's brother, William P. Nash, lived and died. The City of Grapevine has placed material concerning the house on the web at their official City site. In addition, several recent newspaper articles may also be accessed by using the Google search engine.

When the 1900 census taker visited the Nash home, Elizabeth told him she had given birth to six children, all of whom were still alive. Neither Thomas nor Elizabeth Nash applied for a Confederate pension from the State of Texas.

An obituary for Mr. Nash appeared in the Grapevine Sun on August 11, 1906: *“LAST SAD RITE. On Saturday afternoon, August 4, at 1 o'clock, the soul of Thomas Jefferson Nash passed from earth*

*to that eternal home in heaven. For about two years prior to his death he had been in poor health, but not until a few months ago did they realize his serious condition. All that physicians, kind and loving hands could do, was done to alleviate his suffering, but it was the Master's will that he should go. The funeral services were conducted from the Methodist Church Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock, by the pastor, Rev. M. S. Leveridge. The house was filled with sorrowing friends and neighbors. Mr. Nash was born at Lebanon, Marion county, Ky., March 4th, 1827, and was married to Miss Elizabeth Mouser of the same place, Feb. 17, 1848. God blessed this union with six children--five girls and one boy, twenty grand children, seven great grand children, and one great great grand child; all of whom are now living. Mr. Nash professed faith in Christ at the age of 8 years, and at 21 years of age united with the Methodist Church and has lived a consistent member since. He came to Texas in December, 1854, and resided in Dallas until the latter part of that month, when he moved to Grapevine community, where he has since resided. He enlisted in the Confederate army in December, 1861, at Fort Worth, and was mustered out at Hempstead, Texas, in 1865. Mr. Nash had made previous arrangements for death, bought and erected a monument, at a cost of several hundred dollars, to the memory of himself and surviving wife. It is hard to give up such men as Mr. Nash, and he will be oh, so sadly missed as a husband and father, but let us feel that it was the blessed Father's wish that he join the angels in that "House not made with hands eternal in the heavens."*

