



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Richard B. Potts

Compiled by Michael Patterson
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Richard B. Potts was a native Virginian who served in an infantry unit in his native state. He grew up in a large extended family of well-to-do professional men and plantation owners. He came to Texas in the mid-1880's and lived for many years in north and northeast Tarrant County. He died in Fort Worth in 1920 and lies buried there in Pioneer's Rest Cemetery.

Mr. Potts was born April 11, 1837 in King George County, Virginia. He was a son of Morton Wilson Potts (1811-1870) and his wife, Margaret, whose maiden name was Potts as well (1818-1896).

When the 1850 census was taken in King George County, Virginia Richard's father, Morton W. Potts, was working as an overseer. He had neither real estate nor personal property. Richard B. Potts was the oldest child in the family and was thirteen years old.

In 1860 Richard B. Potts was single, twenty-two years old, and was working as a teacher. He still lived at home in King George County with his parents and siblings. He did not yet own any real estate or personal property, but his father's real estate was valued at one thousand five hundred dollars and his personal property (primarily slaves) was valued at \$6735.

Richard B. Potts entered the Confederate service in King George County, Virginia on May 20, 1861 and became a private in Co. K, 30th Virginia Infantry. He enlisted for a term of one year. On December 19, 1861 he was sick and was placed in a hospital in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He was also absent sick in March 1862. His file contains an original voucher signed by Mr. Potts dated December 18, 1862 in which the Confederate government paid him \$42.50 "...For Hire of Negro Boy Jim a Teamster of 30th Virginia Regiment (2) Two Months & (25) Days @ \$15.00 per month..." Mr. Potts' file holds nothing else which relates specifically to his military service.

When Mr. Potts joined the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth, he told them he enlisted in 1861 in Co. K, 30th Virginia Regiment, and that he had taken part in the battles of Sharpsburg, Second Manassas, Gettysburg, and all the other battles in which the Army of Northern Virginia had been engaged. He said he was wounded at Petersburg in April 1865 and was at home when the War ended.

At the time of the 1870 census, Richard B. Potts was living as a single man in the home of his parents and siblings in Shiloh Precinct in King George County. Richard was thirty-two years old and was a farmer. The record shows him owning neither real estate nor personal property. They got their mail through the post office at Edge Hill, Virginia.

Family sources report that Richard B. Potts was married at Ivy Hill in King George County, Virginia on December 26, 1871. His wife was a cousin, Nannie Potts, whose father was also named Richard Potts (1818-1898) and whose mother was Elizabeth Coakley. Nannie was born September 13, 1850 into an affluent King George County family. Nannie's father, Richard Potts, was a wealthy farmer and physician in 1860 in the same precinct where Nannie's future husband lived. In 1860 Dr. Potts owned real estate worth four thousand dollars and personal property worth ten thousand dollars, including nine slaves. In 1860 her maternal grandparents, Daniel and Nancy Coakley, together owned thirty-one slaves.

In 1880 the family of Richard B. *Pottz* lived in the Shiloh Magisterial District of King George County, Virginia. He and Nannie had four children in their family: Bettie, Maggie, Nannie, and James E. Potts, who was one year old. James' name has been marked through and the word "Dead" written across it. Their next-door neighbors were Nannie's parents, Daniel and Nancy Coakley.

The Potts family lived in Tarrant County, Texas in the Birdville area when the 1900 census was taken. Mrs. Potts said she had given birth to seven children, five of whom were still living. Only two children were with them, Emmerson W. and Thomas J. Potts. They also had a nephew living with them named Homer G. Potts, who was born in Texas about 1886. In that year Mr. Potts owned ten acres of the J. W. Elliston survey and thirty acres of the E. S. Ellis survey. In modern-day terms the J. W. Elliston survey is a survey of six hundred forty acres lying west of the old townsite of Birdville. The survey is a square one mile on each side. The survey's lines are marked by Beach Street on the west, Broadway Avenue on the north, Haltom Road on the east, and 28th Street on the south.

The 1910 census taker found the Potts family living in Tarrant County in Castleberry Precinct 3. It appears they may have been living on a street called Belknap but no house number is given. They had only one child with them, William E. Potts, who was born in Virginia about 1884. He was a single man. Both Richard and William were truck farmers. Richard confirmed he was a Confederate veteran. Mrs. Potts said no more of her children had died since 1900.

Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Potts applied to the state for any Confederate veterans' benefits.

According to his death certificate, Richard B. Potts died at 4 p.m. on January 3, 1920. He died of senility, with rheumatism as a complication. He was buried on January 5 in Pioneer's Rest Cemetery in Fort Worth. He lived on the Castleberry Road at the time of his death.

Two obituaries with some slightly different facts were printed in the Fort Worth Record on two successive days, January 4 and 5, 1920: "*R. B. Potts, 82, a pioneer resident of Tarrant county, died at his home on the Castleberry road, north of the city, at 4 o'clock Saturday morning. He came to Tarrant county twenty-five years ago. He is survived by his wife and five sons, all of Fort Worth. Funeral services will be held Monday morning at 10 o'clock from the chapel of the Fort Worth Undertaking company and interment will be in Pioneer's Rest.*"

"R. B. Potts, 82 years old, Confederate veteran and pioneer resident of Tarrant county, who settled here a quarter of a century ago, died at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon at his home on the Castleberry road. The funeral will take place at 3 o'clock this afternoon from the chapel of the Fort Worth Undertaking company, burial to be in Pioneers' Rest cemetery.

Mr. Potts is survived by his widow, Mrs. Nettie Potts; two sons, T. J. and Emerson Potts; three daughters, Mrs. Max Bion, Mrs. Hugh Elliston and Mrs. J. B. Darter; four grandchildren and one brother, D. B. Potts, of Fort Worth.

The active pallbearers will be: J.W. Chant, George Haynes, Will Sawyer, Burton Jones, Jack Carter and D. B. Gallagher. The honorary pallbearers will be: Joe Farmer, C.W. Connellee, A. N. Garrett, J.W. Burton, J. W. Shirley and C. Barr."

Nannie Potts died at the home of her daughter, Maggie Elliston, at 200 South Williams in Fort Worth at 8:56 a.m. on October 16, 1930; she does not, however, appear with the family in the 1930 census. Her death was caused by cancer of the right shoulder, a problem of about eight months' duration. She was buried the next day in Pioneer's Rest Cemetery beside her husband. Her death certificate says her father's name was Richard Potts and her mother's maiden name was Coakley.

An obituary for Mrs. Potts appeared in the Fort Worth Record-Telegram on October 17, 1930: "*FUNERAL WILL BE HELD TODAY FOR MRS. POTTS. Funeral services for Mrs. Nannie Potts, 80, who died at 9 a.m. yesterday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Maggie Elliston, 200 South Williams Street, will be held at 2:30 p.m. today at the Fort Worth Undertaking Company chapel. Rev. Forrest Smith will officiate. Burial will be in Pioneer Rest Cemetery.*

Mrs. Potts is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Betty Bion and Mrs. Elliston, Fort Worth, and Mrs. Nannie Darter, San Antonio; two sons, W.E. and T. J. Potts, Fort Worth; four brothers, R. O. Potts, Hillsboro; T. C. Potts, Gatesville; W.A. Potts, Arlington; and Richard Potts, Dallas; and four sisters, Mrs. Florence Quesenberry, Las Vegas, N. M.; Mrs. Fannie Potts, Long Beach, Cal.; Mrs. Sally Price and Mrs. Lulu Coakley, Washington, D. C."

In a statement to the census taker in 1900, Mrs. Potts said she gave birth to seven children. We have been able to discover the names of six (and possibly the seventh) from public records.

Bettie Potts was born March 2, 1873. Her last permanent address was 4833 Ohio Garden Road in the River Oaks section of southwest Fort Worth. About 1900 she married Max Bion. In 1930 they lived at 2223 North Main Street in Fort Worth. Mr. Bion was working as a cattle buyer. He died in 1950 and is buried in Pioneer's Rest Cemetery. She died at the Francis Convalescent Center in Fort Worth at 12:20 p.m. on November 11, 1970. Her death certificate says she was buried in Pioneer's Rest Cemetery, but records at Pioneer's Rest say she was buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Fort Worth.

Maggie Potts was born February 21, 1875. She married Hugh T. Elliston (1866-1929) about 1894. Her last permanent address was 4833 Ohio Garden Road in River Oaks, Texas, a suburb of west Fort Worth. Like her older sister, she died in the Francis Convalescent Center in Fort Worth. Maggie died at 2:40 p.m. on January 2, 1974. She was buried in Birdville Cemetery.

Nannie Potts was born about 1876. Her death certificate says she was born in the year 1878, but does not give the month or day. She was still with the family when the 1880 census was taken. She married John H. Darter (1876-1952) and lived in San Antonio when her mother died in 1930. She and Mr. Darter were divorced at the time of her death. She died at 1 a.m. on April 1, 1947 at the San Antonio State Hospital in Bexar County, Texas, where she had been for several years. She was buried in Pioneers Rest in Fort Worth.

William A. Potts was born about 1879 and was listed in the 1880 census but his name was marked through and the notation "Dead" was written across it. Since it was not unheard of for parents to give a subsequent child the same name as one who died, it seems possible they used the name again about four years later.

Emerson William Potts was born April 6, 1882. He was a lifelong bachelor. His last permanent address was 2223 North Main Street in Fort Worth. He died in the Pennsylvania Avenue Rest Home in Fort Worth at 1:50 a.m. on November 23, 1957. He was buried in Pioneer's Rest Cemetery.

William E. Potts was about 1883. When the 1910 census was taken William E. Potts was back in his father's household. In 1930 he was boarding in the house next-door to the home of his brother, Thomas J. Potts, in Fort Worth.

Thomas J. Potts was born in April 1888 in Texas. When the 1930 census was taken, Thomas J. Potts and his wife, Ollie, lived on a county gravel road in Precinct 1 in Tarrant County. He was working as a yardmaster at the Ft. Worth stockyards. He and his wife were married about 1907.



[No. 22.]

THE CONFEDERATE STATES,

To *Richard B. Potts*

Dr.

1862		DOLLARS	Cts.
<i>Dec 15th</i>	<i>Pay Here of Major Bayliss as Comdr of 36th Virginia Regiment 2 1/2 months & 251 twenty five days @ \$15.00 per month</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>50</i>
		8	<i>42 50</i>

I CERTIFY that the above account is correct and just; that the services were rendered as stated; and that they were necessary for the public service.

Thomas Wallace Quartermaster

RECEIVED at *Camp of 30th Regt* the *15th* day of *December* 1862
of *Capt Thomas Wallace* Quartermaster C. S. Army.
the sum of *Forty two* Dollars
and *50* Cents, in full of the above account.

(SIGNED IN DUPLICATE)

Omaha

Richard B. Potts