



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Robert Speer

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Robert Speer was an officer of a local cavalry regiment who owned hundreds of acres in the Keller area by the end of the War. He lived for some time in Fort Worth, and returned to his land south of Keller before he died near the turn of the century.

Robert Speer was born in Virginia about 1827. His wife, Caroline Myrtle (Gwynn) Speer, was born in North Carolina on January 28, 1834. She was from a prominent family of Surry County, North Carolina.

Robert Speer joined the Confederate service at Witt's Mill in Dallas County, Texas on March 6, 1862. Records show him at that time to have been a First Lieutenant in Co. A, Gano's Squadron. He joined for a term of twelve months, and presented himself for service riding a horse worth one hundred thirty-five dollars and with equipment worth thirty dollars. He was thirty-four years old when he enlisted.

Companies A and B of Gano's Squadron soon became a part of the 7th Kentucky Cavalry, retaining their company designations. Mr. Speer was elected Captain of Co. A on September 1, 1862. His file in the National Archives contains one original pay voucher and one requisition for horses. A roster of the company made at Abingdon, Virginia at the end of the War shows Capt. Speer on duty in the Trans-Mississippi at that time.

Records of the R. E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth indicate that he returned to his home at Speer's Grove, nine miles north of Fort Worth, after the war. "Capt." Robert Speer's home appears on Sam Street's 1895 map of Tarrant County. In modern-day terms, it stood about three and one-half miles south-southwest of the old residential area of Keller, west of the railroad, on or near the hill which is still to be seen there. It was in the general area where Redwood

Trail intersects with Parkwood Hill Boulevard, now in the city limits of Fort Worth, and west of the north end of the Watauga city limits.

Robert and Caroline M. Speer appear in the 1880 census of Tarrant County in Precinct 4...most likely at their home south of Keller. They had five children with them: Annie (born in North Carolina), Myrtle V. (born in Texas), Robert (born in North Carolina) and John and Richard (both born in Texas). This information suggests that Mrs. Speer, at least, may have returned to her old home in Surry County, North Carolina for a time during the War.

Mrs. Carolina Myrtle Speer died on May 25, 1883. She lies buried beside her husband in Fort Worth's Oakwood Cemetery in block 5, lot 42.

Robert Speer died March 1, 1896 at his home south of Keller. He was buried in Fort Worth in Oakwood Cemetery, in block 5, lot 42, space 6.

An obituary for Mr. Speer appeared in the Fort Worth Gazette on March 3, 1896: ***"CAPTAIN ROBERT SPEER. Death at His Home in This County Sunday. Captain Robert Speer died Sunday afternoon at 1 o'clock at his home at Speerville, ten miles east of this city. Captain Speer was a highly respected citizen and was formerly a resident of Fort Worth. During the war he was a member of Morgan's cavalry. He was a member of the Fort Worth Lodge No. 148, A. F. and A. M. The funeral services took place yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock from the residence of his daughter, Mrs. A. S. Nicholson, 803 East Belknap street, conducted by the Masonic lodge, of which the deceased was a member, Rev. Harry Casell officiating."***

Speer descendants have placed some information at ancestry.com. Much of that information was used in preparing the following accounts of the Speer children.

Annie Hickerson Speer was born January 2, 1859. She was the wife of Thomas Jefferson Peniston (1847-1926). She died in Fort Worth, Texas at her home at 430 South Ballister at 5 a.m. on September 12, 1937, and was buried in East Oakwood Cemetery.

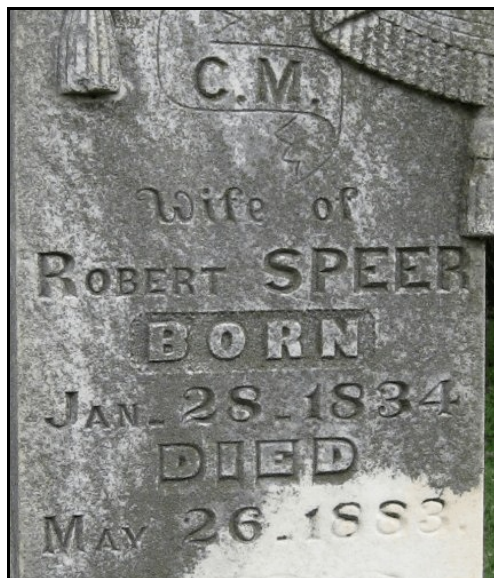
Myrtle Virginia Speer was born in Tarrant County, Texas on September 24, 1860. She married Matt D. Moore (1870-1939). She died March 17, 1938 at Mt. Airy, Surry County, North Carolina.

Robert Morgan Speer's death certificate says he was born in 1863 at Mt. Airy (Surry County). North Carolina, as was his mother. He married Pearl Dowdy. For more than a quarter-century he was in the furniture business in Cleburne, Johnson County, Texas. He died at 11 p.m. on April 16, 1924 at 516 West Featherstone in Cleburne. He was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth.

Hugh Gwyn Speer was born September 19, 1866 and died April 15, 1888. He lies buried in Oakwood Cemetery near his parents.

John Joshua Speer was born in 1868 and died in 1932. He married Ola May Howard. When his brother, Robert, died in 1924, John Speer was living in Venice, California.

Richard Harper Speer was born in 1872. He married Josephine Gasshorn, and spent much of his life working as a cattleman. He died at Quanah, Hardeman County, Texas on November 12, 1937, and was buried in Quanah Cemetery.



There are two headstones for Mrs. Speer.