



# TARRANT COUNTY

## TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Thomas Lyles Steeley

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Thomas Lyles Steeley was a Confederate veteran of an Alabama regiment who came to Texas about 1896, and settled in northeast Tarrant County about a year later. When the 1900 census was taken, he and his wife were living in Precinct 3's District 113.

Steeley descendants at ancestry.com report he was a son of James Polk Steeley (1811-1902) and his wife, Mary Ann Johnson (1815-1896), both of whom died in Jackson County, Alabama. Thomas was born in Calloway County, Kentucky on August 1, 1842. The family then moved to Henry County, Tennessee to join several other Steeleys already there before moving on to Jackson County, Alabama.

In 1850, Thomas lived with his parents and siblings in District 14 of Henry County, Tennessee. When the 1860 census was taken, they were in Scottsboro, Jackson County, Alabama. The family had apparently moved from Kentucky to Tennessee about 1847, and on to Alabama after 1851. In 1860 Thomas's father owned four slaves, two males aged forty-five and thirteen, and two females aged seventeen and twelve.

Thomas enlisted in the Confederate Army in the Larkinsville Guards, Captain Lindsay's Co., on April 27, 1861, for a term of twelve months. He was mustered in May 7, 1861 at Lynchburg, Virginia. Lindsay's company later became Co. K, 4th Alabama Infantry. On a muster roll for March and April 1862, a notation says: "Absent in hospital at Richmond. Has his discharge. Recd his pay in full since mustering on this Pa roll." Steeley's residence was shown as Scottsboro, Alabama. His name appears on a roll of soldiers present and unhurt at the First Battle of Manassas, Virginia. He received a medical discharge for "Rheumastismus."

The Steeleys appear in the 1870 Jackson County, Alabama at Larkinsville; His wife, Sarah O. said she was born in Tennessee. They had two children with them, Mary L. and George W. Steeley.

The census taker in 1880 found Thomas, his wife, and his three children living at Scottsboro, Jackson County, Alabama. Their next-door neighbors were Thomas's parents.

In 1900, the family is found in the census of Precinct 3, Dist 113, in Tarrant County, Texas. Sarah told the census taker she was born in November 1842 in Tennessee, as were both of her parents. She said she had given birth to three children, and they were all living. Judging from the names of their neighbors they were probably living in the Grapevine/Southlake area.

Ten years later, when the 1910 census was taken, they had moved and were in the Johnson's Station area south of Arlington, Texas, next-door to the family of their son, George W. Steeley. George's death certificate says he [George] died three miles south of Arlington, and if he was living there in 1910 that would explain Thomas Steeley's having been buried at Johnson Station.

Mr. Steeley's headstone in Johnson Station Cemetery in Arlington says he was born August 1, 1842 and died August 4, 1910. A photograph of it may be found online at Allen Wheatley's excellent site; at:

[http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~t42cemeteries/Texas/Tarrant/JohnsonStation/STEELEY\\_Thos\\_L\\_1842-1910.JPG](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~t42cemeteries/Texas/Tarrant/JohnsonStation/STEELEY_Thos_L_1842-1910.JPG)

Mrs. Sarah Steeley applied for a Confederate widow's pension in 1913, giving her address at Route 1, Arlington, Texas. She said her husband, Thomas L. Steeley, died August 4, 1910 in Tarrant County. They were married March 25, 1864 (official records say March 23) in Jackson County, Alabama. Official records and her sons' death certificates say her maiden name was Taylor. Her husband had spent more than two years in the army in Co. K, 4th Alabama Infantry. He enlisted in Scottsboro, Alabama and served in Virginia in 1861 and 1862. Affidavits made by John Sisk and Picken Jones of Jackson Co., Alabama say Mr. Steeley enlisted at Larkinville, Alabama. In a notarized statement she made on March 2, 1914, Mrs. Steeley stated she had known her husband six months before she married him, and said "...I know that he was honorably discharged from the service because of sickness and Rheumatism and that she has seen the discharge many times, and in moving about from place [to place] it was lost in the year 1881."

According to Mrs. Steeley's statement, she and Thomas had only three children. They were Mary Lou Steeley, George W. Steeley, and Walter Steeley.

Mary Lou Steeley Mordah was born May 25, 1865. She married Frank Marion Mordah (1856-1910) in Alabama about 1882. She died January 10, 1907 in Cooke County, Texas. Her widowed husband, Frank Mordah, and several young children appear in the census there in 1910.

George W. Steeley was born in Jackson County, Alabama on December 16, 1867, a son of Thomas Steeley of Kentucky and Sarah Taylor of Tennessee. George died in Quanah, Hardeman County, Texas on October 23, 1943 and was buried in Quanah Cemetery.

Walter Steeley was born in Alabama on March 31, 1871. He died three miles south of Arlington, Texas on March 16, 1945 and was buried in Parkdale Cemetery in Arlington.

