



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

William Ayers Whittenberg

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William Ayers Whittenberg was born in Rhea County, Tennessee on January 2, 1846. He was a son of Samuel and Sarah (Huse) Whittenberg. William grew up in a community which included his paternal grandparents, and many uncles, aunts, and cousins.

He was a Confederate soldier in Co. C, 16th Battalion (Neal's) Tennessee Cavalry. He enlisted May 14, 1862 at Washington, Rhea County, Tennessee for a period of three years. In the late summer of 1862 he was paid \$43.60 for the use of his horse. At the end of that year, and again at the end of June, 1863, he received additional payments of \$48.80 for the same purpose. He was captured near Philadelphia, Tennessee on December 2, 1863, and arrived in Union custody at Louisville, Kentucky on Christmas Day of 1863. A day later he arrived at the federal prison at Rock Island, Illinois. A comrade of his who made an affidavit in Mrs. Whittenberg's pension application said that Whittenberg came back to his regiment late in the war, and was very emaciated after having been in a northern prison.

By 1870, William was living with his parents, his siblings, and a large extended family in Cane Hill Township in Washington County, Arkansas. William was working as a schoolteacher. William's wife, Telitha J. Whittenberg, was born in Arkansas. William and Telitha were married in Washington County, Arkansas on August 4, 1872. She was born in February, 1850 in Washington Co., Arkansas. When she applied for a pension based upon her husband's service, she indicated that they had moved to Texas about 1873.

Whittenberg was a member of the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth. In a written statement he submitted to them, he said, "...Our command served in Kentucky & Tennessee under Genl. Pegram in campaign of 1863, and was put under Gen. Forest in the battle of Chickamauga. I was taken prisoner between Chattanooga and Knoxville just after the battle of Missionary Ridge and carried to Rock Island Prison, where I remained until in Feb. 1865 when I was

taken around to Richmond for exchange. I returned to my old command in E. Tenn., then under Brig. Gen. Vaughn, about one month before the surrender.”

In 1880, he was living in the Smithfield community where he owned fourteen acres of the John McCommas survey. In 1900, the family was living in Precinct 1 of Tarrant County. In that year, Mrs. Whittenberg said she had given birth to five children, all of whom were still living.

In the spring of 1909 they moved to Pecos (Reeves County), Texas. Whittenberg died February 14, 1913 in Reeves County in far-west Texas. Four of the five Whittenberg children were America E. Whittenberg, Sarah E. Whittenberg, Allie O. Whittenberg, and Walter Whittenberg. His death certificate reveals that he died on chronic nephritis and cystitis at 12:30 a.m.. He was buried at Pecos, Texas.



From: Jim Holt
Email: Stores@JosephOranHoltz.com

I would like to contribute to one of the bios on your site... that of William Avery Whittenberg.

I would like to point you to Williams widow's (Telitha Jane (Williams)) pension application: Claimant Name: Whittenberg, T. J. (Mrs), App. No.: 38767, County: Reeves, Husband: Whittenberg, William Ayers.

I have a copy of this application and in question 6 she clearly states his full name was William Ayers Whittenberg.

You also list four of his five children in the article. The fifth child was a daughter named David Elizabeth Whittenberg. David, or Dee as she went by, was born in 1882 in Tarrant County and died in 1974 in Brewster County. She married David Oscar Medley who was the son of George Washington Medley (1856-1934) who maintained a residence in Fort Worth until his death. George's parents were: M.A. (Mark Anthony) Medley, who appears on the 1860 Tax List for Tarrant County; and Elizabeth (Dunn) Medley, who appears on the 1863 Tarrant County Tax List. Elizabeth being listed as her husband had died in 1863 serving with the 19th Texas Cavalry.
