



Tarrant County TXGenWeb

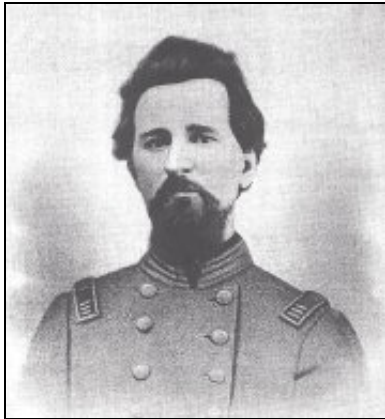
Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

Copyright © 2008-2011. All rights reserved.

Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Dr. William Morgan Allison

Compiled by Michael Patterson
Copyright 2008-2011. All rights reserved.



William M. Allison

Dr. William Morgan Allison was born July 25, 1833. A Confederate soldier, he lived at Grapevine when the war began. On February 11, 1858 he married Rachael V. Dunn, a daughter of Grapevine pioneer John Cartwright Dunn.

On February 24, 1862 in Dallas, Allison enlisted in Co. E, 18th Texas Cavalry for a term of twelve months. He entered the service as a First Lieutenant. He was promoted to Captain of March 17, 1862. He was captured at Fort Hindman, Arkansas Post, Arkansas on January 11, 1863, and was forwarded to Camp Chase, Ohio on January 17. Prisoner of war records show him to have been 5'11" tall, twenty-six years old, with a dark complexion and dark hair. His eye color is not readable in the original documents.

Allison's family still has a lengthy letter he wrote to his wife from Arkansas Post on December 18, 1862: *"My Dear Wife As we have come to a halt and pitched our tents to rest I can't tell how long. I will write you a little news as regards to myself and other matters which I heartily trust may be some interest to you—far away on a little lone prairie in Texas. As regards my health. It is as good as I have ever been blessed with, and I intend that shall so continue to be. If caution ____ strict attention to the laws of nature can have any bearing in relation to good health; and all sound and reasonable writings on hygiene, on the laws regulating the laws of health and nature confirms one in the belief that a strict adherence to the laws of nature will tend to preserve good health; and to these laws my dear Rachel I desire you to pay strict attention in order that you may continue to preserve youth and health in order that you may live a happy life; for I assure you, that without health life has but few attractions in this probationary state of existence. As for myself I am trying with all my might and power to keep my good health. By regular dieting and strict temperance living in every respect; my drink is cold water and my diet principally bread and beef. Yet I occasionally get pork and fruit and sometimes have a little tea. But I can assure you that this kind of living does not discourage me by any means. I eat that which is furnished me and move along cheerfully ever thinking of the loved ones at home and happiness when I shall have been restored*

to the bosom of my little family. Oh Rachel, don't you miss your Buck Boy at home. Well cheer up and live in hope I by the favors of high heaven will try and restore him to your lovely presence that you may kiss him once more and you have the favor returning—Rachel you have been requesting me by every letter (or nearly so) to send you my likeness, and have been so very kind as to send me yours and Fannies with which I am highly pleased. It affords me great pleasure to look upon these beautiful images, especially when I feel lonesome and these are my feelings nearly all the time. I tried for a long time to have my likeness taken and failed every time until I got to Pine Bluff at which place I succeeded in having it taken and sent it to you forthwith, hoping that it might be off some satisfaction to you. It is not a very good likeness not as good by far as I would wish to send you, but the best that could be procured. I hope that you have it before this time. I also hope that you have gotten the money T___ Cook. I liked the pony very well but had no use for him at the time. I received him and was very sorry that you sent him as you had to pay so much money out to get him for one, but I have lost nothing on him, as I have sold him for eighty five dollars. I let Benjamin Ball have him, a brother to Jack and Fant, but I have not received pay for him as yet but think that I will soon. I have two horses on hand besides Walker. Fant has him yet. He is in good order and I can get him when I want him, though I have not seen the boys for some time. We are now at the Arkansas Post situated on the east side of the Arkansas River some 30 miles from the Mississippi River and are expecting an attack soon by the enemy, as the river is pretty high and still rising. If the enemy makes a move on up they will meet with a warm reception although they will have the advantage of their gun boats. We have at least ten thousand men here and are pretty well fortified and say to them—come—come—Yankees come!!! I rather expect a lively time during Christmas with the Yankees and this is the opinion of General Churchill who was in the command of this post. I will send you the money the first chance. You shall not want, though the government has not paid he but little for my service yet. It owes me between eight hundred and a thousand dollars. My best love and wishes for you and the babes. Your own husband. W. M. Allison good by”

He was paroled at Fort Delaware, Delaware on April 25, 1863, forwarded to City Point for exchange four days later. Allison's file contains many original papers bearing his signature, including pay vouchers and equipment requisitions.

He died July 22, 1864 in battle at Atlanta, Ga. More than one hundred years later a memorial stone was placed beside his wife's in Grapevine Cemetery. Mrs. Allison was pensioned for her husband's service in 1899. She said she had lived for forty-three years at Grapevine. His widow did not remarry, and was buried at Grapevine in 1910. A short note about her death appeared in the Grapevine Sun on October 29, 1910: *"DIED. Just as we go to press and our forms are about close we receive the sad news of the death of Mrs. Racheal Allison, which occurred Thursday evening at 6 o'clock. Funeral and burial at 4 p.m. Friday. Will have a more extended notice about this good woman's life and death next week."*

As promised, the obituary for Mrs. Allison appeared in The Grapevine Sun on November 5, 1910: *"The Passing Away of a Noble Life. In the death of Mrs. Virginia Rachel Allison, which*



Rachael Allison

occurred on the evening of Oct. 27th, our town and the Baptist Church have lost one of its noblest characters, who has helped to make them what they are. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Dunn, who were once prominent factors in the early building of this community and who have gone on to their reward. From this family have come some of the builders in the affairs of the church, school, and town. Mrs. Allison was a charter member of the Baptist church at this place, having come into the organization nearly forty years ago and was a faithful member, always loyal to the principles of the New Testament until death took her. She was born in Morgan county, Ala., March 18, 1837, and with her parents she came to Harrison county, Texas, in December, 1840, and in 1856 came to Grapevine. In 1854 she professed faith in Jesus Christ as her personal Savior and joined the Borderline Baptist church and was baptized by Rev. A. J. Rutherford. Four years later, in 1858, she was married to Dr. William M. Allison, who was killed in the war between the States, and since then she has remained a widow. To her and Dr. Allison were born three daughters, one of which died in infancy and the other two, Miss Mattie Allison and Mrs. W. V. Holt of McKinney, Texas, are still living. My heart prompts me to say that Miss Mattie has been a faithful daughter, for she has stayed with her mother and cared for her and supported her to the point of real sacrifice. For fifty-six years Sister Allison was a Christian and now she has gone to be with Him whom she loved. She had been in bad health for a number of years and was so feeble that she really wanted to go and get out of her suffering. She was a noble Christian character. To her children and relatives we extend our sympathy. God bless them all. HER PASTOR."

