



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Henderson B. Alverson

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Henderson B. Alverson was a native of North Carolina who lived in northeast Tarrant County during and for a time after the War. He served in a Mississippi infantry company. A few years after the War he moved to northwest Tarrant County, where he died in 1910.

Henderson B. Alverson was born in Surry County, North Carolina on July 10, 1816 and was a son of Elijah Alverson (1785-1874), a pensioned soldier of the War of 1812 who died in St. Clair County, Alabama. Henderson's mother was Nancy Cook, whom Elijah Alverson married in Surry County on February 2, 1816. Henderson was their only child, although it is not clear from the records whether she died or the marriage ended for some other reason. Elijah Alverson had other children, half-siblings of Henderson; from inscriptions in Henderson's family Bible it is apparent he knew them.

Mr. Alverson was married on January 3, 1836 to Sarah Minerva Thompson, who was born in South Carolina on July 31, 1818. She died in Tarrant County, Texas on June 23, 1869. Her grave is apparently unmarked; it may lie in the I. D. Parker Cemetery along present-day Baker Boulevard/West Hurst Boulevard, a short distance east of that street's intersection with East Loop 820. One of her children who died in 1870 is buried there with a readable headstone.

Mr. Alverson and his family appear in the 1840 census of Fayette County, Alabama. He owned no slaves in that year. Although the 1840 census lists only the heads of households, it may be determined that his household consisted of five persons. Three of them were himself, his wife, and his daughter, Margaret. In addition, there was an additional white male between twenty and thirty years of age, and an additional white male between sixty and seventy years old.

Mr. Alverson and his family appear in the 1850 census of Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. This census indicates that they moved from Alabama to Mississippi between the births of Elizabeth and

Mary, thus about 1841. Mr. Alverson owned real estate worth eight hundred dollars. He also owned two mulatto slave girls, ages ten and eight.

The family appears in the 1860 census of Shackelford County in an area served by the post office at Palo Pinto, Texas. He owned real estate worth two thousand twenty-one dollars, and personal property worth eight thousand two hundred and seventy-one dollars. The son, William, was shown as a native of Mississippi. Family traditions say they arrived in Texas in an ox wagon in 1858. In 1860 Mr. Alverson owned one black fifteen-year-old female slave.

Mr. Alverson served for a short time as a Confederate soldier. We have not discovered the circumstances which caused him to enlist in the 18th Mississippi Infantry, but an examination of his file in the National Archives seems to prove he did. On May 28, 1861 he enlisted at Corinth, Mississippi as a private in Capt. O. R. Singleton's Company of the 18th Regiment Mississippi Volunteers. He was forty-four years old when he enlisted. He was mustered into the Confederate service on the same day. He enlisted for a term of twelve months. The records show he traveled two hundred thirty-six miles to the place of rendezvous. Singleton's Company subsequently became Company C. On a roll dated September 4, 1861 Mr. Alverson is shown as having been discharged on September 25, 1861. Another record shows the date as September 21. His file contains two different signed originals of his "Certificate of Disability for Discharge." One of them says, in part: ***"...H. B. Alverson, Private of Captain O. R. Singleton's Company (E) of the 18th Regiment of Confederate States Missp Vols, was enlisted by Capt. Walker at Corinth, Missp on the 28th day of May, 1861, so serve one year; he was born in Surry Co., in the State of N. Carolina, is forty-five years of age, 5 feet, 7-1/2 inches high, ruddy complexion, blue eyes, sandy hair, and by occupation when enlisted a farmer. During the last two months said soldier has been unfit for duty 10 or 12 days. He ought to be discharged on account of his family. He has a wife and eleven children (nearly all small) upon the frontiers of Texas, poor, sick, and defenseless since the war broke out in the west. Common humanity requires his presence at home."*** This document was signed near Leesburg, Virginia on September 21, 1861. Mr. Alverson was allowed travel expenses for one thousand miles from Manassas, Virginia to Corinth, Mississippi, but was partially paid with fifty rations worth twenty-two and one-half cents each. He also received pay in the amount of \$29.70 for two months and twenty-one days. No further records of his service have survived.

In the 1865 Tarrant County tax list, Mr. Alverson is shown as the owner of one hundred sixty acres of the J. C. Davis survey and three hundred twenty acres of the J. A. Hust survey. He also owned five horses worth one hundred seventy dollars, fourteen cattle worth one hundred dollars, and fifty sheep worth one hundred dollars. He also still owned seven hundred sixty acres in Shackelford County worth two hundred ninety dollars.

On August 14, 1867, H. B. Alverson registered to vote in Tarrant County's Precinct 8. He said he was a native of North Carolina. He said he had been in Texas for nine years and in Precinct 8 in Tarrant County for five years.

Also in 1867, Mr. Alverson bought the interest of A. F. Leonard in Leonard's Mill, a water-powered grist mill what sat on the West Fork of the Trinity River just upstream from the modern-day crossing of Precinct Line Road in far east Fort Worth. Some of the metal mill machinery may still be seen in the water there, and a great deal of rock work is visible in the high south bank of the river there.

He operated the mill for several years in partnership with J. H. Wheeler. In 1876 it was purchased by Robert A. "Bob" Randol, who continued its operation for many years. It closed after Mr. Randol's death 1922. It is best remembered as Randol Mill. A Texas State Historical Marker was placed on the top of the river bank at this site about 1980.

Mr. Alverson was married second to Louisa Holt on January 29, 1870. That marriage ended in divorce on July 11, 1879. Mr. Alverson appears in the 1870 census of Tarrant County in Precinct 3. He was a miller. His new wife, L. Alverson, was born about 1820 in Tennessee. Four Holt children, Henderson's stepchildren, were also with the family.

Mr. Alverson also appears in the 1870 manufacturing census of Tarrant County. He was operating a water-powered grist mill which developed thirty-nine horsepower. In the past year he had ground meal and flour worth a total of two thousand dollars. At various times during this mill's existence the water turbine also operated a circular saw and a cotton gin.

Mr. Alverson appears in the 1880 census of Precinct 5, Tarrant County, Texas. With him were his minor daughter, Julia, and his married daughter, M. Ballard, who was thirty-eight. Later in that year, on December 25, he married his third wife, Drucilla Roberts.

In the 1880 agricultural census, he was shown with a farm which included four hundred fifty acres of cultivated land and an additional four hundred eighty-nine acres of unimproved property. His farm and buildings were worth a total of ten thousand dollars. His farming implements were worth four hundred dollars, and his livestock was worth one thousand two hundred dollars. He estimated that all his farm productions in the past year were worth one thousand eight hundred dollars. He owned nineteen horses, sixteen milk cows and fifty cattle of other classes. Sixteen calves had been dropped on his place, and five cattle had died. He estimated he had made four hundred pounds of butter in the last year. He owned eighteen hogs, thirty laying hens, and seventy other fowls. He had collected one hundred thirty dozen eggs. He had made six hundred bushels on his forty acres of Indian corn. He made twenty bushels of oats on twenty acres. He had thirty-five acres in wheat which produced six hundred bushels. He had sixty acres in cotton which produced twenty-four bales. His beehives had produced thirty pounds of honey.

H. B. Alverson's home is shown on the Sam Street's December 1895 map of Tarrant County. His home appears near the northeast corner of the D. T. Flores survey. This survey has as its western boundary the West Fork of the Trinity River. Alverson's home sat about three-quarters of a mile south of the Tarrant-Wise County line, and about the same distance east of the river.

His homesite now lies in empty land along the east side of Eagle Mountain Reservoir, west of Morris-Dido-Newark Road.

Mr. Alverson appears in the census of precinct 5 of Tarrant County in 1900. His wife, Drucie, was born in March, 1861 in Georgia to two South Carolinian parents. She said she given birth to no children. They had been married twenty years.

When the 1910 census was taken, Mr.. Alverson was living in Akers Township, Carter County, Oklahoma, with the family of his son, James Alverson. H. B. Alverson told the census taker he was

a Confederate veteran. The census was taken on April 20, 1910; this was only about seven months before his death. Thus it seems possible he may have died in Oklahoma and been brought back to Texas for burial. Mr. Alverson did not apply for a Confederate pension in Texas or Oklahoma.

H. B. Alverson's family Bible still exists and was recently in the hands of a descendant, Lilly Hill Campbell, of Glen Rose, Texas. It was printed by the American Bible Society in 1878 in New York. It records Henderson B Alverson's death at noon on November 22, 1910. He lies buried in Dido Cemetery near Newark in northwest Tarrant County, Texas.

Several sources agree that Henderson B. Alverson and his first wife, Sarah Minerva Thompson, had thirteen children. The following short accounts of their lives were taken from public records, headstones, and family information posted at genealogical sites on the internet. When conflicting information has been found it has been placed in parentheses or otherwise noted. The statement on Mr. Alverson's military discharge that he had eleven children at home seems correct...given the facts that Thomas apparently died in early childhood and Julia had not yet been born.

Thomas Alverson was born October 22, 1837. He was not with the family when the 1840 census was taken. We have found no further trace of him.

Margaret Elizabeth Alverson was born February 7, 1840. She married William Henry Ledbetter (1833-1884) about 1858. She died September 3, 1918 at Fort Griffin, Shackelford County, Texas. She and her husband lie buried in Albany Cemetery in Shackelford County.

Mary Melinda Alverson was born November 3, 1841. She was first married to a Mr. Ballard, and second to Richard (Sirmons?). She lies buried in Alexander Cemetery in Erath County, Texas.

Martha Juda Alverson was born March 17, 1843. She is also found as Judy Frances Alverson and with a birth date of March 7, 1843.

Sarah Jane Mary Alverson was born December 19, 1844. She married James Curry, and died January 12, 1890. Some sources show her birth date as June 4, 1844 and June 4, 1845.

Francis Elvira Alverson was born June 4, 1846. She married Samuel Wade Cowan (1846-1912) about 1868. She died at Alexander, Erath County, Texas on March 5, 1935. She was buried the next day in Alexander Cemetery.



Henderson B. Alverson at his home near present-day Newark, Texas.
Courtesy of Tina Telesca

Synthia Ann Alverson was born March 21, 1848. She married Curtis Alexander Galltana on July 18, 1869 in Tarrant County, Texas. She died May 31, 1878.

Nancy Adeline Alverson was born November 7, 1850. She married August 29, 1869 in Tarrant County to Napoleon Bonaparte Thornton. She died at the age of 107 on December 11, 1957 at her granddaughter's home in Friona, Parmer County, Texas. She was buried in West Park Cemetery in Hereford, Deaf Smith County, Texas. A gravestone exists in West Park Cemetery for one Net Thornton (1849-1941).

James Samuel Alverson was born November 7, 1850. He married Edna Lynn Kaney. Family sources say had a second wife named Edna, thus we do not know if Edna Lynn Kaney was his first or second wife. The 1910 census says both James and his wife, Edna (1871-1928), were in their third marriages, and were married about 1890. She had been earlier married to a Mr. Smith, and her three children lived with them in 1910. He died December 5 (his headstone says 4), 1929 at Pernell, Oklahoma He and his wife lie buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Ardmore, Oklahoma. His obituary called him the wheat king of southern Oklahoma.

Virginia Catherine "Cata" Alverson was born October (or 4) 10, 1853. She appears in the 1870 Tarrant County census as R. C. Alverson. She was married about 1876 to Reuben Houston Burrows (1854-1890). Burrows was a nationally-known outlaw and train robber in several southern states, and information is available on him from several internet sources. Printed sources say Mrs. Burrows died in 1880, but they do not mention her by name. Family sources say Miss Alverson and Mr. Burrows were married in 1874, and that she died in 1880.

Charlotte Susan Alverson was born May 17 (or 7), 1855. She married Daniel Lafayette Wilson (1844-1926). She died January 12, 1890 at Dido, Tarrant County, Texas.

William Jesse Alverson was born September 9, 1857. He died October 10, 1870. He has a readable headstone in the I. D. Parker Cemetery in present-day Hurst in Tarrant County, Texas.

Julia Ellen Alverson was born May (her death certificate says March) 20, 1864. She married Charles W. Hill on February 3, 1881. She died March 29, 1955 at her home in Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas. She was buried in Squaw Creek Cemetery in Somervell County.

