



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Harrison Sterling Price Ashby

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Harrison Sterling Price Ashby, known in his later years as Stump Ashby, was born May 18, 1848 in Chariton County, Missouri. He served in the Confederate Army in Co. B, 3rd Missouri Regiment, Shelby's Brigade, Price's Corps. He also claimed to have served for a time with Quantrell. Ashby later told Oklahoma Pension Commissioners he enlisted in the Spring of 1864 in Missouri and served until the war ended, and that he was a soldier in Co. B of D. A. Williams's Regiment. When he registered for the Confederate Veterans Reunion in Dallas in 1902, he registered as a veteran of Co. E, 4th Missouri Cavalry.

He was a very interesting character, and came to the Methodist ministry in his early twenties after having been, in turn, an actor, cattle driver, farmer, and school teacher. Around 1876 Ashby and his wife came to Texas, and they were living in Bell County when the 1880 census was taken. Ashby and his second wife, Amanda Elizabeth Wray, were married about 1880. He was the first preacher at Oak Grove Methodist Church upon its organization in 1886. In the late 1880's he was removed from the ministry because of his increasing activism in political affairs, his criticism of the Methodist church's failure to support reforms, and an "alleged fondness for the bottle."

In 1895, Ashby was living in the Smithfield community on the Stephen Richardson survey, on the south side of Little Bear Creek, somewhere in the general area of where Ember Oaks Drive turns sharply southeast and becomes Fireside Drive. By the time of his death in Oklahoma many years later, he was well-known in northern Texas and Oklahoma for his ability to speak extemporaneously on a number of issues, hence his nickname, "Stump."

He has an extensive biography printed in Texas Historical Association, [The Handbook of Texas](#). About 1905, Ashby moved to Oklahoma. In 1910, he was living there with his wife and one child in Antlers Township, Pushmataha County. In that year, Mrs. Ashby said she had given birth to five children, three of whom were still living. He applied for a pension there in 1921, while living at

Octavia, LeFlore County, Oklahoma. He died on May 10, 1923, and lies buried beside his wife, A. E. Ashby (1853-1932) in the Octavia Cemetery.

More in-depth information on Ashby is found in Frances Kay Cowden, H. S. P. Ashby: A Voice for Reform, 1886-1914 (Norman, Oklahoma: private printing, 1996), a PhD dissertation done for the University of Oklahoma. A copy is housed in the Central Texas Conference United Methodist Records and Archives Collection in Fort Worth.

Ashby's children with his first wife included Sullivan Gaylord Ashby, twins Martha and Mary Ashby, and Ida Ashby. His children in his second marriage included Alice Ashby, Benjamin Franklin Ashby, Louise Cunningham Ashby, and Beatrice Ashby who died in infancy at Smithfield.