



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Daniel Barcroft

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Daniel Barcroft was a Peters Colonists, arriving in northeast Tarrant County from Missouri in the late 1840's. He and his descendants became identified with the Mount Gilead community northeast of present-day Keller.

According to Pearl Foster O'Donnell, a descendant of many of the first settlers of northeast Tarrant County, and a historian who devoted much of her life to gathering records of those pioneers, Daniel Barcroft was born Sept. 19, 1812 in Tennessee. He became a member of the Baptist Church about 1831.

Years before coming to Texas, probably about 1835, Daniel married Mary Ann Allen, a daughter of Permelia Allen. A widow, Permelia Allen came to Tarrant County with several of her children and the spouses of those who were married. Mary Ann Allen was born about 1818 in Tennessee. She died several years before Mr. Barcroft.

Daniel Barcroft and his family are shown in the 1840 census of Walker Township, Cole County, Missouri. This record says he had three male children under the age of five, which indicates that he may have had a son who did not survive until the 1850 census. He had no daughters listed with him in 1840. Daniel Barcroft was not a slaveholder in 1840.

Daniel and Mary Ann Barcroft joined the Lonesome Dove Baptist Church at Grapevine on the third Sunday in November, 1846. They were "lettered out" about four years later to form a new church on their property northeast of Keller.

The Barcroft family is shown in the 1850 census of Tarrant County, Texas. With them were six children, all but the youngest of whom were born in Missouri: William G. Barcroft (born about 1836); Charles E. Barcroft (born about 1838); Elizabeth A. Barcroft (born about 1842); Permelia M.

Barcroft (born about 1844); Gabriel L. Barcroft (born about 1846); and Abigail Barcroft (born about 1849 in Texas).

Mount Gilead Baptist Church, the second religious organization established in present-day Tarrant County, was organized in the home of Daniel Barcroft on July 13, 1850. Barcroft served as one of its first two deacons. When the first county elections for Tarrant County were held in August, 1850, Daniel was elected one of the first County Commissioners.

Barcroft patented the 640-acre Daniel Barcroft survey near present-day Keller on September 1, 1855. The southeast corner of this survey is at the present-day intersection of Johnson Road and Keller-Smithfield Road North (north of Keller Parkway/Southlake Boulevard). It stretches north and west from this point for one mile and forms a square. Its south line basically follows Johnson Road, while its north line is about where Mount Gilead Road-Robin Drive is now placed. Its east line follows the Keller-Smithfield Road to where it (the road) turns west at Mount Gilead Baptist Church. The line then continues due north until it intersects Robin Drive, but no modern-day streets lie along it. The survey's southwestern corner lies along Johnson Road about where Bluebonnet Drive intersects it from the south. No modern-day streets appear to lie along the Barcroft survey's western line.

The Permelia Allen survey, a part of which Daniel Barcroft also owned, lies adjacent to and directly south of the Barcroft survey.

By the time the 1860 Tarrant County tax lists were prepared, Barcroft owned 160 acres of the Daniel Barcroft survey and 160 acres of the survey entered in the name of his mother-in-law, Permelia Allen.

Daniel Barcroft served as a Confederate soldier in Capt. William W. McGinnis's Company, which was raised in Precinct 3 of Tarrant County. It did service in northeast Texas keeping the peace, chasing deserters, etc. Many area men belonged to this company. An original signed muster roll is on file in the Texas State Archives.

When the 1880 census of Tarrant County was taken, Daniel Barcroft was living in Precinct 4. With him were his son-in-law, William W. _____ [the census taker simply "dittoed" Barcroft as the last name, though obviously it isn't correct], his daughter (Mary Barcroft), who was born about 1860 in Texas, and three of Daniel's grandchildren.

According to Mrs. O'Donnell, Daniel became ill on June 4, 1881 and died the following August 4. His obituary appeared in the Minutes of the West Fork Baptist Association in August, 1881. Unfortunately, the only printed copies of these minutes which survived were in the hands of the archives at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. They were sent to be microfilmed several years ago. The microfilming company lost the originals, and the Seminary can no longer find the microfilm. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Barcroft has a readable headstone there, but it seems reasonable to assume that they were buried in Mt. Gilead Cemetery.

Today's Bancroft Road which passes by the Mount Gilead Baptist Church is probably a corruption of its earlier name, Barcroft Road, since it passes east-west across the center of the Barcroft survey.