



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

David Boaz

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David Boaz was a Confederate veteran, and one of the founders of both Birdville and Fort Worth. He was for many years a well-known businessman in Fort Worth, and made his home along the bluff there.

David Boaz was born in Hickman County, Kentucky in 1838, a son of Samuel Boaz and his wife, Agnes (Freeman) Boaz. They settled on a farm at Birdville in Tarrant County in 1859, where David was living when he enlisted in the Confederate Army. Both his parents are buried in Birdville Cemetery. Two of David's brothers, Richard and William J. Boaz, also entered the Southern Army from Tarrant County.

He was a member of Co. A, 9th Texas Cavalry. His original records in the National Archives show him to have enlisted on October 14, 1861 at Camp Reeves, Texas, and that he was twenty-three years old. He traveled one hundred-fifty miles to the rendezvous. His horse was valued at \$125 and his equipment at \$25. A regimental return for November and December, 1861 shows him absent because of wounds received in action on November 9, 1861; he was furloughed from December 18, 1861 through April 1, 1862. The regimental return for September and October, 1862 shows him discharged west of the Mississippi River. Federal prisoner-or-war records show him as a sutler, a resident of Bridwill, Texas, surrendered on May 4, 1865, and paroled at Jackson, Mississippi on May 15, 1865. His original parole is still in his file in Washington.

David Boaz was a partner at Fort Worth with George C. Battle in Boaz and Battle Cotton Factors and general commission merchants in wool and buffalo hides. Their yard was on Houston Street between 14th and 15th. He lived on the north side of the bluff between Pecan and Terry Street. He wrote a short sketch of his army life and placed it in the archives of the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth: *"I was born in Hickman County, Kentucky, and enlisted at Fort Worth, Texas, becoming a member of Company A, 9th Texas Regiment, Ross's*

Brigade, Jackson's Division, Army of Tennessee. I was wounded in the Battle of Birds Creek, Creek Nation, and at the Battle of Elk Horn (Pea Ridge, Arkansas). Our regiment was surrendered at Canton, Mississippi, to General Canby of the U. S. Army in 1865. I run five Yankees for over two miles near Yazoo City, Mississippi. They were cavalry and I was in the lead when they run. I came home by the way of New Orleans."

David Boaz died on February 25, 1905 in Tarrant County. He was buried in Fort Worth's Oakwood Cemetery. A lengthy obituary for him appeared in the Fort Worth Record on February 26, 1905: "DEATH OF DAVID BOAZ. OLD CITIZEN IS FOUND DEAD IN HIS BED. He moved to Tarrant County in the Fall of 1859—Sketch of His Life. David Boaz was found dead in his bed yesterday morning at 921 West Fifth street, about 6 o'clock. Heart failure is given as the cause of his death by Justice John L. Terrell, who conducted the inquest, superinduced by an attack of la grippe, from which Mr. Boaz had been suffering for four or five days, although he had not been confined to his bed. He retired Friday night stating that he was feeling better. He arose Saturday morning about 5 o'clock, but went back to bed, and was later found dead by the members of his family. Funeral services will be held Monday morning at 10 o'clock at his late residence, and the interment will be in the new cemetery.

"The deceased was 65 years of age and leaves a widow and two sons in Fort Worth and a married daughter in Chicago. William Boaz, vice-president of the American National bank, was his brother.

"At the time of his death, Mr. Boaz was at the head of the David Boaz Grain and Feed Company of north Fort Worth. The company does an extensive business in the handling of cotton seed products, bran and rice feed. He has always been an active businessman and promoter of various enterprises, and no man has ever lived in Fort Worth that has fostered more enterprises than he did.

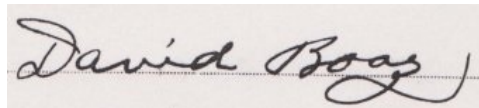
"He came to Tarrant County from Hickman County, Kentucky where he was born in the fall of 1859 with his parents who located at Birdville, then the county seat. He remained at Birdville several years before coming to Fort Worth where he has resided for the past thirty or thirty-five years. He was first associated with George C. Battle in the conduct of a cotton yard which was located at the corner of Fourteenth and Main Streets. This firm was considered one of the largest handlers of cotton in the early history of Fort Worth, which was then the greatest cotton market within a radius of 200 miles and the receipts of the staple in this city during a single season then averaged 40,000 bales.

"This was during the eighties. Since that time Mr. Boaz has been connected with several other enterprises. He promoted and caused to be established in North Fort Worth a cotton oil mill which finally passed into the control of other parties. He was also associated at one time with C. R. Fairfax in the hotel business, the two men conducting what was then known as the Centennial Hotel, located on the square back of the county jail. This building was later removed to the northeast corner of Second and Main Streets where it now stands. At that time the Centennial Hotel was the most pretentious hostelry in Fort Worth.

“Mr. Boaz enlisted as a private in Co. A of the 9th Regiment Texas, Ross’s Division, Jackson’s Corps. He was wounded in the Battle of Bird Creek, Creek Nation. A few days before the battle of Elk Horn he was wounded there.

“David Boaz was a member of the Masonic fraternity and also a member of the Knights of Pythias, both of which lodges will take part in the funeral services.”

His widow, Viola M. Boaz, applied for a Confederate widow’s pension in 1931, while a resident of 1319 Hurley Street in Fort Worth. She said she married Mr. Boaz on August 26, 1880 in Hamilton County, Ohio, and said she had been a resident of Tarrant County since August 28, two days later. Mrs. Boaz said she was born November 8, 1854. She said Mr. Boaz lived at Birdville when he enlisted on October 4, 1861, and that he was paroled on May 15, 1865. Viola M. Boaz survived until January 23, 1945, and was buried beside her husband in Oakwood Cemetery.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Boaz". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper background.