



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

John Mosby Bradley

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John Mosby Bradley was pensioned in Tarrant County for his Confederate service, and lies buried in Birdville Cemetery. Details of his Confederate service are to be found in his pension application, in his files in the National Archives in Washington, D. C., and in a written account published in a book printed in 1912.

At first glance it might seem that Mr. Bradley was named for John Singleton Mosby, one of the most brilliant soldiers the Confederate army produced. This might be strengthened by the fact that Col. Mosby wrote a personal letter for Mr. Bradley in support of Bradley's application for a Confederate pension. However, Col. Mosby was only about six years old when Mr. Bradley was born.

Bradley was born in Washington County, Virginia in November, 1847 (according to the 1900 census; the year was 1846 by his own account). When he applied for a Confederate pension in 1908, said he was sixty-three years old and had been in Tarrant County since about 1876. At the time he applied his address was Route 3, Fort Worth. He claimed to have served from Virginia in 1862 through 1865. He said he was in the 13th Virginia for three months prior to being in the 8th Virginia. His pension file contains a handwritten letter by Bradley himself.

His pension file also contains a personal handwritten letter from Col. John S. Mosby, one of the most famous Confederate officers the war produced, dated Feb. 18, 1909, in support of Bradley's claim. Other affidavits in the file say Bradley served for a time in Co. E, 13th Virginia Cavalry Battalion, and one affidavit was made by a soldier in Washington Co., Virginia. A physician's statement in the file says, among other things, that Bradley suffered from an old war wound to the knee.

A reminiscence written from material Bradley supplied appears in Mamie Yeary, comp. Reminiscences of the Boys in Gray, 1861-1865 (McGregor, Texas, 1912): "*JOHN M. BRADLEY, SR., Ft. Worth, Tex.--Was born in 1846, in Washington County, Virginia, where I enlisted in the Confederate Army October 7, 1863, as a private in Company D, Forty-Third Battalion, Partisan*

Rangers, Gen. J. E. B. Stuart's brigade, Army of North Virginia. Joseph Owen, first Captain, and John S. Mosby, first Colonel. I was transferred from Company E, Thirteenth Virginia Infantry after serving two months and being in three battles. I wanted to join Mosby as most of the men from my home were with him. Was in the battle of Salt Works, Saltville, Va., under Gens. Joe Wheeler and Breckenridge, with Gen. Early at Lynchburg and was with Col. Mosby at Drainsville, Harper's Ferry, Warrenton Junction, Snicker's Gap, Starsburg and many others, as we never had more than 400 men and often we would fight a thousand Yankees. It seems to me that we fought almost every day of the last year of the war. The life of a scout in the enemy's lines is a dangerous one as well as exciting and especially so in the valley of Virginia and along the winding banks of the Shenandoah, where enacted many scenes of dash and daring which makes the warm blood course quicker through the veins of many an old veteran trooper, and though years have passed, it seems but yesterday and we can almost hear the bugle's call at Brandy Station Winchester, Fisher's Hill, Kernstown, Cedar Creek and along the pike from Harper's Ferry to Staunton; across the mountains and through the valleys to Moorfield Valley, along the banks of the Potomac, where many desperate encounters with Sheridan took place with such men as Stuart, Fitzhugh Lee, John S. Mosby, and others. Little Phil had his hands full, as a large number of Mosby's men were equipped with horses which Sheridan once rode as well as carrying a Spencer rifle and pistol. In fact, the highest ambition was to be the owner of Sheridan's outfits. Mosby was my ideal fighter; brave, warm-hearted and generous."

When the 1900 census of Tarrant County was taken, Bradley and his family were living in Precinct 3. The names of his neighbors in that year seem to suggest he was living in the Bedford area. With him were his wife, Bettie, and their four children: John M. Bradley, Jr. (born August 1889); Paul (born March 1891); Clifford (born January 1893), and Mary (or Maxey, born October 1896). All these children were born in Texas. Bettie said she had given birth to four children, all of whom were still alive.

By the time the 1910 census was taken, Mrs. Bradley had given birth to four more children, only six of whom were still alive. All four of the children with them in 1900 were still in the family, and two more are shown: Blanche (born about 1901) and Leon (born about 1907). Thus it appears that they had lost two young children in the first decade of the 1900's. Leon Bradley is the youngest child in the family as shown in the 1920 census.

Bradley's widow, Bettie Lee Bradley, of Rt. 1, Fort Worth, applied for a pension in 1931. She said he had died November 19, 1921 in Tarrant County. She married him on June 16, 1886 in Carroll County, Tennessee. He surrendered with his regiment at Appomattox. She said she had been in Texas since September 22, 1889. She was born May 23, 1865, and had lived at Rt. 1, Fort Worth, since 1890. She had applied for a pension in 1922 but her application was rejected. She said she believed her husband lived at Abingdon, Virginia at the time he enlisted. The mortuary warrant in Mr. Bradley's pension file says he died of cerebral hemorrhage and consequent paralysis on November 8, 1920 in Birdville at the home of his son, Cliff Bradley. A letter from his wife in his pension file says he died Nov. 7.

No death certificate was filed for Mr. Bradley in the Texas Vital Statistics office. Someone applied for a grave marker for him in 1941 and erected it in Birdville Cemetery, but it does not contain his birth and death dates.

