



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

John Elhanon Brock

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John Elhanon Brock's Confederate service is confirmed by his obituary in the Grapevine Sun and by Confederate pensions granted to both Mr. Brock and his wife by the State of Texas. An article about him appears in the Grapevine Historical Society's Grapevine Area History (1979).

John Elhanon Brock was a son of Charles Brock and Gabriella (Crocker) Brock. John's three older brothers also served in the Confederate Army. According to family tradition, after his discharge from the army, John Brock came to Texas on horseback and stayed until about 1873, when he went back to Aberdeen, Mississippi and married Leatha Word on January 15, 1874. She was the daughter of Thomas Word and Leatha (Lewis) Word.

Brock applied for a Confederate pension in 1915. He said he left the army about the 10th or 15th of May 1865, and was paroled at Meridian, Mississippi. He was born November 21, 1847 near Aberdeen, Monroe County, Mississippi. He said he moved to Texas on December 2, 1867 and had been here ever since except for a time in 1874 and 1875 when he moved back to Mississippi. He said he'd served from about November 10, 1864 until the surrender. He served as a cavalryman detached from General Ferguson's Brigade, stationed at Mobile, Alabama. Union prisoner of war records show J. E. Brock, a private in Co. A of the 6th Alabama Cavalry, surrendered at Citronelle, Alabama on May 4, 1865, and paroled at Meridian, Mississippi on May 9, 1865. An affidavit in his pension application file, made by J. F. Bransford of DeSoto County, Florida and Frank Ward of Sunflower County, Mississippi, contains some interesting information about Mr. Brock's service: "...In the later summer of 1864 when Gen. A. J. Smith started out from Memphis, Tennessee on a raid through North Miss., the applicant John E. Brock was with our command till Gen. Forrest flanked him and forced him to retreat, when said applicant went back home (as he had not joined our command) and in the fall started to join his brothers Co. of Genl. Ferguson's Brig. Cavalry then in Ga. But near Tuscaloosa, Ala. He went with an expedition from Ferguson's recruiting camp to Mobile and did picket duty on bay till the city surrendered when he came out on we have understood was paroled at Meridian, Miss..."

As a married couple, John and Leatha Brock came to Texas in March of 1876 by rail to Dallas and then by wagon to Grapevine. They brought with them their oldest child, John Word Brock (1875-1947). The Brocks settled near Grapevine where John farmed and operated a cotton gin.

After settling at Grapevine, the Brocks had the following additional children: Lewis Crocker Brock (1877-1894); Paralee Lorene Brock (1879-1880); Annie Laura Brock (1883-1885); Susan Maria Brock (1884-1976), Leatha Gabriella Brock (1889-1899), and Mary Alice Brock (born in 1891) who married Henry Herbert Cook.

An obituary appeared for Mr. Brock in the Grapevine Sun on November 13, 1924: "*J. E. Brock Passes Away. Sunday night, November 9th, Mr. John Elhannon Brock breathed his last. Mr. Brock was born in Aberdeen, Miss., November 21, 1847. He entered the Confederate army at the age of 17. He served in a Detachment of Ferguson's Brigade, surrendered at Citronelle, Ala., by Lieut. Gen. R. Taylor, C.S.A., to Major Gen. E. R. S. Canby, U.S.A., May 4, 1865 and was paroled at Meridian, Miss.*

He came to Texas in 1868. In 1873 he was converted and joined the Baptist Church. On January 15, 1874, he was married to Miss Letha Word of Mississippi. Four of their seven children have preceded their father and mother to the better land. Two of their children, Mr. Word Brock and Mrs. Sue Mullins, reside in Grapevine. Mrs. H. H. Cook, the other daughter lives in Atoka, Okla.

Mr. Brock lived a true and worthy life. He won many friends, and will be missed not only by his family but by the entire community. His funeral was held at the Grapevine Baptist Church, conducted by his pastor, Rev. J. M. Hunt, Monday at 3:30 p.m. He was buried in the Grapevine cemetery by the Masonic order, of which he had long been a worthy member. Life's labor done, as sinks the day Light from its load the spirit flies While heaven and earth combine to say, How blest the righteous when he dies."

Mrs. Brock applied for a Confederate pension in 1924. She said she had lived at Grapevine 48 years. Both John and Leatha Brock lie buried in Grapevine Cemetery, as did all their children with the exception of Mary Alice Brock Cook, who was still living at the time the Grapevine history book was published in 1979.

An obituary for Mrs. Brock was printed in the Grapevine Sun on January 10, 1929: "*MRS LETHA BROCK DIES. Last Friday afternoon, January 4, 1929, we laid to rest one of Grapevine's early settlers, Mrs. Letha Word Brock. She was born January 26, 1849 in Aberdeen, Mississippi, and died January 3, 1929, at 9 p.m. in the home of her daughter, Mrs. Sue Mullins at the age of 79 years, eleven months, and eight days.*

She married John Elhanan Brock January 15, 1874. They moved to Texas in 1876 and lived in the Grapevine community until Mr. Brock's death, November 9, 1924, and Mrs. Brock's death January 3, 1929. There were seven children, four of whom have already gone to the Father's House. Those living are: J. W. Brock and Mrs. Sue Mullins, Grapevine; Mrs. H. H. Cook, Atoka, Okla. There were sixteen grandchildren, fifteen of whom are living and one dead; two great grandchildren; and one sister, Mrs. Maria Word of Aberdeen, Mississippi.

Mrs. Brock was converted and joined the Baptist Church early in life, and has lived a consistent Christian life until her death. She was a very lovable character, devoted to her family, an interesting conversationalist; was active almost to the last, yet modest, quiet, and unassuming. She will be missed, not only by her relatives, but by all her neighbors and friends.

The services were held in the Grapevine Baptist Church, of which Mrs. Brock was a member at the time of her death. Dr. O. O. Hollingsworth with Mrs. C. J. Wall at the piano, led the choir in singing, "Nearer My God, to Thee," "When They Ring Those Golden Bells," and "Does Jesus Care." Mrs. M. A. Buchanan and Mrs. Earl Yates sang a duet, "The Home of the Soul."

Rev. L. Pat Leach led in the opening prayer, Rev. W. A. Binyon read Proverbs 31:10-31, and Rev. Boyd P. Milburn preached the sermon from the text Rev. 14:13: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; for their works follow with them." Interment was made in Grapevine Cemetery, to await the Resurrection. HER PASTOR."

