



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

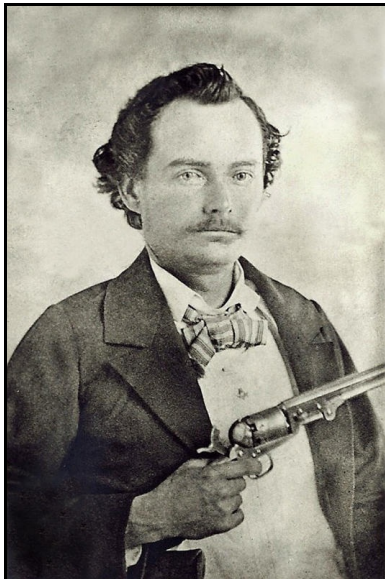
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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Joel W. Chivers

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Joel W. Chivers

(photo courtesy of Nayda Wallace)

Joel W. Chivers was a Confederate veteran who served as a Second Lieutenant in the 34th Texas Cavalry. He lived with his parents in present-day Southlake when the War began.

Joel Chivers was born about 1838 in Mississippi. He was a son of Absalom H. Chivers (died 1856) and Eleanor (Joyce) Chivers (1816-1896). They were married in Hinds County, Mississippi on February 7, 1838.

When the 1840 census was taken, Joel's family was living in Copiah County, Mississippi. In that year, his father owned six slaves.

Joel came to Tarrant County about 1852 from Mississippi with his parents and settled in present-day Southlake. Their small family cemetery received a Texas Historical Marker in 1982. It is located in a brushy area along the south side of an east-west fence about 1050 feet west of the 1300 block of North Carroll Avenue.

Joel W. Chivers is mentioned in the estate settlement of his father in a document dated 1859, at which time Joel was twenty-one years old. At the final settlement of the estate, Joel received as part of his inheritance a twenty-eight-year-old slave man named Dabney who had belonged to his parents.

Dallas County, Texas marriage records show the marriage of Joel W. Chivers to Martha Marilza Weems on February 10, 1859. Family records at ancestry.com show that she was born in Henry County, Georgia on July 22, 1833 and died in Little Lake, Los Angeles County, California on

December 17, 1917. They had two children: Laura Eugenia Chivers (1859-1938, who married William Edward Shepard), and William Absalom Chivers (born in Arkansas on March 17, 1861).

Only one document concerning Joel's service is in his file in Washington. His name appears on "a list of commissioned officers elected, and those relieved, at the re-organization of Colonel Alexander's Regiment, June 27, 1862, in accordance with the provisions of an Act of Congress, approved April 16, 1862, and G. O. No. _____, of date June 26, 1862. List dated Hdqrs. Dept. Ind. Ter., Ft. McCulloch, June 30, 1862." A number of documents pertaining to one J. M. Chivers of another regiment were mistakenly filed and microfilmed by the National Archives in connection with the papers of Joel W. Chivers. Thus not all the papers in Joel's file pertain to him.

Joel W. Chivers died during the War, but no records have been found to indicate if it was as a result of his service or as a result of disease or accident. A few papers relating to the settlement of his estate were among the documents which survived the disastrous Tarrant County court house fire in 1876.

Descendants of Joel Chivers say he died August 22, 1862 in Georgia, while in the Confederate service. However, no histories of the 34th Texas Cavalry indicate that the regiment ever crossed the Mississippi River to serve in the eastern theatre.

In one document, dated March 6, 1863, Joel's widow, Martha M. Chivers, asks the County Court for guardianship of their two children, Laura Eugenie Chivers and William Absalom Chivers. Mrs. Chivers filed a report to the court on April 24, 1864. No further record of the estate has survived.