



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Thomas E. Cross

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Thomas E. Cross was one of the pioneers of Birdville and a Confederate veteran. He was born July 29, 1838 Clinton County, Kentucky. He came to Birdville before the Civil War with his parents, Robert Cross and Anna H. (Wood) Cross, both of whom lie buried in Birdville Cemetery. About 1843, the Crosses moved to Kentucky for a short time, but by about 1845 had returned to Arkansas. In 1850 they were living in Ozan Township in Hempstead County.

According to voting registration records made during Reconstruction, the Crosses arrived in Texas from Arkansas about 1853, settled in Tarrant County about 1854, and moved to the Birdville area about 1859.

Mr. Cross's military records in the National Archives show that he was mustered into the Confederate service on December 26, 1861 at Camp Hobart near Houston, Texas. He enlisted for a term of twelve months, and had ridden two hundred fifty miles to the rendezvous. Another roll shows him as a 4th Sergeant enlisting on December 26, 1861 at Fort Worth. He went from being a sergeant to a private on April 31 [sic], 1862. Yet another record shows him enlisting at Weatherford, Texas on December 28, 1861. He is present on regimental rolls for the period July 1 through October 31, 1862. On April 24, 1863 he was raised to the rank of 1st Corporal, and was shown as a 3rd Sergeant on the last surviving muster roll of the regiment, covering the period January and February, 1864.

Thomas said he enlisted in the Confederate Army at Birdville, Tarrant County, in 1861. He became a member of Co. E, 8th Texas Infantry (also known as Young's and the 12th Texas Infantry) In the Battle of Mansfield right leg was broken and was shot in right thigh and hip; served as division clerk until end of war.

Family sources say he married S. Lou Holman in Arkansas on August 26, 1878. When the 1880 census was taken, Thomas and his wife and daughter, Zora F. Cross (born in October, 1879) were living in Precinct 4 of Tarrant County, adjacent to Thomas's parents and the family of his brother, William M. Cross.

Mr. Cross contributed material for Mrs. Mamie Yeary's classic book, Reminiscences of the Boys in Gray, 1861-1865 (McGregor, Texas, 1912): *"THOS. E. CROSS, Fort Worth, Texas--Born July 29, 1836 in Clinton County, Ky. Enlisted in the Confederate Army Oct. 1, 1861, in Tarrant County, Texas. Was elected Fourth Sergeant of Company E, Eighth Texas Infantry, Walker's Division, Trans-Mississippi Department. We were first enlisted for twelve months and went into camp near Houston, Texas. Jan. 1, 1862, we re-enlisted for the war, and were transferred to Arkansas, where we had frequent conflicts with Federal cavalry at Duvall's Bluff, Cotton Plant, Clarendon, Milliken's Bend, Young's Point, and other points along the river, till the general engagement at Pleasant Hill, La., where I was wounded four times. This ended my active service. I was brigade clerk from Oct. 15, 1864, to May 15, 1865, when we were disbanded at Hempstead, Texas. I arrived at my home in Denton County, Texas, June 4, 1865."*

In Thomas Cross's Confederate pension application file, filed in 1909, a comrade, David Smith, made an affidavit for Cross in which he said Cross was wounded at the Battle of Mansfield, Louisiana. Smith said, *"I saw the bullet cut out of his body."* Cross himself said in his pension affidavit that he was born July 24, 1838 in Clinton County, Kentucky. He said he was detailed to work in a hospital in Arkansas a while in 1863. Thomas left the service at Hempstead, Texas on May 15, 1865. At the time he applied for his pension, he lived at 410 Powell Building in Fort Worth. He was working as a carpenter.

Mr. Cross also prepared a short personal history which he placed in the archives of the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans at Fort Worth: *"I was born in Clinton County, Kentucky, and enlisted at Birdville, Texas, in November, 1861. Mustered into service as a member of Company E, 8th Texas Volunteers, 1st Brigade, Walker's Division, and Corps, of the Trans-Mississippi Department. Participated in the Battles of Wilkins Barr on Mississippi River, Louisiana, Young's Parish, and Mansfield, Louisiana. I was wounded in the last battle named on April 8, 1864, during which I had my right leg broken. I was shot in the right thigh and had my right hip shot out of place. After this I served as the Division Clerk until the end of the war. We were discharged about two and one-half miles west of Hempstead in Austin County, Texas, on May 3, 1865."*

After spending some time at the Confederate Veterans Home in Austin, Mr. Cross died there at 10 a.m. on November 6, 1924. His death certificate shows that he died from cancer of the face and eyes. His birth date is given as 1836 on the certificate. He was buried in the State Cemetery in Austin on the same day he died. However, the official roster of the cemetery does not list his burial.

An obituary for Mr. Cross appeared in the Dallas Morning News on November 7, 1924: *"THOMAS E. CROSS DIES. Special to the News. Fort Worth, Texas. Nov. 6. Thomas E. Cross, 88 years old, Confederate veteran, formerly of Fort Worth, died Wednesday at Austin in the Confederate Veterans' Home, according to word received here. Funeral services will be held in Austin at 10*

o'clock Friday morning. He will be buried there. Surviving are two sons, William Cross of Fort Worth and R. C. Cross of Weatherford; a brother, R. L. Cross of Quanah, and two sisters, Mrs. R. L. Drumm of Fort Worth and Mrs. Tom Dougherty of Austin."