



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Mortimer C. Elliston

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Mortimer C. Elliston came to Texas from Kentucky in 1848 and settled in the Birdville community in Tarrant County. He served in a local Confederate cavalry unit. He probably lies buried in Birdville Cemetery in an unmarked grave.

Mortimer Elliston was born December 19, 1830 in Kentucky. Numerous family genealogists at ancestry.com say his parents were John Wesley Elliston and his wife, Elizabeth A. (Johnson) Elliston, who were pioneers in Lincoln County, Kentucky and who died in Tarrant County, Texas in the Birdville community. However, there is no male child who could have been Mortimer in John W. Elliston's family in the 1840 census.

There were two other Elliston women, Nancy and Elizabeth Elliston, both of whom headed families in Lincoln County, Kentucky in 1840, and both of whom had sons in their family the correct age to have been Mortimer Elliston. Two of John W. Elliston's sons had biographical sketches printed about them in the 1890's, almost certainly from material they supplied. Both of the sketches appeared in books published by the Lewis Publishing Company of Chicago and named John W. Elliston's five children; Mortimer is not among them in either account. Two of the children named in the list were already dead, one for more than forty years. Thus it seems likely that Mortimer would have been mentioned since he had been dead less than fifteen years.

Mortimer Elliston was one of the Peters Colonists, the original permanent settlers of Tarrant County. His name appears in a list of those having been issued land certificates in or before 1848. He came to Texas as a single man.

By the taking of the 1850 census, the Ellistons had settled at Birdville in Tarrant County. Mortimer was nineteen years old and was living in a mixed family headed by John W. Elliston. A circumstance connected with the family's entry in the 1850 census might also suggest that Mortimer was not one of John W. Elliston's sons. In the listing, Mr. and Mrs. Elliston's names are followed

by the names of four children in descending age, from ten years to five years. Next in the list is Mrs. Elliston's widowed mother, sixty-nine-year-old Mary Johnson. The last two persons listed in the family are Mortimer Elliston and one Amanda Elliston, seventeen years old, both born in Kentucky. In most cases enumerators listed all of a couple's children in order of birth.

On February 2, 1855 Mortimer Elliston patented a tract of three hundred twenty acres in Tarrant County, Texas. This was a tract one mile north-south by one-half mile east-west. It sat near the northwest corner of the old town of Birdville. In modern-day terms, its approximate boundaries are Broadway Avenue on the south, Haltom Road on the west, Denton Highway on the east, and Stanley-Keller Road on the north.

Mortimer Elliston's name appears in the records in connection with the estate settlement for Tarrant County pioneer William Norris, who died about 1856. Mr. Elliston presented a claim to the administrators saying he was owed money for "braking prairie" land belonging to Mr. Norris.

Mortimer Elliston married Sarah Ann Elliott. She was born September 8, 1836 in Illinois, and was a daughter of Saunders Elliott (1810-1896) and his wife, Margaret (Miller) Elliott. The Elliott's settled in Tarrant County in before 1850. Sanders Elliott served as sheriff of Tarrant County in 1868-1869. By 1870 both Mr. and Mrs. Elliott had moved to California where they died.

When the 1860 Tarrant County tax list was made, M. Elliston was recorded as the owner of a tract of three hundred ten acres patented in his name, worth one thousand five hundred and fifty dollars.

Mr. Elliston enlisted for a term of three years in the Confederate service at Vermilion, Louisiana on August 27, 1862, as did his kinsman, J. Frank Elliston. Both became privates in Captain J. C. Terrell's Company of Waller's Battalion of Texas Cavalry. This company subsequently became Co. F, Waller's Texas Cavalry. Mortimer Elliston presented himself for service on a horse worth one hundred fifty dollars and with equipment worth twenty dollars. He last appears "present" on a muster roll for the regiment dated February 29, 1864. No other records of his service have survived. Frank Elliston told comrades in the R. E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans at Fort Worth that he (Frank) had served until the end of the War.

On August 9, 1867 Mortimer Elliston registered to vote as a resident of Precinct 1 in Tarrant County. He said he was a native of Kentucky, and had lived in Texas, Tarrant County, and Precinct 1 for twenty years.

The 1870 census taker found Mortimer Elliston and his family living in Precinct 3 in Tarrant County. He owned real estate worth two thousand dollars and personal property worth seven hundred dollars. They had six children with them: John, James, Harvey, Mortimer, Margaret Jane, and Lemuel Elliston.

Family sources say that Mr. Elliston died March 2, 1879 and Mrs. Sarah Elliston died November 27, 1877. It seems likely both lie buried in unmarked graves in Birdville Cemetery. The following paragraphs offer brief notes about the lives of their children.

John Elliston was born in September 1857. He was still alive with his parents and siblings in Tarrant County in 1870.

James S. Elliston was born in March 1859. His wife's name was Sarah Viola. He died at 6:15 a.m. on January 23, 1933 in the Tarrant County Home in Tarrant County, Texas, and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Fort Worth.

Andrew Harvey Elliston was born January 27, 1861. He married Martha Allen "Allie" Willcoxson (1865-1950) in Collin County, Texas on October 7, 1884. He worked for many years as a real estate dealer. He died at 6:40 a.m. on September 28, 1941 in Hereford, Deaf Smith County, Texas.

Family sources at ancestry.com say that Mortimer S. and Margaret Jane Elliston were twins, born on March 21, 1866. Both were still alive with the family when the 1870 census was taken.

Margaret Jane Elliston married J. W. Shaffer in Tarrant County in 1883.

In 1880 Mortimer S. Elliston was going to school and living with his uncle, Stephen T. Elliott, in Precinct 3, of Wise County, Texas.

Robert Lemuel Elliston was born November 18, 1868. He married Ellen Lusttia Burkhard (1871-1934) on January 24, 1890. They spent the last years of their lives in Deaf Smith County, Texas. He died in Wichita Falls, Texas at 5 p.m. on January 22, 1942. He was buried in Hereford, Deaf Smith County.

Researchers at ancestry.com report a son named Wesley J. Elliston born January 26, 1871. When the 1880 census of Precinct 4 of Tarrant County was prepared, Wesley Elliston was living as an adopted son of Hugh Roberts at Birdville. Hugh Roberts and Mortimer Elliston were next-door neighbors in 1870 at Birdville.