



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Green Chesterfield Garrison

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Green Chesterfield Garrison was a Northerner from Illinois who served in a Kentucky Confederate mounted infantry regiment. After the War he lived for over thirty years in Georgia, then came to Tarrant County in 1900, where he lived for several years around Grapevine.

Green C. Garrison was born at Mount Vernon, Jefferson County, Illinois on December 5, 1844. Family genealogists say his father, Thomas W. Garrison and his mother, Harriett Scott, were married in Jefferson County, Illinois on November 10, 1840.

Green Garrison appears in the 1850 Illinois census with his parents and siblings in Curran Precinct, Saline County, Illinois. This census says his parents were native Tennesseans.

Garrison told pension officials he moved to Georgia in June of 1866. About 1870, he and his wife, Eliza Christine Weaver, were married. When the 1880 census was taken, the Garrisons were in Sugar Valley in Gordon County, Georgia. They had four children with them: William C. Garrison (born about 1871); Adolphus C. Garrison (born about 1873); Patrick C. Garrison (born about 1876); and Hampton C. Garrison (born about 1878).

Green Garrison and his family appear in the 1900 census of Tarrant County, Texas, probably in the Grapevine area, judging from the names of some of his near neighbors. His wife, Eliza C. Garrison, said she was born in Georgia in October 1851 to an Alabamian father and a Georgian mother. Mrs. Garrison said she had given birth to eleven children, eight of whom were still living. They had five children with them at the time: Howard C. (born in May 1883); Grover C. (born in June 1885); Ferdinand C. (born in November 1887); Diaz C. (born in December 1892); and Benjamin C. (born in March 1896).

An incomplete picture of Mr. and Mrs. Garrisons' lifestyles may be found in an inventory of his personal property as of November 4, 1908, which he furnished several years later to the Georgia Confederate pension board. In 1908, they owned four mules worth six hundred dollars, farming equipment worth one hundred dollars, two "milch" cows worth fifty dollars, and household/kitchen furniture worth seventy-five dollars. He said he sold all the above property to pay personal debts.

In the 1910 census, Green Garrison and his family are found in Precinct 3 of Dallas County, Texas. They have only two children with them, Diaz C. Garrison and Benjamin C. Garrison. This census indicates that Mr. and Mrs. Garrison were married about 1870. The couple still had eight living children. Mr. Garrison said he was a minister and a Confederate veteran.

In August, 1917, Mr. and Mrs. Garrison moved back to Georgia and took up residence in Floyd County. Census takers in 1920 found G. C. Garrison and his wife, "Etta" C. Garrison living at Floyd Springs in Floyd County, Georgia. They had no children with them.

In 1920 Mr. Garrison applied to the State of Georgia for a Confederate pension. He said his address was Armuchee, Floyd County. He said he had been a resident of Georgia from June 1866 until March 1900, when he moved to Texas. He returned to Georgia in August 1917.

In his application, Garrison said he enlisted in July 1861 at Camp Boone at Clarksville, Tennessee to serve in Co. I, 3rd Kentucky Infantry. He was wounded on April 6, 1862 and was taken prisoner. After his release he was placed in General Preston's Headquarters and was later transferred to General Hardee's headquarters. He surrendered at Greensboro, North Carolina on April 26, 1865.

His official records in the National Archives say he enlisted August 1, 1861 under Lt. McCall for the duration of the War. At some point between October 1, 1861 and January 1, 1862 he was absent from the regiment while serving as a nurse at Bowling Green, Kentucky.

After having been captured, he was free by September 5, 1862 and was serving at General Preston's headquarters. He received pay for that service at Dalton, Georgia on December 3, 1863. He was paroled at Greensboro, North Carolina on May 1, 1865.

Mr. Garrison applied for a Confederate pension from the State of Texas in 1929. He gave his address as 4407 Hartford in Dallas. He told pension officials he had served in Co. I, 3rd Kentucky Infantry. He told them he came to Texas in March of 1900. What he neglected to mention was that he had been absent from Texas, living back in Georgia for a time beginning in 1917 and ending in 1922.

Mr. Garrison's "difficulties" with the Texas pension board may have begun with a letter written by one of his acquaintances in Dallas: *"Dallas, Texas Aug 21st 1929 Hon S. H. Terrell Comptroller Austin Texas Dear Mr Terrell We have a Confederate veteran hear in Dallas that is drawing two Pensions G. C. Garrison is the man he com from Georgia to Texas I have saw his Georgia Pension he Showed it to me—is it OK for a veteran to Draw two Pensions according to the Law i Think a veteran Should be Satisfied with one & not two Pensions i am Just asking you to Look in to this matter—i am very respectfully yours—D. E. Fullbright"*

On December 10, 1929, W. H. Reid of the law firm of Reid and Erhard, of Dallas, wrote the following letter to the Texas Comptroller: *"...Dear Friend [Comptroller] Terrell: It appears that an injustice is about to be done to one of the most highly respected and honored Confederate soldiers in Dallas, I am taking the liberty of writing to you about the matter.*

"Some time last spring, Rev. G. C. Garrison, a retired Baptist minister living in this city, applied for a pension from the State of Texas as a Confederate soldier. At that time, he was drawing a pension from the State of Georgia, but desired to discontinue that pension as soon as this one here was obtained.

"Just before he left for the National Reunion at Charlotte, North Carolina, last June, vouchers were received by a number of the Confederate veterans here, but none reached Brother Garrison at the time we left. The Sons Camp here, of which I am Commander, took sixty-four veterans and widows on this trip to North Carolina, and among them was General [sic] Garrison. For several months last winter and spring, he was very, very ill, and on two occasions his attending physicians pronounced him dead. We carried a nurse along with him to look after him on this trip, and he improved so much that he stopped over to visit in his old home at Rome, Georgia.

"While on this trip, Brother Garrison instructed me to write to the Ordinary at Rome, Georgia, and state to him that since he received his pension in Texas, he wanted the Georgia pension discontinued. While he was visiting in Rome, Georgia, a voucher was given him for his pension there, and not having received a pension in Texas at that time, he accepted it. After returning home, Brother Garrison was again ill and during that time, believing that the pension had been discontinued in Georgia, he found the voucher coming to him from Texas and cashed it.

"This mix-up was due almost entirely to my failure to write the Ordinary at Rome, which I overlooked on account of so many calls upon me and so many duties to perform at that time, and I feel that he should not be made to suffer by having his pension discontinued here through a technical irregularity. He is one of the best men in Dallas County or anywhere else, is old, feeble, and in need of money. When only sixteen years of age, he ran away from his home in Illinois and came South to fight for the Confederates, serving throughout the full term of the war. He is a thorough Southerner and one of the most ardent Confederates I have ever known. As an evidence of his high standing, he has been elected Commander of Dallas Camp No. 1853, U. C. V., which is the largest camp in the whole organization.

"Please give this matter your personal attention, and if I can be of any further assistance to you, do not hesitate to let me hear from you at the every earliest time possible.

"With best wishes and personal regards to you, I beg to remain, Your friend, W. H. Reid."

The Texas Pension Board was not moved by this appeal, and more correspondence passed between Austin and Dallas concerning it. Finally, on June 15, 1931, Mr. Garrison sent a notarized statement to Austin, which said in part: *"...That I am the said Greene C. Garrison, who under claim of file number No. [45372], was granted a Confederate Pension by the State of Texas on or about May 1929, and that I began to receive my pension on about the 1st day of June 1929. That I drew said*

pension only one time - \$150.00. That because of error, based upon misunderstanding and knowledge of special interested friends, an error was made in my original application in regard to the length of time I had lived without interruption in the State of Texas, my pension being cancelled on or about August 1929. That I have at no time knowingly and intentionally violated the pension law of any State, nor have I knowingly and intentionally given any untrue information for the purpose of drawing a pension. That I have been a resident of the State of Texas without intermission since October 1922.

“Therefore, based upon the recent amended Pension law, according to my understanding thereof, I hereby make application for the reinstatement of the aforesaid pension granted to my upon my record as a Confederate soldier. [signed] Green C. Garrison...”

Mrs. Eliza Christine Garrison predeceased her husband. Her death certificate says she was born October 16, 1851 in Georgia, a daughter of Richard Weaver. She died at 9:25 p.m. on March 9, 1932, at her son's home at 3235 Park Row in Dallas. She died of senility, arteriosclerosis, myocarditis, and uremia, with dementia as a contributing cause. She was buried on March 12, ironically on the same day her husband died of pneumonia after a fall he suffered on March 5.

The Dallas Times Herald carried an obituary for Mrs. Garrison on March 10, 1932: *“MRS. G. C. GARRISON, PIONEER DALLASITE, DIES AT SON'S HOME. Funeral rites will be held Saturday for Mrs. Elizabeth Christine Garrison, 80, long-time Dallas resident, who died Wednesday night at the home of her son, D. C. Garrison, 3235 Park Row. The services will be at 1 p. m. at the Ed. C. Smith and Bro. chapel, with interment in Restland Memorial park. Her husband, the Rev. G. C. Garrison, retired Baptist minister and commander of Dallas camp No. 1853, United Confederate Veterans is critically ill. Mrs. Garrison was born in Ringgold, Ga., coming to Texas when a young girl. She was active in church work, having been a member of the First Baptist church more than thirty years. Surviving are her husband, four sons, D. C. Garrison, former sergeant of police; Grover C. Garrison, member of the city detective department; H. C. Garrison of Dexter, N. M.; and F. C. Garrison, of Shreveport, La.; a daughter, Mrs. Will Fowler of Somerville, La., and ten grandchildren.”*

Green C. Garrison died at 4:30 p.m. on March 12, 1932 at his home at 3235 Park Row in Dallas, Texas. The cause of death was hypostatic pneumonia as a result of a fall he suffered in his home on March 5. He slipped on a rug, fracturing his right hip. Surgery was performed on it the next day. Senility was listed as a contributing cause of death. He was a retired minister, having preached from about 1870 until 1900. He was buried on March 14 in Restland Cemetery in Dallas.

An obituary for him appeared in the Dallas Times Herald on March 14, 1932: *“REV. G. C. GARRISON BURIED MONDAY IN RESTLAND MEMORIAL. Funeral rites were held Monday afternoon for the Rev. G. C. Garrison, 87, retired Baptist minister, who died Saturday afternoon while burial services were being held for his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Christine Garrison, who died Wednesday. The services were at 2 o'clock at the chapel of the Ed. C. Smith and Bro. mortuary, with interment in Restland Memorial park. A chorus of singers who had been associated with him in the work of Dallas camp, United Confederate Veterans, of which he was commander, sang appropriate selections. Mr. Garrison died at the home of his son, D. C. Garrison, former police*

sergeant. He is survived by three other sons, a daughter and ten grandchildren. Active pallbearers were T. W. Lovett, G. T. Harris, J. McBride, Sam J. Thompson, A. W. Gatton, W. E. Rice, T. C. BeDow and W. H. Reid.”

Census sources have disclosed the names of nine Garrison children: William C. Garrison, Adolphus C. Garrison, Patrick C. Garrison, Hampton C. Garrison, Howard C. Garrison, Grover C. Garrison, Ferdinand C. Garrison, Diaz Chela Garrison, and Benjamin Cary Garrison. Mr. Garrison's obituary also mentions a daughter who married Will Fuller and who was living in Louisiana in 1932. She must have been born after the taking of the 1880 census and have married prior to 1900.

William C. Garrison was born August 28, 1870. He died in Tarrant County, Texas at his home along Crowley Road eight miles south of Fort Worth on June 19, 1912. He died of a liver tumor. He was buried in Grapevine Cemetery and has a readable headstone there.

Patrick Claiborne Garrison was born about 1876. He married and has living descendants, some of whom have placed queries on internet genealogy sites. He was dead by 1932.

Howard Cheatum Garrison said he was born May 22, 1883 when he registered for the draft in World War I. At the time, he was living and working as a blacksmith in Carrollton, Dallas County, Texas. He was living in Dexter, New Mexico in 1932.

Grover C. Garrison was born in Georgia on June 28, 1885. He worked as a police officer. He died in Baylor Hospital in Dallas on January 1, 1959, and was buried in Restland Cemetery in Dallas.

Ferdinand Clifford Garrison was born November 17, 1887. His death certificate says he was born in Illinois. He worked for the Ellis County, Texas government. He died in the Oak Cliff Nursing Home in Dallas County on July 18, 1960 (where he had been for only nine days) and was buried in Italy Cemetery in Ellis County, Texas.

Diaz Chela Garrison said he was born December 24, 1892 in Atlanta, Georgia when he registered for the draft for World War I. He was living in Ellis County, Texas at the time. He was living in Dallas in 1932.

Benjamin Cary Garrison was born at Atlanta, Georgia on March 31, 1896. He died in Harlingen, Cameron County, Texas on January 7, 1928. His death was caused by peritonitis as a result of a ruptured appendix. He was buried in Dallas, Texas.