



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

John Henry Jasper

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John Henry Jasper was a Georgia native who came to Texas soon after the War. After living and farming at several Texas locations, he died in 1931 in northeast Tarrant County and was buried in Minter's Chapel Cemetery.

Mr. Jasper was born September 18, 1847 in Georgia. Some recent researchers have placed his birth in Chatham County. In an interview with this compiler in 1977, his daughter, Myrtle Jasper Bass, said her father was orphaned young and was adopted by a family who mistreated him. About the time the War began he ran away from home and lost touch with all his family members except one brother. Pat Hall Howard interviewed her again about a year later for material to place in the Grapevine Area History, published in 1979. Mrs. Bass said she never heard any mention made of the names of her Jasper grandparents.

Mr. Jasper did not attend school, but one of his wives was a school teacher and taught him to read and write using a "blue-backed speller." His daughter recalled that "It made him a pretty good scholar."

Mrs. Bass recalled that her father tried to enlist in the Confederate Army but was refused because of his age. He went with the army anyway, and recalled in later years that he was in battles at Peachtree Creek and Stone Mountain in Georgia. Among other services he performed was carrying water to the soldiers on the line.

Mrs. Bass remembered her father saying he came to Texas on horseback. By the time the 1870 census was taken, he had arrived in Texas and married. John Jasper married his first wife, Ardelia Hargress (1855-1880), in July of 1870. They were living in Grayson County, Texas, in Precinct 3 in the area served by the Whitesboro post office, when the census was taken in that year. Ardelia said she was seventeen years old and was born in Arkansas. The death certificate of her daughter,

Minnie, says her maiden name was Hargert. Their five children included Mattie, Minnie, Annie, Thomas, and Aldonie Jasper.

Mrs. Bass recalled that her father and his new family lived in a tent in Grayson County while trying to establish a farm there. She recalled him saying that one day group of Indians crossed the Red River and looted, burned, and destroyed everything the family had. They even cut up and scattered the feather beds.

The census taker in 1880 found the family in Precinct 4 of Bell County, Texas. With him were his wife, Ardelia, who said she was born in Missouri to two Tennesseans; and all five of their children: Mattie, Minnie, Annie, Thomas, and Loney Jasper. Ardelia (Hargress) Jasper died of measles later in that year.

Mr. Jasper also appears in the 1880 agricultural census of Bell County. He was working twenty-two acres of cultivated land and owned livestock worth one hundred fifty dollars. He estimated that all his farm products during 1879 were worth two hundred dollars. He had two working cattle, three milk cows, and two cattle of other classes. He had three calves dropped on his property in the last year, and had sold twelve animals. He had slaughtered one for his own use, and five had died. He estimated he had made sixty pounds of butter. He had five hogs and twenty chickens. His eleven acres of Indian corn had made seventy-five bushels. He made two bales of cotton on ten acres.

Mr. Jasper's second wife was a widow, Mrs. Adeline Delphia Welch Faulkenberry, whom he married on October 12, 1882 in Bell County, Texas. She was born May 18, 1856 and died in October 1893. She brought one child from her previous marriage, and they had four children of their own: William, Myrtle, Charlie, and Jessie.

Mrs. Bass remembered her father's house as a busy, crowded place. She said he was the father or stepfather of twenty children, although she never remembered there being more than twelve there at any one time. She remembered one Christmas night when her family played host to forty overnight visitors.

Mr. Jasper married his third wife, Emma Janette "Nettie" Drummond (1858-1927) in Bell County, Texas on October 28, 1896. She brought three children from a previous marriage with her. John and Nettie Jasper had an additional six children: John Henry, Cora, Floyd, Velmer, Ova, and Ruby Jasper. Nettie Jasper died April 2, 1927 in Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas, and lies buried there in Riverside Cemetery.

The 1900 census taker found John H. Jasper heading a mixed family in District 31 of Precinct 6 of Bell County, Texas. With him was his wife, Nettie, who in Wisconsin to a father born in Wisconsin and a mother born in Kentucky. Nettie said she had given birth to six children, five of whom were still living. Two of John's and Nettie's children were with them: Henry Jasper (born in September 1897) and Cora Jasper (born in May 1899). Nettie's children from her previous marriage were also with them: John W. Watson (born in June 1885 in Arkansas); Jesse Watson (born in June 188_); and Helen C. Watson (born in April 1889).

Also in the family in 1900 were five of John H. Jasper's children by a previous marriage: Lona, William, Myrtle, Robert , and Nora Jasper.

By the time the 1910 census was taken, the family was in Haskell County, Texas in Precinct 1. John H. Jasper said he was in his third marriage, and his wife, "Emma J." said she was in her second. They had five children with them: Robert C., Helen C. [Watson], Cora V., Velma A., and Ova M. Jasper.

Mrs. Bass recalled that for a while after 1910 the Jaspers moved, along with Mrs. Bass and her husband, to Yantis in Wood County, Texas. They were frustrated there by incessant rains, and people began to die of malaria. They moved out west somewhere in the area of Wichita County, and passed through Grapevine on the way. Finding the weather there not to their liking, they came back to the Grapevine area. She remembers it took them eleven days to travel one hundred miles in their wagons. During all of their travels one winter they slept in their covered wagon.

For a while they lived on the Hicks place south of Grapevine, south of Glade Road and east of Eules North Main Street. While there they worked picking cotton on Grapevine Prairie.

By 1920 they had gone back to Haskell County, but had moved to Precinct 6. Mr. and Mrs. Jasper had only two of their children with them, Velma and Olive.

In 1930 Mr. Jasper was living in Wichita Falls in Wichita County, Texas with the family of his daughter, Ova M. French, and her husband, James M. French. He told the census taker he was a veteran of the Civil War. Ova M. Jasper French was born about 1905.

John H. Jasper died in Tarrant County on December 18, 1931. He died of myocarditis and mitral regurgitation at 12 a.m. at his home. He lies buried in Minter's Chapel Cemetery. No obituary appeared for him in the newspapers in Fort Worth or Dallas, nor in the Grapevine Sun.

The following short paragraphs outline the lives of John H. Jasper's children. They are taken from a variety of sources, including interviews, online genealogical sources, and public records. Some data are conflicting; for instance, Mrs. Bass had one photograph in which she appeared as a baby sitting on her father's lap. She identified one of the other children in the photo as Mattie Jasper and another as Mattie Faulkenberry, suggesting that her mother may have brought one child to her Jasper marriage from her former marriage to Mr. Faulkenberry.

If Mattie Faulkenberry was indeed a stepchild of Mr. Jasper's, that would conflict with one statement Mrs. Bass made to this compiler in 1977....that her father had a total of twenty children and step-children. That number would include five children in his first marriage; four children and one step-child in his second marriage, and six of his own children and three step-children from his third marriage....for a total of nineteen.

Mattie Jasper was born July 31, 1871. Family sources say she died in Dallas in 1901.

Minnie Bell Jasper was born March 11, 1873, at White Spar, Texas, according to her dc. She died March 28, 1957 at Temple, Bell County, Texas, and was buried at Moody, Texas. She was married to George W. Grisham (1867-1917).

Annie M. Jasper was born August 16, 1875. She married Dock C. Chisum (1865-1951) about 1894. In 1900 they lived in Carlisle County, Kentucky. After that they lived for a time in Tennessee before settling in Bell County, Texas by 1910. By 1920 they had moved again, settling in Walker County, Georgia at Chickamauga. Family sources say she died there on October 10, 1920.

Thomas R. Jasper was born in August 1877. Family sources say he married Lula L. Bailey in 1908.

Aldona "Loney" Jasper was born October 19, 1879 in Texas. She married Arnold J. Mellon (1873-1932). She died at Scott and White Hospital in Temple, Bell County, Texas on January 24, 1970. She lies buried in Moffatt Cemetery at Moffatt, Bell County, Texas.

William James Jasper was born September 27, 1884. He married Nina Barham on September 5, 1909 in McLennan County, Texas. He died February 13, 1960 at Temple, Bell County, Texas, and was buried at Moody, Texas.

Myrtle Lee Jasper was born March 1, 1885. She married George Franklin Bass (1882-1949) on September 12, 1904 in Bland, Texas. She died December 19, 1979 in Tarrant County, Texas, and was buried in Bluebonnet Cemetery in Colleyville, Tarrant County.

Nora Vestaline Jasper was born June 19, 1891. She married Albert Griffin on October 24, 1909. She died in Cleburne, Johnson County, Texas on February 14, 1992, and was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Cleburne.

Robert Charles Jasper was born March 22, 1889. He died at Grand Prairie, Dallas County, Texas on July 31, 1971. He married Pearl Atrass Bass (1893-1980) on July 2, 1913 at Yantis, Wood County, Texas. He lies buried at Southland Memorial Park in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Jesse Jasper was born on October 1 and died just over one month later, on November 4, 1894 at Moody, Bell County, Texas. He was buried in Moody Cemetery.

John Henry Jasper was born in September 1897. He died August 7, 1900 at Moody in Bell County, Texas.

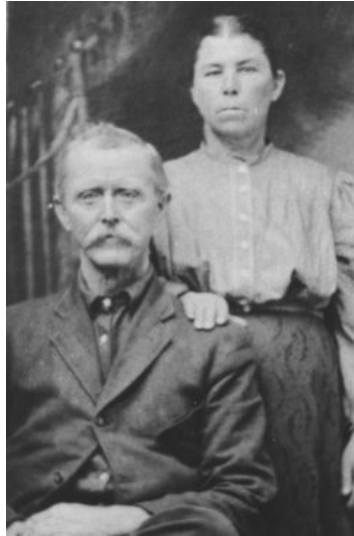
Cora Katherine Jasper was born May 13, 1899. She married a Mr. Williams. Her last permanent address was 2405 Buchanan Street in Wichita Falls, Texas. She died July 10, 1954 in Bethania Hospital in Wichita Falls. She was buried in Riverside Cemetery in Wichita Falls.

Floyd Jasper was born October 8, 1900 and died July 1, 1903, both at Moody in Bell County, Texas.

Velma Lee Jasper was born June 19, 1902. She died in Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas.

Ova Mae Jasper (March 17, 1905). She married James M. French (1902-2000) and in 1930 lived in Wichita County, Texas with her husband and family. She died April 23, 2004. She is shown as Olive Jasper in the 1920 census.

Ruby Viola Jasper was born January 15, 1908 and died about six months later, on June 8. She was born and died at Moody, Bell County, Texas. She was buried in Moody Cemetery.



Mr. & Mrs. John Henry Jasper

