



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

John Albin Lanford

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John Albin Lanford, a Confederate veteran of an Alabama infantry regiment, spent the last years of his life at Grapevine. He and his wife lie buried in Grapevine Cemetery.

John A. Lanford was born January 6, 1839. Family genealogists at ancestry.com say he was born at Woodruff, Spartanburg Co., South Carolina, and was a son of Richard D. Lanford (1806-1887) and his wife, Pemelia Woodruff (1809-1881).

Those sources also report that Mr. Lanford was married twice, first in Calhoun County, Alabama on December 16, 1860 to Sarah J. Kirby, with whom he had several children. She died in Alabama in 1871.

Mr. Lanford served the Confederacy in Co. A, 50th Alabama Infantry. He enlisted on October 3, 1861 at Middleton, Alabama for three years. He was listed "sick in quarters" at some point during the month of October. He was promoted from private to corporal on June 1, 1862. During some point in August 1862 he was listed as sick at "Tinners Station," and during the next month he was "Left at Tinners Station." In November he was still sick at the same location. On December 31, 1862 he was assigned duty as a nurse at the Empire Hotel Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. During the month of August 1863 he served extra duty as a teamster and was paid \$7.75 at Dalton, Georgia for that service. By March of 1865 he was a sergeant and was spending time in Pettigrew General Hospital No. 13 at Raleigh, North Carolina. He was admitted there on March 14 and returned to duty on March 20, for treatment of a "feruncle"...[furuncle, a boil]. His file in the National Archives contains one original pay voucher for six months in 1862, for which he received \$131.20 at Atlanta, Georgia on October 24, 1862.

When the 1870 census was taken, John and Sarah Lanford and their family were living in Calhoun County, Alabama's Precinct 6, in the area served by the post office at Peak's Hill, Alabama. They

had three children living with them: John Lanford (born about 1857); Fancy? Lanford (born about 1860), and Frank Lanford (born about 1867). Also living with them was Julia Kirby (born about 1848), probably a relative of Sarah Lanford.

Mr. Lanford and his second wife, Nancy E. Randle, were married December 5, 1871 in Calhoun County, Alabama. Her death certificate says she was a daughter of Joel Randle and a Miss Owens, both Alabama natives. She was born April 10, 1838 . When she was listed in the 1900 census, she said she was born in April 1838 in Georgia, and had given birth to only one child, who was still alive. That child was George Lanford, who was born in May, 1875 in Alabama.

When the 1880 census was taken, the Lanfords, John and Nancy, lived at Alexandria, Calhoun County, Alabama. They had five children with them: John (born about 1862); Mary (born about 1866); William (born about 1868); Sallie (born about 1869); and George (born about 1875).

The census taker in 1900 found the Lanford family living in Grapevine, Tarrant County, Texas. John's household included his wife, two children (Jennie and George) and a grandson, Frank Lanford, who was born in Texas in December, 1896 (a son of W. B. Lansford). Next-door to them was his son, William B. Lanford, and his family. The grandson, Frank Lanford, was a veteran of both World War I and World War II, and died in 1972 in Grapevine.

Unusually for a veteran who died so early and away from a large city, we have both a death certificate and a newspaper obituary for Mr. Lanford. His death certificate shows that he died about 3:30 p.m. on July 16, 1909 at home in Grapevine. He died of uremia due to Bright's Disease, with paralysis as a contributing factor. The attending physician was Dr. E. C. Bechtol of Grapevine. He was 70 years, 6 months, and ten days old, thus his birthdate was January 6, 1839. He had been ill for seven or eight years.

His obituary, which appeared in the Grapevine Sun on July 24, 1909, says: *"An Old Citizen Passed Away. At 4 o'clock Friday evening, July 16th, Mr. J. A. Lanford passed away. For seven or eight years previous to his death he had been a helpless invalid; at times suffering very much. Mr. Lanford had been a citizen of Grapevine for many years and was well known throughout this community, and his many friends deeply sympathized with him in his affliction and helplessness. He was a member of the Baptist church at which place the funeral services were conducted by the pastor, after which the remains were conveyed to Grapevine cemetery and tenderly laid to rest to await the resurrection morn. We tender our sympathy to the bereaved family and friends in the loss of one so near and dear to them."*

Mrs. Nancy E. Lanford applied for a widow's pension in 1928. She lived at 2319 Pearl Avenue in Fort Worth at the time. She said she and Mr. Lanford were married on December 5, 1871 in Calhoun County, Alabama. She was born about 1839 in Alabama, and came to Texas about 1894.

Mrs. Lanford died at 8 a.m. on February 8, 1929 at her home on Pearl Avenue in Fort Worth. The cause of death listed on her death certificate was broncho pneumonia and senility. She was buried the next day in Grapevine Cemetery. The informant for the certificate was G. D. Lanford of 2319 Pearl. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lanford's graves in Grapevine Cemetery are unmarked. In the near future

a marker will be obtained from the veterans administration for Mr. Lanford, and Mrs. Lanford's information will be engraved on its reverse side.

An obituary for Mrs. Lanford appeared in the Fort Worth Record-Telegram on February 9, 1929: *"MRS. NANCY F. LANFORD. Mrs. Nancy F. Lanford, 91, died Friday at 8 a.m. at her home, 2319 Pearl Avenue. Funeral services will be held at noon today at the residence and the body will be taken by Shannon's Funeral Chapel to Grapevine for burial. Mrs. Lanford is survived by a son, G. D. Lanford, Fort Worth; two step-sons, J. B. Lanford, Lawton, Okla., and W. B. Lanford, Montague, and two step-daughters, Mrs. Mary Miller, Frisco, and Mrs. T. E. Pearson, Fort Worth."*

Mr. Lanford's children in his first marriage included John B. Lanford, Nancy? Lanford (born about 1860), Mary Permelia Lanford, Frank Lanford (born about 1867), William Bluford Lanford, and Sarah Jane Lanford.

John B. Lanford married Martha Augusta Nance in Ohatchee, Alabama on September 7, 1882. In 1929 he was living in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Mary Permelia Lanford was born March 4, 1865, according to her death certificate. She was the wife of John William Miller. She died at Frisco, Collin County, Texas, where she had lived for the past three years. She died October 9, 1939, and was buried in Rowlett Cemetery.

William Bluford Lanford was born February 1, 1868 in Alabama. He was a Baptist minister, and was ordained by Lonesome Dove Baptist Church. The family lived in Grapevine in 1900. He married Amanda Harrelson. He died in a hospital in Bowie, Montague County, Texas on August 30, 1950. He had been living in Montague County for some time. He was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery there.

Sarah Jane Lanford was born June 8, 1871. She married Thomas E. Pearson (1874-1948). She died September 29, 1942 and was buried in Grapevine Cemetery, as was her husband six years later. Their graves are unmarked.

Mr. Lanford had only one child in his second marriage. He was George D. Lanford, who was born in May, 1875. Mrs. Lanford died at his home on Pearl Street in Fort Worth in 1928.