



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Delos W. Simson

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Delos W. Simson was a native of Ohio who served in two Union Illinois regiments. He came to the Grapevine area soon after the War and lived here for about a decade. After living several years in Clay County, he finally moved to Oklahoma where he died in 1921.

Mr. Simson was born in February 6, 1836. Descendants say he was born in Elyira, Lorain County, Ohio. Family sources at ancestry.com say he was a son of Joel Moffitt Simson (1807-1882) and his wife, Anna Elizabeth St. John (1819-1907), both of whom died in Tarrant County, Texas. Joel M. Simpson brought his family to northeast Tarrant County about 1857, but Delos, who was already married, stayed behind in Illinois until after the War. The parents share a readable headstone in Grapevine Cemetery.

On January 29, 1857 in Perry County, Illinois, Mr. Simson was married to Mary Jane Johnson. She was born January 28, 1840 at Oberlin, Lorain County, Ohio to John and Mary (Gardner) Johnson. She died February 16, 1930 at Mangum, Greer County, Oklahoma, and was buried there in Riverside Cemetery.

Mr. Simson and his wife, Mary, appear in the 1860 census of Perry County, Illinois in Township 4 Range 1 West. They were farming but did not own any land. They had personal property worth four hundred dollars. They had two children living with them: Mary A. E. and Nancy L. C. Simson. Delos W. Simson appears in the Internal Revenue Service assessment lists for September 1865 in Perry County.

Mr. Simson enlisted in the Union army on August 14, 1862 at Tamaroa, Perry County, Illinois and became a private in Co. D, 89th Illinois Infantry. Nearly all the regiment's service was in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Georgia fighting the Army of Tennessee. He also spent time as an artificer in Co. F, 1st U. S. Veteran Volunteer Engineers. He was mustered out of the 89th and transferred into the engineers on July 27, 1864. The 1st U.S. V.V. E. was organized in the Department of the

Cumberland from the Pioneer Brigade in that department on July 8, 1864. It saw duty in the Department of the Cumberland repairing railroads, building block houses and bridges and in performing general engineering duties until September, 1865. It was mustered out September 26, 1865. In a statement Mr. Simson made to the census taker in 1890, he said he was discharged June 27, 1865.

Mr. Simson and his family appear in the 1870 Tarrant County census in Precinct 2. The names of their nearest neighbors seem to suggest they lived in the Grapevine-Southlake area. Mr. and Mrs. Simpson were farming on land they owned which was worth one thousand dollars. They also owned three hundred eighty dollars worth of personal property. They had four children living with them: M.A., N.L., A. J., and H. O. Simson. All except A. J. were girls. A. J. Simson was John A. Simpson, who believed he was born in Illinois before they made the trip to Texas. The 1870 census shows his birthplace as Texas.

Delos W. Simpson appears in the 1870 agricultural census of Tarrant County. He was working a farm which consisted of eighteen acres of improved land, and other woodland and unimproved land, the number of acres of which are not legible in the microfilmed record. His farm was worth one thousand dollars and his farming implements were worth seventy-five dollars. He owned three horses, four milk cows, and two other cattle. He also had eleven hogs. His livestock was worth a total of two hundred thirty dollars. He had eighty bushels of spring wheat on hand, along with six hundred bushels of Indian corn and two hundred bushels of oats.

When the 1875 Tarrant County tax lists were prepared, Mr. Simpson was recorded as the owner of ninety acres of the William Russell survey, worth five hundred forty dollars; and twenty acres of the J. Guest survey worth one hundred sixty dollars. He was also recorded with a fair amount of personal property, including five horses or mules worth one hundred twenty-five dollars, and ten cattle.

This William Russell survey is a tract of one hundred sixty acres which was patented by Delos W. Simson's father, Joel M. Simson, on May 8, 1860. Thus it seems that Delos probably brought his family to this area because his parents were already here. Joel M. Simson's property in 1875 was in the two adjacent Hope surveys.

In modern-day terms, the Russell survey is a square, one-half mile on each side. Today much of it lies in highway right-of-way, along both sides of Highway 121 northeast of downtown Grapevine, between Highways 114 and 360. The DART rail line crosses its northwest corner, running southwest-northeast. Most of Joel M. Simson's property is also now covered by highway development around the north end of Dallas-Fort Worth Airport.

By the time the 1880 census was taken, Delos Simpson and his family had moved to Precinct 6 of Clay County, Texas. Five children were with the family: Catie, A. J., H. O., L. V., and S. A. Simpson.

Mr. Simson appears in the 1880 agricultural census of Clay County. He owned a farm which consisted of eighty acres of cultivated land, one hundred sixty acres of woodland, and three hundred acres of unimproved range or pasture land. His farm was worth two thousand dollars. His farming

implements were valued at one hundred dollars and his livestock at seven hundred dollars. He owned a number of horses...the number is ten or thirteen or fifteen...the handwriting is not legible in the microfilm available. He owned four working oxen, eleven milk cows, and thirty-two cattle of other classes. Eleven calves had been dropped on his land in the past year. He had sold two living cattle. Six had died, strayed, or otherwise been lost. He had made two hundred pounds of butter in the past year. He had forty hogs, thirty chickens, and twenty barnyard fowl of other classes. He had twenty-five acres in Indian corn which had made two hundred bushels, and a three-acre cotton patch which had made one bale.

Delos Simson appears in the 1890 Union veterans census as a resident of Greer County, Oklahoma. He received his mail through the post office at Mangum, Texas, which was in an area later officially decreed to be Greer County, Oklahoma after the border dispute was settled. He said he served from August 13, 1862 until June 27, 1865.

In 1896 Mr. Simson applied for a Union pension, and was granted certificate no. 771214. In 1922 his widow was granted a pension as well. Neither Mr. Simson's compiled military service files nor his pension files were consulted in the preparation of this biography, due to the high cost of obtaining copies from the National Archives. If any descendant has those records and would care to share them, we would be happy for the opportunity to add material from them to this account.

The 1900 census taker found the Simsons at Mangum, Greer County, Oklahoma. Mrs. Simson said she had given birth to six children, five of whom were still alive. They had two grandchildren with them, Harry D. Bell and Charles L. Bell, both born in Texas. Their next-door neighbors were their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Barton. It appeared they had made the trip from Texas to Oklahoma about 1889.

Mr. and Mrs. Simson lived in Tilly Township in Greer County, Oklahoma at the time the 1910 census was taken. They were still farming and were living alone. Mr. Simson told the census taker he was a Union veteran.

By the time the 1920 census was taken, Mr. and Mrs. Simson had moved to Hansford County, Texas and were making their home there in Precinct 1 with their son, John A. Simson, and his wife. If he died in Texas no death certificate was filed for him.

Family sources say Mr. Simson died December 30, 1921 at Mangum, Oklahoma, and was buried there in Riverside Cemetery. The following list of his children was compiled from online sources at ancestry.com, from cemetery records, census records, and Texas vital statistics files.

Mary Anna Elizabeth Simson was born February 11, 1858. She married Samuel Houston Barton (1844-1923) on June 16, 1881 in Clay County, Texas. She died May 23, 1925, and was buried beside her husband in Riverside Cemetery at Mangum, Oklahoma.

Cathrine Louisa " Nancy " Simson was born May 10, 1860. She married Alexander Bell (1842-1923) in Clay County, Texas on July 9, 1882. She died May 30, 1889 in Clay or Jack County, Texas. Two of her children were living with her parents at the time the 1900 census was taken. Mr.

Bell remarried after her death, and lies buried in the Old Vashti Cemetery in Clay County, Texas. Descendants report he was a Union veteran.

John Alpheus "Alph" Simson was born July 31, 1866. Descendants report he married he married Ida I. Wilson (1868-1952) at Dot, Texas on August 2, 1894. His last permanent residence was at 704 E. 6th Street in Borger, Hutchinson County, Texas. He died in North Plains Hospital in Borger on May 19, 1940. His death certificate says he died of apoplexy and hypertension. He and his wife lie buried in Riverside Cemetery at Mangum, Oklahoma.

Harriet Ophelia "Phelie" Simson was born November 9, 1868. She was married twice, first on May 6, 1891 to Andrew Flood. She was later married to Squire R. Helms. She died January 14, 1949 in San Bernadino, California.

Lula Voila "Lu" Simson was born March 27, 1871. She married Leander Whitney Duffer (1854-1940). Descendants report that she died about 1956.

Sallie Adlaid "Addie" Simson was born October 4, 1874. She married Henry Lee Barton (1870-1943). Her last permanent address was 1211 Joliet in Plainview, Hale County, Texas, where she had lived about twenty-one years. She died in Plainview's Medical Center Hospital at 9 p. m. on December 23, 1964 and was buried in Plainview Cemetery the next day.