



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Benjamin Marvice Wilkinson

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Benjamin Marvice Wilkinson was born in Sherwood, Franklin County, Tennessee about 1844. He was a son of John Batley Wilkinson Jr. and Mary Elizabeth (Jackson) Wilkinson. After he moved here to the White's Chapel Community he was known as "Long Ben," to distinguish him from his cousin, Benjamin Monroe Wilkinson "Short Ben," who was living here at the same time.

Long Ben served in the Confederate Army in Co. I, 41st Tennessee Infantry. He enlisted November 26, 1861 at Camp Trousdale, Tennessee for a period of twelve months. He was captured at the Battle of Fort Donelson, Tennessee on February 16, 1862. On August 28, 1862 he was sent by the Union authorities from Camp Morton, Indiana where he had been a prisoner to Vicksburg, Mississippi for exchange. He was discharged from the Confederate Army on November 16, 1862. Long Ben wrote in his pension application that he served in all a total of two years and four months, six months of which were spent in the prison at Indianapolis, Indiana. Later he served for a time in the 3rd Confederate Cavalry. He said he surrendered at Atlanta at the close of the war.

He married Nancy Jane Austin, a daughter of Stephen Blevins Austin, on July 26, 1865 in Dade Co., Georgia. She was born December 28, 1844 and died November 27, 1898 in Dade County, Georgia. She lies buried there in Brown's Gap Cemetery. Wilkinson told pension authorities he moved to Texas in 1867, then returned to Georgia in 1872 (to help settle his father's estate). Family sources recall that in 1867 he first settled on Crowley Prairie here. He detailed other moves in his pension application, but they are unreadable on the microfilm. He was still there when his wife died in 1898.

In 1905 while living in Dade County, Georgia, he applied for a pension, saying he had been living in Georgia that time since 1903. His application was disapproved because he had not been a resident of the state continuously since 1894. He died December 17, 1907 in the Riverside section of Fort Worth. No obituary for him appeared in the Fort Worth newspaper. He lies buried in White's Chapel Cemetery.

He and his wife were the parents of nine children: Mary Elizabeth Wilkinson (who was married in turn to Isaac Craig, Britt Burks, and perhaps Monroe Gullledge; John Austin Wilkinson; Sarah Hettie Ophelia (Mrs. Uriah) Castleberry; William Lewis Wilkinson; James Jackson Wilkinson; Frankie Ann (Mrs. Thomas M.) Cates; Benjamin Joedar Wilkinson; Nancy Jane (Mrs. Charles R.) McCain; and Nellie Lee (Mrs. James) Shaddy. A biography and photograph of Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson appeared in Grapevine Historical Society, Grapevine Area History, in 1979.

