



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Samuel Archibald Woods

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Samuel Archibald Woods enlisted in a Texas cavalry regiment from Wise County, and soon after the War moved to northeast Tarrant County. A relative of one of Colleyville's founders, S. C. H. Witten, Woods' sister married another of our veterans, Bryant Harrington. Although he lies buried just across the line in Dallas County, S. A. Woods was well-known in this community for nearly thirty years.

Many of Mr. Woods' descendants are interested genealogists and have placed a great deal of information pertinent to his family at Ancestry.com.

At the time the 1860 census was taken, Mr. Woods was heading a mixed family living in Denton County, Texas in the area served by the post office at Spears Mill. With him were his older sister, Sallie E. Woods (born about 1831 in Kentucky); his sister, Andrew M. L. (later to become Mrs. Bryant Harrington); and two children of his deceased sister Margaret Jenkins (Andrew and Angeline). The fact that Mr. Woods had a sister named Andrew is borne out in several other records.

Mr. Woods served the Confederacy as a private in Captain George B. Pickett's Company of the 15th Regiment of Texas Cavalry. Pickett's Company subsequently became Company B. Mr. Woods was twenty-three years old when he enlisted on January 2, 1862. He was mustered into the Confederate service at McKinney, Collin County, Texas on March 10, 1862. He presented himself for service riding a horse worth one hundred fifty dollars and bringing equipment worth twenty-five dollars. He served some sort of extra duty from September 1 to September 13, 1862. With most of the rest of his regiment, he was captured at the fall of Fort Hindman, at Arkansas Post, Arkansas, on January 11, 1863. By February 8, 1863 he was imprisoned at Camp Douglas at Chicago, Illinois. On March 11, 1863 took the oath of allegiance to the federal government at Camp Douglas and was released. At that time he was shown as five feet eleven inches tall, with brown eyes and black hair. A signed copy of the oath remains in his file in the National Archives in Washington.

Mr. Woods and his sister, A. M. L. Woods, appear in the 1870 census of Precinct 2 of Tarrant County. Living with them was his niece, Angeline Jenkins.

In the 1870 tax lists, S. A. Woods is shown as the owner of one hundred sixty acres of the W. H. Jasper survey, and one hundred sixty acres of the A. J. Jasper survey. The two tracts were worth five hundred dollars each. He also owned nine horses worth two hundred seventy dollars, five cattle worth forty dollars, and one hundred dollars worth of miscellaneous property. In modern-day terms, this land sits between the old community centers of Bedford and Euless, west of FM 157, south of Harwood Road and north of Pipeline Road.

On October 5, 1871, Mr. Woods petitioned the Tarrant County court for guardianship of Angella (Angelletta) Jenkins, his minor niece, whose parents were deceased and who had an interest of some seven hundred dollars in the estate in Missouri.

An excellent account of Mr. Woods' life, almost certainly written from material he supplied, appeared in the Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas County, Texas. Illustrated, published in Chicago by the Lewis Publishing Company in 1892: *"S. A. Woods, a farmer of Grapevine prairie, Dallas county, was born in Cole county, Missouri, April 17, 1839, a son of Andrew and Elizabeth (Witten) Woods, the former a native of North Carolina and the latter of Virginia. The paternal grandfather, Archibald Woods, was born in Ireland, and came to America when a young man, settling first in North Carolina, where he married, and moved thence to Wayne county, Kentucky, where he subsequently died. Andrew Woods was reared mainly in Kentucky, and after his marriage he moved to Fayette county, Missouri, in 1830, settling where the town of Lexington now stands. He was a carpenter and cabinetmaker by trade, and erected the first house ever built in Lexington. He died in Cole county, Missouri, in 1841, at the age of forty-three years. Our subject's mother, nee Elizabeth Witten, was born in Tazewell county, Virginia, a daughter of Samuel Witten. Her parents moved to Kentucky when she was twelve years of age, settling in Wayne county, where she grew to womanhood. She was married in that State, and accompanied her husband to Missouri, in pioneer days, where she died, in Cole county in 1853, at the age of fifty-two years. Her people were originally from Maryland, her parents, however, being Virginians by birth, and were pioneers of Kentucky and Missouri. Mr. and Mrs. Woods had five children: Mary, the wife of C. A. McCarty, of Tarrant county; Emeline, who became the wife of Thomas Greenup and lived several years in Wise county where she afterward died, leaving a family; Margaret, formerly Mrs. James A. Jenkins, died in Cole county, Missouri, several years ago; Archibald, our subject; and Andrew Macky Lucetta, the wife of Bryant Harrington, a sketch of whom appears in this volume.*

The subject of this sketch was reared in his native county, and when a young man, in October, 1857, he came to Texas, first stopping in Denton county. One year later he moved to Wise county, where he enlisted in the Confederate service, in February, 1862, in Co. B, 15th Texas Cavalry. He was actively engaged in the service until in January, 1863, when he was taken prisoner at Arkansas Post, and after his exchange he went to New Mexico, where he entered the employ of the old Santa Fe Stage Line Company. Mr. Woods was in the employ of that company in New Mexico and the western plains of Texas until the close of the war, and after the surrender he returned to Wise county, where he gathered together what was left of his horses and cattle and traded them for a piece of land in that county. He subsequently traded this land for another tract

in Tarrant county, which he afterward sold, and, moving to Dallas county, purchased the place where he now lives, on Grapevine prairie, near the Tarrant county line. He first purchased 135 acres of prairie land, but he has since added to this tract until he now owns 520 acres, also eighty acres of timber land in the same vicinity, and a farm of 120 acres in Denton county. In addition to his farming Mr. Woods buys considerable stock, which he fattens, keeping from ninety-five to 100 head on hand at all times, and sells when the market is favorable.

He was married December 17, 1884, to Mrs. Mary Gatewood, a daughter of J. F. Morris, of Denton county, Texas, and born in Moniteau county, Missouri. To this union has been born three children: Alexander, Isabella and Mary. Mrs. Woods had one child by her former marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Woods are members of the Christian Church, and the former has been a Mason since 1864 and is now a member of Estelle Lodge, No. 570.

Mary Jane (Morris) Gatewood Woods was born March 27, 1856. She died October 25, 1897. Samuel Archibald Woods died at Estelle, Dallas County, Texas on August 11, 1899. Both are buried at Estelle in the Bryant Harrington Family Cemetery there.

We have not been able to put together a definitive list of Samuel A. Woods' children, due to the facts that he was not yet married at the taking of the 1880 census, the 1890 census is missing, and both he and Mrs. Woods died before the 1900 census was taken. At this point, we know the names of only some of them: Alexander, Isabella, Mary, Kate, Alice, and Lucy Woods. When Lucy Woods Lynn died in 1954, her surviving siblings were Mary Woods, Katie Hammerale, and Alec Woods of Alvarado, Johnson County, Texas; and Alice Poindexter of Justin, Denton County, Texas.

Isabella Woods was born October 15, 1886. She married Thomas Benton Crawford (1879-1935). She died at her home in Fort Worth, Texas at 1601 College Avenue on July 29, 1939. She was buried at Keller, Texas in Bourland Cemetery.

Lucy Woods was born in Dallas County on January 18, 1896. She married Claude T. Lynn. She died at her home at 2407 Idaho Street in Dallas on August 2, 1954, and was buried in Laurel Land Cemetery in Dallas. A fairly lengthy obituary and photograph of her appeared in the Dallas Morning News after her death.

