



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Wallace Alexander Chrisman

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Wallace Alexander Chrisman was a resident of the Dove community when he applied for a Confederate pension on July 21, 1899. He was born about 1814 in North Carolina.

Wallace Chrisman was also among the North Carolina volunteers who assisted with Indian removal in 1836. As Wallace Creasman he is shown as a member of Co. A, Buncombe County Volunteers. Family sources say he married Bidy Scrimsher in 1839 and moved to Lavaca County, Texas the same year.

The 1850 census of Lavaca County shows Wallace and Bidy Chrisman as residents. With them was a girl, Mary J., who was born about 1834 in Tennessee. If she was Wallace Chrisman's daughter, she may be the offspring of an earlier marriage of Wallace's.

Chrisman was a soldier in Co. B., Capt. Preston Whitfield's Legion of Texas. The National Archives records show that Ouachita P. Preston was Captain of Co. M, 27<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry, of Whitfield's Legion. He enlisted in Lavaca County in 1862, and served until the end of the war. He had two horses worth \$20 each and one cow worth \$20. He said he had lived in Texas continuously since 1847.

His files in the National Archives show him to have enlisted at Hallettsville, Texas on January 1, 1862 for a term of nine months. On a muster roll for April, 1862, he is shown as a private in Company D, 27<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry; on that roll it says she enlisted for a twelve-month term. He is shown present on a regimental roll from April 14 through April 30, 1862, with a notation that he was detached from Company D on April 14. He was discharged on June 14, 1862 at the regiment's camp at Priceville, Mississippi because he was over age.

He was married to his first wife, Biddie Scrimsher, in Monroe County, Tennessee on May 10, 1839. She died in 1881 in Lavaca County, Texas. In 1850 he and his wife, Bidy, were living in Lavaca County, Texas Bidy was born about 1812 in Tennessee; they had two children with them, May (or

Mary) Jane, born about 1834 in Tennessee, and Edward (middle name unclear) born about 1844 in Tennessee.

Wallace and Bidy are shown on the 1870 census of Lavaca County with other persons with other surnames in their household.

W. A. "Creasman" and his wife, "Ridy," are shown in the 1880 Lavaca County census; their daughter, M. J. Reaves (born about 1834 in Tennessee), and two of Mary's children are living with them. This census says both Mr. and Mrs. Chrisman were sixty-six years old, which would suggest they were born about 1814.

After Biddie Chrisman's death in 1881, he was then married to Margaret Lamb Mitchell in Lavaca County, Texas on Feb. 8, 1882. She was born December 7, 1846 and died June 25, 1914. Some family sources at ancestry.com give her name as Margaret Lamb Lawrence, and say that she was married to William Mitchell on December 13, 1869 before her marriage to Mr. Chrisman.

Chrisman's home appears on the 1895 Sam Street Map of Tarrant County, Texas. In modern terms, it sat in present-day Westlake along Kirkwood Boulevard, West, about Campus Circle intersects Kirkwood from the north. It appears to have been only a few hundred yards south of the Denton County line.

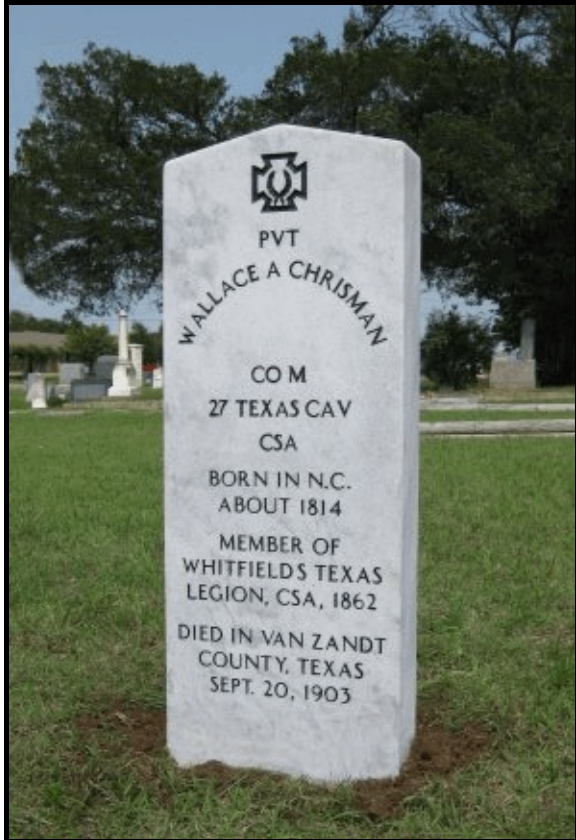
When Mr. Chrisman applied for a Confederate pension in 1899, he claimed to be almost blind, and had stomach and liver trouble. He said he served in Arkansas and Missouri. One affidavit was made for by his brother-in-law, William Lawrence, in support of his application.

There are two graves in White's Chapel Cemetery which are his relatives: Margaret Lamb Chrisman, born Dec. 7, 1846 and died June 25, 1914; and E. Bruce Chrisman, son of W. A. and M. L. Chrisman, Dec. 27, 1884-death date broken. There are no readable Chrisman headstones in Medlin Cemetery, which sits fairly close to the Chrismans' home just across the line inside the Trophy Club development in Denton County.

There is an obit in the Grapevine Sun for Mrs. M. L. Christman in the issue of June 27, 1914: *"DIED. Mrs. M. L. Christman, aged 66 years, died at 6:00 p.m. Sunday at her residence, 1611 Merlin Street, Dallas. Her body was brought to Grapevine and taken to White's Chapel and buried Monday evening. The Sun tenders sympathy to the surviving relatives and friends."*

The 1900 census for Tarrant County says Wallace was born to a Pennsylvanian father and a North Carolinian mother. Margaret was born in Texas to a North Carolinian father and an Irish mother. They had two children with them in 1900, both born in Texas: Mary E., June 1863; and William C., July 1888.

Descendants have posted material on both William and Mary L. Chrisman at Ancestry.com.



Front and back of headstone installed in White's Chapel Cemetery on Saturday, May 9, 2009.

