



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Benjamin Franklin Crowley

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Benjamin Franklin Crowley was a Confederate veteran who had already lived in Tarrant County many years at the outbreak of the War. He lies buried in Bear Creek Cemetery.

Benjamin was born March 30, 1826 in Fayette County, Alabama, and was a son of Isham Crowley (1795-1878) and Elizabeth (Medlin) Crowley (1798-1878). Both Benjamin and his father, Isham, were Peters Colonists, having received their land certificates here in or before 1848.

Family sources say Benjamin was married April 29, 1849 at Lonesome Dove Baptist Church in Tarrant County. His wife was Edna Leake, who was born in Indiana on April 26, 1829. The 1850 census records her birthplace as Kentucky. Family researchers at ancestry.com say she was a daughter of Anthony Minter Leake (1791-1856, who died in Dallas County, Texas) and his wife, Frances (Brockman) Leake (1797-1860).

When the 1850 census was taken, Benjamin and his family were listed in the Tarrant County census. With him were his wife, "Eanah" Crowley, born about 1828 in Kentucky, and their son, William Jasper Crowley, born about May or June, 1850. Several of Benjamin's relatives were their near neighbors.

On March 20, 1856, B. F. Crowley patented the 320-acre survey in Tarrant County which still bears his name. In the 1860 Tarrant County tax list, Crowley owned 320 acres of the survey in his own name (worth \$1500) and forty acres of the A. Bradford survey (worth \$200). He also owned five slaves.

The B. F. Crowley survey sits in present-day Euless. It was one mile north-south by one-half mile east-west. Three modern day streets follow its boundaries: Euless North Main on the west, Harwood Road on the South, and Fuller-Wiser Road on the east. No modern-day street follows its

northern boundary. Little Bear Creek meanders from west to east across the survey near its north line.

B. F. Crowley served the Confederacy as a member of J. R. Cummins' Company. He appears on a list of the company, raised in northeast Tarrant County, dated April 18, 1861. It was also known as the West Fork Guards, a mounted company raised in the neighborhood of Bear Creek and Leonard's Mill in northeast Tarrant County. Crowley's name appears on a muster roll dated June 18, 1861.

Benjamin Crowley registered to vote in Tarrant County on August 10, 1867, and said he'd lived in Precinct 2 of Tarrant County for the past fifteen years. He said he was born in Alabama.

B. F. Crowley and his wife, Edna (born in Indiana) appear in the 1870 census of Tarrant County in the Bear Creek Cemetery area, judging from the names of their close neighbors. With them are nine children: W. Crowley (a son, born about 1850); M. Elizabeth (born about 1851); John (born about 1853); James (born about 1855); Lon? (born about 1857); Eliza (born about 1859); R. F. (born about 1861); J. (or S.), (a male born about 1866), and Texana (born in October 1869).

Benjamin is listed in the 1880 Tarrant County census with his wife, Edna (who said she was born in Indiana to two native Kentuckians). With them in that year were five children, and mention was made of a sixth who had recently died. They were Elizabeth F. (born about 1860); Benjamin F. (born about 1862); Josiah L. (born about 1868); Texana (born about 1870); John T. (born about 1854); and James I. (who had recently died). Edna's headstone in Bear Creek Cemetery says she was born April 26, 1829 and died July 12, 1888.

When the 1900 census was taken, Benjamin was living in Dallas at 277 Gillespie Avenue. He had remarried, and his wife's name was Elizabeth. She was born in April 1839 in Tennessee. She had given birth to three children, only one of whom was still living. It seems likely all three were from a former marriage. Oddly, under the column asking for "Number of Years Married," Benjamin answered 58, while Elizabeth answered 7. This may suggest that she and Benjamin were married about 1893.

Benjamin F. Crowley died February 13, 1904. Family sources say he died at Irving in Dallas County; some others say he died in Tarrant County. He has no death certificate on file. He lies buried Bear Creek Cemetery. His death was briefly mentioned in the Grapevine Sun on February 20, 1904: "***Uncle Ben Crowley died last Saturday and was buried at Bear Creek Sunday.***"

Seven of the Crowleys' children about whom we have been able to uncover specific details include William Jasper Crowley, Mary Edna Crowley, John Thomas Crowley, James I. Crowley, Robert A. Crowley, Texas A. Crowley, and Josiah L. Crowley.

William Jasper Crowley was born January 11, 1850. He died July 22, 1924 and was buried in Grapevine Cemetery. There is an extensive article about him, complete with photographs, in the Grapevine Area History, published in 1979. The article was authored by Linda Harwell.

Mary Edna Crowley was born April 26, 1851. She married James Davis McCormick in Dallas County, Texas on June 20, 1872. She died at her home in Fort Worth on July 3, 1942 and was buried in Bear Creek Cemetery. Her headstone says her birthdate was April 22, 1851.

John Thomas Crowley was born September (day not legible on death certificate), 1852. He was a ranchman. He died at Rotan, Fisher County, Texas on February 4, 1929, and was buried at Rotan.

James I. Crowley was born June 28, 1854. He died July 10, 1879 and was buried at Bear Creek. He has a headstone, but it was broken across the death date several years ago and the repair now makes that date unreadable.

Robert A. Crowley was born July 12, 1862. He died December 26, 1864 and was buried at Bear Creek. He, too, has a readable headstone though it is fast falling victim to time and acid rain.

Texas A. Crowley was born September 14, 1869 and died September 2, 1890. She lies buried beside her parents at Bear Creek. Her name appears on her headstone as "Texas," and in several census records as "Texana."

Josiah L. Crowley was born October 30, 1870. He died January 4, 1934 in the State Hospital in Wichita Falls, Texas. His regular residence was Fort Worth, Texas. His body was returned to Tarrant County for burial.

