



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

James Madison Denney

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James Madison Denney was a native of Missouri. He was taken to Arkansas by his parents as a small boy; there he grew to manhood and entered the Confederate service. For a time after the War, he lived in present-day Southlake near two of his brothers, Francis and Jasper, who were also in the Southern Army. James returned to Arkansas after a short stay in Texas and remained there the rest of his life. Many of his descendants have posted material at ancestry.com.

James M. Denny was born December 16, 1842 in Missouri, and was a son of Burnett Denney and Priscilla (Doyle) Denney. The elder Denney moved several times after his marriage. Census data indicate he lived in Tennessee in the 1831-1833 period, in Illinois about 1836; and in Madison County, Arkansas by 1838, where he remained as late as 1840 when he appears in the census in War Eagle Township in Madison County. He moved to Missouri and lived there in the 1843-1845 time period. By 1848 he returned to Arkansas, where he and his family again settled in War Eagle Township.

In 1850, seven-year-old James Denny was living in War Eagle Township, Madison County, Arkansas with his parents and siblings. Ten years later they were still there; in 1860 the family had been joined by James's maternal grandparents, Rodam and Jane Doyle. Thus James had the advantage of living in a family with someone who could clearly remember the history of the country back into the time of the Revolutionary War.

James M. Denney served the Confederacy as a private in Co. B, Crawford's Battalion of Arkansas Cavalry. He enlisted in Madison County, Arkansas on March 2, 1863, bringing with him a horse worth one hundred thirty-five dollars and equipment worth fifteen dollars. This organization subsequently became Harrell's Battalion of Arkansas Cavalry. James M. Denney's compiled military service records file in the National Archives contains no more information specific to his service. The details of his enlistment are identical to those of his brother, Jasper D. Denny, who also migrated to Tarrant County after the War.

James was married twice. He first married Mary Eliza Daniel on December 29, 1862 in Arkansas. She was born September 15, 1843. She died in Alabama, Madison County, Arkansas on January 13, 1887.

J. M. Denny and his family appear in the census in 1870 in Precinct 2 of Tarrant County. Judging from the names of his neighbors, he was probably living in the Southlake area. He was twenty-six years old and a native of Missouri. His wife, Mary E. Denny, was twenty-five and born in Tennessee. They had four children living with them: James. J.[asper], John, and Buna, all of whom were born in Arkansas. The census shows that James owned his farm there.

In 1880 James and his family were living in Piney Township in Madison County, Arkansas. Judging from the birthplaces of their children shown in the census, they did not remain in Texas long, for all the children are shown to have been born in Arkansas. The children with them in 1880 included Alison, Jasper, John, Bunie, Norah, a male named M. F., Dial, Sally, Emma, and Ida Denney.

Mrs. Mary E. Denney died in Alabama, Madison County, Arkansas on January 13, 1887. After a little more than four years as a widower, James married Alice Georgie Berry in Madison County, Arkansas on July 20, 1891. It was her first marriage. She was a daughter of Samuel Berry (1837-1863) and his wife, Mary J. Hudson (1837-1890). Alice was born October 15, 1857 in Alabam, Madison County, Arkansas. She died in the same place on July 13, 1911.

In 1900 James Denney lived in Alabam Township with his wife and seven of the children: Mary J, Maggie H., Earl B., Mabel M., Berry, Minnie M., and Cora V. Denney.

In 1910, James and his wife lived in Alabam Township with five of their children: Janie M., Maggie H., Earl B., Mabel M., and James B. Denney. James told the census taker he was a Confederate veteran.

In 1915, James M. Denney applied for and was granted a Confederate veteran's pension. At the taking of the 1920 census, James M. Denney was living alone in Alabam Township in Madison County. He was still farming on land he owned.

James Madison Denney died (according to family sources) on May 25, 1923 at Alabam, Madison County, Arkansas. Records placed at findagrave.com say he died March 15, 1928. He was buried in Alabam Cemetery. His headstone there has a birth date but no death date engraved on it.

Mr. Denney and his two wives raised seventeen children to maturity...a remarkable feat in that era. Quite a bit of material has been placed on internet sites about them.

The children in Mr. Denney's first marriage included: Allison James Denney; Jasper Burnett Denney; John Marion Denney; Bunie L. Denney (whose death record shows her name as Buena Vista Denney, the wife of William J. Berry); Norah Martha Denney (the wife of Henry L. Montgomery); Novel Frances Denney; Doyle Marion Denney; Zella R. Denney (the wife of Robert Carr); Myrtle Emma Denney (the wife of Samuel Thomas Montgomery); Ida Pearl Denney (the wife

of Joe D. Ray); Minnie M. Denney (the wife of W. H. Alderson); and Cora V. Denney (the wife of Marion Malone).

Mr. Denney's children in his second marriage included: Junie Mary Denney (first the wife of Charles Mason, then of Frank Cunningham); Margaret Henrietta Denney (the wife of Henry C. Coger); Earl Bryan Denney; Mabel Melrose Denney (the wife of Sidney Jefferson King); and Berry James Denney.



Mary Eliza (Daniel) Denny
1st wife of James Denney