



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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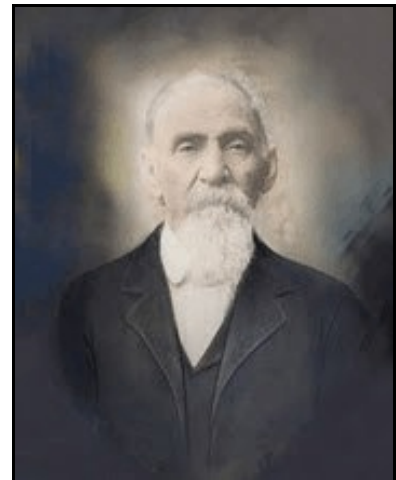
Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Levi V. Druce

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Levi V. Druce was a native Ohioan who served the Union in two different Indiana infantry regiments. He came to Texas in the 1870's and by 1880 had settled at Smithfield. He later moved to Wilbarger County, then to Oklahoma before he died in 1908.

Levi was born September 15, 1844 in Ohio, possibly in Hamilton County, where he was living with his father and siblings when the 1850 census was taken. His father, George Druce, was born about 1805 in England. George's mother was not with the family in 1850. Levi's older sister, Martha, was born about 1837 while the family was still in England; his just-older brother, John, was born about 1842 after the family had settled in Ohio.



By the time the 1860 census was taken, Levi had left the family in Ohio and was a sixteen-year-old boy working as a laborer on the farm of George Gardener in Sand Creek Township in Decatur County, Indiana, in the area served by the post office at Westport. This was only a distance of about sixty miles from Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mr. Druce served the Union in two different regiments. On August 19, 1862 he joined Co. A, 68th Indiana Infantry Regiment. He gave his residence as Winterville, Indiana. He was mustered out on August 19, 1862. On March 22, 1865, while a resident of Greensburg, Indiana, he entered Co. H, 13th Indiana Infantry. He was mustered out of this regiment at Goldsboro, North Carolina on September 5, 1865. A great deal more information about his service could be gained from examining his compiled military service records and the pension files of both Mr. and Mrs. Druce.

Levi Druce was married twice. He and his first wife, Emaline Redington, were married in Decatur County, Indiana on December 12, 1869. Family members say she was born about 1847 in Westport, Decatur County, Indiana. Census records for Sand Creek Township suggest she may have been a daughter of George Redington (born about 1810 in Canada) and his wife, Delila. The family lived in Decatur Co., Indiana in 1870. Emaline (Redington) Druce died on June 14, 1877. Levi and Emaline Druce had at least one child, William Bertie Druce, who was born about 1871.

After Emaline's death, Levi was remarried to Millie Meek on August 14, 1877, also in Decatur County. She was born in Indiana on November 11, 1857. Within about two years, the family had left Indiana and settled at Smithfield in northeast Tarrant County.

The census taker in 1880 found the Druce family living at Smithfield in Tarrant County. They had two children with them: William Bertie Druce, born about 1871 in Levi's first marriage; and Arthur J. Druce, who was born in December 1879.

At the time the 1890 census was taken, Mr. Druce and his family were living in Precinct 3 of Wilbarger County, Texas. His name is included in the census of Union veterans made there in that year.

Mr. Druce and his family appear in the 1900 census of Washita County, Oklahoma. Mrs. Druce said she had given birth to four children, all of whom were still living with them: Arthur J., Iver L., Otis, and Bertha Druce. The family's next-door neighbors were William B. Druce and his family, Levi's son by his first marriage. This census shows William's birth in November 1869.

Both Levi Druce and his wife were pensioned...he from Texas and she from Oklahoma. He filed for invalid status on August 30, 1887. She filed on November 9, 1908.

Levi died October 11, 1908, and was buried in Sod Cemetery at Cordell, Washita County, Oklahoma. His wife, Millie, died March 6, 1912 and was buried beside him in Sod Cemetery.

Arthur Jack Druce was born November 25, 1879. When he registered for the World War I draft, he was living in Wichita Falls, Texas. He married Ursula Ann Perkins (1881-1969). He died in Nocona, Montague County, Texas on July 8, 1976. Both lie buried in Nocona Cemetery.

Iver L. Druce was born April 5, 1883. His first wife, Willie, was born February 5, 1888 and died November 16, 1905. His second wife, Annie, was born in 1886 and died in 1934. Iver Druce died August 10, 1925. All three are buried in Boggy Cemetery in Burns Flat, Washita County, Oklahoma.

Leotis "Otis" Druce was born December 26, 1885 in Tarrant County, Texas. During most of his life, he went by the name Otis Lee Druce. For many years of his life he worked for Hunt Grain Company in Wichita Falls. He died at his home at 207-1/2 Austin Street in Wichita Falls, Texas on June 30, 1956. He was buried in Riverside Cemetery in Wichita Falls.

Bertha Druce was born in October 1890. She married Gilbert Harry Cunningham and had three sons and one daughter; the last son and daughter were twins. She lived to an advanced age, and has many living descendants.

