



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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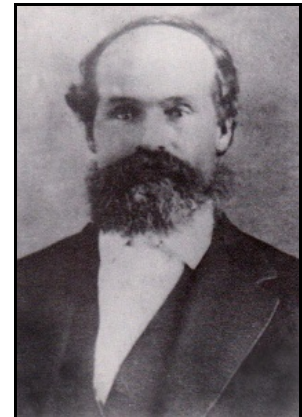
Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Irenius Plato Solon Dunn

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Irenius Plato Solon Dunn was a Confederate veteran who lived at Grapevine when the War began. He was a son of Grapevine pioneer John Cartwright Dunn.

Irene Dunn Howell, I. P. S. Dunn's granddaughter, wrote the Grapevine book article about John Cartwright Dunn. Some excerpts from it dealing with Amos's moves are as follows: *"John C. Dunn, Jr. and Nancy Mozelle Stanley [Solon's parents] were married in Lawrence County, Alabama on June 8, 1825...prior to October of 1839 when they came to Harrison County, Texas, John and Nancy Dunn had eight children. They moved on west to Grapevine, Texas in December of 1856...."*



When the Grapevine Area History was published in 1979, it also contained an article about I. P. S. Dunn written by Mrs. Howell. It is here reproduced in its entirety: *"John C. and Nancy Dunn's fifth child was Irenius Plato Solon Dunn, born April 20, 1834 in Lawrence County, Alabama. He was married on February 10, 1858 to Nancy P. VanZandt, born 1831. Nancy had come to Texas from Franklin County, Tennessee with her uncle and aunt, Jeff and Fannie Estill.*

"My grandfather, Solon Dunn, was the first recorded postmaster of Grapevine. One record shows that Solon operated the first store in Grapevine.

"Solon and Nancy Dunn first lived in a log cabin on Quayle Branch northeast of Grapevine. Later a two story brick house was built with the dining room and kitchen separated from the family room by an open hallway. They had the only lazy susan dining table in the area.

"My grandfather loved music and young people. They had a big square walnut piano and my father, Edward, and his sister Irene played duets, and the other two sons played guitar and accordion.

“Solon had a brick kiln and a bois-d’arc nursery where he grew trees for the hedges which took the place of fences. He also brought the first Hereford cattle to this area.

“Solon and Nancy had four children, Augustus, Eli, Irene, and Edward, only the last two living to maturity. My father, Edward Van Zandt Dunn married Launa Day on December 19, 1889. They had eleven children and I, Irene (Dunn) Howell, am one of them.. The others were Ela, Abner, John, Reble, Alice, Pearl, Tom, Walter, Bonnie, and Eugenia.

[Augustus Dunn’s headstone at Grapevine has the following dates: Jan. 29, 1859-Aug. 16, 1887. Eli G. Dunn’s stone is inscribed July 17, 1861-Aug. 16, 1885.]

“Grandfather had a large blackland and a large sandy land farm. My father was interested in growing fruit so he chose the sandy farm. He planted 500 apple trees in the area now covered by Grapevine Lake. On the higher ground he had plums, peaches, apricots, and ten acres of dewberries. Our two dogs found and killed the copperheads in the patch. The blackberries were down on Bushong Road near the creek, and one Sunday morning a prominent woman from Grapevine came to pick some berries for lunch and was bitten by a copperhead.

“I can remember my father clearing the land for the orchard. He cut the big oaks and pulled the stumps. Each year when the ground was plowed, we found many Indian artifacts.

“During the Texas Centennial Year a State Marker Committee placed a marker at Grapevine Springs near Coppell. I have always felt that the spring west of Bushong Road is the true Grapevine Springs. So do some informed archeologists. At the Spring the last treaty between the Delaware and other tribes and the Republic of Texas was signed. Many Indian relics have been found in what is now Shorecrest Acres.

“Solon Dunn, J. C. Dunn, Jr., and Joseph W. Dunn had a big part in the Masonic order. Joe Dunn was the first worshipful Master. He was an expert wood worker and hand made all the lodge furniture, jewels and working tools. From a bois d’arc block he made the lodge seal. The Grapevine Lodge still uses the altar. One of the original chairs is in the Masonic Museum in Waco, Texas. Solon Dunn was Worshipful Master in 1868, 1870, and 1873. The Masonic Institute was the first school of any size in Tarrant County. It was housed in 1869 in a building of pine lumber hauled from East Texas by ox cart.”

Irenius P. S. Dunn served the Confederacy as a soldier in Co. A, 9th Texas Cavalry, as did many other northeast Tarrant County men, including his brother, John Stanley Dunn. Solon Dunn’s official records in the National Archives are fairly extensive for a Confederate soldier. He enlisted on March 1, 1862 under Captain Thomas G. Berry for a term of seven months and fourteen days. He is shown present on a roll for March and April, 1862, but was sick in camp for a part of that time. Another record shows that he enlisted on October 14, 1861 at Camp Reeves, under Col. W. C. Young, for a term of twelve months. He is shown present on a regimental roll for May 1 through December 31, 1862. At some point during September or October he was serving daily guard duty.

His name also appears on surviving rolls for March 1 through June 30, 1863; at some time during May or June, 1863, he was promoted to the rank of 3rd Corporal. On August 14, 1863 he received

a sixty-day furlough. He is shown present on rolls for September and October, 1863, and for May and June, 1864. One interesting original document, signed by I. P. S. Dunn on June 3, 1863 at Brownsville, Mississippi, remains in his file in Washington. It is a request and receipt for money to be refunded to him to pay for rations he required on a detail when he was sent to search for deserters and that the payment was “necessary for the public service, it being impracticable to take rations in kind.”

I. P. S. Dunn’s headstone in Grapevine Cemetery gives his date of birth as April 30, 1833, and his death date as August 16, 1885. His wife, Nancy, does not now have a readable headstone standing beside his.

