



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Jefferson Earle

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Jefferson Earle, a Confederate veteran, was born at Beverly, Randolph County, Virginia. An excellent sketch of his life appeared in the Lewis Publishing Company's A History of Texas, Together With a Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties..., published in 1895: *"Jefferson Earle, whose residence is located five miles north of Fort Worth, is well known throughout this part of Texas as a prosperous farmer, stock-dealer and trader. His operations are not confined to any one place or thing, but whenever he meets with a good chance to make a trade he embraces the opportunity. He makes it a point always to hand good property, and in stock, especially, none but the very best ever suits him. The following resume of his life will be found of interest to many. Jefferson Earle was born in Virginia August 3, 1832, tenth in the family of twelve children of Archibald and Mary (Buckey) Earle, natives of Virginia. For further history of his parents and other members of his family the reader is referred to the biography of Archibald Earle, an older brother of Jefferson, which will be found on another page of this work. The subject of our sketch grew up on his father's farm and remained a member of the home circle until 1857, when he married. Soon after his marriage he made a prospecting tour through the West, visiting Texas, and being favorably impressed with its climate and resources. He returned to Virginia, and in 1859 brought his wife to Texas and they took up their abode in Tarrant county. Here he first bought 200 acres of land, a portion of his present farm, which he improved, and to which he has since added until now he has a large tract of land, this place, located five miles north of Fort Worth, being he headquarters for his operations and where he keeps his finest stock. He also owns land in other counties, and has property in Fort Worth, Texarkana and other cities. Every since locating here he has been more or less interested in the stock business, and at one time had large cattle interests in the West. He has always kept some cattle on his home farm, and is also now giving his attention to the raising of jacks, mules, and horses. As above stated, his stock is of the very best grade, and is noted far and near. Recently he has purchased a herd of fine trotting horses, the stock of General Gano,--twenty-seven brood mares and three stallions, all registered and having a pedigree which entitles them to a place among the finest stock of the country. Tarrant county may well be proud to have a man like "Jeff" Earle to introduce here stock of the best sires and dams that Kentucky ever produced. When the great war between the North and South came on, Mr. Earle was not one to*

remain at home and inactive. He entered the army in 1861, under General Gano, which command joined Morgan's brigade. He continued with Gano until the close of the war; was in many hard fights and skirmishes, but was never wounded and was captured only once, then making his escape before reaching prison. The war over, he returned to his home in Tarrant county, and has since resided here, giving his attention to his own personal affairs. While he has always taken a laudable interest in public matters and is a "dyed-in-the-wool" Democrat, he has never aspired to official position. He is a Master Mason and a Sir Knight. Mr. Earle was married in 1857 to Mary V. Campbell, daughter of Harrison W. Campbell, a merchant tailor of Beverly, Virginia, now deceased. Their only child, a son, died when young. Mrs. Earle is a member of the Christian Church."

Mr. Earle's surviving Confederate records in Washington are very sparse, at least as far as his time with General Gano is concerned; he enlisted March 6, 1862 at Witt's Mill in Dallas County, for a term of twelve months. He brought with him a horse worth \$200 and equipment worth \$15. He was twenty-nine years old at the time he enlisted. He also continued to serve under Gano in Co. A, 7th Kentucky Cavalry, after Gano's command was incorporated into it.

Mr. Earle died July 17, 1916 in Tarrant County. According to his death certificate, he was born August 3, 1832 in West Virginia. He died of senility at his home in Fort Worth on the Keller Road at half past noon. His wife, Mary Virginia Earle (1835-April 16, 1927) lies buried beside him in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth.

An obituary for Mr. Earle appeared in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on July 19, 1916: "*NO FLOWERS REQUEST OF DYING VETERAN TO BE OBSERVED AT FUNERAL. Post-mortem praises never had any appeal for Jefferson Earle, 83, Tarrant county pioneer, Confederate veteran and for many years a Mason. The custom of saying bitter things about a man while he was alive and then finding pretty things to say when he was dead found no response in the big heart of this man. Therefore, there will be no flowers this afternoon at the funeral of Jefferson Earle. It was by his request that flowers be eliminated from the funeral. Earle died late Tuesday at his home on the Keller road. Born in Virginia in 1832, he married in 1856, came to Texas in 1859, was made a Mason in 1860 and joined the Gano Guards and went to war in 1861. His name is linked with Tarrant County history from the Civil War to the present day.*"

