



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

Copyright © 2011. All rights reserved.

Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Oscar Fitzallan Gragg

Compiled by Michael Patterson
Copyright © 2011. All rights reserved.

Oscar Fitzallan Gragg was an Alabama native who served in a Confederate cavalry regiment from his home state. He lived at Keller when the 1900 census was taken. He later moved to Oklahoma and to Lipscomb County, Texas, where he died in 1923.

By his own statement, Mr. Gragg was born in Shelby County, Alabama. His death certificate records the date as April 27, 1844. He was a son of Jonathan Gragg (1803-1875) and his wife, Mary W. (Mullins) Gragg. Oscar's paternal grandfather, Henry Gragg (1763-1848) was a pensioned Revolutionary War veteran who died in Shelby County, Alabama. The family still has Henry Gragg's family Bible.

Oscar Gragg appears in the 1850 census of Shelby County, Alabama as a six-year-old boy in the family of his father, Jonathan Gragg. His father was farming on land he owned which was worth three hundred dollars. Ten years later in 1860 Oscar was seventeen and still living with his parents in Shelby County in an area served by the post office at Lower Yellow Leaf, Alabama. The occupations of their neighbors suggest they may have been living in a settlement of some sort. Oscar's father was not a slaveowner.

Mr. Gragg's surviving military service records in the National Archives are very sparse. They show that he enlisted in the Confederate service at Montgomery, Alabama on February 1, 1862 for three years or the duration of the War. His records in Washington say he became a private in (2nd) Co. B, 1st Regiment Alabama Cavalry. On a muster roll for May and June 1863 a notation appears that he was due twenty-four dollars for the use of his horse. Another record shows his enlistment at Montgomery on December 16, 1861. Nothing further is to be found in his records file in Washington, D. C. In his pension application, filed in 1913, Mr. Gragg said he left the Confederate Army at Columbus, Georgia in April 1865.

Someone made a notation in the family Bible of Oscar's grandfather, Henry Gragg, which reads as follows: "O. F. Gragg Joined the army the first day of September 1861 and returned home the 3 day September 186__ and departed back the 2 day of November 1863."

About 1865 in Alabama Mr. Gragg married Lucinda Banks. She was born in Marshall County, Alabama on July 7, 1836 and was a daughter of James and Frances Banks.

We have been unable locate this family in the 1870 census. It may be that they were moving at the time, and were missed both in Alabama and Texas because of it.

By the time the 1880 census was taken the family had settled in Precinct 3 of Palo Pinto County, Texas. Birthplace data in this census indicates they moved to Texas between 1866 and 1870. Mr. Gragg was working as a Baptist minister. They had six of their own children with them, and two older girls surnamed Nix. It seems unlikely the two were Lucinda's since she made a statement to the 1900 census taker that she had given birth to only six children, and they had six Graggs with them in 1880. The Gragg children were Arthur L., Agnes M., Rufus, Robert E., Susan, and Oscar P. Gragg. The Gragg family does not appear in the 1880 agricultural census of Palo Pinto County.

When the 1900 census was taken the two older Graggs lived at Keller in Tarrant County, Texas. They had no children with them. They were living on rented land and Mr. Gragg was still an active minister. Mrs. Gragg told the census taker she was born in November 1844 and that she had given birth to six children, five of whom were still living.

According to his pension application, Oscar and Lucinda settled in Lipscomb County, Texas about 1903. Mrs. Lucinda Gragg died at Higgins, Texas on June 10, 1906, and was buried in Higgins Cemetery.

When the 1910 census was taken, Mr. Graff and his second wife, Amanda Sophia Mullins, lived at Haskell, Tillman County, Oklahoma. They were married January 8, 1907. She had earlier been married to Earnest E. Barnes. Mrs. Gragg said she had given birth to one child, who was still living. He was Arthur Clark Barnes, who was born about 1878. Amanda was born August 22, 1855 in Alabama. Both Oscar and Sophia said they were in their second marriages. Oscar was still an active Baptist preacher. They lived on rented land.

Mr. Gragg applied for a Confederate veteran's pension in Lipscomb County, Texas in 1913. He said he was a minister and was in fair physical condition. He was sixty-eight years old. He owned a house which was worth about two hundred fifty dollars. He had no other significant property. Comrades who made affidavits for him in support of his pension application said they had all served in Co. G of the First Alabama Cavalry and had enlisted in the winter of 1861 in Montgomery, Alabama.

His pension file contains a mortuary warrant, which says he died at Higgins, Lipscomb County, Texas at 1:20 (whether a.m. or p.m. is not legible on the death certificate) on July 7, 1923 in his own home. The warrant was submitted by his son-in-law, J. N. Millhollan. The body was prepared for burial by the local undertaker, W. F. Peugh and was buried the next day in Higgins Cemetery. Dr.

J. J. Davis of Higgins certified that Mr. Gragg died of chronic myocarditis of several years' duration.

Mrs. Sophia Gragg lived until March 21, 1946, when she died of myocardial degenerative changes at the Confederate Women's Home in Austin, Travis County, Texas. She was buried the next day in the State Cemetery in Austin.

We believe we have the names of all the children born to Oscar and Lucinda Gragg. They numbered six, and short sketches of their lives follow.

Arthur Lee Gragg was born in Alabama on July 5, 1866. He married Beulah Amelia Dillahunty (1874-1968) about 1893. In 1900 they lived in Woodward County in the Indian Territory; in 1910 they were in Dalhart, Dallam County, Texas. By 1920 they had settled in Higgins, Texas. In his earlier life he was a rancher. In later life he spent many years as a butcher and operator of a meat market. He died in Lipscomb County, Texas on August 11, 1935 and lies buried there beside his wife in Higgins Cemetery.

Mary Agnes Gragg was born in Texas on March 18, 1870. She married J. Newton Millhollon (1870-1964) about 1894. In 1900 they lived in Ochiltree County, Texas. By 1910 they had moved to Lipscomb County. She died of pneumonia at Thurmon's Convalescent Home in Amarillo, Potter County, Texas on February 2, 1963; she had lived there about one month. Her last permanent address was in Higgins, Texas. She was buried the next day in Higgins Cemetery.

John Rufus Gragg was born February 24, 1872...in Ellis County, Texas according to his death certificate. He married Annie Lee Hunt (1880-1918) on February 27, 1899. By 1900 he and his wife had settled in Leon County, Texas, and he remained there for the rest of his life. He worked for many years in real estate. He died of heart blockage and arteriosclerosis at 1:25 a.m. on May 22, 1942 at the Palestine Sanitarium in Palestine, Anderson County, Texas. His last permanent address was at Oakwood in Leon County, Texas. He was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Leon County.

Robert Bunyan Gragg was born December 6, 1874. He married Cora V. McDonald (1875-1962). By 1910 the family lived in Wichita County, Texas where Mr. Gragg worked in a printing office, and he worked in that business for many years. He died of pneumonia and influenza at the Resthaven Nursing Home in Austin, Texas at 4:30 p. m. on January 28, 1960. His last permanent address was 1609 Nickerson Street in Austin, Travis County, Texas. He was buried two days later in Austin Memorial Park.

Susan Gragg was born November 16, 1876. She was married to a Mr. Johnson. She died in Los Angeles County, California on October 29, 1946.

Oscar P. Gragg was born about 1879 and was with the family when the 1880 census was taken. It seems likely he was dead by 1900 since Lucinda Gragg told the census taker in that year that she had only five living children, and we have found death records for the other five all of whom died after 1900.



Handwritten note:
O. E. Gragg found
top army the first day
of September 1861
and returned home
The 3 day [unclear]
and [unclear] back
The 2 day of [unclear]
1863