



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

John Greener

Compiled by Michael Patterson

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John Greener was something of an oddity...an Englishman who fought for the Confederacy...and he later founded a large family which remains in the Grapevine area today. He lies buried in Grapevine Cemetery.

John Greener was born in England on October 26, 1837. Family genealogists at Ancestry.com say he married Mary Wild in Schuylkill Co., Pennsylvania on December 26, 1867. Mr. Greener was born at Whickham, England, a son of John and Jane (Richardson) Greener. Mary Wild Greener was born June 6, 1842 in Whickham, England, a daughter of Daniel and Louisa Wild. Her headstone in Grapevine Cemetery says she was born June 2, 1844.

Mr. Greener's official records in the National Archives say he enlisted August 26, 1861 at Fort Clark, Texas in Captain McReynolds Company of Griffin's Battalion. The rolls show him on duty on a scout at some time in September and October, 1861. He furnished his own horse, worth \$125, and his own equipment, worth \$15. During November and December 1861 he was on detached service at Fort Inge, on the Leona River one mile south of Uvalde in Uvalde County, Texas; he remained there until some time in January or February, 1862. During March or April, 1862 he was on detached service at Camp Hudson, Texas, which was located twenty-one miles north of Comstock in Val Verde County, Texas. On a company return ending March 18, 1862, he was again shown on detached service at Fort Inge, under Special Order no.3, Headquarters West Militia District. On the last surviving roll of the organization dated October 31, 1863, he is shown having been transferred to a company of sappers and miners.

Marie Greener Worrell wrote the biography of John Greener for the Grapevine Area History, printed in 1979. Some excerpts from it follow: "*John Greener was born in England in 1837 and came with his family to Pennsylvania at an early age. He first moved to Texas in 1857....In 1867 he returned to Pennsylvania and married Mary Wild...In 1873, they returned to Cedar Hill, Texas along with*

their three children, Thomas Ralph, Sarah Ann, and Jane Bruce. Two more children, John Charles and William Anthony, were born at Cedar Hill. In 1879 the family moved to Grapevine, where their other children, James George, Albert, Benjamin Harris and Edward Shield were born. The family leased a farm east of Grapevine, known as the Starr place, and lived there many years. A farmer, John Greener also made his living as a carpenter and built several homes in Grapevine, one of which, on East College Street, still stands...

Also in the Grapevine Area History, in the article written about James George Greener, Mary Greener Cate wrote, “...In 1881 James George was born in a little log house on what is now North Main Street in Grapevine, Texas. He was about ten years old when they moved to the Bart Starr farm where he lived until he (James) married Clara Stewart Pearson in 1901...”

Yet another Grapevine Area History article, the one about John Charles Greener, written by Lillian Greener Baker, gives an insight into John Greener’s character: “...When Charles was a youngster, it was customary for the merchants to put yams in barrels in front of their stores. One day as Charles was walking down the street, he decided to take a yam to eat, not knowing that behind him his father was coming home from work carrying a new saw in his hand. He caught up with Charles and reprimanded him by giving him a spanking with his saw on Main Street...”

John Greener applied to the State of Texas for a Confederate pension in 1910. He said he was serving in the Indian Nation at the time of the surrender. There were no federal soldiers close to whom they could surrender, so their officers just told them to go home. At the time of surrender he was in John Miller's Company of General Cooper’s command. Greener said he had been in Texas fifty-three years, except for the period 1867-1872. He had been in Tarrant County thirty-one years; thus he must have come to Texas originally about 1857, and to Tarrant County about 1879. He said he served from mid-war until the end. He said he was first in Co. H, 2nd Texas Mounted Rifles, organized at Weatherford by John R. Baylor. He served a 12-month enlistment then re-enlisted for the war in Col. Griffin's Battalion of Infantry. At the last of the war he said he was in Wells? Battalion of Cavalry? There is a good two page handwritten letter from Mr. Greener in his pension file. He said he did nine months of ranger service in Jack County, Texas in 1860, prior to the outbreak of the War.

Mrs. Mary Greener died in Grapevine on February 8, 1915. No obituary for her appeared in the Grapevine Sun.

John Greener died November 26, 1920 at Lewisville in Denton County, Texas at the home of his son-in-law, C. C. Houston. He was buried in Grapevine Cemetery.

Family sources at ancestry.com give the following names and information about the children of John and Mary Greener. When the 1900 census was taken, Mrs. Greener said she had given birth to nine children, and that all nine of them were still living...a record few pioneer women could boast. They included Thomas Ralph Greener (1869-1955...the 1900 census says he was born in Wisconsin); Sarah Ann Greener (1870-); Jane Greener (1873-); John Charles Greener (1876-1940); William A. Greener (1877-1935); James George Greener (1881-1958); Albert Greener (1883-1911); Benjamin

H. Greener (1886-1952); and Edward Shield Greener (1891-1968). Much more information is available on John Greener's descendants in the [Grapevine Area History](#).



John Greener Family

John is the gentleman with the white beard (center) and his wife is at his right hand.