



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Henry Dean Lipscomb

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Henry Dean Lipscomb is the subject of an article by Louise Wiggins in the Grapevine Area History (1979). He was born in Jackson County, Alabama, on July 17, 1844, a son of John C. Lipscomb and his wife, Lucy Meador Dean. Henry was probably named for his maternal grandfather, Henry Dean. Henry's Lipscomb's father died when Henry was only three years old.

Henry's paternal grandmother, Ann Day (Cook) Lipscomb (1779-1870) was as ardent a Confederate as were several of her grandchildren; Goodspeed's History of Bedford County, Tennessee said of her, *"The [grand]mother attained the ripe age of ninety years, and her old age was marked with great vitality. With her own hands she knit over 100 pairs of socks for the Confederate soldiers after she had passed eighty years of age. She lived nearly forty years a widow."*

His address at enlistment in the Confederate service was Flat Creek, Bedford County, Tennessee. He enlisted in April 1861, and served until the end of the war, much of the time in the escort company of General Forrest. He was discharged at Gainesville, Alabama, having surrendered May 4, 1865. He served eighteen months as infantry, was "out about one month," and then became a part of Forrest's escort. The official records show that he was a private in Captain Jackson's Co. of Tennessee Cavalry, that he enlisted at Murfreesboro, Tennessee on November 9, 1862. The last roll extant shows him present for November and December 1863. His name appears on a roll of prisoners of war of General Forrest's escort company, surrendered at Gainesville, Alabama on May 4, 1865. He was paroled there May 9, 1865.



Henry told comrades in the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth that he originally enlisted about May, 1861 at Mulberry, Tennessee as a private in Co. G, 8th Tennessee Regiment, but that he was soon discharged because he was under age. He re-enlisted in January of 1862.

A few facts about Henry may be found in Michael R. Bradley's Nathan Bedford Forrest's Escort and Staff, (2006). During Forrest's foray into Tennessee in 1864, it records that *"...Jack Eaton, Henry Lipscomb, and Robert Terry went to the home of Eaton's father for their dinner. While there twenty-five or thirty Yankees run open them. While crossing a field Henry Lipscomb got off his horse and laid down the fence, while Jack and Bob turned on their horses and held the enemy at bay until Henry "opened the gap" and mounted his horse. They rode away, leaving three or four of the enemy wounded, while the others were awestruck at their failure to capture or injure any of the three."* [*Confederate Veteran*, vol. 9, p. 260].

In 1877, the survivors of Forrest's escort and staff formed an association, with which Henry kept in contact as long as it existed. He attended the meeting in Memphis in 1901 which corresponded with a national meeting of the United Confederate Veterans there. He was elected Vice-President of the group of Forrest's veterans in 1901. The little group continued to meet until 1909.

A portion of Louise Wiggins' article in the Grapevine Area History is as follows: *"...Henry Dean Lipscomb settled on "the prairie" four miles southeast of Grapevine. With mules, horses, and a walking rod turning plow, he began cultivating the land. The Dallas/Fort Worth Regional Airport is now located on a large part of his land."*

"...On December 1, 1874, Henry Dean Lipscomb married Ann Day Lipscomb. She was the daughter of a pioneer physician, Dr. Dabney Minor Lipscomb. To Henry and Ann were born a daughter, Mary Lipscomb, and a son, Boone Lipscomb. Two other children died in infancy."

"...Henry Lipscomb took part in the organizations of Civil War Veterans. During his lifetime he attended more than forty national reunions of Confederate Veterans. Throughout his long life of 97 years he remained active and interested in all phases of community life. An especial interest in his later years was aiding and encouraging your people to continue their educations."

"...He helped organize and served as Vice-President of the Grapevine Home Bank, which was liquidated voluntarily in 1933. Henry Lipscomb was one of the founders of the first Church of Christ in Grapevine."

The Lipscombs' two children who died young are both now buried in Grapevine Cemetery. They were John Lipscomb (1878-1880) and Dabney Lipscomb (born and died in 1880). Mrs. Lipscomb told the census taker in 1900 that she had given birth to four children, only two of whom were still living.

Henry Lipscomb's home appears on the 1895 Sam Street Map of Tarrant County. In modern-day terms, it sat inside the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport boundary, west of International Parkway, just outside and west of the center of the North Reduced Parking lot.

Mrs. Lipscomb, who was born October 24, 1833, died in Grapevine on October 9, 1907. An obituary for Mrs. Lipscomb appeared in the Grapevine Sun on October 12, 1907: "*DIED. It is our sad duty to again chronicle a visit of the death angel. Mrs. H. D. Lipscomb died at her home last Tuesday night, after a long, busy and useful life. She died as she had lived, honored, trusted, and loved. She reared her own monument...*" The rest of obituary is nearly unreadable but has no more personal information in it.

Lipscomb applied for a Confederate pension in 1930. He survived until March 15, 1941, one of the last Confederate survivors in Tarrant County. Originally buried in the Lipscomb Cemetery, moved to Grapevine when the big airport came.

Extensive obituaries, each with a photograph, appeared in both the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and the Grapevine Sun. In the Sun on March 20, 1941 it appeared this way [paragraph breaks added for clarity]: "*MAN WHO RODE WITH FORREST DIES AT 97. HENRY D. LIPSCOMB RECALLED THRILLING CAVALRY BATTLES. The last survivor of one of the fightingest bands ever to wear the Confederate gray, Henry D. Lipscomb, 97, or Forrest's Tennessee Escort, died Thursday, March 13, in a Fort Worth hospital, where he had been taken from his home at Grapevine after a short illness. Active until the last, the tall, white-haired, lean-faced veteran of four years of bloody fighting under Tennessee's great war hero had attended more than forty national reunions of Confederate veterans and held the rank of Brigadier General in their organization.*"

Mr. Lipscomb was born in Bedford County, Tennessee, on July 17, 1844, moving to Grapevine in the year 1866, at the close of the Civil War. As a farmer, large landowner and vice-president and director of the former Grapevine Home Bank, he was one of the community's best known figures. Although he was a member of the Church of Christ, funeral services at 2 p.m. Saturday were in the large Baptist Church auditorium to enable his host of friends to attend.

Never Quit Fighting. Lipscomb admitted that Forrest's Escort was "whipped and whipped bad" at the end of the war when they finally surrendered on May 9 of 1865 at Gainesville, Alabama, nearly a month after General Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia had given in to Grant at Appomattox. But Mr. Lipscomb never quit the fight, and the Confederacy still lived for him every year at the reunions. He was in every battle in which Forrest's Escort engaged. The capture of Memphis from a Yankee garrison and the Battle of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, were vivid memories with him. Chasing a band of 1,800 Federal soldiers out of Rome, Georgia, near the end of the war, the Forrest Escorts were cut off when the bluecoats got across a river and burned the bridge, Mr. Lipscomb recalled.

It was then that Emma Sansom, a local Girl, led the gallant Forrest to a hidden crossing downstream which enabled his men to cross and cut off the Yankee retreat.

Two Children Survive. Mr. Lipscomb had served on the staffs of General L. W. Stephens of the United Confederate Veterans and General M. J. Bonner of the Veterans' Texas Division, and was a member of the Robert E. Lee Camp in Fort Worth.

Surviving Mr. Lipscomb are a son, Boone Lipscomb, Grapevine; a daughter, Mrs. Mary Wiggins, Grapevine; three grandchildren, Mrs. Judge Green of Vernon, Harry and Miss Louise Wiggins, both

of Grapevine; a niece whom he reared, Mrs. W. D. Clark of Fort Worth. He was a first cousin of the late Major K. M. Van Zandt, pioneer Fort Worth capitalist. Mr. Lipscomb's wife died in 1907.

Mr. Lipscomb attended services regularly at the Grapevine Church of Christ until becoming ill about six weeks ago. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. L. D. Anderson of Fort Worth. Burial was in the family cemetery near Grapevine. Pallbearers at the services Saturday were H. C. Yancey, Huber Lipscomb, Efford Lipscomb, Bobbie Lipscomb, Keene Weatherly, Cal Estill, Bart Starr, and Henry Willingham."

