



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Elias M. Norton

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Elias M. Norton was a native of Alabama who served in an Arkansas infantry regiment. He settled in Lamar County, Texas soon after the War. He died at Hurst, Tarrant County, Texas and was buried in Callahan County beside his first wife.

Elias was born in Alabama on February 20, 1838. He was a son of Roswell Norton and a Miss Corbin. The 1850 census says her given name was Louisa.

Elias appears as a twelve-year-old boy in his father's family in the 1850 census in District No. 25 in DeKalb County, Alabama. Both his parents were natives of South Carolina. The oldest child in the family was born in North Carolina about 1831. The next child was born in Tennessee about 1833. Beginning in about 1836 the rest of the children had been born in Alabama.

Mr. Norton married Mary Ann Rucks in DeKalb County, Alabama on October 11, 1857. She was born in April 13, 1837 in Georgia. They were married by C. D. Nicholson, a justice of the peace. Researchers at Ancestry.com say she was the daughter of Wiley Rucks (1812-1881) and his wife, Lucy Seagraves.

In the 1860 census of Columbia County, Arkansas's Mississippi Township, he appears as Edward Norton. He was farming, and owned land worth eight hundred dollars and personal property worth four hundred dollars. His wife, Mary Ann, is shown as a native Georgian. Their first child, William [Julius] appears with them as a one-year-old.

Mr. Norton was a Confederate soldier and spent much of his time in the service attached to the regimental headquarters and working as a butcher. He was mustered into the service as a member of Captain Austin's Company of the Columbia Guards at Little Rock, Arkansas on May 29, 1861.

This company subsequently became Co. G, 6th Arkansas Infantry. He said he was twenty-eight years old. Austin's company was "called into the service of the State of Arkansas for 1 year, and for the Confederate States from July 26, 1861, for the balance of the term, 10 months and 5 days, unless sooner discharged." One roll shows Norton at Pocahontas, Arkansas on the latter date when he entered the Confederate service. On September 12, 1861 they were at Pitman's Ferry.

This regiment was originally furnished with weapons which the state confiscated when the Federal Arsenal at Little Rock was seized by Arkansas State Militia troops in February 1861. Disposition of the weapons found in the Arsenal is somewhat sketchy, but from various records it can be surmised that the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Arkansas Infantry Regiments, mustered in June 1861, were issued M1816/M1822 .69 caliber flintlocks. They retained these weapons until April 1862 when they were able to exchange them for better weapons scavenged from the battlefield at Shiloh. The unit began with mixed uniforms but by the end of 1861 they had been given matching uniforms from the Little Rock supply depot.

The 6th Arkansas Infantry served virtually the entire war east of the Mississippi River. After the unit sustained heavy casualties during the Battle of Shiloh and Bragg's Kentucky Campaign, they spent most of the rest of the war field consolidated with the 7th Arkansas Infantry Regiment, to form the 6th/7th Arkansas Infantry Regiment. Several of their original battle flags have survived.

At some time during the first two months of 1862 Norton was detailed as a teamster, which he was still doing at the end of April. On December 4, 1862 he was detailed to work at the regimental butcher pen. During the month of April in 1863 his name was placed on a list of men working as butchers at Wartrace and Bell Buckle, Tennessee.

On August 2, 1863 he was admitted to the hospital at Tunnel Hill, Georgia for treatment of "Febris Belliosus." This was a fever believed to be caused by a liver disorder. He was released on August 13. On August 23 he was back in the same hospital for "Dysentaria acuta." On August 31 he was discharged and sent to Tunnel Hill Hospital Number Two. Various later muster rolls show him detailed continuously in the commissary department or subsistence department as late as April 30, 1864.

One muster roll made for the period June 30-August 31, 1864 shows him enlisting for the term of the War at Tunnel Hill, Georgia on February 1, 1864. This roll shows him present for duty without mentioning him being on detached service. His name appears on several lists of men being issued clothing in late 1863 and throughout 1864.

As a part of Joseph E. Johnston's Army, Norton was paroled at Greensboro, North Carolina on April 26, 1865. On this list, he is again shown as a butcher. He was by that time a member of Co. D, 1st Consolidated Regiment of Arkansas Volunteers.

About 1866 the family moved to Texas. When the 1870 census was taken, the family was living in Beat No. 5 in Lamar County, Texas, in an area served by the post office at Paris, Texas. Mr. Norton was farming, and owned land worth two hundred dollars and personal

property worth three hundred dollars. His son, W. L., was with them. They also had two more children: a boy named J. B. aged three and a girl named L. J., aged one, both born in Texas.

By the time the 1880 census was taken, the Indian element had been taken out of the equation and it was safe to move into West Texas. By that year, Elias M. Norton and his family were settled in Precinct 3 of Callahan County, Texas. They had the same three children with them they'd had in 1870, but in this census the children are named...William Ju., Jessie B., and Luey E. Norton. They also had a nephew from Arkansas named Irving Pierson living with them and helping them to work their farm.

Mr. Norton appears in the 1880 agricultural census of Callahan County, where the record plainly says he was a "squatter" on a farm of fifteen acres of cultivated land and one hundred forty-five acres of permanent pasture land. He estimated the total value of the land, buildings, and fences was about two hundred dollars. He said he owned farming implements worth forty dollars and livestock worth sixty dollars. He said in the past year he had made two tons of hay off five acres of grassland which could be mown. He owned two horses, thirteen milk cows, and seventeen cattle of other classes. Nine calves had been dropped on his farm in the last year. He had sold four head of cattle, and six had died, strayed, or otherwise been lost.

He estimated they had churned two hundred twenty-five pounds of butter in the past year. He also owned one sheep, twelve hogs, and thirteen chickens. He had twenty-two acres in Indian corn which had made fifty bushels, seven acres in wheat which had made seven bushels, and four acres in cotton which had made a little less than one bale. He had one acre planted in sorghum but did not say how much it had made.

Mr. Norton's first wife, Mary Ann, died in Callahan County, Texas on November 3, 1889. She was buried in Old Cottonwood Cemetery in Callahan. Her husband would be buried beside her over a quarter-century later.

Mr. Norton married Camilla Ellen Jordan Slate in Callahan County in September of 1893. She was born in Alabama on October 23, 1847. She had two children from a previous marriage in Alabama to a Mr. Slate.

On August 15, 1899, Mr. Norton applied for a Confederate pension. At the time, he said he lived in Bandera County but got his mail through the post office at Utopia in Uvalde County. He said he'd live there for seven months. He said he had lost one of his arms and had a stiff elbow in the other one. The physician's report in his file adds the fact that it was his left arm he'd lost. None of his military records mention the loss of an arm, so it may have happened after the War. He said the only property he owned at the time was two horses worth thirty dollars.

When the 1900 census was taken, Mr. Norton and his wife were found living in Precinct 3 of Uvalde County, Texas. They had no one living with them. Mrs. Ellen Norton told the

census taker she had given birth to two children, both of whom were still living. Mr. Norton said he was working as a freighter.

Ten years later, in 1910, Mr. and Mrs. Norton were living in Precinct 6 of Kerr County, Texas. Mrs. Norton's name in this census is shown as Cornelia E., and her age was sixty-one. Thus she was born about 1849. She said she and Mr. Norton had been married since about 1893. Mr. Norton said he was in his second marriage, and Mrs. Norton said she was in her third. The couple had two Baileys living with them, one Norton's step-granddaughter and the other his step-great-granddaughter. Mr. Norton was working as a barber in 1910.

We have not discovered why Mr. Norton was in Hurst when he died on April 19, 1915. His death certificate says his cause of death was senility. His body was shipped to Putnam, Texas on the next day. His son, Julius Norton of Polytechnic, was the informant for the death certificate.

Mrs. Ellen Norton applied for a Confederate widow's pension on August 15, 1915. She said she was a native of Alabama and was sixty-eight years old. She said she came to Texas about 1880. She married Mr. Norton in September 1893 in Callahan County. She confirmed that he had died on April 19, 1915 in Tarrant County. She said she had lived at Ingram in Kerr County, Texas for fifteen years, hence they must have moved there about 1900. The county tax assessor said her homestead was worth two hundred dollars.

Mrs. Ellen Norton died of stomach cancer at midnight on June 20, 1931 at Ingram, Texas, in the home of Mrs. Pearl Bailey, her great-granddaughter-in-law. The mortuary certificate in her pension file indicates she had a living daughter named Florence Leinweber at that time. Ellen Norton was buried in Nichols Cemetery at Ingram, Texas.

Only three children of Elias M. Norton appear in any surviving census records. His first wife did not survive until 1900 when the census taker might have asked her the total number of children she had borne. The long gap between two of these children suggests they may have lost one or more who may have died in the 1870's or 1880's.

The children included William Julius Norton, who was born January 31, 1860 in Alabama. He was a salesman. He died at 4 p.m. on March 10, 1924 at his home in Fort Worth at 1200 McKenzie Street. He was buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

Jesse B. Norton was born March 2, 1867. He died March 1, 1904. He has a tall marble monument in Old Cottonwood Cemetery at Cottonwood, Callahan County, Texas. This is the same cemetery in which his parents are buried. Jesse was a member of the Woodmen of the World.

Lucy Edna Norton was born April 4, 1868. She married Merrick Ford Ramsey (1855-1930). She died September 2, 1947 at 4:30 p.m. at her home in Clyde, Callahan County, Texas. She was buried in Clyde Cemetery.

