



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Simcoe Popplewell

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Simcoe Popplewell came to Texas from Missouri about 1846, and settled in Tarrant County about 1854. He served as a Confederate soldier, and lies buried in Birdville Cemetery.

He was born November 23, 1816 in Russell County, Kentucky. Family researchers say he was a son of Nathaniel Savern (Soverign) Popplewell (1787-1866) and his wife, Nancy Denton (1789-1828).

Mr. Popplewell was married twice. He and his first wife, Elizabeth Saunders Murphy, were married in Wayne County, Kentucky on November 21, 1838. She was born May 2, 1817. She and Simcoe were the parents of at least five children: Mary Elizabeth Popplewell (born April 6, 1843 in Missouri-May 21, 1931 in Mansfield, Texas, married Simon L. Ferrel); Luvina Popplewell (born about 1846 in Missouri); John M. Popplewell (September 2, 1849-April 6, 1919, married Texana Bell Leonard, who was born March 18, 1855 and died March 18, 1932); Blanche Popplewell (born about 1854, married Stephen Byrd); and a daughter whose first initial was E. (born about 1858).

When the 1840 census was taken, Simcoe Popplewell and his family were living in Glaze Township in Miller County, Missouri. The way in which the census taker recorded the following page makes it impossible to tell whether or not Mr. Popplewell was a slave owner in that year. It seems unlikely that he was, since he had none ten years later in Dallas County, Texas.

Mr. Popplewell of Miller County, Missouri, purchased a tract of forty acres in that state on September 10, 1844. It was described as “the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section twelve, in township thirty-eight, of Range fifteen west in the district of lands subject to sale at Springfield, Missouri...”

The 1850 census taker found him and his family living in Dallas County, Texas. With him were his wife, Elizabeth (born about 1818 in Kentucky); and three children, Mary E. Popplewell, Luvina Popplewell, and James M. Popplewell.

Simcoe Popplewell patented the 320-acre survey in Tarrant County which bears his name on June 21, 1854. It was a rectangle one mile north-south by one-half mile east-west. Its north line is today's Baker Boulevard. The survey's southeast corner is at Handley-Ederville Road and Midway, while the southwest corner is about Midway and Burns south of Trinity Railway Express. The survey's west line roughly follows Scruggs Park for part of Scruggs' length.

One of the few things which escaped the disastrous court house fire in Tarrant County in 1876 was a portion of the estate file made at the time Mrs. Elizabeth S. Popplewell died in Tarrant County on December 1, 1856. Her community property with her husband included three hundred twenty acres of land in Tarrant County, one hundred acres of land in Dallas County, four slaves, livestock, household furniture, etc. By 1860, in Tarrant County Simcoe owned only one hundred ten acres of the H. P. Tuggle survey.

Popplewell served the Confederacy as a member of Co. H, 2nd Texas Cavalry, Texas States Troops. He enlisted August 11, 1863 in Tarrant County for six months. He was allowed \$57.20 for the use of his horse.

Family sources say that Simcoe and his second wife, Mrs. Selete H. (Foster) Suggs, were married about 1866 in Tarrant County. They had no children together. She was born January 17, 1818 and died June 15, 1893. She lies buried at Birdville. Mrs. Suggs's first husband was Henry Suggs, whom she married in Missouri before they settled in Texas. He was a leader in the formation and early government of Tarrant County, including a term of service as the first County Treasurer. The second Mrs. Popplewell was a daughter of Grapevine-area pioneers Ambrose and Susannah Foster, who lie buried at Lonesome Dove in present-day Southlake.

On November 17, 1869 Mr. Popplewell registered to vote in Tarrant County. He told the registrar he had been a resident of Texas for twenty-three years, and a resident of Precinct 4 of Tarrant County for fourteen years.

When the 1870 Tarrant County census was taken, Simcoe and his family were show in in Precinct 2. With Mr. and Mrs. Popplewell were three children: J. M. Popplewell, B. Popplewell, and E. Popplewell.

Simcoe Popplewell died in Birdville, Tarrant County, Texas on February 7, 1879. He lies buried in Birdville Cemetery, surrounded by many of his family members.

