



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Richard Rankin

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Richard Rankin was a native of Scotland who came to northeast Tarrant County shortly before the War. He served the Confederacy on detached service here, and was pensioned for his service in 1900.

Richard Rankin was born June 7, 1826. He applied for a Confederate pension in 1900, and it appears he was living in Fort Worth at the time. He said he had been living in Tarrant County about forty-four years, thus he may have arrived here about 1856.

Mr. Rankin is mentioned in connection with the estate settlement of William W. Hall, who died in 1862. Hall had a mill operating on his farm at that time. Mr. Rankin petitioned the estate administrator for pay due him for five months' work "*as injineer for the mill.*" The estate file also contains a letter to Judge Barkley from M. W. Deavenport, the estate administrator, in which he requests an order to sell land in order to pay indebtedness of estate, "*to wit, the N.E. quarter of the F. Throop survey of 160 acres, and the Bal. of Hall's hdright survey and his preemption survey containing 410 acres [or 110 acres; ink smeared] ...on the first Tuesday in Oct. Please send me word by Mr. Wiley....*" This indicates that the mill was in present-day Southlake.

Mr. Rankin appears in the 1863 and 1865 tax lists here, but owned no real estate or personal property. He paid only the poll tax in those years.

He registered to vote on August 26, 1867 as a resident of Precinct 2 in Tarrant County. He said he was born in Scotland, had lived in Texas eight years, and had been in Precinct 2 for seven years.

Mr. Rankin appears in the 1875 Tarrant County tax list in Precinct 4. At some time between 1867 and 1870 the county precinct lines were redrawn, and the western portion of northeast Tarrant County was included in Precinct 4. Rankin did not own any real estate in 1875, but owned one horse worth twenty dollars and other personal property.

We have been unable to locate Mr. Rankin in any federal census here, although he appears in the tax lists.

When Mr. Rankin applied for a Confederate pension in 1900 he said he had worked as a machinist in the past, but was now unable to work because of old age. Concerning his military service he said, *“I was enlisted by Capt. John Gillespie, conscript enrolling officer for the Confederacy—was enrolled by him in the service at Fort Worth in the fall of 1863 and was placed in detached service here in Tarrant County and service in running a mill for the Confederacy.”*

Robert K. Grimes, an early pioneer in the Mount Gilead area between Keller and Grapevine, made an affidavit for Mr. Rankin in which he said he had known Mr. Rankin since 1862 or 1863. He had known Rankin *“as a miller during the War said to be under detail and was not molested by any scout that was hunting for men so far as I know.”* Grimes also said he knew Gillespie to have been an enrolling officer here at that time.

M. W. Deavenport, who lived in the Grapevine area during the War, also made an affidavit for Mr. Rankin. He said he had known Rankin since 1862, and that Rankin had been detailed to work in a flour mill in Tarrant County.

In 1899 Dr. L. H. Colley (of the Colleyville area) examined Mr. Rankin and found him to be unable to work due to extreme and severe rupture.

Benjamin Jack Foster, who lived in the Southlake area during the War, made an affidavit in which he said he knew Rankin during the War, that he ran a mill during that time, and was not molested by any of the enrolling officers.

There is nothing in Mr. Rankin’s pension application file later than 1899. We have found no subsequent records of him. There is no readable headstone for him in any northeast Tarrant County cemetery.