



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Pleasant Monroe Richards

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Pleasant Monroe Richards was a Confederate veteran of a Missouri cavalry regiment who came to northeast Tarrant County about 1876. He spent the last half of his life here, and died at the home of his son in Fort Worth.

Pleasant Monroe Richards was born in Boone County, Missouri about 1835. Family sources at ancestry.com say he was the son of Warrant Richards (died in 1847 in Cole County, Missouri) and his wife, Dicey Payne. Pleasant's parents were married in 1826 in Boone County, Missouri. When the 1850 census was taken, Pleasant Richards was living with his widowed mother, his older sister, and his younger brother in Cole County, Missouri.

Family sources at ancestry.com say Mr. Richards was married to Eliza J. Karr in Cole County, Missouri on September 8, 1858. She was a younger sister of another of our veterans, Jefferson B. Karr, who lies buried in Smithfield Cemetery. They were children of James William Karr and Barthena (Smith) Karr, who moved their family from Virginia to Cole Co., Missouri in the late 1830's. By 1850, they are shown in the census there.

In 1860, Mr. and Mrs. Richards were living in Clark Township in Cole County, Missouri. They had one child, Mary, who was one year old. Pleasant said he was twenty-four; "Eliza" said she was twenty.

Mr. Richards' Confederate service records in the National Archives are quite sparse. He was a member of (old) Co. I, Burbridge's Regiment of Missouri Cavalry. He enlisted in Fulton County, Arkansas on December 29, 1862 for a term of three years. He was twenty-six years old at the time. He brought with him a horse worth one hundred twenty dollars and equipment worth ten dollars.

Burbridge's Regiment was also known for part of its existence as the 4th Missouri Cavalry. It eventually became known as Co. G, 8th Arkansas Cavalry.

By 1870 Mr. Richards had moved the family to Springfield Township in Henry County, Missouri. They were living in the area served by the Clinton post office. Mr. Richards said he was thirty-five; Mrs. Richards said she was thirty-two. They had six children with them: Mary J., William J., James, Anna, Benjamin, and Barthena Richards.

By 1880 the Richards family had settled in northeast Tarrant County in Precinct 3 north of Big Bear Creek. The children with them in that year included Mary J., William J., James P., Annie E., Benjamin M., Barthenia, Julia, and Joseph L. Richards. They had come to Texas about 1875.

Pleasant M. Richards appears in the 1880 tax list here owning eighty acres of W. K. Evans worth five hundred dollars, one carriage or wagon worth ten dollars, four horses or mules worth ninety dollars, seven cows worth eighteen dollars, and ten hogs worth ten dollars, and five dollars worth of personal property.

The names of Mr. Richards' neighbors in the 1880 census seem to suggest he may have lived somewhere in the area where Davis Boulevard intersects Southlake Boulevard (FM 1709), between the old townsites of Keller and Grapevine.

P. M. Richards of 917 Travis Avenue, Fort Worth, applied for a Confederate pension in 1910. He said he was captured and paroled at the end of the war. He was seventy five years old, born in Boone County, Missouri, had been in Texas since 1875, and in Tarrant County since about 1876. He said his regiment was raised in Arkansas and served two years. He enlisted in 1862 and was captured in 1863 or 1864. He served in Co. G, Burbridge's Regiment, Green's Command.

Richards' file contains affidavits from friends who knew him during the War. J. B. Carr [Karr, his brother-in-law] said he met him before the War in Arkansas and knew him when he joined the army near West Plains, Missouri. Green Berry Trimble also made an affidavit in which Trimble said he knew Richards when he was detailed as a blacksmith from his company. Trimble said he last saw Richards at Prairie Grove, Arkansas. Trimble said finally that he had seen Richards the day before he made the affidavit, and that Richards was totally blind.

When the 1910 census was taken, Pless M. Richards was a widower living with family of his son, B. M. Richards at 1219 Lake Avenue in Fort Worth. Mr. Moore confirmed that he was a Confederate veteran.

Mr. Richards' death certificate reveals that he died at 1217 North Houston Street in the 11th Ward of Fort Worth, Texas on June 26, 1913. He died of old age. He was buried by Shannon's funeral home in Oakwood Cemetery in north Fort Worth. His grave is unmarked at present, but can be located by the cemetery office if a stone can be furnished for him later. There is no standing readable headstone for Mrs. Richards in any cemetery in northeast Tarrant County or in Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth.

No obituary for Mr. Richards appeared in either the Fort Worth Weekly Citizen-Star or the Fort Worth Record.

Using census records and death records we have discovered the names of nine of the Richards children.

Mary J. Richards was born about 1858. William J. Richards was born about 1860. James P. Richards was born about 1862.

Anna "Annie" E. Richards was born November 7, 1863, according to her death certificate. Her married name was Roark. She died at her home at 409 South Sylvania in Fort Worth on January 23, 1928. She was buried in West Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth.

Benjamin M. Richards was born about 1868. He married Jennie Hayes. He is buried in the same lot with his father in Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth.

Barthena Richards was born in November 1869. Julia Richards was born about 1873.

Joseph Lemuel Richards was born March 27, 1876 in Texas. He worked as a mattress maker. He married Sarah L. Low. He died of tuberculosis at his home at 514 Calhoun Street in Fort Worth on December 20, 1924 and was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in FortWorth.

Allie Richards was born June 10, 1880. She was the wife of C. A. Freeze. She died at her home on I.E. 6 in Fort Worth on April 7, 1933, and was buried in West Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth.



Stone placed 2/11/12 by members of the E. W. Taylor Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, in Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth. L-r, Bob Gresham, Ron Parker, David Stewart, James Alderman, and Mike Patterson kneeling.