



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Joseph Collin Brownfield

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Joseph Collin Brownfield was born near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania on November 28, 1820. He was the eldest of eleven children born to Bazil and Sarah (Collins) Brownfield, both Pennsylvania natives.

Joseph married Martha Schipp in Pennsylvania in 1846. She was born March 7, 1827. He attended Uniontown College, and then taught school for a time. Later he moved to Iowa for four years and then to Missouri for four years, teaching school and trading in both states.

In 1859, while still living in Missouri, he bought 560 acres of land in the area where (Smithfield) North Richland Hills is located today. He came to Texas permanently in 1860 and settled first at Dallas, where he again taught school.

In 1862 he joined the Confederate Army as a private in Stone's Independent Rangers (also known as the 6th Texas Cavalry), and served mostly in Louisiana. He was captured near the first of June 1862 on the Mississippi River, and was sent to New Orleans with 700 other prisoners. After his release he was sent to Fortress Monroe, then to Petersburg, Virginia, and from there to Richmond, Virginia. Finally, he was sent back to Dallas.

His later history dictated for his biography is unclear in meaning, but it seems he did whatever he could to avoid further service. He claimed to have been threatened with death if he did not return to the army, but he never returned, "and the matter was finally dropped. [I] was at this time looked upon as a yankee."

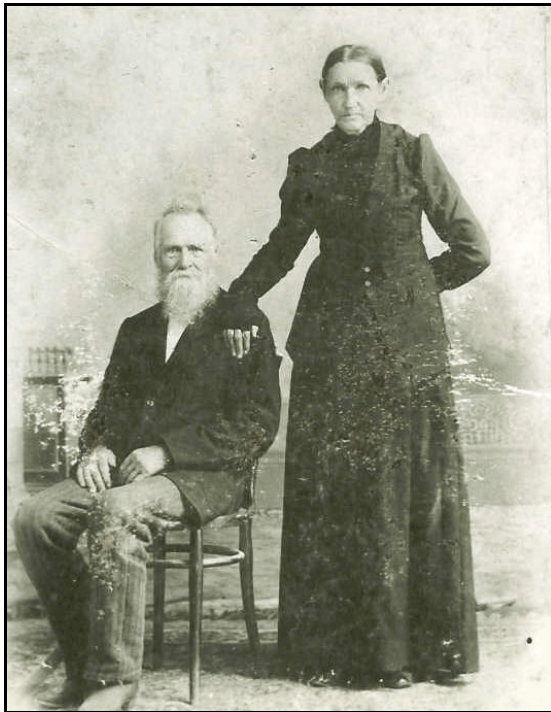
His few surviving official records in Washington indicate that he enlisted at Dublin, Texas on November 1, 1862 for the duration of the War. He was captured at La Fource, Louisiana on April 23, 1863, and was paroled at New Orleans. His name appears on a roll of prisoners at Camp Lee, near Richmond, Virginia, "to June 30, 1863." He deserted July 21, 1863, and no further record of him is found in the 6th Texas' records.

He settled on his land in the Smithfield area about 1864. One of his children has the oldest readable headstone in the Smithfield Cemetery. A lengthy biography of Mr. Brownfield, apparently written from material he supplied himself, appears in A History of Texas, Together With a Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties..., published by the Lewis Publishing Co. in Chicago in 1895.

According to the biography, “Mr. Brownfield has always taken an interest in public affairs, but has never aspired to office. He votes the Prohibition ticket and is in favor of women’s rights. Both he and his family are members of the Universalist Church.”

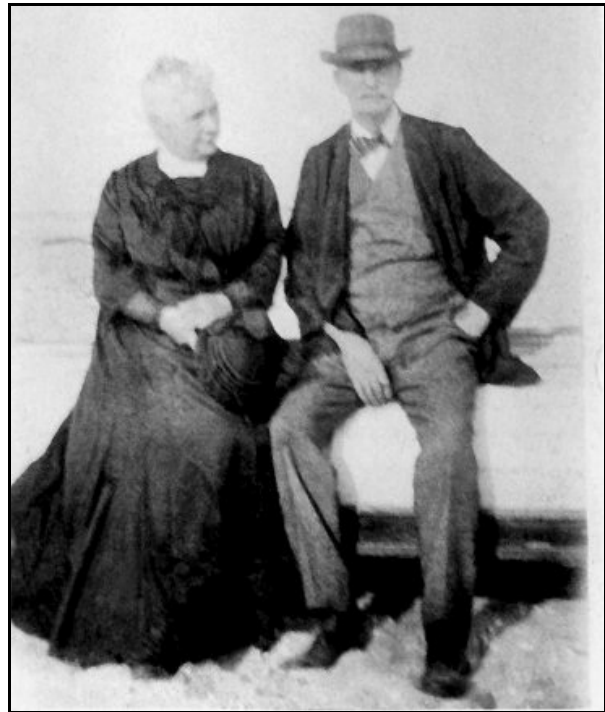
In 1895, Brownfield lived in present-day North Richland Hills on the J. Condra survey, at about the intersection of Crosstimbers and Moss Streets. Mrs. Brownfield died May 30, 1895; Mr. Brownfield died May 2, 1905. Both are buried at Smithfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Brownfield had nine children: Margaret (Mrs. William) Vancleve; Susan (Mrs. C.) Boone; Emily (Mrs. J. M.) Edwards; Virgil Brownfield; Harriet (Mrs. Elias) Wileby; Joseph Brownfield; William Ellis Brownfield; Mattie J. Brownfield, who died young; and DeFrance Marion Brownfield, who died at age eighteen.



Joseph Collin Brownfield
and his wife Martha Schipp

photo courtesy of Marvin Martin,
Dr. Jacqueline Latham & Gene Edwards



J. C. and Martha Schipp Brownfield

photo courtesy of Linda Sacra



JOSEPH COLLIN
BROWNFIELD
BORN
Nov. 28, 1819
DIED
MAY 2, 1905

MARTHA S
WIFE OF
J.C. BROWNFIELD
MAR. 7, 1827
MAY 30, 1895.

