



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

James L. Chivers

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James L. Chivers enlisted in the Southern service from his parents' home in present-day Southlake. He died in 1862 but no records have been discovered to show exactly where or when. His brother, Joel W. Chivers, was another of our northeast Tarrant County veterans.

James L. Chivers was born about 1840 in Mississippi. He was a son of Absalom H. Chivers (died 1856) and Eleanor (Joyce) Chivers (1816-1896). They were married in Hinds County, Mississippi on February 7, 1838.

When the 1840 census was taken, James' family was living in Copiah County, Mississippi. In that year, his father owned six slaves. James came to Tarrant County about 1852 from Mississippi with his parents and settled in present-day Southlake. Their small family cemetery received a Texas Historical Marker in 1982. It is located in a brushy area along the south side of an east-west fence about 1050 feet west of the 1300 block of North Carroll Avenue.

James L. Chivers is mentioned in the estate settlement of his father in a document dated 1859, at which time James was about nineteen years old. At the final settlement of the estate, the administrators set aside *"... For the use and benefit of Jas. L. Chivers... 1 Negro Boy Alexander 7 years old, 1 Negro girl Mahala 18 months old... Black Smith's tools."*

Records in the General Land Office in Austin disclose that J. L. Chivers patented a tract of one hundred sixty acres of land in Tarrant County on August 30, 1859. Four of the Chivers men patented land adjacent to each other. James' tract was bordered on its south by the headright of his father, and on the west by the headright of his brother, Joel W. Chivers. In terms of modern-day landmarks, James' tract was a rectangle with its southeast corner about where Carroll Avenue and Dove Road intersect. Carroll Avenue runs along J. L. Chivers' east line, and Dove Road runs along his south line. No modern-day streets lie along his north or west lines. The 1860 Tarrant County census rolls show he still owned the entire tract in that year.

Only one document concerning Joel's Confederate service has survived in the Texas State Library and Archives in Austin, Texas. His name appears on a single muster roll dated June 1, 1861 for R. M. Gano's Company of Grapevine Mounted Riflemen, 20th Brigade, Texas State Troops. No record has been found of him having been mustered into the regular Confederate Army.

Luckily for us, some estate papers for James L. Chivers were among the handful of papers which survived the disastrous court house fire in Fort Worth in 1876. On December 22, 1862 his maternal uncle, James Joyce, filed for letters of administration of the estate of James L. Chivers "*who died, without any will, owning land, negroes, and other property.*" At the February, 1863 term of the county court, a bond for James Joyce in the amount of four thousand dollars was approved. L. H. Chivers and Hiram Granberry were sureties for the bond.

On March 12, 1863 an inventory and appraisal of the estate of James L. Chivers was made by Eli G. Harris, Hiram Granberry, and S. McWiley. The estate included one black boy named Eleck who was nine years old; one black girl named Mahala who was four or five years old, and one tract of land containing one hundred twenty-six acres of land patented to J. L. Chivers on August 13, 1859.

On April 11, 1863 an estate sale was held. On May 29, 1865 his administrators filed a petition to sell his land and negroes. A second petition to sell his land was filed on January 29, 1866. The administrator's final account was filed on March 15, 1866.

On Saturday, April 5, 2014 several members of the Col. E. W. Taylor Camp #1777, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and one descendant of Joel W. Chivers, met and installed cenotaphs in the Chivers Cemetery for James L. Chivers and his brother, Joel W. Chivers.

