



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

George Cal Corbin

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George Cal Corbin's Confederate service is confirmed in a statement he dictated to Ruby Crews of Grapevine, Texas in 1929. An article about him and his family, as well as several photographs, appears in Grapevine Historical Society, Grapevine Area History (1979).

George Cal Corbin was born in Claiborne County, Tennessee on July 27, 1836, a son of Alfred Corbin and his wife, Elizabeth (Coleman) Corbin (1811-1887). George Corbin's mother eventually came to Grapevine to live near several of her relations here, and lies buried in Grapevine Cemetery.

Corbin's official service records preserved in the National Archives show that he was a member of Co. C, 12th Battalion (Day's) Tennessee Cavalry. He enlisted at Greenville, Tennessee on February 28, 1863 for a term of three years. On a muster roll for the period March 1 through June 30, 1863, he is shown as due \$48.00 for the use of his own horse. He was captured at Wattsburg, Tennessee on June 18, 1863. There is no further official record of his service. The date of his capture agrees exactly with what he recalled in later life.

Corbin's wife, Melvina Sanders, was born in Claiborne County, Tennessee on February 7, 1843. She was a daughter of Wiley Sanders (1806-1861) and his wife, Lucinda Wallas Sanders (1819-1893). Melvina's mother and her mother, Mary (Burch) Wallas (1792-1872) also eventually settled here and are buried in Grapevine Cemetery. Melvina Sanders Corbin died at Grapevine on January 17, 1919, and was buried in Grapevine Cemetery. No copies of the issue of the Grapevine Sun in which her obituary would have appeared have survived.

According to the Grapevine Area History article, "George joined the Confederate army in February 1863 and was captured June 18, 1863. He was paroled and sent home. His group made a raid into Northern territory and were driven back by a forced ride with the Union troops hot on their trail. He said the men who chewed tobacco stood he ride much better than those who did not. He thought it was because the tobacco kept their mouths and throats moist. On this forced ride with the enemy so close behind they never halted for two days. He became so hungry he just wished he could dip

one of Jane's (his sister-in-law, Jane Sanders Corbin) biscuits from the slop bucket. His mouth watered at the thought of that swollen biscuit floating on top of the hog-swill...The Corbin family made two trips to Texas, coming the last time in 1877.

George and Melvina were the parents of twelve children: Mary died in infancy; John died on the road to Texas and was buried in Middle Tennessee; George Cal, Jr. (1864-1931) married first Mary L. C. Record (1867-1894), married second Ellen Pearl Saunders (1873-1944); Clinton Alwayne (1867-1949) married Emma Elizabeth Harrison (1870-1956); William Ellison (1869-1938) married Fannie J. Harrison (1873-1964); Alvis Canada (1871-1949) married Minnie Jane Smith (1876-1947); Wiley Jackson (1874-1947) married Sallie J. Miller (1875-19.); Pleasant Simmion (1876-1956) married Clara Emma Nicks ((1886-1964); Lucinda Elizabeth (1878-1954) married Charlie Philip Crews (1872-1947); Perry Samuel (1880-1934) married Della Foster; Emerson Franklin (1882-1935), married Alma Nash (1889-1968); Andrew Newton (1887-) married Cora Harrison (1880-1927), married second Lena Harrison (1892-1970).

“Uncle George” was not a rich man but with nine sons he was able to live the life of a retired farmer after about forty years of age. In his later years he raised hogs as a side line. In his earlier years he drove a horse and cart to supervise his sons' farming. Later he used a buggy because it furnished shade and was easier to get into. From a small “day book” now in the family possession George C. Corbin, Sr. wrote in his own hand, “Each heir on becoming of age (twenty-one years old) is to receive the following: one horse, bridle, and saddle; one cow and calf; one sow (hog) and one featherbed—30 lbs.” This entry was witnessed by N. F. Coleman, December 28, 1888. A later entry states that \$500 was to be given to each heir toward the purchase of land. Six of the sons and the daughter with their spouses signed statements that they had received the money. Three sons, Jack, Em and Newt each received ten acres of land (now part of the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport) in lieu of the \$500.

“Uncle George was a well informed man and a very accurate person. If he told an incident it remained the same regardless of how many times he told it. After the Cotton Belt Railroad came through Grapevine he subscribed to the New York Times and was an avid reader of that newspaper for years. Both “Uncle George” and “Aunt Viney” were converted in October 1865 and baptized, both going down in the baptismal waters together. During their life they belonged only to the Canna Valley Baptist Church, Springdale, Tennessee, and Cottonwood Baptist Church on the Grapevine Prairie, east of Grapevine, Texas. By GRACE CORBIN”

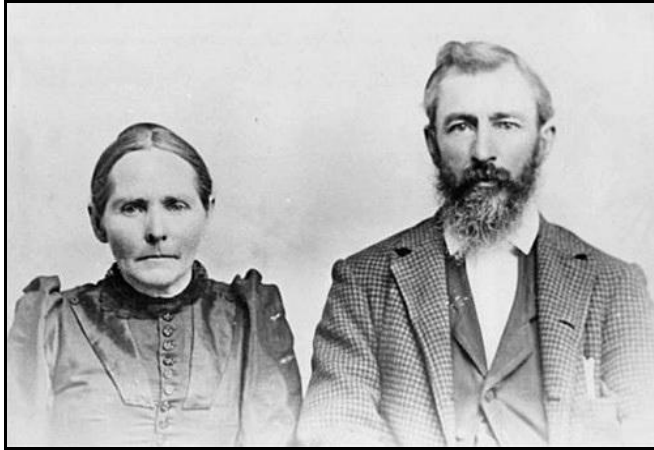
Separate articles about most of George Cal Corbin's children may also be found in the [Grapevine Area History](#).

An obituary for Mr. Corbin appeared in the [Grapevine Sun](#) on August 28, 1920: *"G. C. Corbin was born in Claiborne county, Tenn., July 27, 1836; met with a change the first days of June or first days of July, 1858; joined the Baptist church 1865. Was married to Melvina Sanders Sept. 7, 1859. Went into the Civil War in Feb. 1863; was captured June 18, 1863, paroled and sent home. Came to Texas the last time in 1877; settled on Grapevine Prairie, and been here ever since. Never belonged to but two churches, Caney Valley, Tennessee and Cotton Wood, Texas. All the children belong to the church and fifteen of the grandchildren. (Written by Ruby Crews April 29, 1919 at his dictation.) The above was dictated by Bro. Corbin over one year ago. He died Friday night, August*

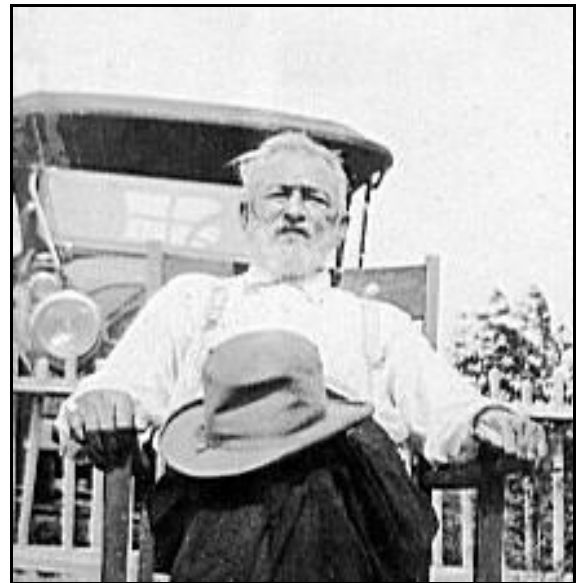
20th. To this we wish to add that we have known the deceased for 43 years, have been his pastor eight years, and in all these years we have found him a faithful, helpful, and consistent Christian. His wife was called home Jan. 17., 1919. This sad event seemed to completely wear Bro. Corbin from everything earthly; his thoughts and words were about his expected reunion. He leaves nine boys and one girl, whose moral and religious lives make a beautiful monument to the memory of this devoted father. It was beautiful [illegible] and with tender loving hearts and hands place the body of the dear father in its last long resting place. The esteem in which Bro. Corbin was held by all was shown by the largest congregation that ever assembled at Cotton Wood church. E. NEWTON."



George Cal Corbin and His Family



Mr. and Mrs. George Cal Corbin



George Cal Corbin

