



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Galen Bohave Gideon

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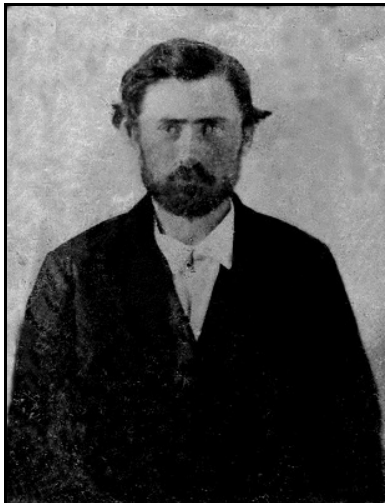


Photo courtesy of Joy Johnstone.

Galen Bohave Gideon was a native Georgian and a veteran of a north-central Texas cavalry regiment. He came to Tarrant County within five years of the War's end, joining several other family members here.

Galen B. Gideon was a son of Dr. Berry Wilson Gideon (1801-1884) and his wife, Lillie (Parks) Gideon (1807-1884), both of whom died in Gordon County, Georgia. Many members of the Gideon family are active genealogists and have placed material on this family at various internet sites.

Galen's father, Berry W. Gideon, raised a company of Georgia volunteers in 1837 who served in the first half of 1838 to protect the settlers in northern Georgia from the Cherokees and Creeks who were resisting Anglo-American encroachment on their lands. Mr. Gideon appears in the 1840 census of Cass County, Georgia in Georgia Militia District 828. He owned one female slave.

Galen B. Gideon was born January 21, 1834 in Georgia, possibly in Fayette County (where his father appears in the 1830 census) or in Cass County, (where he is found in 1840). Berry W. Gideon served on a jury in Fayette County in 1827. Since his father was an educated man and a physician, it seems likely Galen Gideon was named for Galen of Pergamum, a Roman physician and philosopher of Greek origin, whose ideas were prevalent in Western medical science for more than one thousand years.

Galen probably grew up in a comfortable setting. His father owned two slaves when the census was taken in 1850 in Gordon County, Georgia. Since Gordon County was formed in 1850 from portions

of Cass and Floyd Counties, it seems possible that the Gideons may not have moved between 1840 and 1850, but rather were in that portion of Cass County which was split off. The remaining portion of Cass County was renamed Bartow County in 1861. When the 1860 census of Gordon County was taken, B. W. Gideon owned three slaves.

Galen B. Gideon's parents must hold some sort of record for the most unusual set of names they gave their children: Thalia Arabella, Ara Adelectra, Flora Haseltine, Galen Bohave, Cliomelcomenia, Iphigenia Twiggs, Gilead Joseph Blackstone Gideon, Shalina, Ziraizona, Barthelma, and Odelona Berretta. Several of these names are derived from Roman and Greek history and mythology. Of course, a wide variety of records have produced many different spelling variations of these names.

The 1850 census of Smith County, Texas lists one Galen B. Gideon, who was born in Georgia about 1833. He was a farmer, living as a single man in the household of one Robert I. Chandler, who apparently came to Texas from Georgia about 1849.

Oddly, Galean Gideon also appears in his father's family in Gordon County, Georgia in that year. The 1850 census taker in Gordon County visited the Gideons' home on December 7, 1850, but was stated to be everyone who lived in the family on June 1, 1850. The census taker listed Galen in Smith County, Texas on November 27, 1850.

Family sources report that Galen B. Gideon married Laurena Frances (Seay) Gideon, who was named in court records in McMinn County, Tennessee as an heir of Jane R. Seay. According to the death certificate of their Galen Gideon's daughter, Electra, Mr. Gideon's wife's maiden name was Sea.

Laurena Frances (Seay) Gideon was (according to family material at ancestry.com) born in Rhea County, Tennessee on August 1, 1834, and was a daughter of William Hooper Seay (1777-1852) and his wife, Jane R. Gillam (1793-1870). Galen and Laurena were married in Whitfield County, Georgia on October 21, 1852.

When the 1860 census was taken, Mr. Gideon and his family lived in Fannin County, Texas in Beat 6, in the area served by the post office at Garnett's Bluff. Mr. Gideon said he was born in Georgia about 1835. His wife, S. F. Gideon, was born in Tennessee about 1837. He and his wife had three children with them: Electon (born about 1853 in Georgia), Berry W. (born about 1855 in Georgia), and Silla C. (born about 1857 in Texas).

Mr. Gideon served the Confederacy in Co. B, Martin's Regiment of Texas Cavalry. He enlisted as a private on July 2, 1862 at Sherman, Grayson County, Texas in Capt. John L. Randolph's Company of the First Battalion of Texas Partisan Rangers. This company subsequently became Company B of Martin's Regiment. Mr. Gideon was mustered into the Confederate service on the same day at Camp Reeves in Grayson County. He had traveled fifteen miles to the regimental rendezvous, and presented himself for service riding a horse worth one hundred seventy-five dollars and with equipment worth forty dollars. On May 15, 1863 he was detailed away from the regiment to serve as an artilleryman by order of General Cooper. No further individual records of his service have survived.

Martin's Regiment of Texas Cavalry served west of the Mississippi River. An interesting account of its service may be found at: <http://gen.1starnet.com/civilwar/spoonm.htm>

Galen Gideon's descendants are quite fortunate in that his father, Berry W. Gideon, filed a lengthy and very interesting claim with the Southern Claims Commission in the early 1870's in Gordon County, Georgia. In it, he detailed many of his experiences during the War. Mentioning Galen, he said "...My other son resides in Texas & was there during the War & I think was in the army but I am not certain..."

By 1870 Galen Gideon had settled in northeast Tarrant County in Precinct 2. Judging from the names of his neighbors in the census in that year, he probably lived in the western part of present-day Grapevine or eastern Southlake. The children with them in that year included E (female, 1856), B. W. (male, 1858), L. C. (1861, female), R. T/ 1863 male), Y (1865 female), and S. S. (male, born January 1870).

G. B. Gideon's first cousin, William M. Giddens, had settled at Grapevine by 1854. G. B. probably settled here to be near these relatives. Later, Hosea Giddens, the brother of Galen's father, also came to Grapevine where he (Hosea) died in 1885 and was buried in Grapevine Cemetery.

Family sources say that Mr. Gideon died in "Springtown, Tarrant County, Texas." Springtown is actually in Parker County, several miles west of Tarrant County. G. B. Gideon appears in the tax list of Precinct 2, Parker County, Texas in 1872. He had no real estate. He did own two horses worth one hundred sixty-five dollars, two cows worth fifty dollars, forty-five sheep worth one dollar each, farm implements worth one hundred forty dollars, and personal property worth fourteen dollars. We have found no traces of Mr. or Mrs. Gideon after their appearance in the Parker County tax list. Neither of them applied for a Confederate pension from the State of Texas.

Their daughter, Electra Gideon, was married in Parker County in 1872. Their daughter Eula was married in 1880 in Johnson County.

Family sources list Galen B. Gideon's children as Electra Gideon, Barry W. Gideon, Lilly Clio Gideon, Reagan Thomas Gideon, Samuel Sivil Gideon, Eula Gideon, and Gillead Gideon.

Electra Gideon was born in Georgia on January 14, 1854. She married James C. Hudgins, another of our Confederate veterans, in Parker County, Texas on December 5, 1872. She told pension officials she came to Texas with her parents about 1857. By 1913 Electra Hudgins was living in North Fort Worth at 2220 Ross Avenue. She died in Fort Worth at the home of her daughter, Eunice Hudgins, on March 2, 1932. She was buried beside her husband at White's Chapel Cemetery in Southlake, Texas.

Berry W. Gideon was born about 1858. Lilly Clio Gideon was born about 1861.

Thomas Regan Gideon was born August 20, 1862. His death certificate says he died on June 20, 1921. His headstone in Fall Creek Cemetery in Hood County, Texas says he died on June 21. His wife, Mary Eulala Gideon was a daughter of King Brady and Susan Hardin. She was born May 3,

1869 and died (according to her death certificate) March 18, 1920. Her headstone says she died March 20.

Eula May Gideon was born November 28, 1865. She died in Hood County, Texas on August 31, 1942. She married Charles Powell Carter in 1880 at Cleburne, Johnson County, Texas. He was born at Cartersville, South Carolina on October 20, 1847, and died July 26, 1923 in the Harris Sanitarium in Fort Worth as a consequence of a prostate operation. His last home was at Granbury, Texas. Both are buried in Wells Cemetery in Granbury, Hood County, Texas. Mr. Carter was a Confederate veteran, and Eula Carter received a Confederate widow's pension from the State of Texas.

Samuel Sivil Gideon was born in January 1870. Gillead Gideon was born about 1872.