



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

James Madison Gregory

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James Madison Gregory was a Virginian who, along with two brothers and a brother-in-law and sister, arrived in northeast Tarrant County shortly before the War began. He died in the service of the Confederacy.

Family sources at Ancestry.com report that James Madison Gregory was born June 23, 1839 in Pittsylvania County, Virginia to John Keatts Gregory (1782-1843) and his wife, Elizabeth Holland Corder (1800-1886).

The Gregory family was a large and comfortable one. In 1830 in Pittsylvania County, the family contained eleven members. They owned four slaves...two males and two females. In 1840 in Pittsylvania County, the family consisted of fourteen members and they owned six slaves...two males and four females.

In 1850, James lived in a large family headed by his mother and made up of a number of his siblings in the Western District of Tazewell County, Virginia. James was eleven years old. His mother, shown as "Betsy" Gregory in the census, owned five slaves.

James M. Gregory was married December 24, 1857 in Tazewell County, Virginia to Barbara Jane Whitley, a sister of another of our veterans, Rufus C. Whitley. She was born June 3, 1838.

In the summer of 1859, James M. Gregory and his wife came to Tarrant County from Tazewell County, Virginia in company with several relatives, including his two brothers, Louis Corder Gregory and family, Doctor C. Gregory, and his brother-in-law, Rufus C. Whitley, and family.

A granddaughter of Rufus C. Whitley, Cora Whitley Bertram, has written an account of the move from Virginia to Texas, and it contains several references to Mr. Gregory and his wife. In "Trek to

Texas: Gregorys and Whitleys by Wagon,” she wrote in 1988: *“At Tazewell County, Virginia, in the summer of 1859, my grandparents, Rufus C. and Elizabeth Holland Whitley, along with Lewis Corder and “Aunt Bett” Gregory, Dr. Clayton Gregory (single, age 17) and James Madison and Barbara Jane Whitley packed their wagons with provisions and small children and headed for Texas... James Madison and Barbara Jane Whitley Gregory were married in Tazewell when they were about 18 years of age. They had two daughters. James M. was hardly settled in Texas when he went to the Civil War. I don’t know if they even had their own place. One of my cousins, W. R. Whitley, has a Confederate pass issued to “Rufus C. and sister for safe passage to Little Rock Arkansas, 17 July 1862.” The only sister it could possibly have been was Barbara Jane. She probably got word that James M. was hurt or very ill...Barbara Jane Whitley Gregory was a younger sister of my great-grandfather Rufus C. Whitley. After the death of James M. Gregory, she married Robert Crews and had several children. The Gregory children were Sarah A., born 1859, and Rosa T. born 1861. They both used the name of Crews until grown and even then, Sarah married by the name of Crews. Rosa married in 1875 to Dr. N. A. Guice and moved to Claiborne County, Mississippi. She had seven children. Sarah, nicknamed “Pink,” ran away to marry George Turner, an Englishman, in 1876. They lived in Nebraska and never had children. Barbara Jane died in 1884 and is buried in the cemetery at Grapevine, Texas, in Tarrant County.”*

James M. Gregory served the Confederacy as a private in Co. E, 15th Texas Cavalry. He enlisted in Captain Michael D. Kennedy’s Company, which subsequently became Company E. He was twenty-three years old when he enlisted at Fort Worth on March 8, 1862 for a term of twelve months. He was mustered into the Confederate service at McKinney, Texas two days later. He brought with him a horse worth \$125 and equipment worth \$25. He is shown in the official records as present on a muster roll for the company for the period of March 8 to June 30, 1862.

One of the few records which survived the disastrous Tarrant County court house fire in 1876 was the probate file of James M. Gregory. It included an inventory and appraisal of the community property of James M. Gregory, who died in the month of July, 1862, and B. J. Gregory, his wife. It included one hundred forty-two acres of land, on which the pre-emption had not been paid, and cattle, hogs, a colt, a wagon and harness, plows, farming tools, and sundries. A report was returned to the county court at the November term in 1862 by W. H. Overton, William Turner, and R. C. Whitley, the estate’s appraisers.

A tract of one hundred sixty acres was patented in the name of James M. Gregory in Tarrant County on February 12, 1863. In modern-day terms, it sits in Watauga with its northeast corner at the intersection of Rufe Snow Drive and Watauga Road. It sat in a square, extending one-quarter mile west and south from that point. While no modern-day street sits along the survey’s south line, the survey’s line is used today as part of the boundary between Watauga and North Richland Hills. The railroad crosses the extreme southeast corner of the survey in a southwest-northeast direction.

After Mr. Gregory’s death, James M. Gregory’s widow, Barbara, was married to Robert Crews (1822-1884). She died November 2, 1884 and lies buried beside Robert Crews in Grapevine Cemetery.