



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Harvel Dempsey Griffin

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Harvel Dempsey Griffin was a veteran of the Confederate Army who spent the last years of his life at Keller. He lies buried with his wife in Bourland Cemetery there.

Mr. Griffin said he was born in "Toliver" County, Georgia in 1846. However, there is no Toliver County; the closest county names to it are Taliaferro and Telfair Counties. Family sources at ancestry.com say he was the son of Matthew Griffin (1801-1881) and his wife, Harriet (Carroll) Griffin (1805-1860).

When the 1860 census was taken, Harvel was living with his parents and siblings at Cave Spring in Floyd County, Georgia. The family owned no real estate, and only had \$200 in personal property.

Harvel's official records in the National Archives show him to have been a private in Max Van Den Corput's Georgia Light Artillery. He enlisted March 5, 1864 at Cave Spring, Georgia. He was captured at Salisbury, North Carolina on April 12, 1865 and sent to Camp Chase, Ohio. One release record shows him to be "of Floyd Co., Ga.," with a fair complexion, light hair, 5' 9" tall, with blue eyes. He was nineteen years old in 1865.

Family sources at Ancestry.com show two marriages for Mr. Griffin: the first to Louisa J. Burns in Floyd County, Georgia on February 15, 1870. The second marriage was to Mattie J. Loyd in Polk County, Georgia on October 22, 1872. Data from the 1900 census seems to support the second marriage, at least.

The census taker in 1880 found the family living in District 166, Hutchings, Polk County, Georgia. Mr. Griffin was working as a mechanic. His wife's name is shown as M. Jannie Griffin. They had three children with them: Hattie F. Griffin (born about 1874); M \_\_\_\_ D. Griffin (a female, born about 1876); and Charles D. Griffin, (born about 1878).

Mr. Griffin's sister-in-law, Maggie Stone (born about 1860 in Tennessee) was also living with the family in 1880. She was working as a school teacher. Mr. Griffin made a statement in his pension application which points to a migration from Georgia to Texas about 1895.

The 1900 census of the Keller area of Tarrant County shows the family of Harvel D. Griffin. Mrs. Griffin said she had given birth to ten children, nine of whom were still living. Mr. Griffin said he was born in August 1847; Mrs. Griffin gave her birth date as April 1850. They had been married twenty-seven years. Their children with them in this census were: Charles D. (March 20, 1878-November 9, 1837, buried beside his parents at Bourland Cemetery), Albert S. Aug 1880-1918, buried at Bourland Cemetery); Maggie L. Aug 1882; Joseph S. April 1885; Thomas H. February 13, 1890-April 13, 1964, a World War I veteran, buried at Bourland Cemetery); Math L. born July 1893; and Augg?, born July 1899. Thus with the data from the 1880 and 1900 censuses, all the Griffins' children are accounted for except one. Family sources at Ancestry.com add a daughter, Virginia Griffin, born about 1876.

Mr. Griffin applied for a Confederate pension in 1922. He said he was released at Camp Chase, Ohio on June 13, 1865. He said he was seventy-five years old, born in Toliver County, Georgia. He said he had been in Tarrant County and Texas for 27 years, thus he must have come here about 1895. Served two years in Corput's Battery, Cherokee Artillery, was transferred from King's Battery to Corput's/Corbett's.

Harvel D. Griffin died in 1924; he had no death certificate filed in the Texas Vital Statistics office. His wife, Martha J. Griffin, has a headstone in Bourland Cemetery with dates April 16, 1850 and August 13, 1906.

