



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### John Hardisty

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John Hardisty was a Confederate veteran, one of five brothers in the Southern Army, who was a pioneer of the Birdville Community. He was born in Henderson County, Kentucky on June 22, 1840.

Mr. Hardisty's compiled military service records in the National Archives show that he enlisted at Camp Moore at New Orleans, Louisiana on June 19, 1861 for the duration of the War; he became a private in Capt. German A. Lester's Company (Franklin Sharp Shooters) of the Eighth Louisiana Volunteers. On September 18, 1861 he was ill and was left at Richmond [State], but was back with the regiment by November or December. Muster rolls show he was again sick and away from duty for a time beginning on November 1, 1862. Another record shows him to have taken part in the following battles: Gaines Mill, June 27, 1862; Malvern Hill, July 1, 1862; Bristoe Station, August 27, 1862; [Second] Manassas, August 29, 1862; Chantilly, September 1, 1862; and Fredericksburg, May 4, 1863. A some time around the end of October, 1862, he was a patient in the Louisiana hospital in Richmond, Virginia. On December 28, 1862 he was admitted for treatment of diarrhea to the C.S.A. General Hospital in Danville, Virginia, where he remained until he was released February 27, 1863. He was admitted to the C.S.A. General Hospital in Farmville, Virginia on June 12, 1863 with acute diarrhea; he was returned to duty on July 23, 1863. He took part in a battle at Rappahannock, Virginia on November 7, 1863 and was captured there.

Mr. Hardisty was sent to Washington, D. C., arriving there on November 11. He was paroled on March 9, 1864 at Point Lookout, Maryland. An undated record in his files shows he was twenty-two years old, an unmarried farmer, and his residence was Winnsboro, Louisiana. On March 15, 1864 he was admitted to Chimborazo Hospital No. 4 in Richmond, Virginia with bronchitis and diarrhea, from which location he received a thirty-day furlough three days later. He was exchanged on May 1, 1864 and had not been heard from since that time; he was presumably somewhere in Louisiana. On May 10, 1865, Mr. Hardisty was a prisoner of the Provost Marshall at Natchez, Mississippi, who forwarded him and a number of other prisoners on May 12 to the Provost Marshall General of the

Department of Mississippi. In addition to the above records, Mr. Hardisty's file contains an original receipt for a pair of pants, signed by John Hardisty, in 1863.

An excellent biographical sketch, almost certainly written from material he supplied, appeared in the Lewis Publishing Company's A History of Texas, Together With a Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties..., published in 1895: "*John Hardisty, a successful farmer and prominent citizen of Tarrant county, Texas, dates his birth in Henderson County, Kentucky, June 22, 1840. Mr. Hardisty spent his early boyhood on a farm in his native State, and in 1854 came with his father and family to Texas, settling first in Dallas county, and a year later coming to Tarrant county.*

*"He remained a member of the home circle until 1859, when he went to Louisiana with a drove of horses, remaining there until the civil war broke out. Then he enlisted in the Eighth Louisiana Infantry, and was consigned to the Army of Virginia. He was in the first battle of Manassas, and in all the prominent battles of Virginia and Maryland, and also at Gettysburg, being under Hayes, Longstreet, and "Stonewall" Jackson, and seeing hard service throughout the whole of the war. He was never wounded, although he was often in the thickest of the fight.*

*"At Rappahannock Station he was captured, was carried from there to Washington, and thence to Point Lookout, Maryland, where he was held as a prisoner for four months. At the expiration of that time he, with others was taken up to Richmond for exchange; but terms of exchange not being agreed upon, the Confederate prisoners were paroled for thirty days, or until exchanged. Mr. Hardisty ran the blockade of the Mississippi river and came home at this time, but returned to Virginia. He afterward joined his command again and continued on active duty until the war was over.*

*"Mr. Hardisty was engaged in farming in Louisiana at the time he enlisted in the Confederate service, and upon his return from the army he resumed farming there. A year later he came back to Texas, to his father's home, bringing with him his wife, whom he had married in 1865. His worldly goods at this time consisted of a wagon, a yoke of oxen and \$15 in money. He found employment here as cattle driver, at \$60 per month and board, and in this way worked one year and got a start. Then he rented land and commenced farming, which occupation he has followed ever since, meeting with prosperity, and to-day being ranked with the wealthy and respected farmers of the county.*

*"About 1870 he commenced buying land, and, with the exception of the sixty acres which his father gave him, he has acquired his large landed estate by his own honest industry and good management. AT one time he owned 900 acres, but has since given some to his children. He gave to them property in Fort Worth to the amount of \$10,000. From time to time he bought out the heirs to the old home place, and has since owned and occupied it. He now has 225 acres under cultivation, raising wheat, oats, and corn.*

*"Mr. Hardisty is a son of James and July A. (Kelly) Hardisty, natives of Kentucky, the father of Scotch descent and the mother of Irish. His grandfather, Frederick Kelly, was a prominent farmer and large slave owner of Kentucky. James Hardisty was also engaged in farming all through life, and after he came to Texas was a slave owner. He died here in 1876; his wife, in 1879. They had nine children, namely: Susan, Henry, English, Charles, James S., John, Betty, Thomas and Sarah.*

*“John Hardisty has been twice married, and has a large family of children. His first wife, whose maiden name was Miss Mary E. Best, was a native of Louisiana. She bore him thirteen children, two of whom died when young, the others being as follows: Ida, wife of J. L. Rhodes, a resident of Fort Worth, and by occupation a railroad conductor; L. E., of Fort Worth; C. E., a Tarrant county farmer; Clarence, who runs a gin; John H., also a ginner’ Cora, wife of Isaac Sansberry, a farmer of Tarrant county; Gertrude, wife of John Naylor, also a farmer of this county; and Alice, Clements, Albert C., and Frank, at home. The mother of these children passed away November 17, 1889. She was a member of the Missionary Baptist Church and her life was beautiful, being adorned by many Christian graces.*

*“November 1, 1891, Mr. Hardisty wedded Miss Annie Wilson, daughter of Isaac Wilson. Her father, a native of Michigan, emigrated to Texas with his family about 1885 and located on a farm five miles north of Fort Worth. By his second wife, Mr. Hardisty has two children—Thomas W. and Ada. He affiliates with the democratic party and is a member of the Masonic order and the Missionary Baptist Church. Mrs. Hardisty is a Methodist.”*

John Hardisty’s home appears on the 1895 Sam Street Map of Tarrant County. In modern-day terms, it sat in present-day Richland Hills, south of Highway 26, north of Highway 10 (Baker Boulevard), about where Hovenkamp Street and Vance Roads cross, and in the southwest corner of that intersection.

Mr. Hardisty was a member of the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans at Fort Worth. He told them he enlisted at Winsborough, Louisiana, and that he took part in both the Manassas battles, as well as at Harper’s Ferry, Gettysburg, and several others. He was assigned to special duty before the surrender at Appomattox.

John Hardisty’s headstone at Birdville Cemetery contains his birth date but has no death date inscribed. His second wife, Annie Hardisty (September 22, 1858-February 9, 1910) lies buried beside him. His first wife, Mary E. Hardisty (April 28, 1848-November 26, 1889), also has a headstone there. No death certificate for John Hardisty has been found in the Texas vital statistics records. He apparently died after his second wife in 1910. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Hardisty applied for a Texas Confederate pension.

Another biographical sketch of John Hardisty appeared in B. B. Paddock’s History and Biographical Record of North and West Texas (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1906), Vol. I, pp. 136-138: *“JOHN HARDISTY. The history of Tarrant county would scarcely be complete without mention of John Hardisty, a veteran of the Confederate army, a pioneer settler of this section of the state and a prominent settler of this section of the state and a prominent and successful agriculturist who for many years has resided near Birdville. His landed possessions are now extensive, his home farm comprising 670 acres devoted to general agricultural pursuits and stock raising, while in addition to his he had other landed interests that make his holdings reach the sum of six hundred acres.*

*“Kentucky has furnished to the Lone Star state many of its worthy and representative men, and to this class belongs Mr. Hardisty, whose birth occurred in Henderson county on the 22nd of June, 1840, his parents being James and Julia A. (Kelly) Hardisty, who were likewise natives of the Blue*

*Grass state, the father being of Scotch lineage, while his wife was of Irish descent. The maternal grandfather, Frederick Kelly, was a leading agriculturist and extensive slave holder of Kentucky. James Hardisty followed farming throughout his entire life and in the year 1854 he removed with his family to Texas, settling in Tarrant county, where he operated his farm. His home was near Birdville, the family being among the early settlers of this portion of the state and contributing in substantial measure to pioneer development and later progress and improvement. James Hardisty continued a resident of the county up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1876. He had given his political allegiance to the Democracy and was at all times a champion of measures and movements for the public good. His wife survived for about three years and of their nine children five are yet living: Charles, who resides in this county; James S., who is living at Fort Worth; John, of this review; Elizabeth; and Sarah, whose home is in Fort Worth. The first three members of the family, Susan, Henry and English, and the eighth child, Thomas, have all passed away.*

*“From his youthful days John Hardisty has lived in Tarrant county and was reared to manhood here. He pursued his education, however, largely in the schools of Kentucky, but practical experience has added greatly to his knowledge and made him a man of good business ability and keen discernment. When a youth he was trained to the labors of the farm and also instructed concerning the best methods of raising stock and throughout his entire life he has carried on general agricultural pursuits and stockraising. In early manhood, however, he put aside all business and personal considerations in order to become a soldier of the Eighth Louisiana Infantry at the time of the Civil War. The regiment was assigned to the army of Virginia. He was in the first battle of Virginia and Maryland, and at Gettysburg, being under Hayes and "Stonewall" Jackson, also in several battles with Longstreet, and seeing hard service throughout the whole of war. He was never wounded, although he often in the thickest of the fight. At Rappahannock Station he was captured, was carried from there to Washington, and thence to Point Lookout, Maryland, where he was held as a prisoner four months. At the expiration of that time, he, with others, was taken to Richmond for exchange; but terms of exchange not being agreed upon, the Confederate prisoners were paroled for thirty days, or until exchanged. Mr. Hardisty ran the blockade of the Mississippi river and came home at this time, but returned to Virginia. He afterward joined his command again and continued on active duty until the war was over.*

*“When Mr. Hardisty became a member of the army he was engaged in farming in Louisiana and, following the cessation of hostilities, he resumed his labors as an agriculturist in that state, but when a year had passed he returned to his father's home in Texas accompanied by his wife, for in the meantime he had married. His possessions in that year were extremely limited. He owned a wagon and yoke of oxen, while his cash capital consisted of but fifteen dollars. During the first year he worked as a cattle driver for sixty dollars per month and his board, and, saving most of his earnings, he was thus enabled to engage in business on his own account by cultivating a tract of rented land. His attention has since been given to farming and stock-raising and year by year he has prospered until he is now one of the substantial residents of Tarrant county. He made his first purchase of land in 1870 and with the exception of a tract of sixty acres received from his father all of this extensive holdings have been acquired entirely through his own labors. At one time he owned nine hundred acres but he has since given some of this to his children and upon them has bestowed property in Fort Worth to the value of ten thousand dollars. During the early years of his residence here he*

*purchased from the other heirs the interest in the old homestead and has since resided thereon. Here he cultivates various cereals and also raises good grades of stock.*

*“As before stated, Mr. Hardisty was married in Louisiana to Miss Mary Best, a native of that state, and they became the parents of thirteen children, but two died in early life. Other children are: Mrs. Ida Haun, now living in Mexico; Cora, the wife of Isaac Sansberry, a resident farmer of Tarrant county; Edward, who is living at Fort Worth; Christopher C. also of Fort Worth; John H. of Birdville; Gertrude, the wife of John Naylor of Tarrant county; Alice, the wife of Herman Dumpk, living in Tarrant county and a veteran of the Spanish American war now in the government service; and Frank, who is a member of the United State navy. On the 17th of November, 1889, the mother of these children departed this life. She was a member of the Missionary Baptist church and was an earnest Christian woman, devoted to her church, her family and her friends. On the 1st of November 1891, Mr. Hardisty was again married, his second union being with Miss Annie Wilson, was born in Ingham county, Michigan, and is a daughter of Isaac Wilson, who removed from that state to Texas with his family about 1885, locating a farm five miles north of Fort Worth. His death occurred in August, 1898, while his wife, Mrs. Ada Wilson, now resides about four and a half miles north of Fort Worth. Unto the second marriage of Mr. Hardisty have been born six children: Thomas W., Lois A., Julia E., Eleanor, Ethel, and one dead, George, who died when about eight months old.*

*“Mr. Hardisty is a member of Grand Prairie lodge, A. F. & A. M. at Smithfield and belongs to R. E. Lee camp of the United Confederate Veterans at Fort Worth, while his political allegiance is given to the Democracy. He has a wide and favorable acquaintance in the county where so many years of his lief have been passed and where he has so directed his labors as to win and retain the confidence and esteem of his fellowmen.”*

