



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Joseph Priestly Lipscomb

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Joseph Priestly Lipscomb was a Confederate veteran and a member of one of the best-known pioneer families of Grapevine. He was born in Carroll County, Mississippi on February 24, 1842. He was a son of Dr. Dabney Minor Lipscomb (1806-1885) and his wife, Millicent Harris Scrivner Lipscomb (1817-1904). Dr. Lipscomb brought his family to Texas in 1861 and settled about three miles south of Grapevine.

Joseph's paternal grandmother, Ann Day (Cook) Lipscomb (1779-1870) was as ardent a Confederate as were several of her grandchildren; Goodspeed's history of Bedford County, Tennessee said of her, *"The [grand]mother attained the ripe age of ninety years, and her old age was marked with great vitality. With her own hands she knit over 100 pairs of socks for the Confederate soldiers after she had passed eighty years of age. She lived nearly forty years a widow."*

J. P. Lipscomb served the Confederacy as a soldier in Co. D, 7th Texas Infantry. Joseph's military service records in the National Archives are fairly extensive. He enlisted on May 1, 1861 at Marshall, Texas under one of his kinsmen, Khleber M. VanZandt, who himself became one of the most prominent founders of Fort Worth. Joseph was mustered into the service on October 4, 1861 at Marshall, and the notation was made that he furnished one "rifle gun" for his own use. He was captured at Fort Donelson, Tennessee on February 16, 1862, sent to Camp Douglas, Chicago, then to Vicksburg, Mississippi for exchange on or after September 3, 1862. He was in a Union prison hospital at Camp Douglas from May 18, 1862 until June 25, 1862. It appears that he was still there at the end of February, 1863. He was "wounded severely" at Raymond, Mississippi May 12, 1863 and sent to a hospital in Quitman, Mississippi; he was still in the hospital as late as February 1864.

For an excellent, enjoyable account of Joseph Lipscomb's time in the service, read the autobiography of his commanding officer, Khleber M. VanZandt. It is entitled Force Without Fanfare: The Autobiography of K. M. Van Zandt, and was written by Sandra L. Myres. It was written from a series of interviews with Mr. Van Zandt while he was ninety-three years old. The book was printed

by the Texas Christian University Press and was most recently reprinted in 1996. It is widely available. For a time after the War, Van Zandt and J. P. Lipscomb were in partnership in a store in Grapevine; Lipscomb eventually bought his cousin's share and ran the store himself.

Joseph was a member of the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth. He told his comrades there that he had enlisted in Marshall, Texas in 1861 as a private in Co. D, 7th Texas Infantry. He was captured at the Battle of Fort Donelson and spent time as a prisoner of war in Camp Douglas in Chicago.

Joseph Lipscomb's home was still standing at the time the 1979 Grapevine Area History was published. A photograph of it appeared, along with the following descriptive text: *"Perhaps one of the oldest landmarks in the center of Grapevine is the Priest Lipscomb house. It is located between Main and Church Streets. A very old and beautiful oak tree is in the south front yard. The house was built by Priest Lipscomb, an early dry goods merchant, and his wife, Frances Elizabeth (Weatherly) Lipscomb, in the early 1880's. In this house they raised their children, Annie, Maggie, Joe, Priest, Louise, and Pollin. Priest Lipscomb died in the early part of 1900 and in 1909 Joe Lipscomb and his six children moved into this house... 'Gramma' Frances Elizabeth (Weatherly) Lipscomb lived there until her death."*

Fannie Lou Lipscomb Throop wrote an article for the Grapevine Area History in which she detailed several events from J. P. Lipscomb's life. Some excerpts from it follow: *"...He married Marian Frances Elizabeth Weatherly, who was born August 7, 1851 in Tennessee; she died March 23, 1948...*

"Joseph Priestly served with the Confederate Army during the war between the states and later taught in one of the Grapevine schools. Most of his life was spent in the Lipscomb Weatherly Mercantile business. Eight children were born to this union: Joseph Dabney, married Clara May Champion; Jenner, died at the age of two years; Anna Victoria, married C. E. Stewart; Maggie, married Wink Lucas; Louise, married Forrest Farrell; Priestly, married Ida Tankersley; Pallin died in her early twenties; and Baby who died in infancy."

Mr. Lipscomb applied to the State of Texas for a Confederate pension in 1921. At the time, he was working as a justice of the peace, but he said his health was very poor. He said he was captured at Fort Donelson, Tennessee and was wounded at Raymond, Mississippi. Both K. M. Van Zandt and Isaac L. Van Zandt of Fort Worth made affidavits for him in support of his pension application.

Joseph Priestly Lipscomb died January 13, 1923 near Grapevine and was buried in the Lipscomb Cemetery south of Grapevine. When the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport was built in the late 1960's, his body was one of many moved to the Grapevine Cemetery.

Later in 1923, Mrs. F. E. Lipscomb applied for a Confederate widow's pension. She said her husband died on January 3 (sic), 1923, and that she and Mr. Lipscomb were married July 6, 1869 in Tarrant County. She said she was born in Murray County, Tennessee, and had been a resident of Texas for fifty-five years, hence she must have come here about 1868. In her pension application, K. M. Van Zandt of Fort Worth made another affidavit in which he said that Mr. Lipscomb's last

wound received at Raymond, Mississippi on May 12, 1863 "...disabled him from further field service..." Mrs. Frances E. Lipscomb died in Tarrant County on March 23, 1948.



This short biographical sketch of Joseph P. Lipscomb appeared in B. B. Paddock's History of Texas. Fort Worth and the Texas Northwest Edition Vol. IV, printed by the Lewis Publishing Company of Chicago and New York in 1922.

JOSEPH PRIESTLEY LIPSCOMB, an honored Confederate soldier and veteran business man and resident of Grapevine, has been identified with North Texas for sixty years.

He was born in Carroll County, Mississippi, February 24, 1842, son of Dr. D. M. and M. H. (Scrivner) Lipscomb, the former a native of Louisa County, Virginia, and the latter of Franklin County, Tennessee. The family came to Texas in 1861 and Dr. D. M. Lipscomb was the pioneer physician of Grapevine, where he continued busy with a large country practice until his death in 1885. The mother died in 1901 at the age of eighty-four. They reared ten children, five of whom are still living.

Joseph P. Lipscomb was nineteen years of age when he came to Texas. Soon afterward he volunteered in the Seventh Texas Infantry as a private and was in service until captured at Fort Donelson, Tennessee. For several months he was confined in the Federal prison at Camp Douglas, Chicago, and after being exchanged rejoined the service. In 1863 he was wounded in the battle of Raymond, Mississippi, and was subsequently furloughed and did not again rejoin his command.

After the war he returned to Grapevine and for thirty years was in business as a general merchant. For a number of years he was also associated in business transactions with Maj. K. M. Van Zandt, the prominent Fort Worth banker. For the past five years Mr. Lipscomb has served as Justice of the Peace. He is a Mason and a member of the Church of Christ.

In 1869 he married Frances Weatherly, of Tarrant County. Of their eight children four are still living: Joseph D.; Annie V., wife of C. E. Stewart; Priestley; and Louisa, wife of F. S. Farrell.