



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Rob Yoder, County Coordinator

Copyright © 2016. All rights reserved.

Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

William J. Parrish

Compiled by Michael Patterson
Copyright © 2016. All rights reserved.

William J. Parrish was a native of Missouri who served the Confederacy in an Arkansas cavalry regiment. He told his comrades in the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth he was born in Stoddard County, Missouri on March 31, 1844. Census records suggest he was a son of **Jesse Parrish** and his wife, **Eda (Edith) Parrish**, both of whom were natives of Tennessee.

When the 1850 census was taken, the enumerator found the Parrish family living in Pope County, Arkansas. **Jesse Parrish** was a farmer who did not own any real estate. Among the three children shown in his and **Eda's** family was **William J. Parrish**, who was shown as four years of age and born in Missouri. The ages and birthplaces of the children shown in the census suggest they made the move from Missouri to Arkansas about 1847 or 1848.

Ten years later the family appears in the census of Dover Township, Pope County, Arkansas. **Jesse Parrish** is shown as a brick maker who owned no real estate but had personal property worth \$450. In this census, his wife's name is **Edith**. **William J. Parrish** was sixteen years old when this census was taken. The Parrishes were not slave owners in 1860.

William J. Parrish served in the Confederate Army. He enlisted for the term of the War at Dover, Arkansas on June 27, 1862 and became a private in Co. E, 2nd Regiment Arkansas Cavalry. At various times this regiment was also known as **Carroll's** Regiment Arkansas Cavalry, **Thomson's** Regiment Arkansas Cavalry, **Gordon's** Regiment Arkansas Cavalry, and also at one time or another as the 1st, 2nd, 9th, and 11th Regiment Arkansas Cavalry.

He is shown present on muster rolls for August 19, 1862 through June, 1863. He appears absent without leave on September 10, 1863 on a muster roll for the period of September and October 1863.

When he applied for membership in the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans at Fort Worth, he wrote "I was in **Price's** raid through Missouri. Also I was in the Battle of Prairied Hand [Prairie D'Ane?] and I was in the Battle of Poison Spring, Arkansas." Witnesses named **F. H. Parrish** and **John Parrish** signed his application. The original of this descriptive list is in the R. E. Lee Camp collection at Texas Tech University at Lubbock, Texas.

During the late 1860's **Mr. Parrish** and his family moved to Texas. On November 19, 1869, **Jesse, W. J.**, and **J. H. Parrish** all registered to vote in McLennan County. The record required each registrant to tell the length of time he has lived in Texas, in McLennan County, and in his present precinct, but in most cases in this record none of that information is shown.

In 1870 they lived east of the Brazos River in McLennan County in an area served by the post office at Waco, Texas. **William** was farming on land he did not own, but he had personal property worth two hundred dollars. His wife, **Nancy**, was born about 1844 or 1850 in Tennessee (the second numeral in her age is unclear). They had two children with them, born both in Texas: **Eda**, born about 1866, and **Sarah**, born in December 1869. **William's** parents, **Jesse** and **Eda Parrish**, were also living with them.

By 1880 the family had moved to northeast Tarrant County and, judging from the names of their nearest neighbors, they may have been living in the Bedford area. They are listed in Precinct 3, District 95, which is the part of the precinct south of Big Bear Creek. In that year his wife **Nancy J. Parrish** was thirty-six years old. They had four daughters with them, all born in Texas: **Jane E.** (born about 1865), **Sarah F.** (born about 1870), **Willie A.** (born about 1874), and **Dora T.** (born about 1876).


William J. Parrish appears in the 1880 agricultural census of Tarrant County and is shown as a farmer working a rented plot of ten acres. The land is shown at a value of ten dollars per acre, and his farm equipment is shown valued at thirty dollars. He owned livestock worth one hundred dollars. He estimated his farm production in the last year was worth one hundred eighty-five dollars. He owned two mules and six chickens. He had three acres in Indian corn which made fifty bushels, and seven acres in cotton which made three and one-half bales.

We have been unable to locate **Mr. or Mrs. Parrish** in the 1900 census records. Apparently neither of them applied for a Confederate pension in Texas.

Mr. Parrish's death certificate shows that he passed away on the morning of October 19, 1903 on West 7th Street in Fort Worth. The cause of death was ulcerative endocarditis of about ten days duration, and rheumatism of about one month and ten days duration. **Dr. I. L. Van Zandt** of Fort Worth signed the death certificate.

A short notice of Mr. Parrish's death appeared in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on Tuesday, October 20, 1903: "FUNERAL OF **W. J. PARRISH**. The funeral of the late **W. J. Parrish**, a Confederate veteran, was held this morning. The services were conducted by **Rev. Luther Little** of whose church the deceased was a member. The members of the R. E. Lee camp attended the funeral in a body."

Mr. Parrish was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth. The cemetery's records do not contain an exact grave location, but they are close enough to allow a stone to be placed for him in the late winter or spring of 2016 by the E. W. Taylor Camp #1777 of Sons of Confederate Veterans.



UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST.

Fort Worth, Texas, _____ 190

Name W. J. Parrish

When and Where Born Stoddard Co. Mo March 21st 1844

When and Where Enlisted Poll Co Ark. Summer of 1862

Rank Private Company E. Regiment 2nd (Cav) Brigade Grimes

Division Polk's Corps Miss Army Trans Miss Dept

SIGN THIS, AND GIVE NAMES OF TWO REFERENCES. REMARKS.

Changes of name and address will be included changes in Commands, important battles in which engaged, and other important facts connected with your CONFEDERATE record.]

*Saw in Prices raid through Missouri.
also I was in the Battle of Prairie Land
and I was in the Battle of Poison Spring, Ark.*

W. J. Parrish.

*Witnesses:
A. H. Parrish
John Parrish*