George Abraham Barnard was a native of Arkansas. He came with his parents and siblings to far eastern Tarrant County before 1850. He was a son of Peters Colonists Abraham and Sarah Barnard, who had arrived in Texas by 1846. George served the Confederacy in two units, first in a local militia company, and finally in a Texas infantry regiment. He was at the surrender at Appomattox Court House in 1865. George returned to Texas soon after the War and died in Coryell County, Texas in 1927.

George was born November 29, 1839 in Conway County, Arkansas. The death certificate of one of George’s sisters, Mrs. Margaret E. Applin, says their mother’s maiden name was Sarah Lackey. Mrs. Applin died at the Confederate widows’ home in Austin on June 27, 1928. No one who appears to be Abraham Barnard has been located in the 1840 census of Arkansas. They arrived in this area as Peters Colonists. By the time the 1850 census was taken, the Barnards had settled in Tarrant County.

George’s father, Abraham Barnard, died in northeast Tarrant County in the summer of 1851. His estate included the 640-acre Abraham Barnard survey. Mr. Barnard’s heirs were George’s mother, Sarah Barnard, and her children John Barnard, Minerva Jane Tompkins, Sarah Louisa Hutton, George A. Barnard, and Margaret Elizabeth Barnard. Both the Barnard sons, and all three of the men who married the Barnard sisters, are honored on our Civil War veterans’ memorial in Bedford.

Another settler who later moved onto the Barnard survey, Alexander Dobkins, was placed in charge of the interests of some of the Barnard children. The Dobkins family cemetery is now the only historical cultural feature left on the Barnard survey. Most of the survey is kept in rangeland as a part of the buffer area around the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. A large portion of it is also right-of-way for Highways 360 and 183, which intersection is located in the southwest corner of the Barnard survey. Since there is no trace of a Barnard Cemetery on the Barnard survey, and there are several unmarked fieldstone graves in the Dobkins Cemetery, one wonders if the cemetery was might actually have been established when Abraham Barnard died in 1851.
On November 3, 1857 George and his sister, Margaret E. Barnard, were given one hundred ninety-two acres of their father’s survey as their part of his estate. Their mother was still alive at that time.

George’s wife, Mary Ann Applin, was born March 31, 1845 in Conway County, Arkansas. She and George Bernard were married about 1860. The Ap(p)lin family was established in Conway County, Arkansas Territory by 1830. It seems likely that the Barnards and Applins were already associated, and possibly related, in Conway County, Arkansas before they began settling in Texas. By 1860 several members of the Applin family had moved from Arkansas and settled in Milam County, Texas.

G. A. Barnard appears on a muster roll of John R. Cummins Company dated June 18, 1861. His company, the West Fork Guards, was a part of the 20th Brigade of Texas State Militia. Barnard later moved to Milam County, where several of his and his wife’s relatives already lived.

George A. Barnard enlisted a second time in the Confederate service in Milam County, Texas on March 22 (or 24 or 27), 1862. He enlisted for the duration of the War. He said he was twenty-three years old. He became a private in Capt. J. C. Rogers’ Company, 5th Regiment Texas Volunteers. This company subsequently became Co. G, 5th Texas Infantry.

On July 1, 1862 he was admitted to Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond for “Vul Sclop,” [something relating to a gunshot wound] and was transferred Danville, Virginia on the same day. A roll made at Danville the next day shows he was suffering from bronchitis; he was released for duty on July 16. On the regimental roll for September and October, 1862, the notation is made that Barnard left one gun in the care of Surgeon Smith at Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond, Virginia. On the roll for May and June 1863 it was recorded that he had drawn $8.22 in advance pay.

On March 18, 1863 he was admitted to the Texas Hospital, but the Medical Director’s Statement made in Richmond does not specify Barnard’s complaint.

Barnard was wounded in the Battle of Gettysburg and was sent to a hospital in Richmond. The notation bears the date July 2, 1863, and it seems likely this was the date of his wounding and not the date he was sent to Virginia. On July 15 he was admitted into the Wayside Hospital in Richmond, and his records show that he was forwarded from there to the Texas Hospital on the same day. He received a thirty-day furlough on September 5, 1863 with the notation that his wound was a gun shot in the left knee, and that he had developed hospital gangrene. By the time of the roll for September and October, 1863 he was back with the regiment. On May 6, 1864 Mr. Barnard was slightly wounded in the leg during the Battle of the Wilderness.

On the regimental rolls for September and October 1864 at note was made that Barnard was due “One Hundred Dollars Bounty Bond.” He was with the regiment to the end, and was paroled with Lee’s Army at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865.

G. A. Barnard appears in the 1865 tax list of Tarrant County. He had real estate or personal property. Family records among the descendants of his son, Charles, show that the family was living at Grapevine in Tarrant County when Charles was born in 1866.

By the time the 1870 census was taken, George and his family had moved to Milam County and were living there in the area served by the post office at San Andres. They were farming. Two of their children were with them: John and Charles Barnard. Also living with them were George’s
brother, John Barnard, his wife Rebecca (who was born about 1845) and their daughter, Fannie Barnard, who was born about 1878.

George appears in the 1870 agricultural census of Milam County. He was farming eighteen acres of cultivated land. He had two horses, four milk cows, and eighteen hogs. All his livestock was valued together at one hundred dollars. He had sixty bushels of Indian corn on hand.

We have been unable to locate this family in the 1880 census. The death certificate of one of the Barnard children indicates they lived in Gonzales, Texas in that year. In 1900 they lived in Precinct 7 of Gonzales County, where they owned their farm. Mary Bernard said she had given birth to nine children, seven of whom were still living. The couple had three children with them in 1900: their son, W. L. Barnard, and two daughters, Hettie and Nettie Barnard.

Mrs. Mary Ann Applin Barnard died of heart trouble at 10 p.m. on August 21, 1918 at Gatesville, Coryell County, Texas. Her death certificate says she was born in Conway, Arkansas and that her mother’s maiden name was Pascall. She was buried the next day in Turnersville Cemetery at Turnersville, a few miles north of Gatesville in Coryell County, Texas.

Mr. Barnard filed an application for a Confederate veteran’s pension on May 18, 1918. He gave his address at Gatesville, Texas. He said he had lived in Texas for seventy-two years; hence they must have come here about 1846. He confirmed that he had served three years in Co. G, 5th Texas Cavalry, and had left the Army at the surrender at Appomattox Court House. He also said he had been living in Coryell County for forty-six years, which would place his arrival there about 1872, which date is not borne out by census data.

When the 1920 census was taken, George was living with his single son, W. L. Barnard, in Precinct 8 of Coryell County. Both men were farming.

Headstone records of Turnersville Cemetery indicate that George A. Barnard died on January 5, 1927. We have found no Texas death certificate for him. We have discovered the names of only six of the nine Barnard children.

Family sources at Ancestry.com report a son named James Barnard who was born about 1861. He was not with the family when the 1870 census was taken.

Charles Clifford Barnard was born January 7, 1866. He married Sallie F. Shearly (1869-1917) about 1888. They lived in Gonzales County in 1900, but by 1910 had moved to Tarrant County. He worked for many years as a carpenter. He died at Comanche, Comanche County, Texas at 2:55 a.m. on September 8, 1944. He was buried the next day in Seaton Cemetery in Comanche County.

Willie Lee Barnard was born February 28, 1872. He worked as a farmer and was never married. He died at Gatesville, Coryell County, Texas on July 9, 1946. He was buried in Turnersville Cemetery.

Hettie Barnard was born in March 1878. She was still unmarried and living with the family when the 1900 census was taken.

David Wesley Barnard was born February 5, 1880 at Gonzales, Texas, according to his death certificate. He married Fannie Josephine Applin (1878-1958) about 1896. He died at 11:30 p.m.
on February 6, 1951 in the Coryell Memorial Hospital at Gatesville, Texas. His last permanent address was at Gatesville. He was a retired farmer. He was buried the next day at Greenbriar Cemetery in Gatesville.

Nettie Ophelia Barnard was born July 30, 1883. She married Raymond King Whitehead (1882-1943). She died at 11:30 p.m. on April 3, 1936 at her home near Harwood in Precinct 7 of Gonzales County, Texas. She was buried the next day in Harwood Cemetery in Harwood, Gonzales County, Texas.