Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

John Barnard

Compiled by Michael Patterson
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John Barnard came with his parents and siblings to far eastern Tarrant County before 1850. Like many other area men he served in Co. A, 34th Texas Cavalry. He was a son of Peters Colonists Abraham and Sarah Barnard, who had arrived in Texas by 1846.

The death certificate of one of John’s sisters, Margaret E. (Mrs. John) Applin, says their mother’s maiden name was Sarah Lackey. Mrs. Applin died at the Confederate widows’ home in Austin on June 27, 1928.

John Barnard was born March 31, 1838 in Arkansas. No one who appears to be Abraham Barnard has been located in the 1840 census of Arkansas. By the time the 1850 census was taken the Barnards had settled in Tarrant County, Texas. They arrived in this area as Peters Colonists.

It seems evident that the Barnards and Applins, possibly related, were in Conway County, Arkansas before they began settling in Texas. When the 1850 census was taken in Point Remove Township, Conway County, Arkansas, most of the other persons on the page with the Applin family were Barnards. By 1860 several members of the Applins had moved from Arkansas and settled in Milam County, Texas. Several of the Tarrant County Barnards left here and settled in Milam County around the time of the Civil War.

John’s father, Abraham Barnard, died in Tarrant County in the summer of 1851. His estate included the 640-acre Abraham Barnard survey. Mr. Barnard’s heirs were John’s mother, Sarah Barnard, and her children: John Barnard, Minerva Jane Tompkins, Sarah Louisa Hutton, George A. Barnard, and Margaret Elizabeth Barnard. Of these five children, both sons are honored on our memorial, and all three daughters married men who are named on our memorial as well.

Another settler who later moved onto the Barnard survey, Alexander Dobkins, was placed in charge of the interests of teenaged John Barnard at his father’s death. 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.

John Barnard entered the Confederate service on February 10, 1862 at Grapevine under Lt. Crowley for a term of twelve months. He served in Co. A, 34th Texas Cavalry, as did many other northeast Tarrant County men. On a muster roll for February 28 through June 30, 1863, he was still due mileage for one hundred ten miles to the regimental rendezvous. His name is last shown present on a roll for January and February 1864.

John Barnard and his wife, Rebecca Pae Evans, were married in the late 1860’s. Family internet sources say she was born July 18, 1845 in Madison County, Arkansas, and was a daughter of William C. Evens, who was born about 1820 in Tennessee. She appears with her parents and siblings in the 1850 census in Prairie Township in Newton County, Arkansas.

When the 1870 census was taken, John and his wife, Rebecca, were living with their two-year-old daughter Fannie in the home of John’s brother, George A. Barnard, at San Andres in Milam County, Texas.

Several family sources at ancestry.com say John Barnard died about 1879 at Denison, Grayson County, Texas. However, recently the wife of one of John Barnard’s grandsons remembered being at the graves of John Bernard and his son, John Marion Barnard, in the Tamaha Cemetery in Haskell County, Oklahoma.

By the time the 1880 census was taken, John’s widow, Rebecca, and her children had returned to Arkansas. In that year she lived in a home headed by her father, William C. Evens, in War Eagle Township, Madison County, Arkansas. She appears in the census with her maiden name, but four of her Barnard-surnamed children are with her: Fannie, Sarah A., Thomas A., and John M. Barnard. The youngest child, apparently Rebecca’s, is listed as Mary E. Evens; she was born in December 1879.

Mrs. Rebecca Evens Barnard died February 6, 1929 in Ashley County, Arkansas. She apparently retained her maiden name the rest of her life. She lies buried in the Belt Cemetery at Ozark, Franklin County, Arkansas.

Census records and family sources on the internet list five children for John and Rebecca Barnard. The following short accounts of their lives have been compiled from public sources and family records placed on ancestry.com.

Fannie Barnard was born at San Andres, Milam County, Texas on August 18, 1869. She was first married to Jon William Williams (died 1898) in Carroll County, Arkansas on August 16, 1885. She was later married to Jonathan M. Nichols (1879-1948). She died of tuberculosis and was bedridden for some time before her death on November 5, 1903 at Watalula in Franklin County, Arkansas. She has a readable upright headstone in Belt Cemetery at Ozark, Franklin County, Arkansas.
Sarah A. Barnard was born about 1871. She was with her mother and siblings at the time of the 1880 census.

Thomas Avid Barnard was born March 31, 1873 at Denison in Grayson County, Texas, according to family tradition. He used the “Bernard” spelling of his surname. He married Elizabeth Jane Nichols (1873-1953) in 1892 and they had at least ten children. When the 1900 census was taken he and his family were living in Franklin County, Arkansas. He died December 5, 1959 and lies buried in Belt Cemetery in Franklin County, Arkansas.

John Marion Barnard was born about 1875 in Texas. His family used the “Bernard” spelling of the surname. He was married to Clara Barton Belt (1884-1915) in Franklin County, Arkansas on October 2, 1904. John M. Bernard died before 1930 and lies buried in the same cemetery as his father at Tamaha, Haskell County, Oklahoma. Both lie in unmarked graves.

Mary Elizabeth “Pollie” Barnard was born December 20, 1879. She appears in the 1880 census with her mother and siblings with the surname “Evens.” She married Thomas Marcell Evans (1873-1917) in Arkansas County, Arkansas in 1897. She died at Paris, Logan County, Arkansas on January 25, 1953.