Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Ephreham Hughey Bilbo

Compiled by Michael Patterson
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Ephreham Hughey Bilbo was born May 28, 1834 in Georgia. When the 1850 census was taken, Ephreham was living with his parents, William G. and Susan Emma (Hughey) Bilbo, in District 19 of Coweta County, Georgia. William's father was a wagon maker.

By 1860, E. H. Bilbo's parents were still living in Coweta County, Georgia, but by that time Ephreham had moved to Crockett, Houston County, Texas, where he was living as an unmarried man in the household of a mechanic named Joe Smith.

Bilbo served in the Confederate Army as a corporal in Co. I, 4th Texas Cavalry. His official records in Washington show him to have been twenty-six years old when he enlisted at Camp Sibley in Crockett, Houston County, Texas on September 29, 1861. He presented himself with a horse worth $150 and equipment worth $20. He traveled three hundred miles to the rendezvous where he was mustered in at San Antonio on July 29, 1861. Another record in his file shows he enlisted September 17 at Crockett.

He was left at Sante Fe, New Mexico on April 8, 1862, his horse having been killed at the Battle of Val Verde. He was captured on April 20, 1862 at Sante Fe and was sent to prisoner at Ft. Riley, Kansas where was paroled on April 30, 1862. Another record shows him on a roll of prisoners of war at Camp Douglas, Illinois, who were sent to Vicksburg for exchange on July 30, 1862.

He is shown present on a company muster roll for the period October 31, 1863 through February 27, 1864. He was furloughed for sixty days because of sickness on November 5, 1863.

This Bilbo family has not been found in the 1870 federal census. His family appears in the 1880 census of Precinct 2 of Houston County, Texas. With him are his second wife, Joanna L. Bilbo,
born in June, 1856 in Mississippi to two native Mississippians; daughter Mary Jane, born about 1871; son James W., born about 1872; son Charles T., born about 1874; son Luther F. and daughter Susan F., born about 1876; and Alonzo H., born about 1879.

When the 1900 census was taken, the family was living at Hubbard in Hill County, Texas. At that time, Mrs. Bilbo said she had given birth to eight children, five of whom were still living. Children living with Mr. and Mrs. Bilbo in 1900 included Joanna M., born in December 1884; John W., born in August, 1893; and Elonzo H., born in April 1879. The Bilbos moved to Tarrant County about 1909. When the 1910 census was taken, he and his wife and son John W. Bilbo were living in Precinct 3 of Tarrant County.

When he applied for a Confederate pension in 1899, Bilbo was living in Erath County, where he said he had lived in Dublin, Texas since November 10, 1898. He said he served three years and nine months in the Confederate Army in Co. I, 4th Texas Cavalry. Bilbo said he enlisted in the fall of 1861 in Crockett, Texas, and served until the close of the war. A comrade who made an affidavit for him in support of his pension application said he had first known Bilbo in Crockett, Houston County, Texas. Bilbo claimed disability to work from the effects of a tree limb falling on him in 1888.

A number of genealogists are actively researching Mr. Bilbo and his family at ancestry.com. Family sources there report that his first wife was Margaret Wood, and that their children were Mary Jane Hediger (1871-1943; James Will Bilbo (1872-1936); Charles T. Bilbo (born 1874); Luther Franklin Bilbo (1875-1946); and Susan Frances Bilbo (1875-1974).

They also report that with his second wife, Joanna Lou Weeks, he was the father of Elonzo Hugh Bilbo (1879-1969); Anna L. Bilbo (born 1881); Harriett Emma Bilbo (1882-1957); Joanna Margaret Bilbo (born 1884); and John Wood Bilbo (1893-1955). They show that Joanna Lou (Weeks) Bilbo was born in Mississippi on June 30, 1856, a daughter of J. S. and A. M. Weeks. She died September 1, 1938 in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas.

E. H. Bilbo died in Tarrant County on June 11, 1913, and was buried in Calloway Cemetery. Mrs. J. Bilbo applied for a pension after her husband's death. She married him December 27, 1877 in Houston County, Texas. She said she was fifty-seven years old in 1913, was born in Mississippi, had been in Texas fifty-four years and in Tarrant County, four years. She said her husband's name was Ephreham Hughey Bilbo.
FATHER

EPHRAIM H. BILBO
MAY 28, 1854
JUNE 11, 1913

MOTHER

J. L. BILBO
1857—1938