Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

John Franklin Dale

Compiled by Michael Patterson
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John Franklin Dale was a Missouri Union veteran who lived for a time in the 1870’s, 1880’s, and 1890’s at Keller. He left northeast Tarrant County and moved north to the Red River valley, where he died before 1900.

Many of Mr. Dale’s descendants have placed material at Ancestry.com. According to those family members, John Franklin Dale was a son of Isaac Dale (1788-1869) and his wife, Elizabeth Baker (born in 1796). John was born in Nicholas County, Kentucky on January 28, 1829. When John was still a small boy, Isaac Dale moved the family to Ray County, Missouri.

An excellent biographical sketch of John F. Dale’s younger brother, Moses G. Dale (who was born in 1836) appeared in the History of Northwest Missouri, Volume 2, edited by Walter Williams and published by the Lewis Publishing Company in 1915. According to the sketch, John’s father, Isaac Dale, left Kentucky in 1834 and moved the family to Ray County, Missouri. The elder Dale “…had shipped by boat about five hundred dollars’ worth of household goods and other needed supplies, but the goods were lost en route and were never recovered. This sterling pioneer settled on Section 15, Richmond Township, near the present village of Swanwick, the land having been purchased by him about a year prior to the family removal to this state. The pioneer farm, which comprised 320 acres, was covered in part with native timber and the remainder was excellent prairie land, so that Isaac Dale was favored in his zealous labors to reclaim the tract to cultivation. Isaac Dale devoted his entire active career to agricultural pursuits, was a man of strong individuality and inflexible integrity, and his name merits enduring place on the roster of the worthy pioneers of Northwestern Missouri. He was a soldier in the War of 1812, in politics was originally a whig and later a democrat, and both he and his wife held membership in the Christian church…”
Family sources report that John F. Dale’s married his first wife, Louisa Colley, in Ray County, Missouri on May 15, 1851. She died about 1871 in Lancaster County, Nebraska. He was remarried in Ray County, Missouri to Martha “Mattie” Colley on January 1, 1873. She and Louisa Colley were sisters. Data at Ancestry.com show that Louisa and Martha were daughters of William K. Colley and his wife, Alice Breeding.

Mr. Dale and his family appear in the 1860 Ray County, Missouri census in Richmond Township. Mr. Dale and his wife, Louisa (who was born about 1835 in Virginia) had the following children with them: H. P. Dale (born about 1852), Fred K. Dale (born about 1854), William T. Dale (born about 1856), Jacob Dale (born about 1857), and Vashti Dale (born about 1858).

When the 1870 census was taken, John and Louisa Dale and his family were listed at Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska. Ten of their children were living with them, as was one Mattie Colley, a young school teacher in her twenties and probably a relative of Louisa Dale. Also in their household was a fifty-year-old Connecticut native named Albert Welton who was working with them on the family farm.

In the census of Precinct 4 of Tarrant County in 1880, Mr. Dale appears with a wife named Mattie (born about 1842 in Missouri to two Virginian parents. The couple had six children with them: William T. Dale (born about 1854 in Missouri to two Kentuckian parents), Vashtie Dale (born about 1856), John M. Dale (born about 1863) Mattie (born about 1867), George M. Dale (born about 1874), and Edward Dale (born about 1879 in Texas. The ages shown in this census suggest that Mattie may have been a second wife. No marriage record for Mr. Dale and Mattie is on record in Tarrant County around 1880.

Mr. Dale appears in the census of Union veterans in 1890 at Keller in Tarrant County. In that year he owned eighty acres of the R. F. Allen survey, in addition to one carriage worth five dollars, tools worth five dollars, three horses or mules worth fifty dollars, and three cows worth twenty dollars.

In modern-day terms, the R. F. Allen survey is located in Keller east of Highway 377. The survey’s west line follows present-day Highway 377, with its northwest corner at the highway’s intersection of Mount Gilead Road and its southwest corner at Highway 377 and Johnson Road.

In connection with the veterans census, Mr. Dale said he served the Union in Co. A, Barr’s Regiment of Missouri Infantry. He told the census taker his papers were with his son in Greer County, Texas.

Mr. Dale died December 2, 1898. Some family sources say he died in Greer County, Oklahoma, while others say he died in Gray County, Texas.

Henry Powell Dale was born in Ray County, Missouri on December 15, 1852. He married Hettie Virginia White in Greer County, Oklahoma on November 23, 1890. He died May 4, 1931 in Mountain View, Kiowa County, Oklahoma.

Isaac Franklin Dale was born in Missouri on February 17, 1854. He was married to Emma J. Core in Lancaster County, Nebraska on December 25, 1882. He died February 14, 1911 in Lancaster County, Nebraska.

William Thomas Dale was born October 11, 1855. He married Lucy Emorine McCarty about 1882. He died in Oklahoma after 1930.

Jacob P. Dale was born March 23, 1857. He married Mary Belle Petty about 1896. He died July 6, 1946 in Dallas, Texas.

Vashti Alice Dale was born November 28, 1858 in Missouri. She married Henry Lawson Berry Roach in Clay County, Texas on May 2, 1889. She died at Henrietta, Clay County, Texas on March 1, 1891.

Frances Missouri Dale was born June 30, 1861. She married Amasa G. Hutchinson in Tarrant County, Texas on April 8, 1877. She died February 12, 1923 in Sussex County, Virginia.

James Dale was born December 18, 1862. He died July 1, 1866 in Ray County, Missouri.

John McClellan Dale was born December 18, 1862. He married Ava Brown on November 21, 1889. He died at Hobart, Oklahoma in 1936.

Martha Dale was born September 25, 1866. She died May 18, 1914. She was married to Herbert Acers and A. L. Woods.

Mary Dale was born July 14, 1869 in Lancaster County, Nebraska. She died in the same place in 1872.

Charles Dale was born July 11, 1870 in Lancaster County, Nebraska. He died there on July 7, 1877.

George Monroe Dale was born in Ray County, Missouri on August 24, 1873. He married Anna L. Collins about 1910. He died August 16, 1949 in Mountain Park, Kiowa County, Oklahoma.

Edward Everett Dale was born at Keller, Tarrant County, Texas on February 8, 1879. He married Rosalie Gilkey in Kansas City, Missouri on July 18, 1913. He died May 28, 1972 in Norman, Cleveland County, Oklahoma.