Francis Marion Denney was born about 1839 in Madison County, Arkansas, a son of Burnett Denney and Priscilla (Doyle) Denney. About 1860 Denney left Arkansas and moved to Parker County, Texas where a young lady named Margaret E. Doak was living with her brother’s family. About 1861, probably in Parker County, Texas, Denney was married to Margaret, who was born about August 11, 1840.

Denney joined the Confederate army and became a private in Co. F, 19th Texas Cavalry. He enlisted March 31, 1862 at Veal Station in Parker County, Texas for the duration of the war. He was 6’1” tall, had hazel eyes, and brown hair. He traveled sixty miles to the rendezvous at Dallas. He furnished his own horse, worth $150, and his own equipment, worth $20. He said he was twenty-two years old in 1862. He was stationed at Camp Stonewall Jackson in Dallas as of June 25, 1862, where he received an enlistment bounty of $30.

Family sources say that one of the Denney children was born in Lavaca County, Texas in 1866. By 1870 Denney and his family had moved to the White’s Chapel area of Tarrant County, to be near the family of his brother, Jasper Doyle Denney.

The year 1878 was a devastating one for Mr. Denney… his daughter, Della, died at the age of eight months on September 29. His wife, Margaret, and his seventeen-year-old son, Burnett, both died on October 1, and his daughter, Priscilla, died on November 18. A widower with children to raise, Denney was soon remarried to a lady named Emma A. Only a few months later, his and Emma’s son, Francis M. Denney, Jr., died on May 30, 1880 after living less than one month.

In 1880, Denney owned 100 acres of the Hiram Granberry survey in present-day Southlake, which survey is a rectangular tract about one mile north-south by one-half mile east-west. Its northwest corner was about where Shady Grove Drive dead ends from the north into FM1709. Continental
Drive today forms its southern boundary. Denney may have lived somewhere along White’s Chapel Boulevard between FM 1709 and Continental Drive.

In late 1880 or early 1881, Denney and his remaining family left Texas and moved back to Madison County, Arkansas where he died on June 18, 1881. His widow, Emma A. Denney, remarried in 1885. Francis Denney’s other children included Thomas B. Denney, Seanna M. Denney, Rosa E. Denney, and Machie J. Dennie, all of whom were still alive in 1880.

Jasper (left) and Francis Denney (right)