Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Asher Garner Hardin

Compiled by Michael Patterson
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Asher Garner Hardin was a native of Alabama who served in a Texas cavalry regiment. Two of his sons, George W. Hardin and John I. Hardin, were also Confederate veterans who spent time in northeast Tarrant County. Asher Hardin later moved away and died in Eastland County, Texas.

Mr. Hardin was born about 1819 in Wilkes County, Georgia. His parents names are not known at this point, but the 1880 census records indicate that his father was born in North Carolina and his mother was born in Georgia.

Asher Hardin and his wife, Rhoda Keith, were married July 3, 1834 in Carroll County, Arkansas. She was a daughter of John B. Keith and his wife, Polly Ann (Crane) Keith.

Asher G. Hardin, his wife, and two sons appear in the 1840 census of Blythe, Marion County, Arkansas. Their next-door neighbors were the family of John B. Keith, Asher’s father-in-law. Several records indicate Asher’s family lived in Carroll County, Arkansas during the later 1840’s.

Census records suggest that Asher Hardin moved his family from Arkansas to Texas about 1845. His name appears on the 1846 tax rolls for Titus County, Texas. When the 1850 Titus County census was taken, he was living there with his wife, Rhody, who was thirty-one years old, and six of their children. The children included William (who was born about 1835), William (who was born about 1837), George (who was born about 1838), John (who was born about 1841), James
(who was born about 1844 in Arkansas), Mary (who was born about 1847 in Texas), and Laborne
(who was born about 1849).

By the time of the 1860 census, Asher G. Hardin and his family had moved to Precinct 7 of Hunt
County, Texas. Asher owned real estate worth one thousand dollars and personal property worth
seven hundred dollars. Rhoda said she was born about 1819 in Mississippi. The children with them
that year included George W., John C., James I., Mary Elizabeth, Labon S., and Margaret J. Hardin.

Asher Hardin entered the Confederate service at Ladonia, Texas on June 13, 1861. Another record
says he was mustered into the service on the same day at Dallas. He had ridden eighty miles to the
rendezvous, and presented himself for service riding a horse worth one hundred thirty-five dollars
and with equipment worth ten dollars. He became a private in Co. D, South Kansas Texas Regiment
Cavalry. This company subsequently became Co. D, 3rd Texas Cavalry. Yet another record says he
enlisted at Ladonia on May 25, 1861, and was forty-eight years old. He enlisted for a term of twelve
months.

One notation made on a regimental muster roll says, “Discharged at Camp Priceville from
non-subjugation to the conscript act July 22, 1862.” Asher’s son, John I. Hardin, was discharged at
the same time and place for the same reason. Asher’s file contains an original signed document
which records his having received $184.15 at the time of his discharge; forty five dollars of this
amount was for travel from Priceville, Mississippi to Ladonia, Texas, Mr. Hardin’s home. Another
original signed discharged document says, in part: “…A. G. Hardin, a private of Capt. R. S.
Dabney’s Company (D) 3rd Texas Regiment Cavalry born in Wilkes County State Georgia 48 years
5 feet 11-1/2 inch high dark complexion, dark hair, and by occupation a farmer…”

When A. G. Hardin registered to vote on August 8, 1867, he told officials he had lived in Texas
twenty-four years, and had been living in Precinct 2 of Tarrant County for three years. He said he
was a native of Georgia. His son, John I. Hardin, appears on the registration form next to his father.

The 1870 mortality schedules for Tarrant County list the death of a fifty-two-year-old female named
R. Hardin in June, 1869. She died of cancer. The people around her in the list are known to have
been Southlake-area people. It seems possible, to this researcher at least, that this is the record of
the death of Asher G. Hardin’s wife, Rhoda.

A[sher]. G. Harden is listed in the 1870 census of Precinct 2, Tarrant County, Texas. The names of
his neighbors suggest he was living in present-day Southlake. He was fifty-six years old and a native
of Georgia. His wife, Charity, was also fifty-six and was a native of Kentucky. She was the widow
of Thomas Easter, who had died at his Southlake home in 1862. Living with them were Asher’s
daughter, M. J. Harden, a female eighteen years old, and a teenage boy named Jasper Esper.

Ten years later, in 1880, Mr. Hardin had moved west to Eastland County, Texas. He lived there in
Precinct 6 with his unmarried daughter, M. J. Hardin, who was twenty-six years old. George W.
Hardin, Asher’s son, and his family are listed on the same page of the census. Asher Hardin does
not appear in that year’s agricultural census.
At the time the 1880 census was taken in Tarrant County, Charity Easter (who had been married to Asher G. Hardin at the time the 1870 census was taken) was shown with her Easter surname living in the home of her son, William Easter, in present-day Southlake.

On November 16, 1881, Asher G. Hardin received a Confederate Scrip land grant certificate number 1363 for 1,280 acres of land. On September 11, 1882 this land grant certificate was sold unlocated and signed by A. G. Hardin.

Family sources say Asher G. Hardin died at Rising Star, Eastland County, Texas in 1894.

William Abijah Hardin and Martha York (1841-1914) were married about 1856. In 1860 he and Martha and their family lived in Erath County, Texas. He was a Confederate soldier. William was born July 3, 1836 in Carroll County, Arkansas and died October 26, 1900 in Kerr County, Texas. They lie buried in Old Japonica Cemetery at Hunt, Kerr County, Texas.

George Washington Hardin was born in Carroll County, Arkansas about 1838. He lived in Tarrant County when the 1870 census was taken, and by 1880 had moved to Eastland County, where he died about 1884. He was married twice, first to Margaret Elizabeth Brown in Hunt County, Texas on November 4, 1865. He married his second wife, Annie Foster, in Eastland County, Texas on August 18, 1880.

John C. Hardin was born about 1841 in Arkansas. He was still alive with the family in Hunt County in 1860.

James I. Hardin was born in January 1844 in Arkansas. He died June 19, 1920 at Beaumont in Sisters Hospital. He died of pneumonia, and was buried in Magnolia Cemetery in Jefferson County, Texas. He and his wife, Elizabeth, were married about 1865. They lived for many years in Caldwell County, Texas.

Mary Elizabeth Hardin was born May 9, 1945, in Rusk County (her death certificate says Hunt County), Texas. She married Jepsey Lawrence Day (1847-1932) before 1870, probably in Tarrant County, Texas. She died November 23, 1919 in Hood County, Texas, and was buried in Acton Cemetery.

Laban (Laborne) S. Hardin was born about 1849 in Texas. He was still alive with the family in Hunt County, Texas in 1860.

Margaret J. Hardin was born about 1852. She was still alive with her father in Eastland County, Texas in 1880.