George Washington Hardin was a native of Arkansas who served in a Texas cavalry regiment. He lived in northeast Tarrant County for a time just after the War, and later moved to Eastland County where he died. His father and younger brother were also Confederate veterans who lived for a time in this community.

Hardin family descendants have placed a great deal of family information on the internet. They say George was born in Carroll County, Arkansas in 1838 and died at Rising Star, Eastland County, Texas in 1884. He was a son of Asher Garner Hardin and his wife, Rhoda (Keith) Hardin.

George came to Texas from Arkansas as a boy with his parents in the 1840’s. By 1850, they had settled in Titus County, where George appears in the census as a twelve-year-old boy. At some time during the 1850’s the Hardins moved again, this time to Precinct 7 of Hunt County, Texas. George appears in the census there in 1860 as a twenty-year-old, still living with his parents and siblings.

George W. Hardin enlisted in the Confederate service at Fort Washita, Chickasaw Nation, on December 14, 1861. He became a private in Co. D, Taylor’s Regiment, Texas Mounted Rifles. This subsequently became Co. D, 22nd Texas Cavalry. He was six feet one inch tall, twenty-two years old, with light hair, gray eyes, and a fair complexion. He was a native of Arkansas and a farmer. He was mustered into the service on December 28. He presented himself for service riding a horse worth one hundred thirty-five dollars and with rigging worth thirty-five dollars.

Another record says he enlisted on December 15, 1861 at Greenville, Texas for a term of twelve months. In March and April 1863 he was due $127.10 for the risk of his horse for three hundred
eighteen days. In May and June 1863 was due pay for the use of his private gun for fourteen months. No further records of his service have survived.

George married Margaret Elizabeth Brown in Hunt County, Texas on November 4, 1865. She was born about 1839 in Arkansas and died about 1879 in Eastland County, Texas. He was remarried in Eastland County, Texas to Annie Foster on August 18, 1880.

When the 1870 census was taken, George and his family were listed in Precinct 2 of Tarrant County, Texas. The names of their neighbors suggest they were probably living in the area of present-day Southlake. With him were his wife, M. E. Hardin (who was born about 1839 in Arkansas), and their two daughters: M. J. Hardin (who was born about 1867) and S. F. Hardin (who was born in March, 1870). At some point during the 1870’s George moved his family to Rising Star in Eastland County, Texas.

On April 19, 1880, the U. S. Post Office at Rising Star, Texas was reestablished. George W. Hardin was named its first postmaster.

When the 1880 census was taken in Eastland County, G. W. Hardin and his family were found living in Precinct 7. He was a widower with five children: M. J. (a daughter born about 1867), S. F. (a daughter born about 1870), J. L. (a son born about 1872), T. A. (a son born about 1876), and W. B. (a son born about 1878). Their next-door neighbors were G. W. Hardin’s father and unmarried sister.

George W. Hardin appears in the 1880 Eastland County agricultural census. Mr. Hardin was working forty-five acres of cultivated land, and had an additional two hundred seventy-five acres which were unimproved. His buildings were valued at seven hundred fifty dollars and his farming implements were valued at seventy-five dollars. He estimated the value of all his farm products in the past year at one hundred dollars, but that is probably an inaccurate figure since it seems to have been recorded for nearly everyone in the census. He owned four horses. He had one acre of unmowed hay. He had two cows, and estimated they had produced ten pounds of butter in the past year. He had thirty-three hogs and a dozen chickens. He guessed he had gotten ten dozen eggs in the past year. He had four acres in cotton, which had produced two bales in 1879.

Family sources say George W. Hardin died at Rising Star in Eastland County, Texas about 1884.

The following short accounts of the lives of his children were taken from family internet sources and public records.

Mary Jane Hardin was born about 1866. She was still alive with her father’s family in 1880.

Sarah Frances Hardin was born March 17, 1870. Descendants report she married Hiram Timothy Willie Martin in Hood County, Texas on August 24, 1890. She was later married to Casper Lyles. They moved from Palo Pinto County, Texas to Pittsburg County, Oklahoma between 1910 and 1920. She died in McAlester, Oklahoma on April 6, 1963. She is buried in Tannehill Cemetery in Pittsburg County, Oklahoma.
Jimmy L. Hardin was born about 1872. He was still alive with his father’s family in 1880.

Thomas Asher Hardin was born about 1873. He was still alive with his father’s family in 1880.

Willie B. Hardin was born about 1878. Family sources say he died December 11, 1888.

John Hardin was born about 1880. We have not located him in any census record.

George Annie Hardin was born, according to family sources, November 19, 1882. We have not located her in any census record.