Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

James I. Hardin

Compiled by Michael Patterson
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James I. Hardin was a native of Arkansas who served in a Texas Confederate cavalry regiment. He came to northeast Tarrant County with his parents and siblings near the end of the War. He later moved to southeast Texas, where he died in 1920.

James I. Hardin was born in January 1844 in Carroll County, Arkansas. He was a son of Asher Garner Hardin and his wife, Rhoda (Keith) Hardin. When James was still a small child the family moved to Texas.

James appears as a six-year-old boy in his father’s family in Titus County, Texas in the census of 1850. He was one of six children. At some point during the 1850’s, the family moved to Hunt County.

When the 1860 census was taken, Asher G. Hardin and his family lived in Precinct 7 of Hunt County, Texas. James was sixteen years old when the census taker arrived.

James I. Hardin became a private in Co. D, South Kansas Texas Regiment Cavalry. This company subsequently became Co. D, 3rd Texas Cavalry. He enlisted at White Rock Creek in Dallas County on July 13, year not given. He presented himself for service riding a horse worth ninety-five dollars and with twelve dollars worth of equipment. He was mustered into the service at Mount Vernon, Missouri on August 27. He was seventeen years old at the time. Another record shows he enlisted at Ladonia, Texas on May 25, 1861 for a twelve-month term. He was on furlough at some time during the months of November or December, 1861.

One notation in his record says “Discharged at Camp Priceville from non-subjugation to conscript act. July 22, 1862.” An original copy of his last pay voucher remaining in his file shows that he was paid ten cents per mile for traveling four hundred fifty miles from Priceville, Mississippi to Sherman,
Texas. A personal description on his discharge shows he was five feet ten inches tall, had a fair complexion and blue eyes. It also mentions he was born in Carroll County, Arkansas. It says he enlisted at Sherman, Texas on July 14, 1861. His father, Asher Hardin, was discharged the same day at the same place for the same reason.

When James I. 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 Arkansas. His father, A. G. Hardin, appears on the registration form next to his father.

We have been unable to locate James I. Hardin in the census records of 1870. At the time the 1880 census was taken, James and his wife, Elizabeth, were living in Precinct 6 of Bastrop County, Texas. They told the census taker they were married about 1865. They had four children with them: John (who was born about 1866), William (who was born about 1869), Sarah (who was born about 1872), and George (who was born about 1879).

James and Elizabeth J. Hardin are shown in the 1900 census of Precinct 6 of Caldwell County, Texas. She said she was born in February 1843 in Indiana; other census records give her birthplace as Missouri. She said she had given birth to four children, three of whom were still alive. Ten years later, in 1910, they were still living in the same place.

Mr. Hardin applied for a Confederate pension in 1913. He said he enlisted at Greenville, Hunt County, Texas in May 1861. He said was discharged at Priceville, Mississippi about July 22, 1862 on account of being under eighteen years old. He reenlisted at Dallas, Texas and left the service in 1865.

When he applied for his pension he was sixty-nine years old, and said he was born in Carroll County, Arkansas. He had been in Texas sixty-eight years, and had been at Lockhart, Caldwell County, Texas RFD 5, for thirty-five years. He said he served in Co. D, 3rd Texas Cavalry.

When the 1920 census was taken, Mr. Hardin was living with the family of his son, George Hardin, at 638 Seventh Street in Port Arthur, Jefferson County, Texas. James’s wife, Elizabeth, was already dead. We have been unable to find a death certificate for her.

James I. Hardin died June 19, 1920 at Beaumont in Sisters Hospital. G. W. Hardin of Port Arthur applied for his mortuary warrant. He died of pneumonia, and was buried in Magnolia Cemetery in Jefferson County, Texas. His grave is unmarked, and the cemetery has no record of his wife, Elizabeth, having been buried there.

One of James I. Hardin’s children was George W. Hardin, who was born (according to census records) in July 1879. He and his wife, Annie G., were married about 1903. They lived in Nacogdoches County, Texas in 1910; and in Jefferson County in 1920.
There is a Texas death certificate for one George Washington Hardin, who was born in Texas on July 7, 1875. He died at Pine Tree in Gregg County, Texas on January 23, 1935. His death certificate shows his father’s name as J. I. Hardin.