Hardy S. Holman was born March 20, 1840 in Missouri. He was a son of Hardy and Sarah (Stewart) Holman, who were married in Overton County, Tennessee on September 27, 1818. The family lived in Missouri for a number of years after leaving Tennessee. By 1850 the Holmans had settled in Smith County, Texas. The elder Holman died in Austin, Travis County, Texas on April 5, 1856, and lies buried there in Oakwood Cemetery.

The Holman family moved from Missouri to Texas about 1849. When the 1850 census was taken, Hardy Holman Sr. and his family were living in Smith County, where he was working as a “tavern keeper” and hotel keeper. With him were his wife, Sarah (born in South Carolina about 1805 in South Carolina), and five of his children: Alexander S. Holman (born about 1825 in Tennessee); John C. Holman (born about 1832 in Missouri); Martha A. Holman (born about 1834 in Missouri); William A. Holman (born about 1836 in Missouri), and Hardy S. Holman (born about 1839 in Missouri). Eight men were living in their hotel in that year, including two lawyers, a land trader, a physician, a grocer, a laborer, a dry goods clerk, and a trader.

About 1857, Hardy S. Holman arrived in Tarrant County. He entered the Confederate service as a soldier in Co. A, 9th Texas Cavalry, as did many other northeast Tarrant County men. He enlisted on October 14, 1861 at Camp Reeves for a term of twelve months. He traveled one hundred fifty miles to the rendezvous, bringing with him a horse worth $125 and equipment worth $18. He was present with the regiment at Fort Gibson [Oklahoma] on December 31, 1861. Records show that his horse died during a forced march during March 1862. At some point in March or April, 1862 he was sick in camp. He was on daily guard duty at some point during May and June, 1862. He is shown present on all the other surviving rolls of the regiment, with the exception of a period of time in May and June, 1864 when he was with a number of other dismounted men at Selma, Alabama. Records show his residence to have been Birdville, Texas. He was surrendered with the rest of the regiment at Citronelle, Alabama on May 4, 1865, and was paroled at Jackson, Mississippi on May 13, 1865.
Mr. Holman married Mary Elliston, a sister of two of our other northeast Tarrant County veterans, J. Frank Elliston and Mark Elliston. She was born July 30, 1846 in Lincoln County, Kentucky and died January 2, 1919. This date of death may be in error, since Mr. Holman is shown as a widower on his death certificate. For further information about her family background please refer to the biographies of her brothers elsewhere in this series.

When the 1870 Tarrant County census was taken, Mr. and Mrs. Holman were living in the household of Mrs. Holman’s mother, Elizabeth Elliston. They had one daughter living with them, Frankie Holman.

Mr. and Mrs. Holman are listed in the 1880 Tarrant County census of Precinct 4. They have with them two children: one a daughter born about 1872 whose name is not legible, and a son, Mack A. Holman, who was born about 1878.

When the 1900 census was taken, Mr. and Mrs. Holman were found living at Birdville. Mrs. Holman told the census taker in that year that she had given birth to three children, all three of whom were still living. Mack A. Holman and his wife were living with them. They also appear in the 1910 census at Birdville; in that year Mack Holman and his wife and daughter were living next-door.

When he applied for a Confederate pension in 1917, Mr. Holman’s address was 601 East 1st Street, Fort Worth, Texas. His physician said in 1917 that Mr. Holman was absolutely blind and senile to a marked degree. One eye was missing.

Mrs. Mary E. Holman died at “RFD #3, Grand Avenue, Riverside” in Fort Worth on January 21, 1918. Her death certificate records that she died at 11:30 a.m. of pneumonia and that she was buried at Mount Olivet the next day. Rufe Snow was the informant for her death certificate.

Mr. Holman died in the Riverside section of Fort Worth on July 30, 1918 at the home of his son-in-law, George W. Norton. His gravestone records his death date as July 28. He was seventy-nine years old. He died of senility. He was buried at Mt. Olivet on July 31, 1918. The informant for his death certificate was Mrs. H. S. Martin of Fort Worth. He was a widower.

An obituary for Mr. Holman appeared in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on July 31, 1918:

"RIVERSIDE PIONEER DIES EARLY TUESDAY.
H. S. Holman, 79, Tarrant County pioneer, died at 5 a.m. Tuesday at the home of is daughter, Mrs. George W. Norton, in Riverside. The funeral will be held from the Norton home at 10 a.m., Wednesday, with interment in Mount Olivet. Friends are requested to send no flowers. Surviving

One of his children was Frankie Holman, born at Birdville on July 30, 1867, and died February 23, 1924. She and her husband, George W. Norton, are buried at Mount Olivet. Another of them was Mack Andy Holman (1879-1958) who also lies buried at Mount Olivet.