Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

James Knox Polk Lowe

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James Knox Polk Lowe was born in Dade Co., Georgia on December 22, 1843, a son of Jefferson Lowe and Louie/Louiza Gaughan. Lowe himself once said the date was December 22, 1842.

He served in Co. D, 39th Georgia Infantry, having enlisted at Trenton, Georgia in 1862. His first battle was at Baker’s Creek, Mississippi. His last battle was at Jonesboro, where he was paroled. He surrendered near Blackstock, North Carolina with a part of Johnston’s army in April 1865.

Lowe moved to the White’s Chapel area in 1869. He was married first to Bettie Wilkinson who died in 1872, a sister of Benjamin Marvice Wilkinson. His second wife was Columbia Lee Garrett (June 26-1847-March 9, 1923). Lowe and a neighbor, John Bailey, teamed up and had a cotton gin on what is now North White’s Chapel Road. Later, Lowe owned his own gin, which was steam-powered.

In 1895, Lowe was living in present-day Southlake along the north side of FM 1709 about one-quarter mile east of its intersection with Byron Nelson Parkway. He may also have lived for a time south of present-day FM 1709 along White’s Chapel Road.

A short reminiscence of Mr. Lowe appeared in Mamie Yeary’s classic book Reminiscences of the Boys in Gray (1912). In addition to information found in his official military records, Lowe furnished these details of his service. He “...was transferred to Vicksburg in the spring of 1863 to assist in the defense of that city, where I was taken prisoner on July 4, 1863. Was paroled and went home, returning to the army when exchanged. Was promoted to corporal in 1863 during the Siege of Vicksburg. Was in the battles of Tazewell, Richmond, Baker’s Creek, siege of Vicksburg, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge and the Georgia campaign to Atlanta, and then the campaign under Hood, back to Tennessee at Spring Hill, Franklin, and Nashville, and then to Greensboro, N. C. where we surrendered.”
Lowe applied for a Confederate pension on May 1, 1930, which was granted to him. He died March 17, 1932, and lies buried in Lonesome Dove Cemetery in Southlake, Texas. An obituary for Mr. Lowe appeared in the Grapevine Sun on March 24, 1932: “J. P. LOWE, EARLY SETTLER, BURIED AT DOVE FRIDAY. Funeral services were held at the Dove on last Friday for J. P. Lowe, age 89, well-to-do land owner and one of the early settlers of this section, who died at his home near Grapevine, Thursday of last week, March 17, of heart disease after an illness of several months. Services were conducted by Rev. J. B. Seaberry and burial was in the Dove Cemetery. Mr. Lowe served through the Civil War with the Thirty-ninth Georgia Regiment, recruited from the State in which he was born, and turned westward during the Reconstruction Period to make his new home in Texas. He came to Tarrant County and settled near Grapevine in 1869. Survivors are three brothers, William of Oklahoma, and George and John Lowe of Alabama; two sisters, Mrs. D. B. Robinson of Fort Worth and Mrs. Lassiter of Alabama; two sons, John of Grapevine and Luke Lowe of Kendrick, Okla., and four daughters, Mrs. Mollie Cross and Mrs. Willie Guess of Fort Worth, and Misses Mattie and Missie Lowe of Grapevine. There are also twenty grand children and twenty-four great grandchildren.”

James and his first wife, Bettie, were the parents of two children: John Andrew Lowe and Louis Jefferson (Luke) Lowe. James and his second wife had five children: the first a daughter who was born dead in 1875; Mary Louize “Mollie” (Mrs. Joe F.) Cross; Willie Lee (Mrs. Noah) Guess; Martha Ann “Mattie” Lowe, and Margaret Missionare “Missie” Lowe. The last two sisters were never married.