William Hardin Martin was born September 10, 1830 in Union County, Illinois to Urias Martin (1795-1855) and Keziah (Williams) Martin (1800-1878). William and his family were members of a group of related families who settled in the area of present-day Southlake from Union County, Illinois. The family had settled here by October 22, 1855, when William’s father died and was buried in the Hood Cemetery.

William was a Confederate soldier in Co.A 34th Texas Cavalry, to which many other northeast Tarrant County men belonged. His official files in the National Archives say he enlisted May 29, 1862 at Grapevine for a term of three years. The enlisting officer was M. W. Deavenport. He was discharged for medical reasons at Fort Smith, Arkansas on March 18, 1863 on a surgeon’s certificate of disability.

William H. Martin has a handmade sandstone gravestone in Hood Cemetery but it is broken and unreadable because flakes of the face have come off from a century of freezing and thawing. The death date on his stone is unreadable, but the style of the stone suggests he probably died during the 1860’s or 1870’s. His name does not appear in the 1870 Tarrant County, Texas census. One reliable researcher who looked carefully at the stone in the 1970’s said the birth date was in September, and the death date in March of 187_.
New military headstone installed 8 Aug 2012