Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Samuel Robinson Milburn

Compiled by Michael Patterson
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Samuel Robinson Milburn, a native Tennessean, entered a Confederate Texas state militia unit in Fannin County, Texas. During the late 1860’s he settled at Grapevine, where several members of his and his wife’s extended families lived at one time or another. He later moved to Cooke County, where he lived for several years before moving to Arkansas, where he died. One of Samuel’s younger brothers, Rev. Joseph Glenn Milburn, is also one of the Confederates on our memorial.

Samuel was born about 1825 in Greene County, Tennessee. Family genealogists at ancestry.com say he was a son of John Prelim Milburn and his wife, Margaret (Robinson) Milburn, who died in Lawrence County, Missouri in 1856 and 1861, respectively.

About 1838, John Milburn moved his family from Tennessee to Missouri. By 1850, he and his wife and four of their younger children were living in Dade County, Missouri.

Samuel married Jane Buck on August 12, 1847 Greene Co. Missouri. They were married by James C. Baldwin, a Methodist minister. The marriage record clearly says Samuel R. Milbern and Jane M. Buck. Jane is shown in some records with the middle initial E. She was a daughter of Jacob Buck and Mary Moore (McCray) Buck, both of whom died in Missouri. Family sources say her name was Jane Elizabeth Buck, and that she was born August 27, 1830 in Monroe County, Tennessee. Two of Jane’s brothers were Union veterans who also spent several years in northeast Tarrant County. One of her sisters married Samuel A. Halton, a Union veteran who died at Grapevine in 1913.

In 1850 Samuel and his new family lived in Turnback Township in District 47 of Lawrence County, Missouri. The only child, John, was one year old.

Census data indicate Mr. Milburn and his family made the move from Missouri to Texas in the late 1850’s. When the 1860 census was taken, Samuel R. Milborne, age was living in Beat 1 of Fannin
County, Texas, in the area served by the post office at Bonham. He was a stone mason and owned no real estate, but had personal property worth two hundred dollars. Samuel and Jane had the following children with them in 1860: John M., Rachel, Jeff, Jacob, and William Milburn.

Mr. Milburn’s name appears as a conscript on a roll of Capt. E. Williams’ Co. A, 1st Battalion Infantry, Texas State Troops, under the command of Lt. Col. M. G. Settle. The list was dated February 2, 1864 at Camp Roberts near Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. Mr. Milburn’s residence was shown as Fannin County. He was forty years old at the time the roll was made. No other records specific to Samuel Milburn’s service have survived in the National Archives.

At some point during the 1860’s Samuel Milburn left Fannin County and settled in northeast Tarrant County. He does not appear in the 1865 tax lists here. S. R. Milburn appears in the 1870 Tarrant County census in Precinct 2. His next-door neighbor was Thomas Jefferson Nash, thus we may conclude that the Milburns lived in or near present-day downtown Grapevine. Mr. Milburn owned real estate worth one thousand six hundred dollars and personal property worth two hundred dollars. His wife’s name appears as Jane E. Milburn. Their children with them in that year included J.W. (male), R. E. (female), J. R. or K. (male), J. S. (male), W. R. (male), M. (middle initial blurred…a female), and J. D. (male). The family’s next-door neighbors were Samuel’s brother, J. G. Milburn, and his family.

Samuel’s entry in the 1870 agricultural census shows that he owned a farm consisting of forty acres of woodland, worth one hundred sixty dollars. He estimated the value of his farming implements and machinery at one hundred twenty dollars. He had seven horses, five milk cows, and eight working oxen. He had a number of other cattle but their number is obscured by an ink blot on the original page. He had twenty hogs. All his livestock together was valued at four hundred dollars. He had on hand thirty bushels of wheat, six hundred bushels of Indian corn, and one hundred bushels of oats.

Mr. Milburn appears in the 1875 tax lists in Precinct 3 as the owner of two non-adjacent tracts of land: sixty acres of the A. Bradford survey worth ten dollars per acre, and ten acres of the J. B. Fay survey, worth only $2.50 per acre. He also owned six horses worth twenty dollars each and seven cattle, plus other personal property. In modern-day terms, the J. B. Fay survey is in Grapevine and is one square mile in extent. Given the names of Mr. Milburn’s neighbors in the census, it seems likely he lived on the Fay survey. Almost no modern-day streets lie along the Fay survey’s lines, except for that portion of Ball Street which travels in a straight north-south line south of William D. Tate Avenue, where it follows the Fay survey’s east line for a short distance.

The A. Bradford survey lies several miles to the south in present-day Euless. This original survey is one-half square mile in area, and is one mile north-south by one-half mile east-west. Much of its north line is today defined by Harwood Road. Some of its east line follows Minter’s Chapel Road between Harwood Road and East Midway Drive. Its southeast corner lies within the right-of-way of State Highway 183.

When the 1880 census was taken, the Milburns were living in Cooke County, Texas in Precinct 5. On the same page of the census were the Milburns’ eldest son, John, and his family, along with Mrs.
Milburn’s sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Halton, who later moved to Grapevine. Four of the Milburn children were with the family in 1880: Rachel, William, Mary, and Joe Milburn.

Mr. Milburn appears in the 1880 agricultural census of Cooke County. He owned a farm consisting of twenty acres of cultivated land and fifty acres of woodland. He estimated his farm was worth five hundred dollars. His farming implements were worth seventy-five and his livestock was worth two hundred fifty dollars. He estimated the value of his 1879 farm production at two hundred fifty dollars. He owned three horses, two working cattle, four milk cows, and five cattle of other classes. He estimated his butter production in the past year at two hundred pounds. He owned six hogs and fifty chickens. He had made two hundred bushels of Indian corn on ten acres, and five bales of cotton on the other ten acres of his cultivated ground.

Family genealogists at ancestry.com say Jane (Buck) Milburn died on November 7, 1884. Some say she died in Texas while others say Arkansas. We have been unable to find a headstone record for her.

Most family sources agree that Samuel R. Milburn moved east to Mountain Home, Baxter County, Arkansas before he died. This seems logical because his youngest son, Joseph, was married there in 1892 and lived with his wife and family there in 1900. Some sources place Samuel Milburn’s death in 1895 while others say the year was 1903. Samuel does not appear in the 1900 census there. Samuel did not apply for a Confederate pension in Arkansas.

The following accounts of Samuel R. Milburn’s children have been written from public records and headstone records as much as possible. Family sources on the internet are confusing and contradictory in many instances.

John Wesley Milburn was born December 10, 1849. He worked for many years of his life as a minister. His first wife was Missouri Ann Hudgins (1855-1907), whom he married November 7, 1872 in Tarrant County, Texas. She was the daughter of another of our Confederate veterans, Benjamin Franklin Hudgins. In 1880 he and his family lived in Cooke County, Texas. His second wife was Ona T. Freeman (1878-1974), whom he married in 1910 in Cooke County. Rev. John W. Milburn died November 19, 1928 in Ardmore, Carter County, Oklahoma and was buried in Coker Cemetery in Bulcher, Cooke County, Texas.

Rachel E. Milburn was born about 1852. She was still living with her parents and siblings when the 1880 census was taken.

Jefferson K. Milburn was born March 10, 1853. His wife’s name was Arispa Josephine Nelson (1856-1932). He died July 22, 1929 in Carter County, Oklahoma.

Jacob Samuel Milton was born January 15, 1855. He married Eliza M. Williams (1856-1915) in 1879 in Cooke County. He was a Methodist circuit-riding preacher. He died September 2, 1894 in Wilson, Carter County, Oklahoma, and lies buried there in Bomar Point Cemetery.

William R. (or Henry) Milburn was born in September 1857. Family sources say he died in 1900 in Oklahoma.
Mary Milburn was born about 1863. She was still with her parents when the 1880 census was taken.

Joseph D. Milburn was born August 20, 1869. He married Rosa Jane Dickerson (1868-1936) in Baxter County, Arkansas on August 21, 1892. The family lived in Baxter County in 1900, and later lived in Conway, Arkansas. He was a blacksmith.

He died March 4, 1924 in Conway, Faulkner County, Arkansas, and was buried in Douglas Cemetery in Baxter County.