Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Harkless Ogles

Compiled by Michael Patterson
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Harkless Ogles was born March 7 (he also once said March 18), 1843. According to his own statement in his Confederate pension applications in both Tennessee and Texas, he was born in Cannon County, Tennessee. He was a son of John Ogles and Margaret (Sherrill) Ogles. This Ogles family appears in the census records for 1850, 1860, and 1870 in Coffee County, Tennessee, adjacent to Cannon County. His unusual first name may be explained by the fact that an ancestor appears in the records as Hercules Ogles.

Harkless Ogles served in Co. I, 4th Tennessee Infantry (afterwards known as the 34th Tennessee Infantry). A comrade of Ogles, W. A. Duncan of Navarro County, Texas, later swore he had served with Ogles for 3-1/2 years and that they served until the war ended. Muster rolls indicate Ogles enlisted at Knoxville, Tennessee on August 5, 1861. They also show that he took the oath of allegiance to the federal government at Manchester, Tennessee on July 28, 1863. He told the Tennessee pension board he had fought in the Battles of Stones River, Missionary Ridge, Franklin, Chattanooga, Chestnut Ridge, and Harrisburg, Kentucky. He said he was at the surrender of his regiment in Dalton, Georgia in April 1865.

Ogles claimed to have been permanently disabled because of a rupture on his right side he sustained at Cumberland Gap in 1862 while carrying a piece of artillery up a mountain. A physician also said that his kidneys were painful, “with general debility incident to old age.” Ogles married Sarah Jernigan, who died at or near the time their twins were born.
probably in late 1879. In that year, Harkless and his children were living in Bedford County, Tennessee.

When the 1910 census was taken, he was living in Temple, Oklahoma with his son Cal. In 1913, Ogles told Tennessee pension officials he had six sons and seven daughters, although he did not say how many of them were living at the time. He also said he had moved back to Tennessee from Texas in May, 1913, and that he had lived in Texas for only six years. He moved to Texas about 1899, and to Tarrant County about 1919, where he lived in the White’s Chapel-Mt. Gilead-Jellico area with Stephen Burkleo.

He applied to the State of Texas for a Confederate pension in 1921 and told pension commissioners to address him at Roanoke, Texas in care of S. O. Burkleo. His pension application was disallowed. Ogles died February 16, 1922, and lies buried at White’s Chapel Cemetery.

His children were: Laura, born about 1866; James, born about 1868; Andrew, born about 1870; William Calvin (Uncle Cal) born in 1871; Rayford, born about 1873; Thomas; Mary E., born about 1877; and twins, Talitha and Tabitha, born sometime in late 1879, perhaps November, 1879.