Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Zachariah Owens

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Zachariah Owens, a Union veteran of the Civil War, was born in Lawrence County, Indiana about 1838, a son of Travis D. Owens and his first wife, Catherine Earl. By 1850, Zachariah was living with his parents and siblings in Salt Creek Township in Jackson County, Indiana, where they also appeared in the 1860 census. Probably in either 1860 or 1861 the family moved to Brown County, Indiana.

Zachariah lived seven miles from Nashville, Indiana where he enlisted on August 9, 1862 for a period of three years, and he became a private in Co. H, 82nd Indiana Infantry. Several members of the Arwine family, pioneers of the Hurst community in Tarrant County, also served in Co. H of the 82nd Indiana Infantry, and it seems possible Owens may have come here because of his Arwine friends who had settled here soon after the War.

In his pension application, filed October 16, 1886 when he was only forty-six years old, Owens said he had taken part in battles at Rocky Face, Tunnel Hill, Buzzards Roost [Georgia] and at Missionary Ridge in Tennessee. He was mustered out at Washington, D.C. on June 9, 1865 after having taken part in the Grand Review of the Army. He was injured (not wounded) at Buzzards Roost, and was in bad shape with a severe rupture and hearing loss when he was discharged.

He married Leathey (Leatheann) Ann Bradley, the sister of an army friend, in Brown County, Indiana on August 10, 1865. She was born about 1847 in Brown County, and was the daughter of James and Sarah Bradley. The Owens family migrated to Tarrant County, Texas about 1869.

Zachariah Owens’s father, Travis Daniel Owens, also eventually came to the Bedford area and died here in 1884. When the 1880 census was taken, the Owenses were living between Milton Moore and William L. Hurst in the Bedford Community, where Owens owned one-half acre of the Milton Moore survey and a portion of the M W. Wilmuth survey.
Owens died in Fort Worth on August 20, 1890 from epilepsy resulting from abscesses of the brain and a spinal lesion. His widow, Leatha Ann Owens, was allowed a pension in her own right and for her four minor children until they reached sixteen years of age. In 1890 when the special census of Union veterans was made, his post office address was shown as Fort Worth.

Both Owens and his wife were pensioned, and the pension files would no doubt fill in many of the details of their later lives.

Zachariah and Leathey had the following known children: James M. Owens, K. Owens (a daughter), Archie Bell Owens and Letha Ann Owens, Zachariah C. Owens, and Mollie Owens. Letha Ann Owens died March 29, 1931 in Fort Worth. At the time of her death, she owned a small house at 1024 E. 19th Street in Fort Worth.