Benjamin Monroe Wilkinson was born July 25, 1842 in Sherwood, Franklin Co., Tennessee, a son of Benjamin Monroe Wilkinson, Sr. and Elizabeth Taylor. He served as a 4th Corporal in Company B, 6th Georgia Volunteer Infantry.

He came to Tarrant County, Texas from Dade County, Georgia in the early 1870’s and joined the larger group in the White’s Chapel area who had already made the move. He married Mattie Gardenhire (August 8, 1842-15 January, 1899). Some sources give her birthdate as 1847.

He was known in northeast Tarrant County as “Short Ben,” to distinguish him from his cousin, Benjamin Marvice Wilkinson “Long Ben,” who also lived in the same community at the same time.

Short Ben moved to California late in life and his family in this community lost track of him. Later still, he returned to the Texas Panhandle. He died December 30, 1934 in Shamrock, Wheeler Co., Texas. He lies buried there in the Shamrock Cemetery.

His death certificate, on which his name is recorded as “Wilkerson,” discloses that he died of lobar pneumonia and senility. He was a widower. The informant for the certificate was Hattie Carter of Fort Worth.


Mr. Wilkinson on right, "Preacher Cargile" on left. Photo probably taken at Chattanooga.