Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

John D. Wiser

Compiled by Michael Patterson
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John D. Wiser was born in October 1832 in Coffee County, Tennessee. Family sources at ancestry.com report he was a son of Isaiah Wiser (1808-1843) and his wife, Nancy, both of whom died in Coffee County, Tennessee. John D. Wiser apparently came to this community about 1901.

Wiser married Nancy Ann Elizabeth Redden, who was born about 1839 in Coffee County. They were married in Coffee County, Tennessee on May 31, 1856. She was a daughter of Joseph Redden and his wife, Sarah Ann (Whitener) Redden. John D. Wiser and his wife, Nancy, are shown in the 1860 census of Coffee County, Tennessee’s District 4. They were living next-door to Nancy’s father, Joseph Redden. At the time the census taker arrived, they had no children with them.

Wiser enlisted in the Confederate service as a private in Co. B, 16th Tennessee Infantry. He enlisted at Manchester, Tennessee on September 18, 1862 for a term of three years. Other records show he enlisted at McMinnville on September 1. He was absent sick from the regiment at some time in late 1862. He was with his regiment near Chattanooga, Tennessee on July 16, 1863. On October 23, 1864 he was hospitalized for chronic bronchitis at the Ocmulgee Hospital in Macon, Georgia, and was transferred out of the hospital four days later. In November and December, 1864 he was stationed at Camp Wright near Macon, Georgia with his regiment as part of the defensive force there. He was 5' 9" tall, had brown hair, blue eyes, and a fair complexion. He surrendered and took the oath of allegiance at Nashville, Tennessee on May 12, 1865. His place of residence was shown as Coffee County, Tennessee. Union prisoner of war records show that he surrendered at Atlanta, Georgia on May 6, 1865. One of John D. Wiser’s brothers, Isaiah Wiser, who also served in Co. B of the 16th Tennessee Infantry, died in service at Perryville, Kentucky in 1862.

Ten years later, in 1870, John and Nancy Wiser were still living at the same place but had four of their own children living with them: James (born about 1863); Mary (born about 1867); Wilson (born about 1868), and Margaret (born in May 1870). With them in the household were a widow,
Martha Wiser, and her four children; these are probably the survivors of his brother, Isaiah Wiser, who died in the Civil War.

The 1880 Census of Coffee County, Tennessee shows the family, consisting of John and Elizabeth Wiser and six children: William (born about 1862), Ella (born about 1866), Wilborne (born about 1869), Margaret (born about 1871), Nancy (born about 1872), and Harvey (born in December 1879).

John D. Wiser appears in the 1900 census of Coffee County, Tennessee in District 33 of Civil District 4. With him were his daughter, Bedie E. (born in June 1881), his son, George W. (born in January 1884), a grandson John T. Nobles (born in July 1891) and a granddaughter Myrtle E. Nobles (born in May, 1893).

John D. Wiser apparently came to northeast Tarrant County shortly before his death. His headstone in Calloway Cemetery says simply, “John D. Wiser 1831-1901.” The name of Fuller-Wiser Road in Euless keeps the family name alive in this community.

John D. Wiser’s children included William H. Wiser; Mary Ella Wiser (born about 1867); James Wilborne “Webb” Wiser; Margaret Wiser (born May 1870); Nancy Wiser (born about 1872); George W. Wiser; Harvey Wiser; and Birdie Wiser (born June 16, 1881).

William H. Wiser was born April 12, 1859. He died July 27, 1909 and lies buried in Calloway Cemetery. He has a Woodmen of the World headstone which records his name as W. H. Wiser. A short mention of his death appeared in the Arlington Journal of July 30, 1909: “Mr. W. G. Wiser of Euless, working on the farm of Mr. M. A. Jernigan, was in yesterday and says corn is tolerably over there, cotton doing well and late corn fine. His brother, W. H. Wiser, died at J. W. Wiser’s home Tuesday July 27th, 1909, at 6:15 p.m., of Bright’s disease. He came with the family to Tarrant County, eight years ago from Tennessee, and has been sick over two years.”

James Wilborne “Webb” Wiser was born October 10, 1868 and died January 9, 1952. He is buried at Calloway Cemetery. He and his wife, Hettie, raised a large family of children in Tarrant County.

Margaret “Maggie” Wiser was married in Coffee County, Tennessee on July 2, 1889 to Thomas Nobles. They both may have been dead by 1900, when two of their children were living in the household of John D. Wiser in Coffee County.

Harvey A. Wiser was born in Tennessee on April 20, 1879. He died at Grapevine, Texas on May 8, 1951 and was buried in Calloway Cemetery.

George Washington Wiser was born in Tennessee on January 7, 1884. He died January 11, 1952 in Precinct 3 of northeast Tarrant County, and lies buried in Calloway Cemetery.