

Indiana Extracts from *Footprints*, a Texas Periodical

Roger Lawton and Caroline Emenaker

To widen its knowledge of genealogical information for Indiana, the Indiana Historical Society takes part in an exchange with genealogical and historical societies across the country. The IHS sends out *Connections* magazine in return for receiving the publications of other organizations. A volunteer with the IHS reads through the incoming publications to find listings of people with Indiana connections. The following genealogical data comes from a publication of the Fort Worth Genealogical Society. The issues of the periodical are listed along with the data, the name of the article series, the author, and the years of publication. All data is transcribed exactly as it appears in the publication except where noted. Where information is needed for clarity, the volunteer and editor(s) have inserted it in brackets. All periodical issues listed below are available for further research in the Serials Section at the Indiana State Library in Indianapolis.

Extracts from *Footprints*, Published by the Fort Worth Genealogical Society “Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County,” serial article compiled by Michael Patterson

Volume 65, no. 4 (November 2022)

pp. 148, 162

J. J. Rogers was in a total of ninety-seven battles and skirmishes under Morgan’s command up to the time of Morgan’s capture at Syracuse, Ohio, in July of 1863. In his own words (from “Memoirs of Tarrant County Confederate Veterans of Others of Post war Period” by Joseph P. Bandor, T.C.U., Dec. 19, 1960) he “was in the Battles of Lebanon, Cynthia, Tompkinsville, Green River Bridge, Maysville, Kentucky; Gallatin, Tennessee, Brandenburg, Coridon and Salem, Indiana. (He) was captured at Syracuse[,] Ohio, in July 1863, then exchanged in March

1865 at Camp Douglas, Illinois”. During his military career, he had his mustache shot off and his jacket was full of holes.

Volume 66, no. 1 (February 2023)

pp. 7–21

John H. Sexton was [a] Union veteran of an Indiana regiment who came to Tarrant County in the 1860’s, returned to Indiana for a time, then came here to stay in the early 1880’s. He lies buried in Arwine Cemetery in Hurst.

John H. Sexton was born in Brown County, Indiana in 1843. Descendants who have posted data at Ancestry.com say he was the fourth child of Enoch Sexton and his wife Sarah Arwine. John was born after the Sexton family had made a move from Anderson County, Tennessee to Indiana. Enoch Sexton also came to Tarrant County, outlived his son by about five years, and was also buried in Arwine Cemetery. After Enoch’s death, Sarah returned to Indiana, where she died in 1896.

When the 1850 census was taken, John was living with his parents and siblings in Johnson Township of Brown County, Indiana. John was the fourth of eight children with the family that year. Enoch and Sarah Sexton had begun their family in Tennessee, and had moved to Indiana around 1840, judging from the birthplaces of their children shown in the census.

Ten years later, in 1860, the family was still in Johnson Township. Their next-door neighbors were the family of Daniel and Julia Arwine, the pioneers for whom the Arwine Cemetery in Hurst is named. Mr. Arwine and Mrs. Sexton were brother and sister. John Sexton was the oldest of the four Sexton children who were still living at home.

John H. Sexton was married twice, first to Samantha Lucas in Brown County, Indiana on December 27, 1860. She was the daughter of Thomas L. Lucas and his wife, Louisa Pennington. She was born about 1844. After having four sons, John and Samantha were divorced. She was named their guardian on July 8, 1870 in Brown County. She was later married to William Joseph (Jode) Helms in 1877. At some later time, John H. Sexton regained custody of at least two of his sons from his first marriage, and they spent the rest of their lives in Tarrant County.

John H. Sexton served the Union as a soldier in Co. H, 82 Indiana Infantry. He enlisted on August [nd?] 30, 1[8]62 and was mustered out on June 9, 1865. As late as 1981 one of John H. Sexton's granddaughters, Mrs. Iris (Deckard) Collins of Riverside, California had a letter Mr. Sexton wrote home while he was in the army in 1863.

In the 1870 census of Tarrant County, John Sexton appears as a single man in the family of his first-cousin, Nicholas J. Arwine, who was living at the time in the Bedford-Hurst area. Nicholas Arwine left Tarrant County in the 1870's and returned to Bedford County, Indiana in the 1870's, probably between about 1876 and 1879. The records suggest John Sexton and his second wife and child made the move with them.

About 1872, Mr. Sexton was again married. His second wife was Isabel Alice Staley, who was born May 15, 1854 to Jacob A. and Melvina Staley. She died about 1885, and was buried in Arwine Cemetery in Hurst, Texas. They were the parents of six children.

By the time the 1880 census was taken, John had married and returned to Johnson Township in Brown County, Indiana. In that year, he and his wife and children were next-door neighbors of his parents, Enoch and Sarah Sexton. John's wife, Isabella A., was born about 1854 in Indiana. They had three children living with them: Nicholas (born about 1875 in Texas); George G. (born about 1878 in Indiana); and Jacob A. (born about 1879 in Indiana).

Family sources say a large group of the Sextons and members of their extended family came to northeast Tarrant County in 1881. The account written in the “Sexton Family History” by Donald R. Benton is as follows:

“In 1881 Enoch Sexton and his wife, Sarah, with their family came to Daniel Arwine’s by wagon train from Indiana. Sarah Sexton was a sister of James Arwine and an aunt of Daniel Arwine. It took seventeen wagons and one hack for this large family to come to Texas. Sarah and Enoch being the oldest in the wagon train were allowed to ride in the hack which belonged to Grandpa George Lutes. They were on the road for ten weeks. At night the wagons were placed in a large circle to form a lot. This was to feed the horses and also to prevent the Indians from stealing the horses. All of the relatives with the exception of one son (James Arwine Sexton) came in this wagon train. One son (Nicholas G. Sexton) had already died and was buried in the Robertson Cemetery in Maumee, Indiana. One daughter, Rachel Sexton, who married John Henry Deckard, did not come in the wagon train. Another daughter, Mary Jane Sexton, who was married to Templeton Johnson also did not come in the wagon train. The children who came were Dave and his wife, Lizzie with a large family (14 kids). Another daughter Becky and her husband Jack Parks, a son John H. with a large family, a daughter Sarah who married Sol Robertson with their five daughters Belle, Etta, Annie, Minnie and Alice. Jim and Polly Hackney were also on the wagon train. Jim Hackney was Sol Robertson's cousin. Daniel Arwine's home where they came was then located in the vicinity of present-day Brown Trail on the west and Pipeline Road on the north. This was a double log house where U. S. Marshall Dan Arwine lived.”