

JW ALLEN

Bio by Charles Rush

Company G, 5th Texas Infantry, Hood's Brigade,
Longstreet's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia.

JOHN WILLIAM ALLEN was born 12 January 1837 near Trinity, Morgan County, Alabama. In 1855, when he was eighteen years old, he went to Limestone County, Texas with his father, his older brother, and several slaves to buy land. He and his brother remained to make a crop while his father returned to Alabama for the rest of the family.

In 1858, John Allen came of age and his father gave him \$100.00 in gold and a male slave, representing his portion of his mother's estate. He bought land near Bald Hill in eastern Falls County.

Still unmarried when the Civil War began, he enlisted at Cameron, Texas, in March 1862, and sailed from Galveston for Virginia, where he served as a private in Co. G, 5th Texas Infantry, Hood's Brigade, Longstreet's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. He fought at Gaines Mill, then lost his left arm at the Second Battle of Manassas, 29-30 August 1862. He is listed as a casualty in General Jerome B. Robertson's "Touched With Valor, Civil War Papers and Casualty Reports of Hood's Texas Brigade", Harold B. Simpson, editor, 1964, Page 90. He is also mentioned in Chilton's "Hood's Texas Brigade", on page 68, and in "Hood's Texas Brigade", by Polley, Page 340. An account of his service is also in the records of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Returning to Marlin, Texas after the War, John Allen met and married Mary Hamilton (Mollie) McCain. In the dissatisfaction of the Reconstruction, John and his family joined members of his wife's family in moving to California in 1869-1870. However, about 1876 the Allens and other McCain relatives moved back to Texas. John and Mollie Allen spent the rest of their lives in Marlin, where he was engaged in farming and other pursuits. He was active in the affairs of Confederate veterans and was a member of Camp Willis L. Lang, United Confederate Veterans, Marlin, Texas. In the summer of 1918 at the annual Reunion of the Old Settlers and Confederate Veterans Association of Falls County, the poem "Hood's Charge at Gaines Mill", by Mrs. P.S. Summers of Marlin, was read and subsequently published in the local press with this dedication: "In memory of John W. Allen of Texas, Who blazed the way with Hood, Gave an arm to enrich the valley, The valley where Richmond stood." The long poem and dedication have been included in the compilation by Colonel Harold B. Simpson, "Hood's Texas Brigade in Poetry and Song", Waco, 1968, pages 24-27. John W. Allen died 7 February 1919 at the age of eighty two and was buried in Calvary Cemetery, Marlin.

Source: "RUSH FAMILIES: The Genealogy of Charles Wesley Rush, III" to include Rush, deGraffenried, Allen, Jones and Associated Families by Charles Wesley Rush, Colonel, USAF (Retired), privately published 2009, Denver Bookbinding Company, Denver, Colorado.

