

## CSA Headstone Dedication Text

GEORGE W. ELLIS (January 29, 1845 - January 2, 1927)

Plot B-086

Private, Co. B, 26th Texas Cavalry

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**George W. Ellis**, son of George A. and Martha Mildred (Tucker) Ellis, was born January 29, 1845, in DeSoto County, Mississippi. About 1856, the family moved to Lockhart, Caldwell County, Texas, where his father died in 1857 and his mother married Judge William Ellison in 1859.

In the fall of 1861, George enlisted as a Private in the Caldwell County Rangers, which became Company B, 26th Texas Cavalry, under Colonel Xavier B. Debray. The 26th Cavalry had a reputation as one of the most disciplined units in the Confederate army. It was stationed at Galveston from January 1862 until early in 1864, and took part in the Battle of Galveston on January 1, 1863.

Late in December 1863, George Ellis was transferred to Captain M. V. McMahan's Company of Horse Artillery, later known as Second Texas Field Battery. This unit, along with the 26th Texas Cavalry, took an active part in opposing Union General Banks' in the Red River Campaign and was in the Battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill and was stationed at Alexandria, Louisiana at the end of the war. Between the end of May and the end of June 1865, he apparently returned to Texas, as he signed a parole at Millican, Texas (near Navasota) on June 26, 1865, giving his name and unit as George W. Ellis, Sergeant, Company B, 26th Regiment Texas Cavalry.

After the war, he settled in Houston, where he married Louisa Jane Warren, a native of England, on October 20, 1869. She had immigrated to America in 1850 with her parents, John and Jane Warren. George and Louisa had nine children, and at least 23 grandchildren, two of whom, James Lester Ellis, and Beverlyn Ellis Furman, are still living but could not be with us today. Fourteen members of their extended family are buried in this plot. George, being one of the last buried here, did not get his name engraved on the monument.

George worked for the Houston and Texas Central Railroad from 1865 to 1876, in the positions of fireman, brakeman, baggage-master, then freight conductor, and finally passenger conductor. In 1876, he purchased a hotel and ranch in Hockley from his father-in-law.

He then entered politics and became a very well-known figure in Houston. From 1882 to 1886, he served as Harris County Commissioner, followed by eight years as Sheriff of Harris County, six years as Chief of Police in Houston, and five years as Clerk of the Harris County Criminal District Court.

George was a charter member of the Dick Dowling Camp, United Confederate Veterans, a lifetime member of Holland Lodge No. 1, a Shriner, a Royal Arch Mason and a Knight Templar. He was also a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. His death on January 2, 1927, at age 82, was front-page news in the *Houston Post-Dispatch*.