



# CONFEDERATE DALLAS !!!

Welcome to Dallas Texas!

*While you are in town you might enjoy seeing some of our wonderful Confederate Heritage in the area!*



**WILLIAM HENRY GASTON** (1840–1927),<sup>a</sup> founder of Dallas, was born on October 25, 1840, near Prairie Bluff, Alabama, the son of Robert Kilpatrick and Letitia (Suddeth) Gaston. He and his family moved to Mississippi and then to Plentitude, Texas, in 1849. His father farmed extensive landholdings in that region and served two terms in the Texas legislature. William, along with his brothers Robert and George, attended the nearby Mound Prairie Institute. All three later served in the Confederate Army. The family was en route to Dallas in 1861 when an outbreak of typhoid fever caused them to stay temporarily near Mount Sylvan in Smith County.

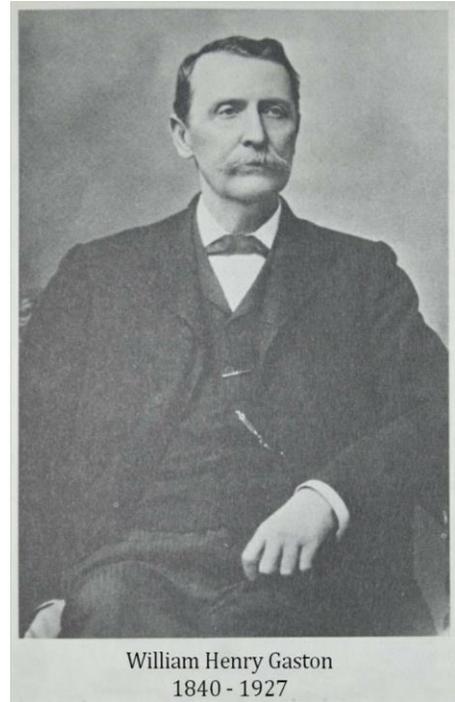
From there Gaston left to join a volunteer company being recruited in Anderson County for Confederate service. By October 1861 he had been elected captain, and his company became part of the First Texas Infantry regiment of **Hood's Texas Brigade**, Army of Northern Virginia.

Gaston commanded his company with distinction through the terrible battles in Virginia in 1862. After recovering from typhoid fever, he was detailed to Texas on recruiting duty for the regiment. While on leave he married a former schoolmate, Laura Furlow. He was subsequently reassigned to serve as Confederate purchasing agent in the Trans-Mississippi Department, where he spent the remainder of the war.

After Gaston was discharged in June 1865 he returned to Anderson County and farmed. His wife died in 1867, and a year later he married her sister Ione. After a successful cotton crop, they moved to Dallas with \$20,000 in gold. Sources disagree about the source of the gold. Some of it came from cotton; some may have come from Gaston's days as a purchasing agent. Gaston entered into partnership with Aaron C. Camp, and they opened the Gaston and Camp Bank of Dallas, the first permanent bank in Dallas. Within a short time Gaston had expanded into real estate, merchandising, and general speculation; the bank became the Exchange Bank and later the First National Bank of Dallas. Only five years after his arrival the *Dallas Herald* declared that William Gaston was most responsible for the transformation of Dallas into a city. He was reported to be one of the city's first millionaires, and another of his banks, Gaston and Gaston Bank, was the predecessor of the Republic National Bank. A Dallas Thoroughfare bears his name.

In 1886 Gaston donated eighty acres for the **State Fair of Texas** grounds. He and his wife raised three sons and two daughters. He died on January 24, 1927, and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Dallas.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** *Dallas Morning News*, January 25, 1927. *Dallas Times Herald*, January 25, 1927. Robert W. Glover, ed., *Tyler to Sharpsburg: The War Letters of Robert H. and William H. Gaston* (Waco: Texian Press, 1960). Ralph W. Widener, Jr., *William Henry Gaston, A Builder of Dallas* (Dallas: Historical Publishing, 1977).



William Henry Gaston  
1840 - 1927

## **Capt. William Henry Gaston Gravesite** **(Gaston Avenue and W.H. Gaston Middle School's namesake)**

3020 Oak Grove Ave, Dallas, TX 75204

See the back for more on this great heritage site!

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## Capt. Gaston Funeral Held

Hundreds Gather to Pay  
Tribute to City  
Builder.

Several hundred friends gathered Thursday afternoon at the home of Robert K. Gaston, 4226 Arcady avenue, Highland Park West, for the funeral services of Capt. William Henry Gaston, 56, pioneer Dallas banker and one of the outstanding citizens of this city for more than half a century, who died at the home of his son, Robert K. Gaston, Monday night. Many of Capt. Gaston's friends of the days when Dallas was a small town, who worked with him in developing this city and commonwealth, were present.

Dr. William M. Anderson, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, conducted the services. In a spoke of the fact that Capt. Gaston was one of the men who laid the foundation for the Dallas of today and of his high value as a citizen.

"His fine spirit, generous nature and unselfish attitude made him a great host of our citizens," Dr. Anderson said. "Our great comfort in his loss is due to our Christian faith. We are satisfied about his safety. We have the right to expect from God the comfort and strength which belong to his children in every hour of sorrow."

Many Floral Tributes.  
"Nearer, My God, to Thee," and "Abide With Me" were sung by Tom Fletcher, accompanied by Mrs. O. H. Kirkland. Dr. Anderson read the twenty-third and 111st Psalm and part of the twenty-first chapter of Revelation. A profusion of floral offerings were banked about the casket. They covered the large lot in Greenwood Cemetery, where he was buried. Active pallbearers were E. L. Hippen, W. H. Hippen, Hugh E. Frazer, E. L. Frazer, R. L. Smith, John C. Robertson, W. M. Holland and Pat Henry.

Surviving are three sons, Erwin Gaston, Robert K. Gaston and W. H. Gaston, Jr., all of Dallas, and two daughters, Mrs. Laura Gaston Finley of Detroit and Mrs. Annie Gaston Reeves of Princeton, N. J.

Capt. Gaston's Grandchildren.  
Grandchildren surviving Capt. Gaston are E. T. Gaston, prominent in Dallas banking circles, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Gaston of Dallas; Gertrude and Sallie Gaston, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. Gaston of Dallas; John Gaston Finley, Nan Finley, Elizabeth Finley, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Finley of Detroit; Elizabeth and Jane Gaston, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Gaston Jr. of Dallas; and Barbara and Edwin Joseph Reeves, children of Dr. and Mrs. E. J. Reeves of Princeton, N. J.

Born in Wilcox County, Alabama, Oct. 25, 1840, Capt. Gaston came to Texas with his parents, Col. and Mrs. R. K. Gaston, and his brothers and sisters at the age of 9. He was a Captain in the First Regiment of Hood's Brigade, Confederate Army, during the Civil War, enlisting in 1861, when he was 21 years old. In 1858 he came to Dallas on horseback, when the town had 1,200 inhabitants. He was known as the father of the State Fair of Texas, and during all of his long residence here was prominently identified with building Dallas.

# Capt. William Henry Gaston Gravesite

William Henry Gaston was born on October 25, 1840, near Prairie Bluff in Wilcox County, Alabama. William was the second of five sons of Robert Kilpatrick Gaston and the former Letitia Elizabeth Suddath. In the mid 1840's, Robert K. Gaston emigrated west and moved his family to Winston County, Mississippi. From there they moved to the area around Anderson County, Texas, in 1849; where Robert farmed extensive land holdings and served two terms in the Texas legislature. William, along with his brothers Robert and George, attended the nearby Mound Prairie Institute. In 1860, the family moved to Tyler, Texas; leaving William to manage the old homestead.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, the three brothers joined the Confederate cause and served in the CSA army. William Gaston joined a volunteer company being recruited in Anderson County for Confederate service. By October 1861 he had been elected captain, and his company became part of the First Texas Infantry regiment of Hood's Texas Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia. Captain Gaston, known as the "Boy Captain" commanded his company with distinction through the terrible battles in Virginia in 1862. After recovering from typhoid fever, he was detailed to Texas on recruiting duty for the regiment. He was subsequently reassigned to serve as Confederate purchasing agent in the Trans-Mississippi Department, where he spent the remainder of the war.

During this time, William Gaston married Miss Jane Laura Furlow, daughter of George Washington Furlow and the former Jane Pope. William & Jane had three children: Willie Gaston (1864 - 1864), Edwin Gaston (1865 - 1929), Florence Laura Gaston (1866 - 1938)

After Captain Gaston was discharged in June 1865, he returned to Anderson County and farmed. His first wife died in 1867, and a year later he married Laura's sister Ione; with whom he had four children:

Robert Kirkpatrick Gaston (1869 - 1951), Frank Coleman Gaston (1872 - 1884), William Henry Gaston Jr. (1875 - 1960), Annie Ione Gaston (1877 - 1965)

After living a few years, William & Iona moved their growing family to Dallas; where William entered into partnership with Aaron C. Camp and opened the Gaston & Camp Bank of Dallas, the first permanent bank in Dallas. Within a short time Gaston had expanded into real estate, merchandising, and general speculation; the bank became the Exchange Bank and later the First National Bank of Dallas. Only five years after his arrival the Dallas Herald declared that William Gaston was most responsible for the transformation of Dallas into a city. He was reported to be one of the city's first millionaires, and another of his banks, Gaston & Gaston Bank, was the predecessor of the Republic National Bank.

William Gaston helped to bring the railroad to Dallas and developed a streetcar system throughout the city. In 1886, William Gaston donated eighty acres for the State Fair of Texas grounds.

William Gaston died on January 24, 1927, and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery. The City of Dallas honored his civic work by naming the W. H. Gaston Junior High School in his memory.

<https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=5318038>



**Greenwood Cemetery is located at 3020 Oak Grove Ave, Dallas, TX 75204**

**Plot: Block 6 Lot 11 Space 2**

**From North Central Expressway (going South from Richardson)**

Follow US-75 S to N Central Expy in Dallas. Take exit 1B from US-75 S

Take exit 1B toward Haskell Ave-Blackburn St/Lemmon Ave

Turn right onto Lemmon Ave E

Turn left onto Oak Grove Ave

Colonel A.H. Belo was from North Carolina, and participated in Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg. His troops were among the few to reach the stone wall. After the war, he moved to Texas, where he founded both the Galveston Herald and the Dallas Morning News. The Dallas Morning News was established in 1885 by the Galveston News as sort of a North Texas subsidiary. The two papers were linked by 315 miles of telegraph wire and shared a network of correspondents. They were the first two newspapers in the country to print simultaneous editions. The media empire he started now includes radio, publishing, and television. His impact on the early development of Dallas can hardly be overstated. Col. A.H. Belo Camp 49 is an unreconstructed camp and our website and facebook page are our unapologetic tributes to the Colonel as we seek to bring the truth to our fellow Southrons and others in an age of political correctness and unrepentant yankee lies about our people, our culture, our heritage and our history. Sic Semper Tyrannis!!!