

## Jefferson Davis Tant

*From the Restoration Movement Website*

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The Tants lived at Hamilton, Texas. On January 4, 1894, after a hard fight with pneumonia, Laura died. Her body was laid to rest in the old Hamilton Cemetery. Hamilton was the home of J. D. Tant for nearly 15 years, his longest residence in any one place during the 80 years of his life. Next, J.D. Tant married Nannie Green Yater on Wednesday, December 30, 1896. Felix C. Sowell performed the wedding ceremony.

Tant preached all over the nation. Gospel preachers were few and far between. He was in great demand, ordinarily receiving more than 200 invitations per year for gospel meetings. His record was 269 invitations in a single year. Obviously, he could not hold more than 20 or 25 of these, since most of them were of two weeks' duration.

After living in Hamilton, Texas, for 15 years, Tant moved to Victoria, Texas, and then to Quanah, Texas. He moved to Macon, Tennessee, in 1904. Then the Tants moved to Alamogordo, New Mexico, in 1912, to Cleburne, Texas in 1916, then to Menard, Texas, Rogers, Arkansas, Greenville, Mississippi, DeQueen, Arkansas, Brownsville, Texas, and then to Los Fresnos, Texas, where he spent his remaining days.

One day, sitting quietly in his chair, he said, "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God . . . and I long for that rest!" This was the last scripture that he was heard to quote. He wanted to see his children once more and sister Tant wrote to all of them requesting that they come as soon as possible. The last two Lord's Days he was not able to attend services. He died on Sunday, after sitting down in a chair, and looking into Nannie's face one last time at 4:30 P.M., June 1, 1941.

Two funeral services were held. The first was at the Brownsville Church of Christ with H. D. Jeffcoat and James W. Adams officiating. Tant had requested that the service be conducted like any normal preaching service with congregational singing. Jeffcoat read the scripture and led the prayer. Adams spoke on [1 Timothy 4:1-8](#) paying tribute to the great work of J. D. Tant.

The second funeral service was held at the Central Church of Christ, Cleburne, Texas, Wednesday morning, June 4. The principal address was given by W. K. Rose with whom Tant had held a long time agreement that whichever of them survived would speak at the funeral of the other.

***"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" ~ 2 Timothy 4:7—***

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