



# TARRANT COUNTY

## TXGENWEB

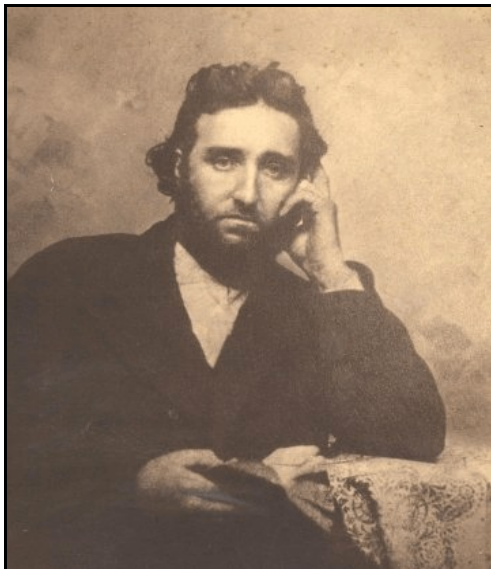
Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Peter Himebaugh

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Peter Himebaugh was born December 18, 1832 at Lebouef, Erie County, Pennsylvania. He was the eighth of ten children born to Peter Heimbach (1793-1847) and his wife, Elizabeth (Childs) Heimback (1799-1876), both natives of New York. By the time he was eighteen years old, Peter had gotten a job working as a laborer for a neighboring farmer, William S. Caldwell.

Himebaugh served in at least three different regiments in the Confederate army. He enlisted on March 10, 1862 in Lincoln County as a private in Co. E, 5<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Infantry (also known as the 9<sup>th</sup> and Hunt's Kentucky Infantry). That company was subsequently designated as Co. A of the 23<sup>rd</sup> (Newman's) Battalion of Tennessee Infantry. The 23rd Tennessee Infantry Battalion was organized at camp near Murfreesboro November 29, 1862 by the election of Tazewell Waller Newman to command.

Newman had formerly been colonel of the 17th Tennessee Infantry Regiment, but was commissioned as major of the 23rd Battalion. The battalion consisted of five companies. Company "A" and "B" had formerly served in the 9th Kentucky Infantry Regiment. Company "C" was organized October 20, 1862 at Thompson Creek, Bedford County. Company "D" (listed below) was organized November 7, 1862 at Ridgeville in Franklin County. Company "E" (listed below) was organized November 8, 1862 at Lynchburg, then Lincoln County, now Moore County.

The battalion remained in camp at Shelbyville and Tullahoma until April 22, 1863 when it moved to Fairfield, Tennessee. It moved from Fairfield to Chattanooga in July of 1863 and took part in the battle of Chickamauga (Sept. 19-20, 1863). The battalion reported 51 casualties out of 145 effective

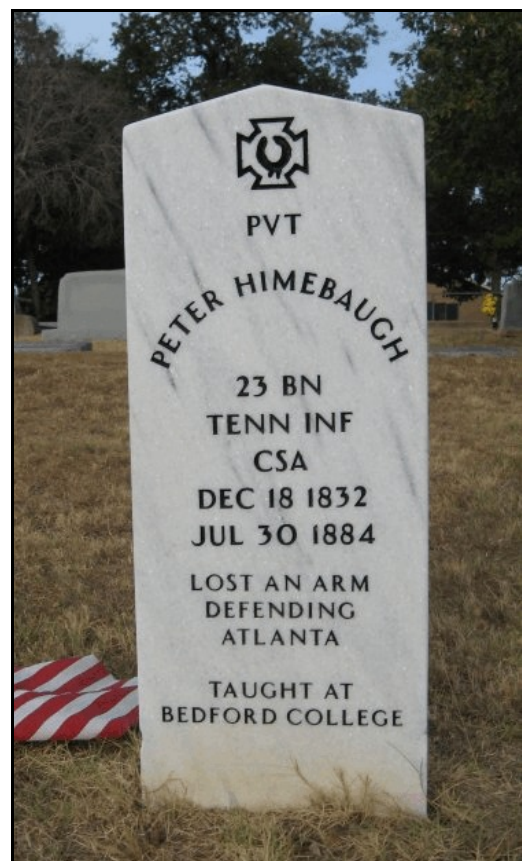
engaged. Major Newman was wounded and Captain Simpson took command. On November 12, 1863 the battalion was consolidated into a field unit with the 45th Tennessee Infantry Regiment under the command of Colonel Anderson Searcy. The last report from any company of the 23rd Battalion was dated August 31, 1864 at Atlanta, and read: "The company left camp in Dalton, Georgia May 6, 1864, and served with the command in marching, working, and fighting till this time. It was in the assault at Resaca May 14, and engaged May 15; also on June 22 near Marietta, Georgia, besides a great deal of skirmishing and picket firing." The last record found of Himebaugh in the regiment's records show that he was sent to a hospital by order of the regimental surgeon on June 11, 1864.

Peter Himebaugh was for a time professor of Math and Science at Oak Hill Institute on Norris Creek, Lincoln County, Tennessee, which school flourished from 1865 until 1880. He and his first wife taught there until she died in 1870 and he then married Virginia, a student and graduate. The 1870 census of Lincoln County shows him working as a school teacher with three children: M. Belle (a female aged ten, who married G. O. Shull in Lincoln County, Tennessee in 1880), Guy W. (aged five), and G. E. (a daughter aged eleven months, hence born about August of 1869). The marriage date given for Peter Himebaugh in internet sources suggests that he may have had an earlier marriage before that to Lucinda Cleveland. Other children were Rolla Mathias Himebaugh, born May 19, 1878 and later moved to Atlanta, Georgia; and Roy, born in February 1880.

Himebaugh was married twice, first on October 25, 1865 in Lincoln County, Tennessee to Lucinda Jane Cleveland. He was married second, again in Lincoln County, on May 9, 1872 to Virginia Higgins. She was born in Lincoln County, Tennessee on September 28, 1843, and spent her entire life in that county except for the few months she lived here at Bedford while her husband was teaching school.

At some time in 1883, he and his wife moved to Bedford, Tarrant County, Texas where he became a teacher at Bedford College. He lost one of his arms in 1864 during the fighting around Atlanta, Georgia...his wife believed it was at either Noonan or West Point, Georgia.

Himebaugh died in Bedford on July 30, 1884, and was buried in Bedford Cemetery. His grave was unmarked. After his death, Virginia Himebaugh and her children returned to Lincoln County, Tennessee, where she remained for the rest of her life. In 1911 when she applied to the State of Tennessee for a Confederate pension, she said she had given birth to four children; two sons were still living, aged 33 and 31. She was living with one of them at the time at Fayetteville, Lincoln County.



Peter Himebaugh stone at Bedford

Mr. Himebaugh's descendants have a letter written back to Tennessee by his son, Guy. It details the teacher's final hours:

*Grapevine, Dec. 14th, 1884. Dear Aunts It has been some time since I received your good letters. Since that time I have been troubled so much that I hardly had possession of my right mind. I am at last settled I hop for a short time at least. I am near Grapevine, Tarrant Co. I am not in very good health.*

*I have a very bad cold. Well, you asked me to tell you about father's sickness and death. I can not tell you much for to tell the truth I was as near a mainiac that I did not see much that passed. The anxiety about Mother and the children that I hardly know whether I was in existence or not. I will tell all I know. He came home from school one day at noon and complained of being hot. I told him to let me bathe his back and perhaps it would help him so I bathed him. When I took off his shirt he was broken out all over his back with heat. We begged him to quit teaching until fall. But he said that he was in dept and that he wanted to pay out. We begged him not to teach, but he kept getting worse and worse until finally it broke out on his back in the shape of a boil as we thought, but what proved to be carbuncle on his left shoulder blade. He finally confined to his bed. We called in a doctor and he pretended to do all he knew. We begged the Doctor to lance the place, but he said it was of no use. We waited until the morning before he died when I became uneasy and called in another Doctor and they concluded to lance it. They did so. And while they were washing it out (with a syringe) the places all around the main opening the water came out of all these places. He seemed to get better after they lanced it which was about eight o'clock in the morning. He seemed to be so much better that I laid down for a few minutes to rest. I had been sitting up so much that I could hardly hold my eyes open. I had lain down about a half hour when Mother woke me saying that Father was worse.*

*I went to him. He was lying down, but when he saw me he raised up and looked over toward the college. He sat in that position a few minutes and then began to fan the floor with his feet and a fan he was not in his right mind at all. When I told him to lie down he said well and lay down. He would lie down a few minutes and then raise up as quick as though he heard something. All night the night before he died he talked about the work. He would say, "I come here on these boards all right." When I would ask him what he meant he would say that he had told us time and time again. Poor Father, though I miss him I know he is at rest and he lived in trouble all his days. He never said any thing about dying. I don't think he knew that he was dying. But I know he is now in heaven. Oh, how I long to be there. Yes it is to give up our loved ones, but what a blessed thing to be allowed to meet them in heaven. It is hard to be in a strange land without kindred and with no one to love or care for. I am young though and have good health. And with the help of God I have to make a man of myself. I have but one aim and that is heaven. If I can be of service to my country and my God, I will be happy. Ma has gone to Tenn. I have not heard from her since she left. Tell Uncle M to please ans my letter. Love to all. Your aff Nephew Guy*