



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Robert R. Riggins

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Robert R. Riggins was born January 3, 1835 in Cole County, Missouri, a son of James Joseph Riggins and his wife, Barzilla (Lawless) Riggins. In one later census record his name is shown as Robert R. R. Riggins. Robert appears in the 1850 Cole County census with his parents. In 1860, he, his mother, and some of his siblings are found in the census for Clear Creek Township, Vernon County, Missouri.

Riggins fought in Company B, 1st Missouri Cavalry. His wife, Catherine, was born in Virginia on October 21, 1840 and died April 1, 1904, only a few days after her husband. By 1870 they had moved to Salt Pond Township in Saline County, Missouri, and by 1880 were again in Vernon County. When Riggins applied for a Confederate pension on July 29, 1899, he said he had been a resident of Quanah, Hardeman County, Texas for nine months. By the time the 1900 census was taken, he and his wife, Catherine L., were living with their daughter, Mary G. Bennett, and her husband William H. Bennett, in Precinct 1 of Baylor County, Texas.

In 1900, Catherine told the census taker she had given birth to six children, three of whom were still living. Reference is made in his pension file to two affidavits made by Tarrant county veterans, Green Berry Trimble and Jefferson B. Karr. Trimble's is not included in the microfilmed files.

Karr said he had known Riggins long before the war, and also said he "*...knew him as a Confederate soldier during the war and he was a good one.*" Karr also said he and Riggins had been neighbors for many years in Tarrant County, and that Riggins had lived a long time in Fort Worth. Riggins sent a list of the battles in which he fought (in his own handwriting) to the pension board in Austin, and it remains in his file to this day. The battles and skirmishes he listed include: Carthage, Wilson's Creek, and Drywood (or Dogwood), Missouri; Sugar Creek and Elk Horn Tavern, Arkansas; two battles at Corinth, Iuka, Grand Gulf, Baker's Creek, Big Black River, and the Siege of Vicksburg for forty days, all in Mississippi; Poison Springs, Jenkin's Ferry, Prairie ____, all in Arkansas; and General Price's campaign through Missouri, "*fiting mostly all the time.*"

Robert Riggins died March 17, 1904, and was buried in Smithfield Cemetery. His death is not shown in the Texas vital statistics files, and there is no indication in his pension file about where he died. No notice of his death appeared in the Grapevine Sun.

