



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### John Akers

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John Akers was a native of Indiana who came to Texas with his parents and siblings during the days of the Republic of Texas. He served in a local Confederate unit, and died before 1870. He probably lies buried in an unmarked grave in Birdville Cemetery.

John Akers was born about 1828 in Indiana, probably in Clark County, and was a son of Tarrant County pioneer George Akers (1791-1859) and his wife, Nancy. It is interesting to note that, in spite of the decades of influence the family had in Birdville, Texas, and the many members of the family who died there, not a single readable headstone with the Akers surname is to be found in the large and well-kept Birdville Cemetery.

A published biographical sketch of one of the prominent members of the Akers family in Kentucky says George Akers brought his family to Texas in 1832. This is difficult to confirm since there are no federal Texas census records prior to 1850. He and his family appear in the census of Clark County, Indiana in 1830, but are not found there in 1840.

The census taker in 1850 found George Akers and his family living in the Birdville area of Tarrant County. John was twenty-two years old and was farming with his father and adult brothers. Both John Akers and his father were Peters Colonists.

John Akers married Emily A. Henderson, the sister of three of our veterans...Joseph M., John E., and William C. Henderson. She was born in Missouri on May 7, 1842, and was a daughter of William and Sarena (Weir) Henderson. Emily came to the Birdville community with her widowed mother and siblings in 1851.

The Tarrant County court house was completely destroyed by fire in 1876, but a few mentions of John Akers survived among some estate papers which were in another building on that day. In

addition, some references to John Akers have survived in the county tax records, copies of which were sent to Austin, Texas and remain there in the State Archives.

John Akers and his brother, Thomas, were the executors of the estate of their brother-in-law, Patrick Everard, in 1853. Along with G. W. Allen, they presented a bill to the estate for six days spent making an assessment of the value of all Everard's property. John continued to be active in managing the estate as late as 1860.

In August of 1855 John Akers was among a number of buyers at the estate sale of Solomon Haworth, who had died earlier that year.

John Akers patented a tract of three hundred twenty acres of land in Tarrant County on December 29, 1855. He apparently sold it by the time the 1860 tax list was made. It was surveyed in a rectangle, one mile east-west by one-half mile north-south. In modern-day terms, it lies in Haltom City, Texas. Its western boundary is today marked by Haltom Road. Its northern boundary follows today's Lower Birdville Road and its southern boundary is marked by Elliott-Reeder Road. Its eastern boundary is in the vicinity of Carson Street. Both modern-day Highway 121 and the Trinity Railway Express cross the survey northeast-southwest.

John Akers and two other men were sureties in the bond made by James Joyce, the administrator of the estate of Absalom H. Chivers, who died in present-day Southlake in 1856. The bond was approved by the county court on November 24, 1856.

John Akers and two other men were sureties in the bond of Mary Olinger, the guardian of Mary S. Hood, in 1859.

On June 26, 1860 John Akers filed an appraisal of the value of ninety head of cattle owned by his nephew, Byron Akers, of whom John was the guardian and administrator.

Like several other men from this community, John Akers joined Captain J. C. Terrell's Company of Waller's Battalion of Texas Cavalry on August 27, 1862 at Vermilion, Louisiana. John enlisted as a second sergeant. He gave his age as thirty-four years. He presented himself for service riding a horse worth one hundred twenty-five dollars and with equipment worth twenty dollars. John was discharged from the service by order of General Richard Taylor on September 13, 1862. No reason is given for the discharge, and no further records of his service are to be found in the National Archives.

A biographical sketch of John's brother-in-law, Joseph M. Henderson, printed in 1895 indicates that John was dead by that time but that his widow, Emily A. (Henderson) Akers, was still living.

When the 1865 tax list for Tarrant County was made, John Akers was recorded as the owner of one hundred ten acres of the A. [probably the M.] Lynch survey, worth three hundred thirty dollars; and sixty-three acres of the Solomon Haworth survey, worth forty-four dollars. He is not shown as the owner of any livestock or personal property. Both the Lynch and Haworth surveys are in the immediate area of Birdville.

It is known that John Akers survived the War. At Birdville, Texas on March 23, 1867, John Akers filed an account against the estate of Byron Akers (who had died in a Yankee prison camp in 1864) for tuition, county taxes, and other expenses paid for his nephew. John's name is not found in the 1867 voter lists of Tarrant County.

By the time the 1870 census was taken, John Akers had apparently died and his widow, Emily, was remarried to William A. Trimble. They lived in the Birdville community, and the household included three Akers children: Marion, Mary, and George Akers.

In 1880, thirty-eight-year-old Emily Trimble appears as the head of her household in the census of Precinct 4 of Tarrant County. With her are three Akers children shown to be hers: Marion, Mary Jane, and George Akers.

Mrs. Trimble's home is shown on the Sam Street Map of Tarrant County of December 1895. It sat along the north edge of the M. Lynch survey. In modern-day terms, it sat near the boundary of present-day Haltom City and North Richland Hills, probably within the Diamond Loch neighborhood, perhaps about where Windsor Court and Diamond Loch west intersect along the edge of the Diamond Oaks Golf Course.

The 1900 census taker found Emily A. Trimble heading a household at Birdville. She said she had given birth to five children, three of whom were still living. It seems likely all five of her children were in her marriage with John Akers. Her widowed daughter, Mary McCord, was living with her, along with one of Mary's children, John Mc Cord, who was born in August 1889. Mary said she had given birth to two children, both of whom were still alive, but John was the only one with them at that time.

Mrs. Trimble did not apply for a Confederate widow's pension under her Akers or Trimble surnames. Emily A. (Henderson) Akers Trimble died on January 29, 1907 and lies buried in Birdville Cemetery beneath a readable headstone. The following short paragraphs record something of the lives of John Akers' three children who grew to adulthood.

Marion F. Akers was born, according to his death certificate, on September 1, 1861. About 1898 Marion and his wife Maggie were married. By 1910 they had moved to King Township in Stephens County, Oklahoma, where Marion worked as a stockman. They were still there in 1920 and 1930. He died at his home at Springtown, Parker County, Texas on March 23, 1941. He had been living there about five years. He was buried in Springtown Cemetery two days later. His wife survived him.

Mary Jane Akers' headstone in Birdville Cemetery says she was born May 25, 1863. She married Frank McCord, who was dead by the time the 1900 census was taken. She died at 1:20 a.m. on December 18, 1938 at the Main Rest Home in Fort Worth. Her last permanent residence was at 1104 Chandler Street in Fort Worth.

George Akers was born about 1865. He was still with his mother when the 1880 census was taken.