



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

John Washington Higgins

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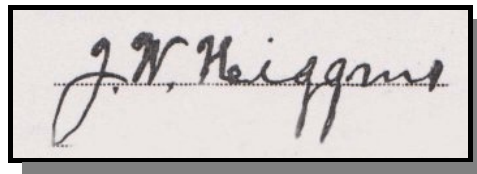
John Washington Higgins was born February 5, 1841 at Kingston, Roane County, Tennessee. He enlisted at Trenton, Dade Co., Georgia on May 20, 1861. He served as both a private and a 2nd Sergeant in Co. B, 6th Georgia Infantry, also known as the "Lookout Dragoons." He fought in the battles of Seven Pines, Cold Harbor, Second Manassas, South Mountain, Maryland; Sharpsburg, Ocean Pond, Florida; Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Fort Sumpter, Siege of Yorktown, Williamsburg, Mechanicsville, White Oak Swamp, James Island, S.C.; Battery Wagner, the Siege of Petersburg, and others. He was transferred to the sea coast just after the battle of Chancellorsville in May, 1863, and returned to Virginia in May, 1864. He received two slight wounds at the Battle of Drewry's Bluff, but did not leave the field. Just after the Seven Day's Battles he was promoted to 2nd Sergeant. Higgins was captured at Fort Harrison, Virginia on September 30, 1864, and was finally released at Point Lookout, Maryland, on June 27, 1865.

Mamie Yeary's 1912 classic, *Reminiscences of the Boys in Gray, 1861-1865*, contains the following account by Higgins: "An 8-inch mortar shell dropped in our company on the 27th of June, 1864, and killed Robert Stewart and wounded eleven others, two others besides myself escaping. In the battle of Drewry's Bluff four of us were behind a small tree, ten inches in diameter, and all were wounded except myself. In the battle of Ocean Pond I had the bark knocked off of a tree into both eyes. I shifted my position and lay down behind an old stump, when a ball came through and struck me in the breast, but had spent its force and did not hurt me. I could relate many other narrow escapes, but this will be enough."

Higgins married Loisa J. Hale in Georgia (in the 1880 Dade County, Georgia census her name is shown as July L.). When they came to Texas, they settled first for a time in Johnson County, then came to the White's Chapel community and bought a farm later owned by William P. Mitchell. In 1895, he lived on the H. Granberry survey in present-day Southlake, north of Big Bear Creek along the east side of White's Chapel Boulevard, a few yards northeast of the intersection of White's Chapel and Continental Drive.

He was a member of the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans at Fort Worth, and received the Southern Cross of Honor in 1908. His wife, J. Louisa (Hale) Higgins, was born July 24, 1836 and died April 23, 1919. Higgins named one of his sons Albert Sidney Higgins after Confederate general Albert Sidney Johnston.

Higgins died February 23, 1924, and was buried at White's Chapel. Higgins' obituary in The Grapevine Sun contradicts some of the statements he himself made: "*Pioneer Citizen Dies. John W. Higgins was born in Hamilton County, Tennessee Feb. 5, 1841, lived in Georgia for a time, and came to Tarrant County, Texas in 1881. He was one of the early settlers of this section. He was active in the civil life of our county. He served as commissioner of Precinct 3 for 8 years. His wife, J. L. Higgins, died April 23, 1919. Three sons and two daughters survive. They are Bob Higgins, Ed Higgins, Sid Higgins, Mrs. Harriett Blevins, and Mrs. Matilda Brown. One other son, James Gordon, died in childhood and there are ten living grandchildren. Mr. Higgins served with distinction in the civil war under General Robert E. Lee in the 8th Georgia Regiment, Company B. He died at the home of his son, Ed, February 24, 1924. Age 83 years and 18 days. After services held at the White's Chapel church by Rev. C. O. Hightower, Pastor of the Grapevine Methodist Church, his body was laid to rest by the side of the remains of his wife in the White's Chapel Cemetery.*

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. W. Higgins". The signature is written on a piece of paper with a horizontal dashed line.