



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Joel Phillips

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Joel Phillips was a native of Indiana who lived at Grapevine while he served in a local Confederate cavalry company. He later moved to Denton County where he died in 1885 and lies buried.

Mr. Phillips was born March 6, 1832 in Indiana. By 1850, he was living in Denton County, Texas in a family headed by one H. Murphy. Also in the family was Josiah Phillips, who served with Joel in the same company and regiment in the Confederate service.

Several interesting details about the life of Joel Phillips were preserved in a biographical sketch of his son, Thomas Lee Phillips, which appeared in B. B. Paddock's History of Texas. Fort Worth and the Texas Northwest Edition Vol. IV, printed by the Lewis Publishing Company of Chicago and New York in 1922. Of Joel Phillips, it says: *"...He had few advantages during his youth, and most of his education he picked up outside of school. However, he was well able to take care of his business affairs, and showed his efficiency in all the emergencies of life. As a youth he joined a party of gold seekers who started across the plains to California. The journey was fraught with many of the hardships incident to shortage of food, and some of the party turned back home. He and the more determined continued and reached their destination, where they remained some two years. After a successful mining experience they tried to return east, when the entire accumulations of the party were stolen. They then returned to the mines and sought another store of the precious metal. Again they started east for Illinois, their route leading through Texas. Again they were subjected to dangers, and only the exercise of their wits and courage foiled a second attempt at robbery. While going through Northern Texas Joel Phillips became favorably attracted to the region and abandoned the party and settled here permanently. His first home was in the vicinity of the present Grapevine, in Tarrant County, but later he moved into Denton County and established his home in the community of Lloyd, where he remained the rest of his life. He was a neighbor of other pioneers, including the Bates, Bells, Zumwalts, Hill and Hicks families. In Denton County Joel Phillips played the part of a stock farmer, was successful as a business man, but personally is remembered as a reserved and unassuming man who nevertheless*

*contributed of his influence to the building of a righteous community and left an indelible impress upon those who knew him. His old neighbors and friends on meeting for the first time his sons have frequently remarked: 'If you are just as good a man as your father was, you are all right.' He was a Methodist and democrat, and helped establish the first free or public school in this locality and also the church of his faith, the Oak Grove Church, north of Lloyd, being the outgrowth of the original society he helped establish. During the war between the states Joel Phillips was a teamster in the Confederate army. Exposure from that service hastened his death. He died in 1884. He married the daughter of one of the pioneer families in this locality in Denton County, Sarah Jane Hicks, who was born near Bowling Green, Kentucky, daughter of Taylor Hicks, who moved to Denton County somewhat later than Joel Phillips and lived in the Zion locality, where he was a farmer and stockman. Sarah J. Hicks acquired a meager education as a result of the pioneer environment in which she grew up. She died at the age of about fifty-six. The only two children reared by her are Joel R., a farmer at the old homestead at Lloyd, and Thomas Lee, of Aubrey..."*

On March 18, 1854, Joel Phillips patented the three hundred twenty-acre Stephen Burnley survey in northeast Tarrant County. In the 1860 tax list, he still owned it. In the 1864 tax list, he is shown as the owner of the adjacent J. Roberts survey of the same size. In 1865 he is shown as the owner of the S. "Barckley" survey...again the Burnley survey.

These two surveys are adjacent to each other in extreme northeast Tarrant County, northeast of old downtown Grapevine. Each contains three hundred twenty acres, and is one mile east-west by one-half mile north-south. All but the extreme eastern part of the Roberts survey is now covered by Grapevine Lake, and much of Grapevine Dam lies within it. The northern boundary of the Burnley survey is the Denton County line.

Mr. Phillips entered the Confederate service at Grapevine on March 4, 1862 under Capt. M. W. Deavenport for a term of one year. He became a private in Co. A, Alexander's Regiment of Texas Cavalry. This regiment subsequently became known as the 34<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry. His name appears on a muster roll February 28 through June 30, 1863, at which he was due \$9.33 for the use of his personal as well as an additional amount for one hundred ten miles travel from his home to the place of enrollment. His name appears on a regimental return for April 1865. No other records of his service have survived.

During most of his time in Tarrant County, Mr. Phillips seems to have been focused on raising horses. For instance, in the tax list of 1862, other than his real estate the only other property he was shown owning was thirty horses, worth one thousand five hundred dollars. On August 5, 1867 Joel Phillips registered to vote in Precinct 2 of Tarrant County. He said he was a native of Indiana, had been in Texas eleven years, and had been living in Tarrant County and Precinct two for six years. He does not appear in the Tarrant County census in 1870.

Joel Phillips and his wife, Sarah Hicks, were married about 1875. The death certificate of one of Joel's children says he was born at Lloyd, Denton County, in 1879. Lloyd was an older Denton County community whose post office closed in 1907 and its mail service was taken over by post office at Aubrey.

Joel Phillips and his family appear in the 1880 census of Precinct 6 of Denton County, Texas. He and Sarah had two children with them: Robert, born about 1876; and Joseph, born about 1879. Also living with them was Lee McReynolds, who was born in Mississippi about 1863.

Joel Phillips died in Denton County, Texas on February 17, 1885. He lies buried in Zion Cemetery in Frisco, Denton County. There is a headstone in the same cemetery which may be that of his wife, Sarah, who was remarried after his death.

After Joel Phillips' death his widow, Sarah J. Phillips, was remarried in Denton County on December 15, 1887 to James W. Rogers. By the time the 1900 census of Denton County was taken, she had died and her sons, Joseph R. and Thomas L. Phillips, were living with Mr. Rogers in Precinct 6 in Denton County. (correction above identified in red)

There is a headstone in Zion Cemetery for one Sallie J. Rogers, wife of J. W. Rogers. She died October 27, 1899, and was buried in Zion Cemetery. Her birth date is engraved on the stone but is not readable in the photograph available to this researcher. Neither is this stone's location in relation to Joel Phillips' stone available from internet sources. It seems likely to this researcher that she was Phillips' widow.

Joseph Randolph Phillips was born March 27, 1879 at Lloyd in Denton County, Texas. His last home was Rt. 2, Aubrey, Texas. He died June 21, 1940 in a hospital at Denton. His death certificate says he was a son of Joel Phillips and Sarah Jane Hicks. He was buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in Denton County. Mrs. H. R. Short of Sanger was the informant. His wife survived him.

Thomas Lee Phillips was born in Denton County on November 11, 1883. He worked a large part of his life in banking. He and his wife, Florence Alma Barr, were married July 8, 1910. They lived with their children at Aubrey, Texas in 1930, where he was an assistant vice-president at a bank. His last permanent address was at 1012 Panhandle in Denton. He died at Flow Hospital in Denton, Texas on February 9, 1962. He was buried in Oak Grove Cemetery east of Denton. Descendants should read the biographical sketch in B. B. Paddock's book cited earlier.

