



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Robert Franklin Boals

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Robert Franklin Boals was Tennessean who served as a captain in a Missouri infantry regiment. Within a few months of the end of the War he moved to Texas and shortly became a successful merchant in both Tarrant and Dallas Counties. He spent the last years of his life in Arlington, and lies buried there.

Robert was born in Tennessee on May 19, 1835. Family sources at ancestry.com say he was a son of John T. Boals, who was born in 1810 in North Carolina and died in 1890 in Tarrant County, Texas. Robert's mother was Rachel Stubbs, who was born in Tennessee in 1810 and died in Christian County, Missouri in 1870. It seems likely that John T. Boals moved to Texas from Missouri at least twice. Robert's parents were married in Madison County, Tennessee on August 9, 1831.

Robert F. Boals married Mary J. Roberts in Greene County, Missouri on September 3, 1856. Many years later Mrs. Boals told pension officials the marriage took place in 1857, but the former date is almost certainly the correct one. She was born in Buncombe County, North Carolina on May 5, 1838.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. "Boales" appear in the 1860 census of Texas County, Missouri in Clinton Township, in the area served by the post office at Hickory Springs, Missouri. They had one child with them, Emma, who was born about 1858 in Missouri.

Mr. Boals' service to the Confederacy began when he enlisted on August 4, 1862 in Oregon County, Missouri for a term of three years. He became a first lieutenant in Co. C, Steen's Regiment, Missouri Infantry. About November, 1862 Steen's Regiment and a few other infantry groups were combined and became the 10th Missouri Infantry. Mr. Boals served as a first sergeant of cavalry for one month and fifteen days. He was elected first lieutenant on September 9, 1862. In later regimental records he is shown as captain of Co. C.

His file contains several original signed papers. One is a forty-day furlough granted him at Little Rock, Arkansas on May 26, 1862. Another is a request, dated January 25, 1864, for permission to come to Estill's Station, Texas (in the area of present-day Euless) to transact some important business with his father. On February 28, 1863, he was absent on some sort of duty at Austin, Arkansas. He was at Camp Bragg, Arkansas on November 24, 1863; a notation on that record says he was a resident of Texas County, Missouri. On February 16, 1864 he was one of several officers from General Price's Division who were chosen to prepare a list of men who were absent from their units.

His file also contains two original signed records detailing clothing purchases he made. As Captain of Co. C he was paroled at Shreveport, Louisiana on June 9, 1865 by Brig. Gen. George L. Andrews of the Union army. Many years later Mrs. Boals told Texas pension officials that they came to Texas later in 1865.

By the time the 1870 census was taken, the Boals family had settled in Precinct 2 of Tarrant County and Mr. Boals was working as a clerk in a store. He owned a substantial amount of merchandise as well as a tract of land. Their daughter, Emma, was still with them. She was still the only child in the household.

R. F. Boals appears in the 1871 tax list of Tarrant County as the owner of five acres of the William Dooley survey, worth two hundred fifty dollars. This survey is in the center of downtown Grapevine. In addition, he owned four horses worth one hundred dollars, six cows worth thirty dollars, four thousand dollars worth of store merchandise, and one hundred eighty-five dollars worth of miscellaneous personal property. He paid taxes for the year totaling \$8.66.

Within a few years, Mr. Boals and three associates, all from Grapevine, had gone into business in Dallas with their business located at 639 and 641 Elm Street. Under the name of Boals, Bushong & Co., the company consisted of Robert F. Boals, George E. Bushong, Isaac L. Morehead, and Zeb Jenkins. Morrison & Co.'s Directory of the City of Dallas, 1878-79 shows that that they were "wholesale & retail dealers in dry goods, clothing, boots, shoes, hats, caps, fancy goods, etc." Mr. and Mrs. Boals had their residence at 641 Elm Street.

When the 1880 census was taken, Robert and Mary J. Boals were listed in Dallas County, Texas in the city of Dallas. Mr. Boals was a retired merchant. They had no children with them in 1880.

An article appeared in the Dallas Morning News on December 12, 1891: ***"ELECTRIC ROAD TO FORT WORTH. Mr. R. F. Boals of Arlington Heads the Project. Mr. R. F. Boals of Arlington was in Dallas yesterday making arrangements for the survey of a proposed electric road from Dallas to Fort Worth. While here, Mr. Boals stated to a party of gentlemen that he had secured the necessary capital to put the road through and it all came from parties in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. He said the surveys would commence in a few days and be pushed right along. The money was ready and he thought the distance between the two cities would be made somewhat shorter than it is by the Texas Pacific and would try to get as near an air line as possible. Of course Arlington will be on the line and so will be Grand Prairie."***

Robert F. Boals died at Arlington, Texas on November 3, 1894. He lies buried in old Arlington Cemetery north of Mitchell Drive and west of Collins Street.

Mary J. Boals of Arlington, Texas applied for a Confederate widow's pension in 1913. She said she was born in Buncombe County, North Carolina. She said she and Mr. Boals were married in Greene County, Missouri on September 4, 1857 [county records there show the marriage in 1856]. She said they came to Texas in 1865.

Mary J. Boals died in Arlington on July 31, 1917. She was buried beside her husband in the old Arlington Cemetery. Both she and her husband have readable upright headstones.

Two of Robert Boals' sisters lived for many years in the area between Grapevine and Euless, and both are buried in Minters Chapel Cemetery on the DFW Airport land in far-eastern Tarrant County. They were Mrs. Henry Burgoon and Mrs. William McKindree Rogers.

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Headstones at old Arlington Cemetery

10th Regt. Mo. Infantry
 Camp. Bragg. Nov. 23/1864

A. F. Bolton
 U. S. A.
 Sir.

I would respectfully ask for
 leave of absence for (30) thirty days to go to
 Estel Station, Texas for the following reason
 I have urgent business to transact with my
 father. There are two Lieut. beside myself present for duty
 I have the honor to be yours &c

Robert F. Boals, 1st Lt
 Co. C. 10th Regt. Mo. Inf.