



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

William W. McGinnis

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William W. McGinnis was born about 1819 in Franklin Co., Kentucky. He was a son of William W. McGinnis, Sr. and Elizabeth (Lillard) McGinnis. He moved with his parents to Pike County, Missouri in 1835. He married Margaret Ann Wilson on December 30, 1841 in Lincoln Co., Missouri. She was born about 1824 in Kentucky and died before 1880 in Texas.

For a time after his marriage, William Jr. and his wife lived near his father, renting land and raising corn and tobacco. After his father died early in 1842, William Jr. sold his tobacco crop in the field, and the McGinnises moved to what was then Niangua County (renamed in 1844 to become Dallas County), Missouri. There their first child was born on February 24, 1843. The McGinnises lived in Dallas County, Missouri for about six years, and by 1850 were living in St. Charles County. By 1852 they had left St. Charles Co., and lived somewhere else in Missouri for a time.

By mid-1859, they moved to Texas, and by mid-1860 they were living in Erath County, Texas. When the census was taken in 1860, McGinnis listed his occupation as "doctor." By June of 1861 they were in northeast Tarrant County, when McGinnis became a captain of volunteers in the 20th Brigade, Texas State Militia.

Family sources recall that McGinnis worked at various times as a farmer, shoemaker, doctor, surveyor, school-teacher, and militia captain. He was still alive in 1895 on his farm near where Big Bear Creek crosses today's Highway 26. In terms of modern-day landmarks, his 1895 home was in present-day Grapevine on the H. Decker survey, south of the railroad track and State Highway 26, about where newly-extended Brumlow Road intersects in a curve with the older part of Pool Road which continues a short distance north.

A note about McGinnis appears in the Confederate pension application of Edward J. Lipscomb of Grapevine, who served in McGinnis's Company. Grapevine resident B. R. Wall said in 1931 in an affidavit in Lipscomb's file, "Col. McGinnis lived between here and Roanoke, Texas and died when

I was a small boy. I have often heard the people speak of this organization as a cavalry troop which chased bushwhackers and deserters...." McGinnis has no readable headstone in any northeast Tarrant County cemetery.

William and Margaret McGinnis were the parents of at least eight children, including: John Caswell McGinnis, Mary Elizabeth (Mrs. Joseph L.) Byas, Scott Jefferson McGinnis, Sarah Elizabeth McGinnis, Missouri A. McGinnis, William C. McGinnis, Virginia Agnes McGinnis, and Erasmus D. McGinnis.