



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

James Augustus Wiggins

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James Augustus Wiggins told the 1910 census taker in Grapevine that he was a Confederate veteran. At the time, he was living in Grapevine on the William Dooley survey with his son, Richard F. Wiggins. A ground-level marker in Grapevine Cemetery for James A. Wiggins records his birth date as 1838, but that is probably several years too late. The 1900 census records his birth date as October, 1831, and that is probably correct or nearly so.

He was the son of Richard A. Wiggins and Ann Eliza Dunn. Richard Wiggins moved from Martin County, North Carolina to Madison County, Alabama with his parents. James Augustus Wiggins told census officials that he and both his parents were born in North Carolina. Neither he nor Mrs. Wiggins received a Confederate pension for his service.

His wife, Mary Almira Floyd, was as born November 08, 1833 at Brookfield Plantation in Lynchburg, Virginia. She was a daughter of Nathaniel Wilson Floyd (1793-1866) and Elizabeth Anderson 1802-1883). She and Mr. Wiggins were married September 16, 1858. She told census officials she was born in Virginia to a Kentuckian father and a Virginian mother. The 1900 census records her birth date as November 1833. Mrs. Wiggins told census takers that she had given birth to only two children. Only one of them, Richard F. Wiggins, was still alive in 1900.

This note concerning Mary Almira Floyd is found in N. J. Floyd, Biographical Genealogies of the Virginia-Kentucky Floyd Families (1912): "...On September 16, 1858, she was married to Mr. James Augustus Wiggins, a popular young planter of Madison and Limestone Counties, Ala. He belonged to an old and prominent family of South Carolina, and his relatives in that State, as well as the few who have wandered from the hospitable shades of the palmetto, are leading and popular people." Some genealogists have stated that Mary Almira Floyd Wiggins was a direct descendant of Pocahontas.

By the standards of the time, James Wiggins was a comparatively wealthy man, at least as far as pre-war standards were concerned. His Limestone County, Alabama plantation in 1860 included many acres of land and he owned nineteen slaves...eleven females and eight males, the oldest of whom was a forty-year-old woman and the youngest of whom were a boy and a girl, each two years old.

When the 1870 census was taken, James and Mary and their two children were living in Limestone County, Alabama. That census suggests that Richard was born about 1859 in Virginia and Anna was born about 1862 in Alabama.

James and Mary Wiggins were living in Madison County, Alabama in 1880. By 1900, they had moved to Tarrant County, Texas, and were living in Precinct 3. Their son, Richard F. Wiggins and his wife, Mary, were living with them in 1900. The Wiggins' other child was Annie West Wiggins, who was born about 1886 in Limestone County, Alabama. She married a Mr. Faught and died before 1890, leaving one child, born about 1882.

An obituary for Mrs. Wiggins appeared in the Grapevine Sun on August 18, 1906: "*A GOOD WOMAN GONE. It is our painful duty to chronicle the death of Mrs. J. A. Wiggins, which occurred last Tuesday night. In the death of this good woman her husband has met an irreparable loss and our heart goes out to him in sympathy. They had just moved back to Grapevine and had hardly settled down to housekeeping, and now this home is thrown into deepest grief. The family has a host of friends in this community who deeply sympathize with them in this sad hour. The remains were tenderly laid to rest in Grapevine cemetery by sorrowing friends on Wednesday. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. M. S. Leveridge.*"

Mr. Wiggins died on March 15, 1916 at the County Poor Farm in Dallas County, Texas. George Brewer was the undertaker, and H. H. Bennett of Hutchins, Texas was the informant for the death certificate. He was buried at Grapevine. He died of neck cancer. His birth date shown on the death certificate is shown as 1836, but it was apparent that Mr. Bennett knew very little about Mr. Wiggins' personal background. Mr. Wiggins's son, Richard F. Wiggins, predeceased him.

An obituary for J. A. Wiggins appeared in the Grapevine Sun on March 25, 1916: "*J. A. WIGGINS. Mr. J. A. Wiggins, a former citizen of Grapevine, and father of the late R. F. Wiggins, died at Mesquite, Texas, March 15th. His remains were sent to this place and funeral services were held at the home of Mrs. R. F. Wiggins Friday afternoon by Rev. Geo. F. Kornegay, pastor of the Methodist church, of which the deceased was a member. The funeral was attended by a large number of friends. Mr. Wiggins was 84 years of age and had been feeble for several months, but his death was quite sudden and unexpected.*"