



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

James Scruggs Austin

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James Scruggs Austin, a younger brother of Stephen Blevins Austin, was born August 29, 1832 in Bond County, Illinois. He was a son of Hezekiah Austin and his wife, Jane (Blevins) Austin. While James was still a small boy the elder Austin returned south and eventually ended his days in DeKalb County, Alabama.

James served in Co. C, 49th Alabama Infantry. Family sources record that most of James's life before he moved to Texas in the early 1870's was spent alternately in Jackson and DeKalb Counties, Alabama. James was married October 10, 1851, probably in Jackson County, Alabama, to Elizabeth L. Beason. In 1895, James Austin was living on the W. Crooks survey south of Big Bear Creek, in present-day Colleyville about where the west end of Adams Court is now located.

He died March 5, 1908, and was buried in White's Chapel Cemetery. His gravestone proclaims that he was a Confederate soldier, a Mason, and a professor of religion for fifty-four years. An obituary for him appeared in the Grapevine Sun on April 11, 1908: "*PASSES AWAY. Mr. Jas. S. Austin, an old and highly respected citizen of this community, but who had recently gone to live with his youngest son at Altus, Okla., died there last Sunday and was brought to Grapevine and buried Wednesday, under the auspices of the Masonic Order, of which he was a member. Mr. Austin came from Jackson County, Ala., to Texas about forty years ago. He was an ex-Confederate soldier. His wife had preceded him to the grave many years ago. He leaves four children, a number of other relatives, besides a host of friends to mourn his departure. He was 76 years of age---a ripe old age. He joined the Methodist church at the age of 18 years and had lived a consistent Christian life, but he is gone...*" [The remainder of the obituary contains no personal information and is largely illegible]. This obituary seems to prove that the death date engraved on his headstone...March 5...may be too early.

James Austin's children included Martin A. Austin, John Franklin Austin, Malinda Jane Austin, Nathan A. Austin, Ruby Ann Austin, Lorenzo Dow Austin, Robert Taylor Austin, Stephen Blevins Austin, and Margery E. Austin.

