



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

James Harrison Hightower

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James Harrison Hightower, a son of Smithfield pioneers Alfred M. Hightower and Sarah (Grantham) Hightower, was born April 16, 1847 in Montgomery County, Illinois. About 1854 the Hightowers left Illinois and moved to Laclede County, Missouri, where they remained until 1858 when they settled near the community which would later be known as Smithfield.

James enlisted in 1863 in Tarrant County as a corporal in Co. A, Leonard's Cavalry Company. When he became eighteen years old he joined the regular service in Capt. J. C. Terrell's Company of cavalry, and was on furlough at home at Smithfield at the time the war ended. When he joined the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth, he wrote that, "*I belonged [to the] State Militia nearly two years. Guarded Federal prisoners of war at Tyler Texas...*"

For most of his life he worked as a farmer and stockman, but also did a considerable business as a carpenter, builder, and contractor. He served two terms as a commissioner of Tarrant County. He was a longtime member of the Grand Prairie Masonic Lodge, #455, and was a member of the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth.

James's first wife, Elizabeth Calloway, was a native of North Carolina who came to Tarrant County with her parents in 1859. She and James were married on May 2, 1865. Elizabeth Hightower was born June 14, 1850 and died September 17, 1882. She and Mr. Hightower had four children: Hugh M Hightower, Halceon C. (Mrs. Loma B.) Brown, Sarah E. (Mrs. W. H.) Cloud, and Louis A. Hightower.

Mr. Hightower's home appears on the 1895 Sam Street Map of Tarrant County, Texas. In modern-day terms, it sat in present-day Hurst a few yards northeast of the intersection where Melbourne Road crosses Pipeline Road, a short distance southeast of Northeast Mall.

On June 15, 1884 Mr. Hightower was married second to Cynthia A. Boyd, a native of Tennessee and daughter of Dr. Joseph B. Boyd, who served as both Treasurer and Tax Collector of Tarrant County

at various times. Cynthia A. (Boyd) Hightower was born November 11, 1863 and died November 19, 1927. James H. Hightower died August 20, 1923, and lies buried between his two wives at Smithfield.

An obituary for Mr. Hightower appeared on August 21, 1923 in the Fort Worth Record: “*DEATH CLAIMS J. H. HIGHTOWER. J. H./ Hightower, 76 years old, former county commissioner and father of County Commissioner Hightower, died at Smithfield, Tarrant county, Monday morning at 12:30 o'clock. His death was caused by heart failure. The deceased was born in Irvin, Ill., and came to Texas in 1859, when Texas roads consisted principally of cow trails. Mr. Hightower located within a mile of the house where he died Monday and resided in Tarrant county from the time he immigrated to Texas until his death. He married Elizabeth Calloway, May 2, 1865. From this union five children were born. His wife died in 1882. In 1885 the deceased married Cynthia Boyd, who survives. Funeral services will be held at the Methodist church, Smithfield, Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock and will be conducted by Rev. Dr. Ervin of Diamond Hill, assisted by Rev. Dr. Sell Gray of the Smithfield Methodist church.*

The Masonic lodge of Smithfield, of which the deceased was a member, will have charge of the funeral and will be assisted by the Fort Worth and Grapevine Masonic lodges. The deceased is survived by his wife, two daughters, Mrs. L. R. Brown, Smithfield; Mrs. Ellen Cloud, Fort Worth; two sons, Hugh Hightower, county commissioner; Louis A. Hightower, Smithfield; and three sisters, Mrs. A. R. Clark and Mrs. S. P. Thrower, Clarendon, Texas; and Mrs. W. C. Meacham, Smithfield.”

A biography of Mr. Hightower, probably prepared from material he dictated, is to be found in B. B. Paddock, History and Biographical Record of North and West Texas.

