



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Reason Lawson Akers

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Reason Lawson Akers was a native of Indiana who served in both the Confederate and Union armies. He was living at Birdville with his paternal grandfather when the War broke out. He later returned to Indiana and spent the rest of his life there. Several genealogists have placed material on this family at Ancestry.com.

Reason L. Akers was born January 9, 1837 in Floyd or Clark County, Indiana, and was a son of Hiram Akers (1811-1856) and his wife, Amelia Garrettson. When the census was taken in 1850, Reason was shown as an eleven-year-old boy living with his father, several siblings, and a number of farm laborers in New Albany Township in Floyd County, Indiana. His father was a farmer who owned real estate worth three thousand dollars.

After Reason's father, Hiram, died in 1856 Reason came to the Birdville area in Tarrant County to live with his paternal grandfather, George Akers, and his family.

Reason L. Akers originally enlisted under Capt. William Quayle in Tarrant County on August 19, 1861 for a term of twelve months. After serving fifty-five days as a member of the Texas state troops, he was transferred to the Confederate service on October 14. At his original enlistment his horse was valued at one hundred fifty dollars, his horse equipment at twenty-five, and his guns at thirty.

Reason L. Akers joined the Confederate Army and became a member of Capt. Thomas G. Berry's Company of Sims' Regiment of Texas Volunteers. This company subsequently became Co. A, 9<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry. Reason and his first cousin, Byron Akers, and several other Tarrant County men joined the company on October 14, 1861 at Camp Reeves in present-day Grayson County, Texas. Reason was twenty-four years old. He had traveled one hundred fifty miles to the rendezvous and presented himself for service riding a horse worth one hundred fifty dollars and with equipment worth twenty dollars. On the last day of 1861 he was with the regiment at Fort Gibson in

present-day Oklahoma. He appears on a muster roll for November and December 1861 as a hospital steward, which position he has in all his later surviving military records with the Confederate Army.

On October 23, 1862 he received \$66 in pay for the months of May and June. On January 19, 1863 he received \$116 in pay for the period October 31 through December 31, 1861. There are no more records pertaining to his service with the Confederate Army later than January 19, 1863 in the National Archives.

We are left to speculate about the timing and reasons for his leaving the Southern Army and joining the Union forces. His first cousin, Byron Akers, with whom he was serving, was captured and died of debility due to smallpox at Camp Douglas, Illinois on December 24, 1864. The records do not say whether or not Reason was captured and sent to the prison with him.

It is certain that Reason L. Akers joined the Union army on February 24, 1865 at Columbia, Indiana. He was a sergeant and a hospital steward in Co. K, 144<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry. He was mustered out on August 5, 1865.

Mr. Akers was married in Floyd County, Indiana on September 23, 1865 to Louisa Abraham Miller. She was born August 13, 1847 in Clark County, Indiana, and was a daughter of Abraham Miller (1787-1867) and his wife, Louisa Owen.

R. L. Akers and his family appear in the 1870 census in Silver Creek Township in Clark County, Indiana, in the part of the county served by the post office at Sellersburg, Indiana. Mr. Akers was working as a miller. There were two children with the family, Mat and Owen Akers.

Some material, part of which is obviously erroneous, appeared in a biographical sketch of Reason's son, Matthew, which was published in 1922. Concerning Reason Lawson Akers, it said: "*...The fourth generation contained Reason Lawson Akers, father of Matthew Love Akers, of Louisville. He was born in Clark County, Indiana, January 9, 1837, was educated in the common schools there and also in normal schools, and from 1862 to 1868 served as a surgeon in the United States Army. After the war he became a farmer, and was also a pioneer in the manufacture and development of the hydraulic cement industry. His associates in that enterprise were the well-known Louisville men, J. B. Speed and Dexter Belknap...He was a staunch democrat and a member of the Christian Church...*"

Mr. Akers died November 23, 1878. He was buried in Fairview Cemetery at New Albany, Clark County, Indiana. He received a veterans' headstone from Sheldon and Sons of West Rutland, Vermont, under a contract made August 21, 1888. It is still in place but has become quite weathered. Mr. Akers' widow applied for benefits as a Union widow in 1890.

Mrs. Akers appears in the 1880 census of Jeffersonville Township, Clark County, Indiana as "Ann Acres." She was working as a housekeeper. Four children were with her: "Mathe," Owen, Charles, and Minnie.

Mrs. Akers and her children appear in the 1900 census of New Albany Township, in the City of New Albany, Clark County, Indiana. She told the census taker she had given birth to five children, four

of whom were still alive. The children with her included Matt L. Akers (working for the railroad as a superintendent of grounds), Charles Akers (working as an electrician), and Minnie Akers.

She was still living in New Albany Township in 1910, and two of her unmarried children, Charles and Minnie were with her. In this year, she told the census taker she had given birth to six children, four of whom were alive.

In 1920 the family lived at 1109 East Main Street in New Albany, Indiana. Both her unmarried children, Charles and Minnie, were still with her.

Mrs. Louisa A. Akers died on February 11, 1925 in the Baptist Hospital in Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky. Her death certificate says she died of exhaustion. She was buried two days later beside her husband in Fairview Cemetery in Indiana. The four children referred to in the 1900 census (Matthew, Owen, Charles, and Minnie) survived their mother. The following short paragraphs provide a few details about their lives.

Matthew Love Akers was born September 10, 1866. He married Frankie Guthrie (1873-1941) in Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky on December 16, 1901. He spent his last years working as a railroad executive. Mr. Akers died at 9 a.m. on June 4, 1926 in Louisville, Kentucky. He lies buried there in Cave Hill Cemetery. An extensive biographical sketch of Matthew L. Akers... including some notable errors...appeared in A History of Kentucky, by William Elsey Connelley, and Ellis Merton Coulter (1922).

Owen Miller Akers was born September 20, 1868. He married Mary Ruddles about 1894. By 1900 he and his family had moved to Jefferson County, Kentucky. The last part of his working life he was a chemist for a drug manufacturing company. He died at 9:15 p.m. on November 19, 1949 at his home at 208 Browns Lane in St. Matthews, Jefferson County, Kentucky. He was buried in Louisville in Cave Hill Cemetery.

Charles L. Akers was born in September 1872. As late as 1920, Charles still lived with his mother and was working as an electrician in a foundry. One Charles L. Akers appears in the 1930 census in Talladega County, Alabama *who may be this man*.

Minnie Caroline Akers was born December 23, 1876. She was never married. She died at the Parr's Rest facility in Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky at 1:45 p.m. on October 17, 1952. Her last permanent address was 969 Cherokee Road in Louisville. She was buried on October 20 in Fairview Cemetery in Indiana, the same cemetery in which her parents lie buried.

If any descendants of Reason L. Akers have copies of his Union Compiled Military Service Records or Mrs. Akers' widow's pension file, this compiler would welcome the chance to see copies so that this biographical sketch can be improved.



Reason Lawson Akers



Louisa Akers