



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Dr. Joseph B. Boyd

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Dr. Joseph B. Boyd was a Confederate soldier who enlisted here in northeast Tarrant County. He served as a surgeon while in the army and practiced medicine here after the War. He also held some county offices much later in life.

Joseph B. Boyd was born April 8, 1825. Some records place his birth in Kentucky, while others say it took place in Indiana. He came to Texas around 1859, and settled permanently in Tarrant County about six years later.

He appears in the Tarrant County tax lists as early as 1860, when he owned no real estate. He also appears through 1864, but not in 1865.

Joseph B. Boyd was a member of Capt. J. R. Cummins' Company of West Fork Guards, a mounted company raised in the neighborhood of Bear Creek and Leonard's Mill in northeast Tarrant County. Boyd's name appears on a muster roll dated June 18, 1861.

About 1864, Joseph B. Boyd married a Mary Jane Borah, a daughter of Lee and Catherine Borah, pioneers of the Bear Creek neighborhood. She was born in Butler County, Kentucky on May 10, 1845. She arrived in western Dallas County with her parents and siblings in 1856. Two of her brothers, William J. Borah and Christopher C. Borah, served in the Confederate Army. Christopher died of disease while in the service. Her parents lie buried in Bear Creek Cemetery.

Dr. J. B. Boyd joined the Bear Creek Baptist Church in 1864 "by experience and baptism." Earlier, in 1859, one "J. B. B. Boyd" had joined the same church in the same way, and was granted a letter to leave in 1860. Mary J. Boyd joined the same church by experience and baptism in 1866, and it was recorded that she was rebaptized the same year.

Census data and the death certificate of one of the Boyd children indicate that Dr. Boyd and his family were living in Missouri at the end of 1866. By 1867 they had returned to Tarrant County.

When Dr. Boyd registered to vote in Precinct 2 on August 6, 1867, he said he had been a resident of Texas for eight years, and a resident of Precinct 2 of Tarrant County for two years.

When the 1870 census of Tarrant County was taken, J. B. Boyd was recorded as a forty-six-year-old farmer born in Kentucky. He was living in Precinct 2 with his wife, Mary J. Boyd. She was twenty-four years old and a Kentuckian. They had three children with them: Catherine E. (age seven), Cynthia (age six), Susannah L. (age three). The three children were born in Texas. Mr. Boyd owned two thousand dollars worth of real estate and personal property valued at eight hundred dollars.

The 1870 Tarrant County tax list shows that Dr. Boyd owned the entire 320-acre Terrell Jasper survey, and 235 acres of the Allen M. Downen survey, which adjoins the Jasper survey on Jasper's south line. The two tracts were worth a total of \$1,300. He also owned four horses worth a total of \$300, and eight cows worth five dollars each.

In modern-day terms, this property lies in the City of Euless. The northeast corner of the Jasper survey sits at the intersection of the Airport Freeway (State Highway 183) and FM 157. The Jasper survey is a rectangle which extends one mile to the west and one-half mile to the south from that point. Highway 157 defines the eastern boundaries of both the Jasper and Downen surveys. The southeast corner of the Downen survey lies at the intersection of Highway 157 and Pipeline Road. No modern-day streets lie along the west or south survey lines of the Jasper survey.

In 1880 the family was living in Precinct 4 of Tarrant County. Dr. Boyd said he was a native of Indiana. The children with them in that year were Kate E. (age seventeen), Cinthy A. (age sixteen) Seana ? Lee (age thirteen), Johnnie (a girl age seven) Amy R. (age five), and Willie G. (a girl born in July 1879).

A short statement about Dr. Boyd was printed in 1906 in connection with a biography of his son-in-law, James H. Hightower. It said, *"...For his second wife Mr. Hightower chose Miss Cynthia A. Boyd, their wedding occurring June 15, 1884, and she is a native of Tarrant county and a daughter of Dr. Joseph B. Boyd, who at one time was county treasurer of Tarrant county and also tax collector. He was quite prominent in public circles and was a representative citizen but has now passed away..."*

Dr. Boyd died in Fort Worth on February 20, 1899. His headstone now stands in Mt. Olivet Cemetery beside those of his wife and several of his daughters. Obviously, either his body, headstone, or both were moved to Mount Olivet from some other location since Mount Olivet was not established until 1907. No issues of the Fort Worth newspaper have survived from the time in which an obituary for Dr. Boyd might have appeared.

In 1900, Mary J. Boyd was a widow living with three of her children: Lee, Amy, and Willie, in Precinct 1 of Tarrant County. Lee was born in Missouri. Amy was working as a music teacher and Willie was working as a dry goods saleswoman.

The 1910 census taker again found Mary J. Boyd in Precinct 1. She said she had been married forty-nine years, and had given birth to seven children, six of whom were still alive. Her single daughter, Lee, was with her, as well as her widowed daughter Willie Kaiser, who had been married about 1907.

In 1920 the three were living together in the Polytechnic section of Fort Worth at 1406 Annis Street. Willie was single and was working as a bookkeeper for an undertaker. Ten years later, in 1930, Mary and Lee were still together at the Annis Street address.

Mary Jane Borah Boyd survived until September 13, 1939, when she died at the age of ninety-four. She died at her home at 1300 Annis Street in Fort Worth at 3:15 p.m. The cause of death was listed as cancer of the ascending colon. It had been discovered near the first of February of the same year. She was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery the next day.

Cynthia A. Boyd Hightower was born November 11, 1863. She died at her home at 804 Kentucky Street in Fort Worth on November 19, 1927 and was buried in Smithfield Cemetery beside her husband, James H. Hightower, who was also one of our Confederate veterans. She was his second wife.

Lee Susannah Boyd was born in Missouri on November 9, 1866. She died at her home at 1300 Wesleyan on August 7, 1952 and was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery. The informant, Mrs. C. B. Brewster, said Lee's father was born in Indiana

Jonnie Elizabeth Boyd Hall was born in Texas on August 15, 1872, She died at 3500 Avenue H. in Fort Worth (her regular residence was 1300 Wesleyan) on December 15, 1960, and was buried at Mount Olivet. She lies buried beside her husband, Edward Stuart Hall (1870-1945).

Amye R. Boyd Hamilton was born March 20, 1874. She was a retired music teacher. She died October 17, 1959 at 3500 Avenue H in Fort Worth, but her usual residence was 2819 Avenue E. She was buried at Mount Olivet beside her husband, Hubert C. Hamilton (1880-1956).

Willie Gause Boyd Brewster was born July 30, 1879. She died at the Hearthstone Convalescent Center in Fort Worth (her former address had been 1809 Frederick in Fort Worth) on September 10, 1967. She was the widow of Count DeBlanc Brewster (1871-1961), a retired deputy sheriff. She was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth beside her husband.

