



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### John Randolph Cummins

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John Randolph Cummins was a native of Tennessee who served the South, first in a local militia company and then in a Texas cavalry regiment. He was still in the community as late as 1873 when he and two other men patented the Jefferson Estill survey. There were other settlers in northeast Tarrant County who used the name “Cummings,” but Mr. Cummins’ signature is very clear on the muster roll of his company. He died in New Mexico just after the turn of the century and lies buried in McKinney, Collin County, Texas.

John R. Cummins’ headstone in McKinney says he was born May 24, 1832. The earliest census in which he is named shows his birthplace as Tennessee. He was a son of John and Elizabeth Cummins.

When the 1850 census was taken, John R. Cummins was an eighteen-year-old boy born living with his parents and siblings in District 10 of Jackson County, Tennessee. John’s just-older sibling, Susan M. Cummins, was born about 1829 in North Carolina. Thus John Cummins must have brought his family to Tennessee between 1829 and 1832. The elder Cummins was fairly well-to-do, owning a farm in 1850 worth four thousand dollars. He was not a slaveowner. Ten years later John and Elizabeth Cummins were still in Jackson County, but their sons Allison and John R. Cummins had come to Texas by that time.

John R. Cummins married Sarah Elizabeth Sweatt in Ellis County, Texas on February 18, 1857. She was born in Wilson County, Tennessee on March 22, 1837. She was a daughter of William C. Sweatt (1811-1867) and his wife, Mary M. Sweatt (1807-1859). Mr. Sweatt appears in the 1840 census of Wilson County with three slaves. They came to Ellis County in the 1850’s. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sweatt lie buried in the city cemetery in Waxahachie, Ellis County. William C. Sweatt owned seventeen slaves in Ellis County in 1860.

The 1860 federal census of Tarrant County is no longer in existence, but John Cummins appears here in the tax list of that year. He owned eighty acres of the R. Worthington survey, worth three dollars per acre. This survey of three hundred twenty-acres lies in the eastern cross timbers in a rectangle, one mile north-south by one-half mile east-west. The survey is entirely contained within the city of Grapevine and within the limits of the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. The survey's south line runs along present-day East Glade Road, and forms the boundary of Grapevine and Euless for the entire length of its south line. Big Bear Creek crosses the southwest corner of the survey running northwest to southeast. The Worthington survey's southwest corner is along Glade Road about where it reaches the east side of Highway 360's right-of-way.

John R. Cummins raised a company of Confederate volunteers in northeast Tarrant County. As its captain, he named the company the West Fork Guards. The muster roll was filed and recorded on July 30, 1861 in the Tarrant County deed records in Book H, page 165. All Tarrant County's deed books were destroyed in a fire in 1876, but the original signed roll is still on file in the Texas State Archives in Austin. He later joined the regular Confederate army, as did many of the West Fork Guards.

Mr. Cummins' military records in the National Archives are very sparse. He served as a private in Co. C, 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry. He received a bounty payment of fifty dollars on June 24, 1862 when he was at Camp Stonewall Jackson, the headquarters of the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry in Dallas County, Texas. He was discharged on July 11, 1862, but did not receive the pay due him until April 11, 1863. No further record of his service has survived in his file in Washington, D.C.

In 1863 John owned eight hundred acres of land worth three thousand six hundred dollars, but the name of the survey(s) are not given. He owned three slaves worth two thousand dollars, one horse worth one hundred dollars, twenty-three cattle worth five hundred twenty dollars, and miscellaneous personal property worth two hundred dollars. His brother, A. G. Cummins, does not appear in the tax list here in that year.

When the 1865 tax rolls were made, John Cummins owned no real estate but had four horses worth one hundred forty dollars and thirty cows worth one hundred twenty dollars. On April 28, 1866, an advertisement appeared in the Dallas Weekly Herald in which A. G. and J. R. Cummins, of Grapevine, Tarrant County, highlighted their business which sold farming equipment, including threshing machines. At that time they were representatives of Wheeler, Melick, and Company of New York.

In 1866, John R. Cummins owned twenty acres of the A. F. Leonard survey, worth one hundred fifty dollars. He also owned two horses worth one hundred fifty-five dollars and fifteen cattle worth seventy-five dollars.

In 1866 or 1867, John left the Grapevine area and moved to Collin County, Texas. While a resident of that county, he took an oath of allegiance to the United States government on July 22, 1867.

The census taker in 1870 found John R. Cummins and his family living in Collin County, Texas in Precinct 1, in the part of the county served by the post office at McKinney. He had real estate worth

four thousand dollars and personal property worth one thousand. There were four children in the family: Clinton, Elizabeth, Cora, and Ida Cummins. There were several other people boarding and working with the family. Both John Cummins and his brother who lived next door, Allison G. Cummins, were listed as plow makers.

On January 8, 1873 John, along with his brother Allison G. Cummins and R. C. Crowley, patented the Jefferson Estill survey of two hundred eighty-six acres in Tarrant County. In modern-day terms, it lies along the West Fork of the Trinity River. An old map shows that the river crosses the survey's lines six times. Parts of the survey lie in Fort Worth, Euless, and Grand Prairie. No modern-day streets lie along any of its four lines. Modern-day Highway 360 crosses the West Fork within this Estill survey, and the northern part of Arlington's Riverside Golf Club lies within the survey. Otherwise, the rest of the survey is undeveloped bottomland. Portions of it were mined years ago for gravel.

The 1880 census taker found the family living at McKinney. Mr. and Mrs. Cummins' children living with them in that year were E. C., a male who was working as a telegraph operator; M. E., a female; C. L., a female; C. M., a female; and O. S. a male. The enumerator obviously made a few errors on his final copy.

Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Cummins died September 8, 1894. She lies buried in Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney, Texas. A short notice appeared in the Dallas Morning News on September 9: ***"MRS. J. R. CUMMINS. McKinney, Tex., Sept. 8—Mrs. J. R. Cummins, for many years a resident of this city, died yesterday."***

By 1900 John R. Cummins was living at Roswell, Chavez County, New Mexico in the home of his married daughter, Cora Ray. John's son, Quincy, was also with them. John died June 2, 1902. A large headstone was erected for him, his wife, and his daughter, Ida, in Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney, Collin County, Texas. An inscription for his brother, Allison G. Cummins, and several members of Allison's family was engraved on the other side of the stone.

A short note appeared in the Dallas Morning News on June 4, 1902: ***"CUMMINS—McKinney, Tex., June 3—John Cummins died yesterday at Roswell, New Mexico. The deceased is an early settler of this place. The remains will be shipped here for interment."***

Edward Clinton Cummins was born March 14, 1859. He was with his parents in 1880 and was working as a telegraph operator. He was listed in the census in McKinney on June 1, 1880. There was also an E. C. Cummins, born about 1859 in Texas, who worked as a telegraph operator at Morgan in Bosque County, Texas when the census was taken there on June 19, 1880. He was a retired clerk from an oil company. He died at his home at 712 West Main Street in Houston, Harris County, Texas at 10:10 a.m. on July 17, 1930. He was buried in Houston's Forest Park Cemetery. His wife survived him.

Mary Elizabeth "Lizzie" Cummins was born August 23, 1861. Her death certificate says she was born at Grapevine, Texas. She married Walter Clarence Allen (1853-1927). She died at her home

at 1502 West Virginia Street in McKinney, Texas on August 31, 1956. She was buried beside her husband in Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney.

Cora Leigh Cummins was born February 22, 1864. She married James Roswell Ray (1835-1914) and was living in Roswell, Chaves County, New Mexico in 1900. She died at 1 a.m. on August 12, 1959 at Lorena's Rest Home in Houston, Harris County, Texas. Her last permanent residence was at 3929 Amherst, in West University Place, Harris County. She lies buried beside her husband in South Park Cemetery in Roswell, New Mexico.

Ida May Cummins was born March 14, 1866. She died September 17, 1896. Her name is on the same headstone with her parents in McKinney.

John Quincy Cummins was born August 18, 1874. By 1900 he lived at Roswell, Chavez County, New Mexico where he was working as a machinist. He married LaDona Nancy Butler about 1904. He died in 1962 in Roswell and was buried there in South Park Cemetery. His headstone records his name as J. Quince Cummins.

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**A. G. & J. R. CUMMINS,**  
Grapevine, Tarrant County, Texas.  
May 5, 1866.—33:3mo.

Newspaper advertisement from Dallas Herald, 4/28/1866





JOHN RANDOLPH CUMMINS  
BORN MAY 24, 1832 — DIED JUNE 2, 1902  
SARAH ELIZABETH  
WIFE OF JOHN RANDOLPH CUMMINS  
BORN MARCH 23, 1837 — DIED SEPT. 6, 1894  
IDA MAY  
DAUGHTER OF J. R. & S. E. CUMMINS  
BORN MARCH 14, 1866 — DIED SEPT. 17, 1896