



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

Copyright © 2010. All rights reserved.

Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

William Smith Cummins

Compiled by Michael Patterson
Copyright © 2010. All rights reserved.

William Smith Cummins was a native of Tennessee who lived at Grapevine when he served in the Confederate Army. He later moved to Dallas County, and finally to Montague County, where he died and lies buried.

He was born September 9, 1835 in White County, Tennessee, and was a son of David Cummins and his wife, Margaret Elizabeth Wood. Family sources at ancestry.com say David Cummins was born in 1796 in North Carolina and died in Warren County, Tennessee in 1847. Margaret Elizabeth Woods was born in 1804 and died in 1854. David and Margaret were married in Orange County, North Carolina on April 24, 1823.

At the time the 1840 was taken, David Cummins and his family were living in White County, Tennessee. He was not a slave owner. Ten years later, in 1850, Margaret Cummins and her children were listed in the census of District 4 of White County, Tennessee. William S. Cummins was a fifteen-year-old boy in her family.

Mr. Cummins enlisted in the Confederate service on January 1, 1862 at "Cant" Slidell, Arkansas, for a term of nine months and fourteen days. He became a private in Co. A, 9th (Sims') Texas Cavalry. On a muster roll for the period March and April, 1862, he is shown sick in camp. Another similar notation is shown on the muster roll for July and August, 1862.

His name appears on a list of mechanics serving in Maury's Division of the Army of the West, dated at Priceville, Mississippi in July, 1862. He was working as a carpenter and serving in Phifer's Brigade at that time.

He was wounded at Corinth, Mississippi on October 3, 1862 and was sent to a hospital. A casualty list made at the time shows him to have been slightly wounded.

He was still in the hospital in November and December. His name appears on a roster dated December 23, 1862 of patients at the Texas General Hospital at Quitman, Mississippi.

On a muster roll for May and June, 1864, Mr. Cummins appears with a notation that he was serving with Taylor's Scouts by order of General Ross.

He was surrendered at Citronelle, Alabama on May 4, 1865, and was paroled at Jackson, Mississippi on May 13, 1865. He gave his residence as Grapevine, Texas.

Family sources on the internet say William Smith Cummins married Sophia Powell in Dallas County, Texas on September 9, 1867. Her death certificate, made in 1929, says she was the daughter of J. W. Smith and his wife, Susan Morris, both natives of Virginia. One Sophy P. Smith appears in the 1860 census of Farmers Branch, Dallas County, Texas, as a daughter of John William Smith (a shoe maker) and his wife, Susan H. Smith. This Sophy was fourteen years old, and a native of Tennessee. To this researcher, at least, it seems possible her name may have been Sophia Powell Smith.

When the 1870 census was taken, Mr. and Mrs. Cummins were living in Precinct 4 of Dallas County. Mrs. Sophia Cummins was born February 15, 1846 in Tennessee. Mr. Cummins was working as a carpenter. They had one child with them, Minnie Cummins, who was born about 1869.

In 1880, "W. Smith Cummings" and his family were living in the city of Dallas. Mr. Cummins was working as a laborer. There were four children in the household: Minnie, Maggie, and a girl named Frank.

When the 1900 census was taken, Mr. Cummins and his family lived in Precinct 4 of Montague County, Texas. Mrs. Sophia P. Cummins said she was born in February 1846 in Tennessee to two natives of Virginia. She said she had given birth to eight children, four of whom were still alive. Three children were with them in that year: Margaret E., Emma A., and Frank A. (a female) Cummins.

They were still living in Precinct 4 of Montague County ten years later when the census taker arrived. They had only one child living them... a daughter Francis A. Cummins who was born about 1884. Mr. Cummins said he was a veteran of the Confederate Army. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Cummins applied for a Confederate pension.

William Smith Cummins has a death certificate on file in Montague County, Texas. He died at Bowie, Texas at 5 a.m. on May 11, 1918. His death was caused by general debility. He was buried the next day at Elmwood Cemetery in Bowie.

When the 1920 census was taken, Mrs. Sophia Cummins headed a household in Bowie, Texas. Also in the home were her daughter, Frank A. Cummins; her widowed daughter Minnie Beauchamp; Minnie's son, Jack Beauchamp; and a ten-year-old "granddaughter" named Gwendolyn Norton.

Mrs. Sophia Cummins died at 303 Cedar Street in Plainview, Hale County, Texas, at 8 p.m. on February 15, 1929. Her death was caused by a cerebral hemorrhage, complicated by arteriosclerosis. She was buried two days later beside her husband in Elmwood Cemetery.

The children included Minnie Cummins, Margaret A. Cummins, Francis A. Cummins, and Emma A. Cummins. According to Mrs. Cummins' statement, there were four others who died young.

Minnie Cummins was born in April 1869. She married William Beauchamp (1854-1904). They lived near her parents when the 1900 census of Montague County, Texas was taken. She died at her home in Bowie on September 13, 1923 and was buried in Elmwood Cemetery.

Margaret A. "Maggie" Cummins was born in March 1875. She married Rev. George C. French. They lived in Denton County, Texas in 1930 where her husband was a presiding elder of the Methodist Church.

Francis A. Cummins was born September 25, 1878. She lived with her parents in 1900. She was married to James H. Webb, an insurance salesman. She died at her home at 303 Cedar Street at Plainview, Hale County, Texas, on November 24, 1944. She was buried near her parents in Elmwood Cemetery in Bowie, Texas.

Emma Alta Cummins was born in March 1884. She married Harry McMillen. Census data suggest they were living in Oklahoma about 1915. In 1920 they lived in the town of Bowie, Texas. In 1930 she and her son, William P. McMillen, were living in Hale County, Texas in the home of her sister, Frances Webb. Emma died in 1963, and was buried beside her sister, Frances Webb, in Elmwood Cemetery in Bowie, Texas.

