



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### William Morgan Giddens

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William Morgan Giddens was a Confederate soldier who spent the last years of his life in Grapevine. He and his wife and his father lie buried there in Grapevine Cemetery.

Mr. Giddens was born June 24, 1824 in Jackson County, Georgia. He was a son of Hosea Camp Giddens (1800-1885, who buried in Grapevine Cemetery), and Esther Morgan (1806-1880, who died in Jackson County, Georgia).

Family sources at Ancestry.com report that William married Rachael E. Thornton, who was born March 5, 1825 in Jackson County, Georgia and who died July 13, 1920 in Quanah, Hardeman County, Texas. They were married September 30, 1845 in Jackson County, Georgia.

William and his family appear in the 1850 census in Jackson County, Georgia in Subdivision 45. They had two children with them, Early G. Giddens and William A. Giddens. William's son, E. G. Giddens, registered to vote here in 1867 and said he had been in Precinct 2, of Tarrant County for fifteen years. By December of 1853 the Giddens family had arrived in Tarrant County, when William was named in connection with the settlement of the estate of William A. Walker. William helped in the establishment of the Birdville Baptist Church in late 1853. They apparently continued to live in the Grapevine area for the rest of their lives.

In the tax lists for the year 1860 for Tarrant County, Mr. Giddens is shown as the owner of eight hundred acres. All of it was in the general area of Grapevine.

Mr. Giddens served the Confederacy as a soldier in Co. A, 34<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry, as did many other northeast Tarrant County men. Has an excellent GSA file. He enlisted on January 15, 1862 at Grapevine. Hiram Crowley was the enlisting officer, and the initial term of enlistment was for twelve months. He was shown to be due \$6.00 for the use of his own weapons. He was granted a sick leave beginning June 1, 1863. During the period of January and February, 1864 he was on

detached service at Shreveport, where he remained as late as April 1865. An original discharge, signed by both Matthew W. Deavenport and Hiram Crowley, are still in his file in Washington, D.C. At the time of his discharge, he was 5'10" tall, had black hair, a fair complexion, and hazel eyes.

Clara Bess Stewart Shelton and Margaret Stewart Cross wrote a short article for Grapevine Area History on their ancestors, William and Rachael Giddens. It said, in part: “...*William and Rachel Giddens were among the eighteen charter members of the Grapevine Baptist Church, organized December 25, 2869 in the log school house near the present Grapevine Cemetery. William Giddens was elected to serve as a Deacon for the church. In 1870, he and three other men were appointed as the first building committee for a new church....The Giddens' house was a local landmark for many year and stood at what is now [1979] the location of the D. E. Box home at 924 E. Worth Street, Grapevine, Texas.*”

When the census was taken in 1880, William Giddens told the census taker he was born in Georgia to two Georgian parents. His wife, Rachael, said she was also born in Georgia, and that both her parents were natives of Georgia as well.

William Morgan Giddens died in 1886 in Grapevine. His headstone bears only the year of his death, not the month and day or the month.

When the 1900 census was taken, Rachael Giddens lived with the family of her son-in-law, William Green, in Precinct 5 of Cooke County, Texas. She said she had given birth to six children, four of whom were still living.

Mrs. Giddens did not apply for a Confederate pension from the State of Texas. She died at Quanah, Hardeman County, Texas, on July 13, 1920. A short obituary for her appeared in the Grapevine Sun on July 17, 1920: “*Died. Mrs. Rachel Giddens of Quanah, age 95, died at her home Tuesday, July 13. She is survived by two daughters and one son, Mrs. Mollie Green of Quanah, Mrs. W. R. Stewart of this place, and Mr. Z. Giddens of Dallas. [Text obscured in fold of newspaper] ...morning at 10 o'clock by Rev. Newton, assisted by Revs. J. M. Hunt and C. W. Irving; remained were interred in the Grapevine Cemetery.*”

William and Rachael are both buried in Grapevine Cemetery with readable headstones. Family genealogists at Ancestry.com report that William and Rachael had the following children: Early Green Giddens (born September 1, 1846 in Jackson County, Georgia-November 13, 1917 in Cooke County, Texas, married Emaline Meadows Ferguson); William Abner Giddens (born about 1848 in Jackson County, Georgia, died about 1855 in Grapevine, Texas); Zambry Giddens (born August 17, 1852 at Grapevine, Texas, died December 19, 1922 in Dallas, married Margaret Alice Pybas); George Washington Giddens (born about 1858 in Texas, died in 1892); Mary T. Giddens (born April 5, 1859 in Grapevine, Texas, died January 15, 1951 in Quanah, Texas, married William Thomas Greene); Martha E. Giddens (born June 1861 in Grapevine, Texas, died 1931 in Grapevine, married Bob Stewart). Judging from the statement Mrs. Giddens made in 1910 to the census taker, this list is complete.

