



# TARRANT COUNTY

## TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### John Lemuel Tinsley

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John Lemuel Tinsley was among the earliest settlers of Tarrant County. He was a veteran of the Confederate Army. He lies buried in the State Cemetery in Austin, having been a resident of the Confederate Home when he died.

John L. Tinsley was born February 2, 1842 in Henry County, Kentucky. He was the son of Lewis G. Tinsley and his wife, Mary (Johnson) Tinsley. The Tinsleys came to Tarrant County in 1847 and settled first at Johnson Station (present-day Arlington), and then moved to Birdville in 1849. When the 1850 census was taken here, the elder Mr. Tinsley was working as a wheelright. He is also known to have built coffins for his neighbors.

Mr. Tinsley was a member of the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans at Fort Worth. He told his comrades there that he enlisted at Birdville in Co. A, 9<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry. He said he had fought in several battles, including Elkhorn Tavern, Arkansas; Corinth, Mississippi; Murfreesboro, Tennessee; Chickamauga, Georgia; and the battles in the Atlanta Campaign. An excellent, readable account of this regiment's service is Martha L. Crabb's All Afire to Fight: The Untold Tale of the Civil War's Ninth Texas Cavalry, published in 2000 by Avon Books.

Tinsley's official records in the National Archives say he enlisted October 14, 1861 at Camp Reeves, Texas for a period of one year. He presented himself for service riding a horse worth \$110 and carrying equipment worth \$25. He was with the regiment at Fort Gibson [Oklahoma] on the last day of the year in 1861. He appears present on all the surviving muster rolls of the company. The rolls show that he served extra duty in the ordnance department beginning October 23, 1863 and that at some point in May or June, 1864, he was detailed to stay with a herd of disabled horses at Palmetto, Georgia. From August 8th through 14th, 1864, he was detailed as a teamster or stock driver. Tinsley was surrendered with the rest of the regiment at Citronelle, Alabama on May 4, 1865 and was paroled May 13, 1865. His residence was Birdville, Texas.

When the 1870 census of Tarrant County was taken, Mr. and Mrs. Tinsley had one child, a son named L. R. Tinsley, born in July, 1869. The census taker in 1880 found J. L. and Sallie Tinsley with only one child in their family, Richard Tinsley, born about 1871. Also living with the family were Mr. Tinsley's parents, Louis G. and Mary Tinsley.

Mr. Tinsley's home appears on the 1895 Sam Street Map of Tarrant County. In modern-day terms, it sat in Haltom City, on the east side of Haltom Road, about where Jerri Lane or Vicki Street intersects it.

When the 1900 census was taken here, Mr. and Mrs. Tinsley were living in the Birdville area. Mrs. Tinsley said she was born in January, 1845 in Arkansas. She said she had given birth to only one child, and he was still living.

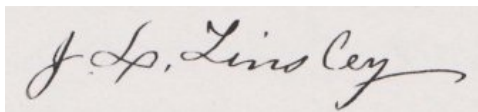
Mr. J. L. Tinsley applied for a Confederate pension in 1919. At the time, his address was 1105 May Street in Fort Worth. He said he was seventy seven years old, and was born in Henry County, Kentucky. He said he surrendered May 11, 1865 in Canton, Mississippi after having served four years in the Confederate Army. Jacob L. Morehead of Grapevine and T. E. Cross of Birdville made affidavits for him. J. L. Tinsley, said he'd served with Henry Burgoon from the Grapevine Prairie area. Tinsley was living at the May Street address as late as 1927.

Mr. and Mrs. Tinsley were admitted to the Confederate Home in Austin on May 7, 1927. He was a retired carpenter.

Mr. Tinsley died in the Confederate Home on April 19, 1932. He died of hypostatic pneumonia and a fractured hip. He had been living at the home four years, eleven months, and eleven days. He was the husband of Sarah E. Tinsley.

Mrs. Sarah E. Tinsley applied for a pension in 1932, at which time she was living in the Confederate Home at Austin. She married him November 19, 1865 in Tarrant County. She had been in Texas since 1847, and had been in Travis County four years as of 1932.

Mrs. Tinsley applied for a Confederate pension after Mr. Tinsley's death. She died in the Confederate Home on June 18, 1934. She had lived there seven years, one month, and 11 days. She was born in Arkansas, a daughter of Hiram Blackwell, who appears in the 1850 Tarrant County census with his family. She died of hypostatic pneumonia and senility, and was also buried in the state cemetery. Her birthdate is mistakenly shown as 1863 on her headstone.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. L. Tinsley".

Headstones located in the Confederate Section, State Cemetery in Austin, Texas.

