



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

William Rhodes Austin

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William Rhodes Austin, a son of Stephen Blevins Austin, was born December 17, 1846 in Dade County, Georgia. He enlisted at Gadsden, Alabama in July, 1863, in Co. G, 3rd Confederate Cavalry, and served until May, 1865, when he was surrendered under J. Y. Witherspoon, chief of General Wheeler's scouts.

He married Elizabeth Tatum, (December 1, 1842-March 9, 1911) about 1870. He, Elizabeth, and their first child came with the wagon train from Dade County, Georgia in 1870. In 1895 he was living in present-day Southlake on the L. B. G. Hall survey, along Shady Oaks Drive about 1/8 mile north of FM 1709. Part of a log barn built by Rhodes Austin stood until 1968 north of FM 1709 at Shady Oaks Drive. He was a blacksmith.

Austin was pensioned by the State of Texas for his Confederate service. He died at the home of his son, D. E. Austin, on October 20, 1930, and lies buried beside his wife in White's Chapel Cemetery. Rhodes Austin was the father of five children: Willie Ella (Mrs. Thomas H.) Hill; Shelton Austin, who died in childhood; Dalton E. Austin; Marvin B. Austin; and Mamie (Mrs. Sandy A.) Wall. His biography appears in Grapevine Historical Society, Grapevine Area History, 1979.

Austin's obituary in The Grapevine Sun reads: "*GRAPEVINE PIONEER DIES. W. R. Austin, age 84 years, who had lived in this community for sixty years, died Monday night at the home of his son, D. E. Austin. Funeral services were conducted at the home Tuesday afternoon by Rev. L. Pat Leach of Hillsboro, assisted by Rev. F. L. Willshite, and the body laid to rest in the White's Chapel Cemetery. Uncle Rhodes, as he was familiarly known to his friends, came to Texas in 1870, in a covered wagon which was one of a large caravan of wagons made up with friends and relatives. He settled with his wife and daughter, now Mrs. Willie Hill of Fort Worth, near the White's Chapel community, where he conducted a stock farm for a number of years. Later he established a blacksmith shop at Grapevine and enjoyed a good trade. Mr. Austin was born in Trenton, Ga. in 1846. He was a Confederate veteran, having served with "Wheeler's Scouts: during the Civil War.*

In 1868 he was married to Miss Betty Tatum of Trenton, Ga. She preceded him in death, having died here in 1911. Mr. Austin professed religion at an early age and joined the Methodist Church; he was a charter member of the White's Chapel M. E. Church and retained his membership until the time of his death. Uncle Rhodes was not a man to make a show of his church work, but one of the old school who believed in strict honesty and fair dealings with his fellow man. In the words of one of his old friends, "He practiced the Golden Rule." Survivors are, two sons, D. E. Austin, Grapevine; and M. B. Austin, Aspermont; two daughters, Mrs. S. A. Wall and Mrs. Willie Hill, both of Fort Worth; two brothers, M. M. Austin, Grapevine; and J. B. Austin, Breckenridge; and one sister, Mrs. B. F. Ashburn of Mineral Wells; and a host of other relatives and friends."



W. R. Austin