



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Elijah James Blevins

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Elijah James Blevins was born about 1825 in Kentucky. He served the South in a Georgia infantry regiment, and came to Tarrant County in the 1870's. For most of his life he seems to have used the name "James Blevins." He appears in the 1900 census as "Elijah J. Blevins." He was the younger brother of Jonathan Blevins (1817-1911), one of the pioneer settlers of the White's Chapel Community in present-day Southlake in Tarrant County.

Family researchers at Ancestry.com say Mr. Blevins was the son of Richard Blevins and Rhoda Scott Blevins, who died in the Deer Head Cove area of Dekalb County, Alabama about 1870 and 1880, respectively. By 1830 the Blevinses had settled in Marion County, Tennessee. Ten years later when the census was taken they had moved to Dekalb County, Alabama.

By 1850 James Blevins and his wife, Sarah, were married and living in District 24 of DeKalb County. Mr. Blevins was twenty-four years old and a native of Kentucky. He owned no real estate. His wife, Sarah, was twenty-two and a native of Tennessee. They had one child with them, Rhoda Ann, who was born about April, 1849.

When the 1860 census was taken James and his family had moved across the state line and was living in Militia District 1129 in Dade County, Georgia. They lived in the part of the county served by the post office at Rising Fawn, Georgia. In that year, James did not own any real estate but he owned personal property worth one hundred eighty dollars. Sarah said she was thirty years old. They had four children with them in 1860: Rhoda (ten years old), Ganes (age 6), William C. (age four), and Irena (born in the fall of 1859).

James Blevins served in the Confederate Army. He enlisted May 27, 1861 at Atlanta, Georgia for the duration of the War. He appears on muster rolls listed as sick in camp at some time during the months of September and October 1861, and March and April 1862. His name appears on a list of men due bounty money at the expiration of twelve months of service, dated near Richmond, Virginia

on July 17, 1862. On January 24, 1862 he was furloughed for twenty-five days to Trenton, Georgia. On December 14, 1862 he was admitted to General Hospital No. 16 at Richmond. This record also has a notation that he was furloughed on December 23 for forty days. Two other soldiers who also settled in the White's Chapel neighborhood in Tarrant County, Texas, Benjamin Monroe Wilkinson and William F. Wilkinson, were also in Co. B, 6th Georgia Infantry.

When the 1870 census was taken James and his family were living in Militia District 974 in Dade County, Georgia. James was working as a farm laborer who owned no real estate but personal property worth three hundred dollars. Sarah Blevins said she was forty-one years old. The six children with them in that year included John H. (age 18), James G. (age sixteen), William C. (age fourteen), Arrena H. (age eleven), Ganes C. (age six) and Hannah J. (age two). Ganes was born back in Alabama, while the siblings around him, Arrena and Hannah, were both born in Georgia.

James Blevins and his wife, Sarah, appear in the 1880 Tarrant County census in Precinct 4. Sarah gave her age as forty-six. Four of the Blevins children were with them: W. C. (a son twenty-three years old), G. C. (a son fifteen years old), H. Jane (ten years old), and B. F. (a son eight years old).

When James applied for a pension in 1899 he lived at Grapevine, Tarrant County, Texas. He said he had lived in Tarrant County since about 1874. He said he was partially paralyzed and not able to work. He said served in Co. B, 6th Georgia Infantry, from 1861 until he was severely wounded in December 1864. He said he served with the Army of Northern Virginia. In 1899 he owned no real estate or personal property.

Dr. L. H. Colley wrote of Mr. Blevins: "He is afflicted with Paralysis and general debility and a general failure of the vital functions on account of old age." Nothing further is shown in Mr. Blevins' pension file. His pension was granted.

A notice appeared in the Fort Worth Morning Register on August 20, 1899, listing the Confederate pension applications which had been approved by the Tarrant County Commissioners Court the previous day. E. J. Blevins was named in the list.

Also in the Fort Worth Morning Register, on February 15, 1902 an article appeared entitled: "Tarrant County Vets Missing." The Comptroller's Office in Austin had released a list of Confederate pensioners who had not been heard from in the past twelve months. E. J. Blevins of Grapevine was one of the four listed from Tarrant County.

In 1900 "Elijah J. Blevins was living with the family of his son-in-law Jackson Huckabay in Greenville Ward 1, Hunt County, Texas. Mr. Blevins said he was born in January 1824 in Kentucky. His son, Byron F. Blevins, was with them; Byron was born in July 1871. Mrs. Huckabay was James' daughter, Irene H. Huckaby, who said she was born in September 1859. Mrs. Blevins was not with them. The census taker visited the family on June 7, 1900. This is interesting when taken into account with a newspaper obituary published three months later in Dallas.

An article appeared in the Dallas Morning News on September 7, 1900: "*Mortuary. Grapevine, Tex., Sept. 4, Jas. Blevins died suddenly yesterday from a paralytic stroke. He was about 70 years*

old.” No one who could have been this James Blevins appears in the 1900 census of Tarrant County. It seems likely, to this researcher at least, than James had come back to Grapevine from Hunt County between the time the census was taken on June 5 and the time he died on September 3, 1900. No notice of Mr. Blevins’ death appeared in the Grapevine Sun newspaper. Neither Elijah James Blevins nor his wife has a readable headstone in any Northeast Tarrant County cemetery.



Stone made by E. W. Taylor SCV Camp 1777 and installed at White's Chapel Cemetery on October 21, 2013.

Census records and Texas vital statistics records have disclosed the names of the following children of Elijah James Blevins: Rhoda Ann Blevins, John H. Blevins, James Granville Blevins, William C. Blevins, Irena Helen Blevins, Gaines Coffee Blevins, Hannah Jane Blevins, and Byron F. Blevins.

Rhoda Ann Blevins was born about the month of April in 1849. She was still with the family in 1860, but was not with them in 1870.

John H. Blevins was born about 1852 in Alabama. He was still with the family in 1870.

James Granville Blevins was born about 1854 in Alabama. He married Mary E. “Mollie” Fowler (1860-1918) on November 2, 1876 in Tarrant County, Texas. Mrs. Blevins was buried at White’s Chapel Cemetery in Southlake. We have not been able to find a death certificate for Mr. Blevins. Family sources at Ancestry.com say he died in Tarrant County on January 28, 1931.

William C. Blevins was born about 1856 in Alabama. He was still with the family in 1880.

Hazel Irene Blevins was born September 28, 1860 [according to her death certificate] in Dade County, Georgia. It seems more likely she was born in 1859. She married William B. Merriman in Tarrant County, Texas on December 23, 1878. She married William Jackson Huckaby about 1889 and by 1900 had moved to Hunt County, Texas. She died in Greenville, Hunt County, Texas at her home at 1606 Oneal Street at 11:39 a.m. on January 16, 1956. She was buried in East Mount Cemetery there. Her death certificate shows her parents as Jim and Sallie Blevins.

Gaines Coffee Blevins was born December 18, 1864, in Alabama according to the 1870 census. He married Juda May Throop (1870-1939). He died November 25, 1930 at his home in Fort Worth at 3221 Hemphill Street. He was buried in Shannon Rose Hill Cemetery in the Handley section of East Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas.

Hannah Jane Blevins was born about 1868 in Georgia. She was still with the family in 1880.

Byron F. Blevins was born July 19, 1874, according to his death certificate. Census records suggest a birth date of July 1871, and 1872. He died at his home in Fort Worth at 4908 Hemphill Street at 7 a.m. on December 15, 1926. He was married. He was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery.