



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Joseph Lewis Byas

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Joseph Lewis Byas, a son of Abram L. Byas, was the brother of Richard L., Thomas H., and William R. Byas. He was born in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana on April 20, 1841. In 1850 Byas was living with his parents and siblings in Bienville Parish, Louisiana, which had been formed out of a part of Claiborne Parish in 1848.

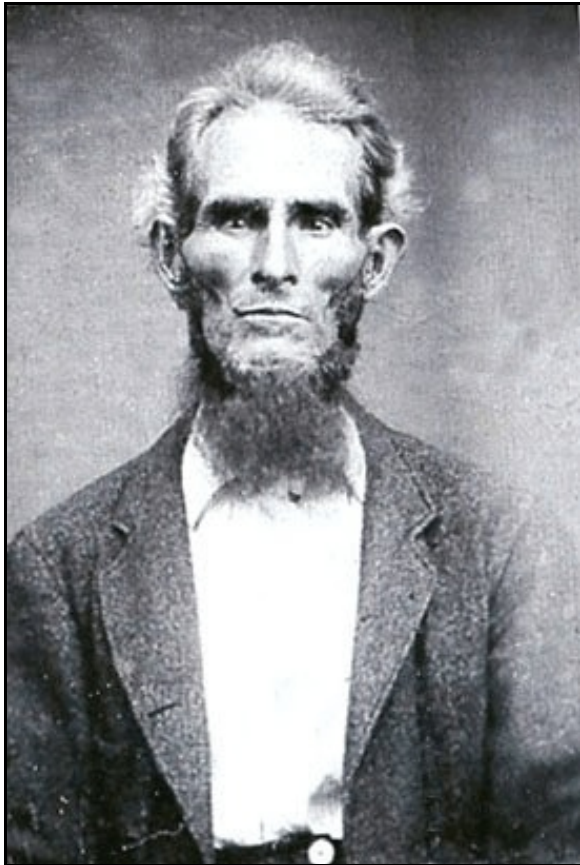
The Byases came to northeast Tarrant County about 1857. When the Civil War began, Byas was living with his parents on the W. A. Doty survey southwest of Bransford; which survey sat generally in the northeast corner of today's Precinct Line Road and West Glade Road. Joseph L. Byas told the census taker in 1910 he was a veteran of the Confederate army. A careful examination of the original muster rolls of Co. A, 34th Texas Cavalry, may show that the "Joseph S. Byrd" shown in published transcripts may in fact be "Joseph L. Byas," since "Byrd" enlisted at Grapevine, Texas and was in the same company and regiment as the three other Byas brothers.

Joseph L. Byas married Mary Elizabeth McGinnis, a daughter of William W. McGinnis. Mrs. Byas was born August 29, 1844 and died January 2, 1906.

Byas patented the J. L. Byas survey of one hundred sixty acres on July 21, 1871. In modern-day terms, this survey sat in Colleyville with its north line corresponding to Tinker Road. It was an irregularly-shaped survey, which from its northeast corner extended south to about Hall-Johnson Road, and it included most of Bluebonnet Hills Cemetery. His last home, which he shared with the family of his son, Anderson Byas, was later owned for decades by the Forsyth family and stood until the 1990's along the south side of Tinker Road, on property owned today by Redenta's Garden. The site is still marked by some old red cedars.

On July 14, 1885, Byas was a presiding officer at the elections for the school trustees for the Pleasant Run School. Joseph died February 19, 1916. Both he and his wife are buried in White's Chapel Cemetery.

A short obituary for him appeared in The Grapevine Sun: “*DIED. On Saturday, Feb. 19th, Mr. J. L. Byas died at the home of his son, Anderson Byas, near Pleasant Run. He was born in 1841 and came to Texas when a small boy. He was married to Miss Mary McGinnis June 25, 1862. She died some ten years ago. Mr. Byas has lived near Pleasant Run for forty-nine years. He was a member of the Christian Church for 53 or 54 years. He is survived by one son and two daughters. He had a host of friends, as was evidenced by the large attendance at his funeral. His body was laid to rest in White’s Chapel Cemetery.*”



Abram Byas was the father of four Confederates, all of whom returned home after the War. They were Thomas, Richard, Joseph, and William. Abram Byas lies buried in Mt. Gilead Cemetery.



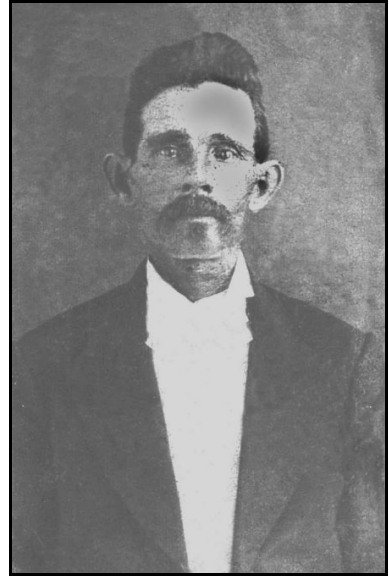
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Byas, and their granddaughter, Mamie Byas. Mrs. Byas was the daughter of one of our soldiers, William W. McGinnis, and the sister of another one, John C. McGinnis.

Photo courtesy of Eddie Esch



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