



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Richard Landus Byas

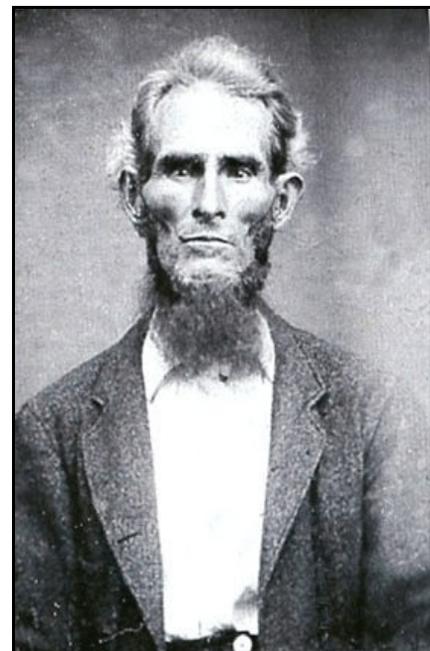
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Richard Landus Byas, a son of Tarrant County pioneer Abram L. Byas, was a native of Louisiana who served the South in a local Confederate cavalry regiment. He was a brother of three of our other Confederate veterans, Joseph L., Thomas H., and William R. Byas. Late in life Mr. Byas and his family moved to Wise County, Texas and he began using the surname "Byars." He was buried under that surname in Paradise, Texas in 1891.

Richard was born June 15, 1842 in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana. Family researchers who have posted information at the Find-a-Grave site say Richard's mother was Mary Permelia Logan, who married A. L. Byas on August 29, 1837 in Edgefield County, South Carolina. After her death he was remarried to a widow, Mrs. Melvina Higginbotham Stevens in Bienville Parish, Louisiana on September 4, 1849. In 1850, Richard was living with his father, step-mother, and siblings in Bienville Parish, Louisiana (Bienville having been formed from a part of Claiborne Parish in 1848).

The Byases came to Tarrant County about 1857. When they first arrived in northeast Tarrant County they lived 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. The land is now part of Hurst, along the city's western boundary.

Richard enlisted in Co. A, 34th Texas Cavalry, on February 10, 1862 at Grapevine, Texas under M. W. Deavenport for a term of twelve months. On a muster roll for the period February 28 through June 30, 1863 a notation was made that he was due ten



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.

dollars for the use of his own horse. He was also due reimbursement for having traveled one hundred ten miles to the regimental rendezvous shortly after he enlisted. Richard is shown present in his company on a roll for January-February 1864. Mr. Byas's file in the National Archives also contains a copy of a letter written in 1952 inquiring about his service. It was written by Mrs. E. M. Spillane of Greggton, Texas.

About 1866 Richard Byas and his wife, Lucinda West, were married. She was born in Union County, Illinois on August 6, 1845.

Richard registered to vote in Tarrant County on August 26, 1867. He was living in what was then Precinct three, where he said he had been a resident for ten years. In that same year he was among the buyers at an estate sale for the estate of Joseph L. Purvis in Tarrant County.

In 1870, Richard and his family lived next-door to his father, Abram L. Byas, on the W. A. Doty survey. They had a single son living with them, Francis. Richard's family appears in the 1880 census of Tarrant County in Precinct 4. There were five children with the family at that time: Francis L., Emily E., Thomas L., Mary E., and Rocksey E. Byas.

Richard L. Byas also appears in the 1880 agricultural census of Tarrant County. In that year he was renting a farm which contained eighteen acres of cultivated land, eight acres of permanent pasture, and twenty-two acres of woodland. He estimated the value of the entire farm, including buildings and fences, at two hundred fifty dollars. He owned farm implements worth ten dollars and livestock worth one hundred fifty dollars. He estimated the value of all his farm productions in the year preceding the coming of the census taker at two hundred forty-five dollars. He owned one horse, one mule, two milk cows, and two cattle of other classes. Two calves had been dropped on his farm in the past year. He estimated they had churned fifty pounds of butter. He owned four sheep, and had two lambs born in the past year. He had taken two fleeces from them, which had weighed a total of seven pounds. He owned twelve hogs and ten chickens. He had two acres in Indian corn which had made twenty bushels, and sixteen acres in cotton which had made four and one-half bales. In the past year he had cut twelve cords of wood off the place, which was worth two dollars per cord.

At some point after 1880 Mr. Byas moved to Wise County, Texas and began using the surname "Byars." His wife, Lucinda, died June 5, 1886 and was buried in Paradise Cemetery in Wise County. A marriage record for one R. L. Byars and Mrs. Martha J. Crabb on October 18, 1888 exists in Wise County, but we do not know if this was a second marriage for Richard. There is no readable headstone for Martha under either the Byars or Crabb surnames in Wise County.

Richard L. Byas/Byars died in Wise County on April 27, 1891, and was buried beside his wife, Lucinda. They share a double upright headstone in Paradise Cemetery.

The following short paragraphs account for all of Richard's and Lucinda's children who appear with them in the census records of 1870 and 1880.

Francis L. Byars, a son, was born August 12, 1867 and died February 4, 1888. He has a readable headstone in Paradise Cemetery near his parents.

Emily Elizabeth Byars was born February 10, 1867, according to her death certificate. Her headstone shows her birth date as February 11. She married Robert Martin Ramzy in Wise County on July 6, 1890. His headstone shows his dates of birth and death as 1864 and 1950. She died at her home in the southwest part of Jacksboro, Jack County, Texas at 9:10 p.m. on February 7, 1949, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Jacksboro, Texas. Her headstone shows her date of death as February 8.

Thomas Lafayette Byars was born October 10, 1873. He married Florence A. Payne (1875-1956) in Wise County on November 28, 1894. By 1897 they were living in Jacksboro, Texas. He worked for many years as a grocer. He died at 5:30 a.m. on January 17, 1958 at his home at 934 East Francis Street in Pampa, Gray County, Texas. He was buried beside his wife in Fairview Cemetery in Pampa, Texas.

Mary Isabell Byars was born January 10, 1876. She married James Newton Ramzy (1870-1948) in Wise County on December 24, 1890. She died at 1:50 p.m. on April 8, 1965 at the Jack County Hospital in Jack County, Texas. Her last permanent home was in Jacksboro at 348 East Pine Street. She was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Jacksboro.

Roxie Ella Byars was born January 20, 1879. She married Walter L. Wright (1877-1951), who died in Dalhart, Texas. She and her husband were farmers. They lived in Jack County in 1910, in Wise County in 1920, in Collingsworth County in 1930, and in Dallam County in 1940. She died at her home at 214 Liberal Street in Dalhart, Dallam County, Texas on July 8, 1942. Her death certificate says she had lived there for seven and one-half years. She was buried in Memorial Park in Dalhart. The Find-A-Grave site lists more than two thousand burials in Memorial Park Cemetery, but hers and her husband's are not among them; apparently their graves are unmarked.

