



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Ira G. Perkins

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Ira G. Perkins was a native Virginian who served in a Missouri regiment. He died in Birdville and was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth.

Family researchers at Ancestry.com say Ira was born in Louisa County, Virginia, and was a son of David Anderson Perkins (1801-1868) and his wife, Mary S. (Mosby) Perkins (1801-1884). Ira Perkins' parents lie buried in the Jones Cemetery at Labadie, Franklin County, Missouri.

Census data indicate the Perkins family moved from Virginia to Missouri about 1835. David Perkins appears in the 1840 census of Franklin County, Missouri, which shows him to be the owner of three slaves.

When the 1850 census was taken Ira was living with his parents and siblings in District 31 in Franklin County, Missouri. His father was a farmer who owned real estate worth \$3650 and eight slaves.

On November 24, 1854 in Franklin County, Missouri, Ira Perkins was married to a widow, Mrs. Sarah P. (Bibb) Desper. She appears in the 1850 census of Franklin County with her first husband, Charles Desper.

In 1860 Ira Perkins headed a mixed family in Franklin County in Boles Township which included his wife, Sarah, who was born about 1820, and three Desper children from her first marriage. They also had a son named Charles Perkins, who was born about 1856. Also in the family were a man named Alexander Jones who was born in Virginia about 1827 in Virginia and a woman named Lucinda Jones born about 1796 in Virginia.

Ira G. Perkins owned four slaves at the time the 1860 census was taken. At the same time and in the same township his father was the owner of nineteen slaves.

In the 1867 Missouri state census of Franklin County Ira Perkins is shown as the owner of two horses, one mule, and two cattle. He had on hand twelve bushels of wheat, three hundred bushels of corn, sixty bushels of oats, and one hundred fifty gallons of molasses.

In 1870 the family lived at Washington, Franklin County, Missouri. With Mr. Perkins were his wife, Sally, who was born about 1816 in Virginia, and two children, both of whom were born in Missouri. They were Charles Perkins, born about 1856, and Anna Perkins, born about 1865. Mr. Perkins was a farmer who owned real estate worth two thousand dollars and personal property worth nine hundred dollars.

Ira Perkins and his family appear in the 1876 Missouri state census as residents of Boles Township in Franklin County. At that time he owned three horses, three cattle, and seven hogs. He had on hand two hundred fifty bushels of wheat, five hundred bushels of corn, one hundred bushels of oats, and one thousand five hundred pounds of tobacco.

The census taker in 1880 found Ira G. Perkins living with his wife and family in Boles Township, Franklin County, Missouri. Mrs. Sarah P. Perkins was born about 1817 and was several years Mr. Perkins' senior. She was born in Virginia. They had one son living with them named Charles E. Perkins who was born in Missouri about 1856, and a nephew named Mercer F. Perkins who was born in Missouri about 1863.

When the 1900 census was taken, Ira G. Perkins was recorded as a single man born in Virginia in June 1830. He was a servant and farm laborer in the home of John W. Pitman in Precinct 6 of Tarrant County, Texas.

Mr. Perkins first applied for a Confederate pension in 1908, at which time his address was Route 3, Box 37, Fort Worth. He said he was seventy-eight years old, and thus must have been born about 1830. He said he had lived in Tarrant County for thirty-five years, which yields a possible date of about 1873 for his immigration. He said he was a gardener by trade, and was in bad health, suffering from rheumatism and other effects of old age. He said he had served in Co. F, 1<sup>st</sup> Missouri Cavalry from April 1861 until the end of the War. He said he owned no real estate or personal property whatever.

Dr. E. T. Hall of Fort Worth said of his physical condition, “...*chronic rheumatism and kidney trouble, the rheumatism affects the hips and knee joints of both limbs. The secretion of urine is less [ingrantly?] than the normal and when voided is attended with pain. In addition he is suffering from the infirmities of old age being 78 years old.*”

Both James M. Smith and Dan Vaughn of Tarrant County made affidavits for Mr. Perkins certifying his service in the unit and for the time he claimed. Mr. Perkins' application was not approved in 1908, probably because no record of his service as claimed in his first pension application was found in the National Archives.

The census taker in 1910 found Mr. Perkins a boarder in Precinct 1 in Tarrant County, living in the home of Archie S. Wear. Ira was working as a gardener. The 1914 Fort Worth directory shows that

Ira was still with Mr. Wear at that time. Mr. Wear's home was shown on Grand Avenue near Bird, in the Riverside section of Fort Worth.

In late 1915 Mr. Perkins made another application for a Confederate pension. This time, he said his age was eighty-seven years (yielding a birth date of about 1828) and he was born in Louisa County, Virginia. He said his unit was disbanded at Clarksville, Texas in the spring of 1865. He said he had been in Texas about thirty years, which would yield a date for his coming here about 1885.

He said he enlisted in April 1861 and served until 1865. He was a private and served in Co. F of Gordon's Regiment of Shelby's Brigade of Cavalry. Two of his comrades, William Hall and P. J. Bowdery, served in the same brigade with him and made affidavits for him in support of his application for a pension. William Hall said he served with Ira Perkins and saw him almost daily. It appears from the affidavits that both men lived in Tarrant County when they made them.

A handwritten letter in Ira's file from G. B. Holland gives a number of details of Mr. Perkins' death and burial. Holland said he died Sunday, February 1, 1920 at 1 a.m. at the home of a friend, Mrs. J. M. Popplewell, in Birdville, six miles east of Fort Worth. He was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery the next day at 3 p.m.

An obituary for Ira appeared in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on February 3, 1920: "*Funeral services for Ira G. Perkins, 93, Confederate veteran, will be conducted from the residence of J. W. Pepperwell of Birdville, Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock by Rev. W. C. McClung and Rev. Thomas Reece. Confederate veterans had charge of the services at the grave. J. G. Busby, Thomas Reece, G. W. Holland, M. M. Rogers, D. Webb and W. G. Tribble acted as pallbearers.*" We have been unable to find any record of Mr. Perkins having a headstone.