



# TARRANT COUNTY

## TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### James Hammonds Sullivan

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James Hammonds Sullivan and his family lived at Grapevine for a time in the late 1850's before moving permanently to Denton County. He served in a local Confederate cavalry regiment, and died in 1916 at Sanger, Denton County, Texas.

Mr. Hammond's name was engraved on the veterans memorial before records were discovered to show that he left the area before the War began. While he, therefore, does not strictly meet the criteria set up, we have included this biographical sketch in the hope it may be of some help in the future to his descendants. Family members have placed a great deal of information and several photographs dealing with this family at Ancestry.com.

James Hammonds Sullivan was born in Cooper County, Missouri on May 13, 1838. He was a son of Charles Sullivan (1810-1868) and Elizabeth Hammonds (1811-1868), both native Tennesseans and both of whom died near Pilot Point in Denton County, Texas.

Several interesting details about the life of James H. Sullivan were preserved in a biographical sketch of his grandson, John M. Sullivan M. D., which appeared in B. B. Paddock's History of Texas, Fort Worth and the Texas Northwest Edition Vol. IV, printed by the Lewis Publishing Company of Chicago and New York in 1922: *"...In 1852 James H. Sullivan, grandfather of Dr. Sullivan, came into what was then practically a wilderness, bringing with him a band of settlers from Missouri, among whom were his father and his family. James H. Sullivan was born in Cooper County, Missouri, and was there engaged in farming before he migrated to Texas. For a time after their arrival in the state the Sullivans lived at Grapevine, Tarrant County, but subsequently moved to McKinney, and then, after a short period, located in Denton County, establishing his home on the Elm, east of Sanger, and for years he was engaged in farming and fruit raising. He was one of the pioneers in this industry, and his orchard was pointed out with pride by the whole countryside. For many years the family lived in the primitive log cabin he*

*erected, but later this was replaced by a much more modern home. In his old age this veteran of many conflicts moved to Sanger, and there he died, May 18, 1916, when seventy-eight years old. When the North and South were at war he espoused the side of the latter section, and served for eighteen months in the Confederate army, being connected with the Trans-Mississippi department, and came out without injury. The military training he received made him an effective Indian fighter during the reconstruction period, when the settlers of the Southwest were harassed by Indian raids. Associated with him in this determined stand against the red men were Turner Forrester, Squire Jack Nance and many others of equal courage, and to these stalwart pioneers is due the credit for the early settlement of those difficulties and the consequent influx of people and capital from the older portions of the country. James H. Sullivan was a strong democrat, always participated in elections as a voter, and served several times as justice of the peace in precinct 4, during the earlier years of his residence in Denton County. He was married to Miss Mary Strickland, a daughter of John Strickland, who moved to Texas in 1848 from his native state of Virginia and settled on the Elm, which homestead later became the property of James H. Sullivan. Mrs. James H. Sullivan was three years younger than her husband, and was born in Virginia. She is still living, and is the sole survivor of the family of her parents. She and her husband had the following children; John J., who is the father of Doctor Sullivan; Charles, who was a Wise County farmer, died at Sanger, leaving a family; James, who is a farmer and oil promoter of Burkburnett, Texas; Sallie, who married C. C. West of Floydada, Texas; Jesse D., who is a resident of Oklahoma; Thomas H., who is engaged in farming in the vicinity of Sanger; Samuel T., who is a farmer near Bowie, Texas; and Mrs. Ola Burris, who lives near Deming, New Mexico...*

An earlier sketch of his life, made while he was still living, appeared in Biographical Souvenir of the State of Texas, Chicago, F. A. Battey and Company, 1889: *“James H Sullivan, son of Charles L. Sullivan, was born May 13, 1838. The father was a very prominent and worthy man, was a native of Tennessee, but early moved to Missouri, where he held several offices of public trust and at onetime was captain of a company raised to repress the then too turbulent Mormons. In 1856 he came to Texas, where he has also held several offices of honor and trust. He married Elizabeth Hammonds, daughter of Colonel Leroy Hammonds, and had born to him twelve children of whom full mention is made in the sketch following this. James H. Sullivan, the fifth of his parents’ children, is a prominent farmer and stock raiser, is a justice of the peace and ex officio notary public. Although serving his second term as justice he did not offer himself as candidate the second time, but was elected by his friends without any solicitations on his part. He is a Master Mason, a member of the Farmer’s Alliance and president of the Stonewall Lodge, Fairview School Community. He owns 480 acres of fine farming land, has always prospered as an agriculturist, and has the unbounded confidence of his fellow citizens. February 8, 1858, Mr. Sullivan married Miss Mary Strickland, daughter of John Strickland, of St .Louis county, Missouri, and there have been born to this union ten children, as follows—John J., Charles W., Mary E., James R., Sallie Virginia, Jesse D., Samuel J. Tilden and Thomas A. Hendricks (twins), Robert E. and Viola.”*

Many years later when Mr. Sullivan registered at one of the reunions of old settlers of Denton County, he recorded that he had arrived in Denton County in 1856. Mr. Hammond and his new wife, Mary, are listed in the 1860 census of Denton County in the area served by the post office at Pilot Point. They owned real estate worth six hundred dollars and personal property worth three hundred

dollars. They had no children with them. Their next-door neighbors were the family of Mary Sullivan's father, John Strickland.

Mr. Bates' history of Denton County mentions that Mrs. Mary Sullivan came to Collin County, Texas with her father's family in 1844 and on to Denton County in 1847. It also recalls that she was one of those pioneers who had lived in Texas under three flags.

We have been unable to determine which, if any, of the various Sullivan men whose records have been preserved in the National Archives was the James H. Sullivan who died in Sanger in 1916. One James H. Sullivan served in the 30<sup>th</sup> (Gurley's) Texas Cavalry, but this man died in Dallas in 1901 and his wife was pensioned. Another James H. Sullivan served in the 11<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry; he was twenty-one when he enlisted in 1862 at Carthage, Texas. One James Sullivan served in the 26<sup>th</sup> (Debray's) Texas Cavalry; he was thirty-five in 1863 and a resident of Galveston. One James Sullivan served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Field Battery, Texas Light Artillery; his surviving records do not reveal his age, residence, or place of enlistment. Records exist for five other men from Texas named James Sullivan, but they all have middle initials other than H.

A photograph of Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan appeared in Edward F. Bates, in his History and Reminiscences of Denton County, printed in 1918. Mr. Bates said of the Sullivan settlement in Denton County: ***"Sullivan Settlement was on Big Elm Creek twelve miles north of Denton near the northern Denton county line. It extended down Elm Creek to the mouth of Clear Creek and was west of Isle du Bois Creek. Daniel and John Strickland settled there in 1847, and Charles and Elizabeth (Hammons) Sullivan and their family arrived from Cooper County, Missouri, in 1856 and built a log house. Because the Sullivans were more numerous, the settlement was named after them. The settlers engaged in farming and fruit raising. The soil was fertile, grass was plentiful, and water was nearby, but there were frequent Indian raids. Children of the settlement went to school in a one-room log building in the J G. Campbell pasture until July 28, 1894, when James H. and Mary (Strickland) Sullivan gave land for a school called Fairview."*** The school later was consolidated with the Pilot Point school district. The old school building and land were donated by its trustees to the Tyson Cemetery Association. The community was not shown on highway maps from the 1930s. By the late 1980s, most of the Sullivan Settlement land was covered by the waters of Lake Ray Roberts.

When the 1870 Denton County census was taken, James Sullivan and his family were listed in Precinct 2. The family's next-door neighbors were James' mother and her children. James and Mary Sullivan had three children still with them: John, Charles, and James Sullivan.

James and Mary Sullivan appear in the census in 1880 in Precinct 8 in Denton County. Included in their family were eight of their own children, and two adopted sons, W. Stricklin and Jefferson Stricklin. The children with them were John, Charles, James B., Sally, Jesse, Samuel, Thomas, and Robert Sullivan.

James Sullivan appears in the 1880 agricultural census for Denton County. At that time he had sixty-eight acres in cultivation, thirty acres in woodland, and eighty other unimproved acres. His farm buildings were worth one thousand dollars. His farming implements were worth twenty-five

dollars, and his livestock was worth a total of eight hundred fifty dollars.. He estimated his 1879 farm productions were worth three hundred fifty dollars. He had five acres in hay production, and estimated he had produced eight tons of hay in the past year. He had twelve horses and one mule.

In 1880 he had ten milk cows, and eleven cattle of other classes. Nine calves had been born on his place in the past year, and he had sold three cattle. He had produced two hundred pounds of butter in the past twelve months. He had twelve hogs. His thirty chickens had produced two hundred dozen eggs. He had seventeen acres in Indian corn, and had made one hundred fifty bushels. His four acres of oats had made one hundred bushels. He had nine acres in cotton and had made five bales. He had an apple orchard of one-quarter acre and had harvested thirty bushels of apples from it. He had one hundred bearing peach trees in a one-acre orchard, and they made fifty bushels in 1879. He had cut ten dollars worth of cord wood on his place in the past year.

When the 1900 census of Denton County's Precinct 8 was taken, James H. and Mary Sullivan had in their household their widowed daughter-in-law, Mary E. Sullivan, who was born in December, 1866, and six of her children. The daughter-in-law told the census taker she had given birth to a seventh, who had not survived to 1900.

In the 1910 census of Precinct 8 in Denton County, Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan are shown living alone. They were running a boarding house at the time.

Mr. Sullivan's death certificate shows that he died of tuberculosis at Sanger, Denton County, Texas at 10 a.m. on May 17, 1916. He was buried in Sanger Cemetery the next day. John J. Sullivan of Sanger was the informant for the death certificate. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Sullivan applied to the State of Texas for Confederate pension benefits.

Mrs. Mary E. Sullivan died September 10, 1922, and was buried beside her husband in Sanger Cemetery. Her headstone shows her date of birth as August 19, 1842. She has no death certificate on file in Texas. The following list of their ten children is complete, based upon a statement Mrs. Sullivan made to the census taker in 1910 that she had given birth to that number of children.

John Jefferson Sullivan was born in Denton County on February 23, 1861. Descendants report he married Emma Ann Campbell in Denton County. After her death, he married Eliza Lydia Boyston. He died January 16, 1935 near Sanger in Denton County, and was buried in Tyson Cemetery the next day.

Charles W. Sullivan was born April 11, 1864. He married Mary Elizabeth Campbell in Denton County on December 24, 1885. He died January 3, 1896 in Denton County, and was buried in Tyson Cemetery. When the 1900 census was taken, Mary and her children were living with James H. Sullivan in Denton County.

Mary E. Sullivan was born June 8, 1866. She died in or before 1870.

James Riley Sullivan was born January 10, 1869. He married Florence D. Beckham in Denton County, Texas on December 4, 1889. He was a farmer and oil promoter at Burkburnett, Texas for

several years. He died January 14, 1962 in Wichita General Hospital in Wichita Falls, Texas, and was buried the next day at Burkburnett Cemetery in Wichita County.

Sally Virginia Sullivan was born October 21, 1871. She married Charles Carlton West (1869-1946). They lived for a time in both Floyd and Carson Counties, Texas. Her last address was at Muleshoe in Bailey County, Texas. Sally died February 20, 1961 at Crosby Hospital and Clinic in Crosbyton, Crosby County, Texas. She was buried in Muleshoe Cemetery.

Jesse Dewitt Sullivan was born March 27, 1874. He married Mattie A. Walker in Denton County on December 19, 1900; they were later divorced. He lived for several years in Pontotoc County, Oklahoma. He died in Precinct 2 of Denton County on October 29, 1934, and was buried the next day in Tyson Cemetery.

Samuel J. Tilden Sullivan, a twin, was born January 28, 1877. He married Sallie Downs about 1896, and by 1918 had moved to Montague County, Texas, where he was a farmer near Bowie. He died at Bowie on March 15, 1942, and was buried in Lindale Cemetery in Montague County.

Thomas A. Hendricks Sullivan was born January 28, 1877. He was a farmer in the vicinity of Sanger, Texas.

Robert E. Sullivan was born July 21, 1879 and died September 1, 1880. He was buried in Tyson Cemetery.

Viola Eugene Sullivan was born November 11, 1881. She married William Jefferson Burruss (1876-1951) on June 6, 1897 in Denton County, Texas. She and her husband moved around a great deal. In 1900 they lived in Collin County; in 1910 they were in Tucumcari, New Mexico; in 1920 they were in Brazos County, Texas, and in 1930 they lived in Guadalupe County, New Mexico. She died in Arizona on July 11, 1971.

