



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

William David Hudgins

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William David Hudgins, son of El Nathan Hudgins, was born in Alabama on December 30, 1847. The Hudgins family were among the earliest pioneers in the Grapevine and Minter's Chapel area. The Grapevine Area History, published in 1979, contains several articles about W. D. Hudgins and his family. The article on El Nathan Hudgins, authored by Mamie Thomas Spinks, contains the following information about the family in its earliest days here: "*Rev. E. Nathan Hudgins came to Texas from Belfant, Alabama in 1854. He was born May 10, 1814. His first wife was Sarah Proctor. To this union nine children were born. They first stopped in the area that is now known as Birdville, then later moved to Dunnville, which became Grapevine. The town, Grapevine, got its name from the famous Grapevine Spring.*

"Sarah Hudgins passed away leaving a small baby girl, Laura, who was taken by a Mrs. Nash to be nursed, as Mrs. Nash had a baby about the same age. A few years later Rev. Hudgins married Susan Baker. They had ten children, making a total of nineteen children..." [Sarah Hudgins's headstone is a masterpiece of pioneer gravestone art. It is massive, and is made of native red sandstone.]

A separate article in the same work was also printed on William David Hudgins and his family. Written by Maurine Gibbons Milson, an excerpt follows: "*William David Hudgins, the fourth of nineteen children born to El Nathan Hudgins, nine by his first wife, Sarah T. Proctor, and ten by his second wife, Susan I. Baker...in December, 1866, [he] married Lucy E. Turner of Smithfield, Texas. Lucy was the daughter of William and Mary E. (Mallory) Turner. William David and Lucy Hudgins lived on three hundred acres near Smithfield where he was a farmer and stock raiser. They had the following children: Florence, the wife of A. O. Robinson, of Birdville, Texas; F. Albert, who lived in Memphis, Texas; Henry T., who also lived in Memphis; T. Edward, who lived in Hartley County, Texas; El Nathan, of Memphis, Texas; Jo Anna, the wife of George Dickson, of Hall County, Texas; William W., of Dallas; Mary K., of Smithfield; Laura A., the wife of J. Albert Gibbons of Fort Worth; and James M., who in 1906 was living in Smithfield...*

“Lucy (Turner) Hudgins died in April of 1899, and William married Mrs. Ella Griffin of Dallas, in 1902. He was a member of Grand Prairie Lodge No. 455, A.F. & A.M. at Smithfield, of which he was Past Master. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at Smithfield, in which he served for over a quarter of a century as a steward, and was a trustee of that church.”

Hudgins served in Captain William W. McGinnis’s Company, per statement by his sister Mollie Willis. In an affidavit supporting a E. J. Lipscomb’s application for a pension in Col. McGinnis’s Company, Mrs. Willis said, *“...my brother, W. D. Hudgins, now deceased, was a member of this organization. I have seen them both in Confederate uniform during the war...”* Also in Lipscomb’s pension application an affidavit by B. R. Wall said, *“...Col. McGinnis lived between here and Roanoke, Texas and died when I was a small boy. I have often heard the people speak of this organization as a cavalry troop which chased bushwhackers and deserters...”* this in a letter written in 1931.

W. D. Hudgins’s home is shown on the 1895 Sam Street Map of Tarrant County. In modern-day terms it was in the city of North Richland Hills, north of Loop 820 and west of Rufe Snow Drive, about where Hilltop Street makes a 90-degree turn, from there going north into Browning Street and east into Rufe Snow Drive.

William Davis Hudgins died in McLennan County, Texas. His death certificate says he died at his home at 1510 Cumberland Avenue in Waco, McLennan County, Texas at 10:30 a.m. on March 31, 1930. He died of senility and acute indigestion. He was buried at Smithfield the next day. An obituary for Mr. Hudgins appeared in the Grapevine Sun on April 3, 1930: *“W. D. HUDGINS, 82, DIES AT HIS HOME IN WACO. W. D. Hudgins, 82, who came to Tarrant County in 1855 and resided near Smithfield until a few years ago, died Monday at his home in Waco. Burial was in the Smithfield Cemetery at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday. Mr. Hudgins emigrated to Texas from Alabama with his parents, the late Rev. and Mrs. E. N. Hudgins. He married Miss Lucy Turner, deceased, in 1866. Survivors are his wife and the following children: F. A. Hudgins, H. T. Hudgins, Mrs. Florence Robinson, Mrs. Mary Gibbons and Mrs. J. A. Gibbons, Fort Worth; T. E. Hudgins, Calexico, Cal.; J. M. Hudgins, Wichita Falls; W. W. Hudgins, Sulphur, Okla.; and Mrs. G. R. Dickson, Santa Anna, Cal.; three sisters, Mrs. C. R. Bowlin, Fort Worth; and Mrs. Mollie Willis and Mrs. Laura Richmond, Grapevine; 31 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.”*

In 1931, Mrs. Ella Hudgins applied for a Confederate pension. At the time she was living at 1510 Cumberland Avenue in Waco, McLennan County, Texas. In her application she said her husband died on March 29, 1930. She said she and Mr. Hudgins were married in Tarrant County on June 21, 1902. She said they had moved to McLennan County on August 9, 1895. She said she was born June 8, 1861. Mrs. Ella A. Hudgins died on March 29, 1953 in McLennan County, Texas.

Edward J. Lipscomb of Grapevine made an affidavit in 1931 in support of the widow of his comrade, William David Hudgins. In it, Lipscomb said: *“...My name is E. J. Lipscomb. I am a Confederate veteran, went to the Confederate Army from Grapevine, Tarrant County Texas, and was in the service in and around the City of Dallas, Dallas County, Texas from the time of my enlistment until the close of the war. The deceased soldier William David Hudgins, husband of the applicant Mrs. Ella A. Hudgins, was in the same service with me. We served in Co. “A” being a troop of Cavalry,*

a part of Col. McGinnis Regiment. We wore the Confederate uniform and drew our rations from the Confederate government. Our duties consisted principally of rounding up deserters. Mr. Hudgins was a faithful soldier and served at his post of duty until the surrender of the Confederate army. I make this statement from personal knowledge and not from information. To the best of my knowledge, Mr. Hudgins enlisted about the fall of the year 1864...

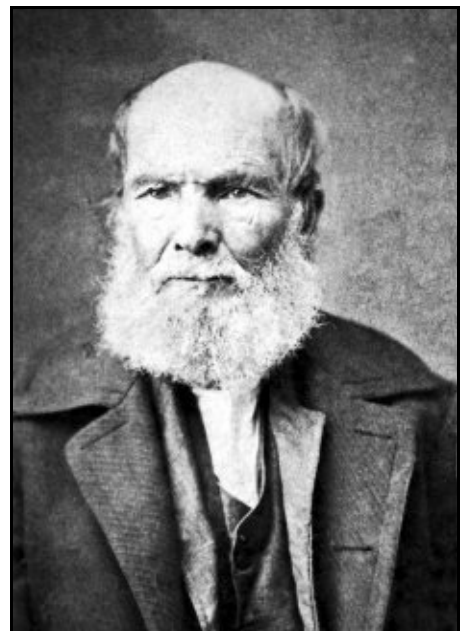
In the same pension application, Mr. Hudgins's sister, Mollie Willis, also made an affidavit in which she said: *"...The deceased Confederate Soldier William David Hudgins husband of the applicant Mrs. Ella A. Hudgins, was my Brother. I am old enough to have a clear recollection of the civil war. The said William David Hudgins enlisted at Grapevine, Tarrant County, Texas, in a Company of Cavalry which did guard duty in and around Dallas, Texas and served there until the close of the war. He and his comrades in Confederate uniform and equipment frequently visited my father's house during the war. He came home with the rest of the soldiers immediately after the surrender of the Southern Armies..."*

An account of Mr. Hudgins's life appeared in the volume by B. B. Paddock, History and Biographical Record of North and West Texas (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1906), Vol. II, pp. 185-186: *"WILLIAM D. HUDGINS. Texas offers splendid opportunities to the farmer and stock-raiser, its broad prairies and rich land furnishing excellent pasturage, or if placed under cultivation returning rich and bountiful crops. Mr. Hudgins, recognizing the possibilities for successful accomplishments here, is now carrying on general agricultural interests near Smithfield, where he owns three hundred acres of valuable land. He is a native of Jackson county, Alabama, born December 30, 1847. His parents were Elnathan and Sarah (Proctor) Hudgins, both of whom were also natives of Alabama. In the year 1854 the father came with his family to Tarrant county and, settling on the present site of Grapevine, he was one of the first residents of the locality and aided in making the place a habitable district and modern improvements and the evidences of an advanced civilization. There he continued to reside until called to his final rest, passing away in March, 1902. His wife has also departed his life.. At one time he served as justice of the peace and he was ever interested in many movements for the general good. The public schools especially found in him a helpful friend. He was for many years a consistent member and pillar of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, holding membership with the congregation in Grapevine, of which he was practically the founder. He became well known as a pioneer local preacher of his time and his efforts in behalf of the church were far reaching and beneficial and contributed in substantial measure to the moral development of the community. He was twice married and had a large number of children. Of those surviving four are residents of Grapevine: Molly E., the wife of J. N. Willis; Laura, the wife of J. B. Richmond; Eliza, the wife of Alexander Dye, and James C. In the death of the father Grapevine lost one of its pioneer residents and well known citizens, whose memory will be long enshrined in the hearts of those who knew him, his influence remaining as a blessed benediction to those with whom he has associated. The Methodist Episcopal church there, of which he was the founder, contains a memorial window and portrait of Mr. Hudgins, placed there in his honor and in recognition of an upright life that was so important a factor in religious progress of this portion of the county. He was likewise an exemplary member of the Masonic lodge at Grapevine and joined it on its organization.*

“William D. Hudgins of this review was reared to adult age at Grapevine, having been brought to this state when a little lad of seven summers. He was educated in the public schools and the knowledge of therein gained was supplemented by experience of a practical business career and the information obtained through reading and observation. After arriving at years of maturity he wedded Lucy E. Turner, a sister of I. E. Turner, of Smithfield, Texas, and they became the parents of ten children: Florence, wife of A. O. Robinson, of Birdville, Texas; F. Albert, who is living in Memphis, Texas; Henry T., also a resident of Memphis; T. Edward, who makes his home in Hartley county, this state; Elnathan, of Memphis; Johannah, the wife of George Dixon, of Paul [sic] county, Texas; William W., who makes his home in Dallas, Texas; Mary K., who is with her father; Laura A., the wife of Albert Gibbins, of Fort Worth, and James M., also at home. The mother of these children departed this life in April, 1900, and Mr. Hudgins afterward married Mrs. Ella Griffin, of Dallas, Texas.

“Over a quarter of a century ago Mr. Hudgins settled upon his present farm near Smithfield and is devoting his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising, both branches of his business proving profitable. The farm is well equipped with modern conveniences and in its thrifty and attractive appearance indicates his careful supervision and progressive methods. All he possesses has been practically acquired through his own labors and he may therefore be said to have won the proud American title of a self-made man.

“Mr. Hudgins belongs to Grand Prairie Lodge No. 445, A. F. & A. M., at Smithfield, in which he is a past master. For years he has taken an active part in its work and is thoroughly in sympathy with its tenets and teachings, believing firmly in its basic principles concerning the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. His religious connection is with the Methodist Episcopal church, South, at Smithfield, in which he served for over a quarter of a century as steward and is now acting as one of the trustees of the church property. Patriotic and public spirited in an eminent degree, he has labored persistently and earnestly for the welfare of his community as well as for individual success, and his life at all times been actuated by honorable principles and worthy motives.”



El Nathan Hudgins (1814-1901) was the father of four Confederate soldiers, two of whom did not return from the War. They were John P. Hudgins, Franklin L. Hudgins, James C. Hudgins, and William D. Hudgins. E. N. Hudgins lies buried at Grapevine.

