



# TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Isaac Sylvester Tompkins

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Isaac Sylvester Tompkins, a native of Tennessee, lived at Grapevine when he entered a local Confederate cavalry company. He married after the War, and settled just inside the Dallas County line where he spent the rest of his life.

Mr Tompkins was born March 2, 1828 in Tennessee. By the time the War began he had made his way to Texas and settled near Grapevine in northeast Tarrant County.

Isaac Tompkins said he was thirty-two years old when he enlisted on October 14, 1861 at Camp Reeves. One record says he enlisted on September 1, 1861 at Dallas under Colonel Stone for the period of the War. He became a private in Captain Thomas G. Berry's Company of Sims' Regiment of Texas Volunteers. This company subsequently became Co. A, 9<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry. He rode one hundred fifty miles to the rendezvous, riding a horse worth one hundred dollars and equipment worth sixteen dollars. He enlisted for a term of twelve months, and was mustered into the service the same day. He was with the regiment at Fort Gibson in present-day eastern Oklahoma on the last day of 1861.

He was sick in camp at some point in March or April, 1862, and again at some point in July or August. On the last day of August he was in a hospital at Quitman. He was sick again at some point in November or December. He appears on a muster roll of the Texas General Hospital at Quitman, Mississippi dated December 23, 1862.

On a muster roll for March and April, 1863, Isaac's name appears in a list of soldiers who were in a camp of dismounted men at Columbia, Tennessee. He was sick in camp again at some point in July or August, 1863. Mr. Tompkins was with his regiment when it was surrendered at Citronelle, Alabama on May 4, 1865. He was paroled at Jackson, Mississippi on May 13, 1865. His residence was shown as Grapevine, Texas at the time of his parole.

*A descendant wrote: "...At last, the men of the Ninth Texas headed west in small groups. Most likely Isaac and young Thomas Burns, of Company I, were in the same group since Isaac made a stop at the Burns home on Blackjack Creek, in Titus County. Thomas was one of eight children of Frius Burns, a wheel maker who had moved to Titus County from Missouri around 1850. Thomas had a younger sister, Mary Angeline Burns, born in 1853. Four years after this meeting, Isaac and Mary were married on September 19, 1869. She was 16 years old and he was 41..."*

Mary Angelina Burns Tompkins was born February 22, 1853 in Titus County, Texas. Family sources at ancestry.com say she was a daughter of Finis Ewing Burns, a wheelwright and wagoner, and his first wife, Julia Ann Brown. They arrived in Texas about 1849 from Missouri and settled first in Titus County. By 1860 the family had moved to Beat 4 in Hopkins County, Texas. Somehow they managed to get themselves listed twice in that year's census. The 1870 census taker found Mr. Burns and his family living in the same general area of western Dallas County as his new son-in-law, Isaac Tompkins. By 1880 he had moved again, settling in Precinct 3 of Hunt County, Texas.

Isaac and his new wife appear in the 1870 census in Precinct 3 of Dallas County, Texas. He was forty-four and a native of Tennessee, Mary was seventeen and a native Texas. They owned real estate worth one hundred sixty dollars and personal property worth seven hundred five dollars.

Isaac Tompkins appears in the 1870 agricultural census of Precinct 3, Dallas County, Texas. He had fourteen acres of cultivated land, worth one hundred sixty dollars. His implements were worth ten dollars. He had seven horses and twelve milk cows, five other cattle, and twenty hogs. His livestock was valued at a total of three hundred thirty-one dollars. He had produced twenty-five bushels of Indian corn in the past year. The rest of the agricultural schedule was not microfilmed on the copy available to this researcher.

When the census taker arrived in 1880, he found the family living in Precinct 8 of Dallas County. Isaac said he and both his parents were born in Tennessee. They had four children with them in that year: William, Fanny, Cuba, and Martha Tompkins.

The 1880 agricultural census shows that the 1870's were a decade of progress for the Tompkins family. He had one hundred four acres of cultivated land, and ninety-nine acres of woods. His farm buildings were worth eight hundred dollars, his implements were worth forty dollars, and his livestock was worth two hundred twenty-eight dollars. He estimated he had produced three hundred dollars worth of farm products in the past year. He had made one ton of hay. He had five horses, five mules, five milk cows, and eighteen cattle of other classes. Five calves had been born on his place in the past year. He had produced one hundred twenty pounds of butter. He owned ten hogs and twenty-five chickens. He had gotten one hundred dozen eggs in the past year. His eighteen acres of Indian corn had yielded four hundred bushels, his three acres of oats had made seventy-five bushels, and his single acre of cotton had made one bale. He also produced several cords of wood, but the number is not readable on the microfilm.

Isaac S. Tompkins died at home on January 12, 1897. A short notice of Mr. Tompkins' death appeared in the Dallas Morning News on January 14, 1897. Mistakenly naming him "J. S.

*Tompkins,” it said: “J. S. Tompkins, a farmer, 67 years old, died Tuesday afternoon at his home, two miles east of Sower’s store, in Dallas county. The deceased was well known in that portion of Dallas county. His death was due to pneumonia.”*

The Tompkins Family Cemetery is seen by tens of thousands of drivers every day as they travel along SH183 through Irving. It lies on a hill between the eastbound lanes and the access road on the south side of the highway, just a few yards west of Valley View Lane. It is most easily reached by getting on the eastbound access road at Amon Carter Boulevard. The cemetery is only a short distance inside the Dallas County line.

Mary A. Tompkins and her family appear in the 1900 census of Dallas County’s Precinct 8. Her next-door neighbor was another of our Confederate veterans, William Borah. She said she was born in Texas to two Missourian parents. Five of her children were living wither: Marel, Burton S., Robert T., Mary E., and Clarence O. Tompkins. Their next-door neighbors on the other side were her son, William P. Tompkins, and his family. The Tompkins family home appears on the 1900 Sam Street Map of Dallas County at about the location of the family cemetery.

In the 1910 census, Mary Tompkins’ family appears in Precinct 8 in Dallas County. Two of her children were still with her, Marl and Oscar Tompkins, as were her three orphaned Smith grandsons, Arthur S., Herbert H., and Willie D. Smith.

In 1920 she lived in Precinct 8 with the family of her youngest son, Oscar, and his wife, Myrtle Lila Tompkins. They were farmers. In the 1930 census she was still living with them, along the Eules and Sowers Road.

Mrs. Mary A. Tompkins of Grand Prairie, Dallas County, Texas, applied for a Confederate widow’s pension on March 20, 1923. She said her husband’s full name was Isaac Silvester Tompkins, and he died January 12, 1897 in Dallas County, Texas. She said they were married September 19, 1869 in Dallas County. She was seventy years old, born in Texas, and had lived for the past 50 years at Grand Prairie. She said he served in Co. A, 9th Texas Cavalry from October 14, 1861 to May 13, 1865.

Mary Angeline (Burns) Tompkins died October 19, 1938 and was buried beside her husband in the Tompkins Family Cemetery in Irving. Her death certificate says she died at her home along Highway 15 in Irving. Her death was a result of myocarditis and old age.

A lengthy obituary, complete with a photograph, appeared in the Dallas Morning News on October 20, 1938: *“Irving Farm Resident Since 1869 Dies; Rites Scheduled Thursday. Mrs. Mary Angeline Tompkins, 85, who had lived on the Tompkins farm three miles west of Irving since 1869, died Wednesday. She was born in Titus County on February 22, 1853, and married the late I. S. Tompkins on Sept. 19, 1869. Funeral services will be held Thursday at 2:30 p.m. at the Irving Church of Christ, the Rev. Claude Smith and the Rev. G. W. McCollum officiating. Burial will be in the Tompkins family cemetery on the old homestead. She is survived by five children: Mrs. Tom Haley, Mrs. Ralph Steele, and Mrs. Monroe Graham and Oscar Tompkins, all of Irving; and Burton Tompkins of Dallas; thirty-one grandchildren and sixty-one great-grandchildren.”* A shorter notice

appeared in the same paper on the following day, adding the fact that she had died at the home of her son, Oscar Tompkins.

The following list accounts for all the Tompkins children. It is apparent Mrs. Tompkins misunderstood the question asked of her by the census taker in 1900. When she told the enumerator in 1910 that she had given birth to ten children, eight of whom were still alive, she apparently answered the question correctly.

William Priestley Tompkins was born November 8, 1870. His last permanent address was 118 Center Street in Dallas. He died at Parkland Hospital in Dallas on April 23, 1928. He was survived by his wife, Ella Etta Tompkins. He was buried in the Tompkins Family Cemetery. A lengthy obituary, complete with a photograph, appeared in the Dallas Morning News on April 24, 1938.

Fannie Marlow Tompkins was born November 23, 1872. She married Tom Haley (1872-1963) on December 28, 1891. She died June 11, 1942 at her home in Irving, Texas, and was buried in Haley Cemetery in Irving. An obituary and photograph appeared in the Dallas Morning News on June 12, 1942.

Cubie Tompkins was born December 3, 1874. He worked for many years as a cattle inspector, and lived for many years in Irving. He died February 23, 1938 at his home at 3616 Metropolitan in Dallas. He was buried in Shady Grove Cemetery in Irving, Texas. He was survived by his wife, Mary, and nine children who are listed in his obituary in the Dallas Morning News of February 24, 1938. A longer article appeared in the same paper on the next day, commenting on the fact that his mother learned of his death only hours after celebrating her eighty-fifth birthday.

Martha Agatha Tompkins was born January 20, 1877. She married John H. Smith (1866-1898) on January 31, 1892 in Dallas County, Texas. She died in 1901 and was buried in the Tompkins Cemetery. Her orphaned children were with their grandmother Tompkins when the 1900 census was taken.

Marlee Tompkins was born December 16 (or 26), 1880. She married Ralph Steele. Her last permanent address was 308 East College Street in Gunter, Grayson County. She died August 7, 1976 at the Wilson N. Jones Hospital in Sherman, Grayson County, Texas. She was buried in Oak Grove Memorial Gardens in Irving.

Varlee Steele is reported by Tompkins descendants to have been a twin sister of Marlee. She apparently died young.

Burton Sylvester Tompkins was born May 29, 1886. He worked as a produce salesman for many years. He died January 13, 1947 at his home at 1224 Pennsylvania Avenue in Dallas. He was buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in Irving. He was survived by his wife, Jennie Tompkins. An obituary for him appeared in the Dallas Morning News on January 14, 1947.

Robert Ting Tompkins was born April 11, 1888. He and his wife, Sally A. Tompkins, were married about 1907 and lived near Sowers in 1910. He died in or before 1938.

Mary Ethel Tompkins was born November 6, 1891. She married Monroe Graham. Her last permanent address was 212 East Fifth Street in Irving, Texas. She died January 16, 1964 in a retirement home in Gunter, Grayson County, Texas. She was buried in Oak Grove Memorial Gardens in Irving, Texas.

Clarence Oscar Tompkins was born May 8, 1894. His last permanent address was 4812 West Highway 183 in Irving. He was a dairy farmer for many years. He died December 10, 1968 in Irving Community Hospital. He was buried in Oak Grove Memorial Gardens in Irving.

**Irving Farm Resident  
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