John Wesley Lucas was born in Alabama on July 16, 1845. He served the Confederacy as a private in Co. G, 4th Alabama Cavalry. Mrs. Lucas later said she understood he was at Eufaula or Montgomery, Alabama when he enlisted for a term of one year. He was captured in Marshall County, Alabama on January 3, 1864, and was sent to Rock Island Prison in Illinois, where he was received on February 10. He was transferred to Louisville, Kentucky for exchange on March 2, 1865.

Lucas and his wife, Alene L. “Allie” Kennedy were married in Titus County, Texas on July 17, 1871. She was born in Henderson, Rusk County, Texas on October 18, 1855, and was a daughter of Will Kennedy. Census data indicate Lucas and his wife were living in Texas at the time their first child was born on August 20, 1874.

By 1880, they were living in Precinct 3 of Ellis County, Texas. They were still in the same place when the 1900 census was taken. In that year, Mrs. Lucas said she had given birth to eleven children, nine of whom were still living. When the 1910 census was taken, the family was living on Morris Street in Seymour, Baylor County, Texas, where Lucas was working as a stock trader.

Lucas died December 5, 1918, and lies buried in White’s Chapel Cemetery beside William Madison Lucas (1874-1942), his eldest child. In 1920, Mrs. Allie Lucas was living on Thomas Street in an unincorporated part of Precinct One of Dallas County, Texas. No obituary for Mr. Lucas appeared in any surviving issue of the Grapevine Sun.

Lucas’s widow, Allie L. Lucas, received a widow’s Confederate pension while she was living in McLennan County, Texas. When she filed her application in 1930, she said she had been a resident of 1300 S. 15th Street in Waco for two years. Mrs. Lucas died at 320 Hagerman Street in Houston, Harris County, Texas on January 27, 1938. She was buried in Houston’s Forest Park Cemetery. A letter in her pension file indicates she had also lived for some time in Fort Worth, Texas.
The Lucases’ children, in birth order, were William Madison Lucas, Ella Lucas, Emma Lucas, Sam Lucas, Aull? Lucas (male); Walter Lucas, Barney Harding Lucas, Claude F. Lucas, Gertrude A. Lucas, Oliver Lucas, and Arvil E. Lucas. We have discovered no ties to the Lucas family who have been in the funeral business in northeast Tarrant County for more than one hundred years.