James Biggs, Private, Withers Corp., MS Infantry C.S.

1820  Biggs was born in North Carolina.

1850  November 22: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Marshall County, MS showed James, a farmer, living with two older women, most likely his mother and grandmother.

1851  March 31: Married Caroline Winborne, daughter of Jesse and Mary Winborne.

1860  August 17: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Bethlehem, Marshall County, MS showed James, a farmer with $500 in real estate, and his wife Caroline living with their two young daughters: Lavinia, 8-years-old and Martha, 5-years-old.

1863  March: James enlisted in the C.S. Army. According to his wife’s pension application he served the first year in Co. B 3 MS Infantry and then was transferred to Co. I 18 MS Cavalry. Jones Kelly McClure, a friend who served with him, said as a witness for the pension application that James served with him throughout the war. J.K. McClure was listed as being a soldier in the 28 MS Cavalry at surrender in Citronelle, AL. Companies, regiments and brigades were ever changing at the end of the war, even soldiers themselves had trouble keeping track.

1864  November 30: Fought in the Battle of Franklin.

1865  May 4: Surrendered in Citronelle, AL.
1870 July 2: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Marshall County, MS showed James, a farmer, and Caroline living with their three children: Lavinia, Martha and Jesse. Both James and Caroline are listed as being illiterate.

1879 James Biggs died in the “Autumn of 1879” according to later pension documents filed by Caroline.

1880 June 9: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Ellis County, TX showed a widowed Caroline living as a border in the household next to her daughter Martha’s family.

1900 June 11: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Henderson County, TX showed a widowed Caroline living with her daughter, Martha “Mattie,” son-in-law E.C. Reed and grandchildren. Among these grandchildren was 8-year-old Tempest. Tempest married Gus Jennings. Their grandson, Waylon Jennings, was born in 1937.

1906 August: Caroline Biggs applied for a pension for her husband’s service in the Civil War through the state of Texas.