



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Matthew Watson Deavenport

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Matthew Watson Deavenport was Captain of Co. E, 34th Texas Cavalry, in which many northeast Tarrant County men served the Confederacy. Deavenport was commissioned October 15, 1862 at Camp Allston near Shreveport, Alabama. He resigned his commission August 27, 1863. Deavenport was married in Lawrence Co., Tennessee.

He came to Tarrant County, Texas about 1852. On October 10, 1864, he patented a 160-acre tract along the north side of present-day John McCain road, west of its intersection with State Highway 26 and east of Pleasant Run-White's Chapel Road. Community oldtimers in northeast Tarrant County have reported the existence of a Deavenport Cemetery, now obliterated by development and road building, which lay along the west side of Carroll Avenue just north of Primrose Lane. The cemetery at one time held the visible graves of four adults and one child.

Mr. J. M. Newton, whose father once owned the property and maintained the plot, remembered reading the name "Deavenport" or "Davenport" on the headstones. Tarrant County deed records show that M. W. Deavenport owned a portion of this survey (Francis Throop #1511) as late as 1877. The road originally curved around the plot which was enclosed by a picket fence on which wild roses grew. In 1936 when Carroll Avenue was widened, the road was straightened and the cemetery was destroyed. The county field survey map shows four graves labeled "Old Pioneer Cemetery."

M. W. Deavenport, his wife, and many family members lie buried in Denton, Texas in the old I. O. O. F. Cemetery. His lengthy obituary in the Denton Record-Chronicle on February 16, 1911 is an excellent one: "*MAJOR DEAVENPORT DEAD. FORMER PROMINENT CITIZEN OF DENTON DIED SATURDAY AT WELLINGTON. Pneumonia, Superinduced by Old Age, Cause of Death—Body Will be Brought Here for Interment at 2:30 Sunday Afternoon. Major M. W. Deavenport, a former prominent resident of Denton and possessor of many friends and acquaintances through Denton county, died Saturday morning at his home at Wellington, death*

resulting from pneumonia. The remains will be brought here on the flyer Sunday morning and taken to the home of his son, B. H. Deavenport, on West Oak street, where funeral services were held at 2:30 Sunday afternoon, followed by interment at the I. O. O. F. cemetery beside his wife, who died in 1892. Major Deavenport was a native of Tennessee, having been born in Lawrenceburg of that state on August 25, 1828. He was educated in Lawrence county and in the preparatory department of Dartmouth college in New Hampshire. He took up the study of medicine for about a year, and in July of 1848 was married to Louisa J. Evans, afterwards entering the mercantile business with his father, which he continued until 1852. In the fall of the same year he moved to Texas, and finally settled in Tarrant county, near the town of Grapevine. He was engaged in milling at that place, which he followed for two years. In 1862 he joined the military company organized at Minter's Chapel. He was chosen Captain of his company, which was the nucleus of a regiment being formed at Fort Washita and afterwards known as Alexander's Regiment. The commander was Gen. Pike, who was afterwards transferred and General Cooper took command, holding it for a short time only, and being succeeded by General Holmes of the Trans-Mississippi department. Mr. Deavenport was promoted in this regiment to the rank of Major at Newtonia, Mo., in 1863. This year the brigade was transferred to the command of General Kirby Smith, with head-quarters at Shreveport, La. In 1864 Mr. Deavenport resigned and came back to Texas, re-engaging in milling near Grapevine, which he followed until 1873. In that year he moved to Deavenport Mills, near what is now Roanoke. From that place he removed to Denton in 1878 and was in the milling business until 1892, when he moved to Quanah and again engaged in milling there until 1900. Since 1900 he has lived at Wellington, being engaged in the mercantile pursuits and banking, being the president of the Wellington State Bank at the time of his death. He was a member of the Baptist church, having joined near Lonesome Dove near Grapevine, Texas about fifty years ago. He was Superintendent of the Sunday School and very active in church work there for many years. He is survived by four children: B. H. Deavenport, of this city; J. H. Deavenport of Wellington; Mrs. B. E. Green of Ft. Worth; and Mrs. J. M. Strong, of Quanah. Major Deavenport was prominently identified with Denton business interests for many years prior to his removal to Quanah, and was a member of the council and mayor pro-tem for several years. The funeral services of Major M. W. Deavenport of Wellington, and a former prominent resident of Denton, were conducted at the home of his son, B. H. Deavenport, Sunday at 2:30 o'clock, following the arrival of the remains Sunday forenoon. Dr. W. C. Lattimore of Oak Cliff assisted by Rev. Stuckey of the M. E. church, South, was in charge of the services. Many beautiful floral offerings were sent from friends and relatives in Texas, and the sons and daughters of the deceased were present. The body was interred in the I. O. O. F. cemetery beside that of his wife, who died in 1892. The pallbearers were as follows: Honorary—A. E. Graham, Capt. John Bacon, W. B. Brown, W. F. Egan, G. S. Hammett, C. C. Daugherty, C. A. Williams, G. H. Blewett, J. W. Cook, R. H. Hoffman, J. W. Underwood. Active—Dr. J. P. Blount, G. B. Collins, H. F. Schweer, J. N. Rayzor, J. A. Hann, C. F. Witherspoon, and R. H. Evers. The out-of-town relatives present were: Mrs. B. E. Green, Fort Worth; James Deavenport, Wellington; Mrs. Sims, Wellington; Mrs. Ida Strong, Quanah and children; Clarence Strong, J. M. Strong, Jr., and Deavenport Strong."

