Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

William E. Porter

Compiled by Michael Patterson
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William E. Porter was a Confederate veteran who lived for a time after the War in the Minter’s Chapel Community. He later died in East Texas and is buried in Morris County, Texas.

Porter was born about 1837 in Alabama. He married Louisa Cate, a daughter of Dallas and Tarrant County pioneer James Cate, who along with several members of his family lies buried in Minter’s Chapel Cemetery.

William E. Porter served in Co. H, 1st Texas (McCulloch’s) Cavalry. He enlisted on April 6, 1861 at Henderson, Texas, and was mustered into the service on April 20, 1861 at San Antonio, having traveled four hundred miles to the rendezvous. He brought with him a horse worth $60 and equipment worth $15. He was on detached service at Asylum Creek from September 1 through September 20, 1861. No further records of his service have been found.

The Porter family appears in the 1870 census of Tarrant County. Mr. Porter is recorded as “W. B.” Porter, probably a mishearing on the part of the census taker. He is shown as being born about 1838 in Alabama. His wife, L. Porter, was born about 1849 in Texas. They have two children, E. Porter (a female born about 1867) and W. Porter (a male born about 1869). There are also two other Porters living with the family: M. Porter, a twenty-one-year-old male born in Alabama; and W. E. Porter, an eighteen-year-old male born in Missouri.

Porter and his family appear in the 1880 census of Tarrant County in the area of Minter’s Chapel, south of Grapevine and near the Dallas-Tarrant County line. Mr. Porter was forty-three years old and a native of Alabama. His father was a native of Indiana, and his mother’s birthplace is illegible. Mrs. Louisa Porter was born about 1848 in Texas, and was the daughter of two native Tennesseans. They had five children with them in that year: Elvira E. (born about 1868); William E. (born about
1870); Addie S. (born about 1872); Rebecca M. (born about 1874); and Robert O. (born about 1878).

In 1979 a stone was readable at Minter’s Chapel which said, “L. J. Porter, daughter of J. and E. Cate, born January 15, 1849, age 30 years.” Descendants report that she died in 1881.

Descendants who have posted material at Ancestry.com report that they had the following children: Elvira E. Porter, William E. Porter, Addie Louise Porter, Rebecca May Porter, and Robert Othelow Porter.