



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Ivory S. Tyner

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Ivory S. Tyner was a native Tennessean and a member of a Georgia Confederate unit who brought his family to northeast Tarrant County in 1871 and remained here for the rest of his life. He probably lies buried in Smithfield Cemetery in an unmarked grave.

Ivory Tyner was born in Tennessee about 1824. Several internet sources say his middle name was Steven/Stephen. Researchers at ancestry.com say he was a son of John S. Tyner and his wife, Rachel Katherine Rider.

Ivory Tyner and his wife, Elizabeth A. Gordon, were married about 1845. She was born about 1828 in Georgia. In the 1850 census of Walker County, Georgia, Ivory and his wife have two Gordon families living next-door to them, both headed by widows. One was headed by Lavina Gordon (born about 1794 in South Carolina, and the other was headed by Sarah Gordon, born about 1805 in South Carolina. Both ladies had minor children with them, and both were old enough to have been Elizabeth A. Gordon's mother.

When the 1850 census was taken, Ivory Tyner and his family were listed in West Chickamauga, Walker County, Georgia. They had no real estate. This census gives Mr. Tyner's birthplace as Georgia. They had two children with them: Louisa C. Tyner and Granberry E. Tuner. Both children were born in Georgia.

The family appears in 1860 in the Ninth District of Walker County, Georgia, in the area served by the post office at Snow Hill, Georgia. This census shows Mr. Tyner's birthplace as Tennessee. He and Mrs. Tyner had six children with them: Cornelia, Marcena, Charles, Eller, John, and Lonzo. Mr. Tyner owned no real estate, and he had personal property valued at one hundred fifty dollars.

Ivory Tyner served the Confederacy as a private in Co. K, 6th Georgia Cavalry. He enlisted at Lafayette, Walker County, Georgia on August 1, 1863. He was sick at some point when the muster

rolls for the regiment were made for the period August 1 through December 31, 1863. He enlisted for a term of three years. His name appears on a roll of "rebel deserters admitted within the lines, Department Cumberland, and received at Louisville, Ky., Dec. 25, 1863, from Nashville, Tenn. Roll dated Louisville, Ky., December 26, 1863." He was discharged from captivity on December 17, 1863 upon taking the oath of allegiance to the federal government and was "sent north." He had been captured in Walker County, Georgia. A personal description of him recorded when he was captured says he was five feet eight inches tall, and had a dark complexion, dark hair, and gray eyes. Another record shows he was sent north of the Ohio River upon taking the oath of allegiance. No other records specific to his service have been located in the National Archives.

Mr. Tyner (shown as Ivory Tiner) and his family appear in the 1870 census of Walker County, Georgia's District 128, in the area served by the post office at Frick's Gap. He was again shown as a Tennessee native. In 1870 there were nine Tyner children with them: Cornelia, Marcena, Charles, Ella, John, Alonzo, Julia, Martha, and Minnie Tyner.

Descendants of Ivory Tyner have a newspaper article they believe appeared in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram about 1939. It says, "*Sisters Recall Rich Tarrant Crops in '70s.*" *Such abundant corn crops that there were not enough barns and sheds to take care of them, and cotton crops that averaged a bale to an acre made Tarrant County a land of promise fulfilled to farmers from Georgia in the seventies.*

These rich harvests are among the memories of Mrs. Martha McDonald, Fort Worth, and her sister, Mrs. Julia Myrick, Mineral Wells, cherish of their childhood spent on a farm near Smithfield. Mrs. McDonald was five years old and her sister was nine when their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ivory Tyner moved to Texas in 1871 from Chickamauga, Ga. To the two little girls every stage of the trip was highly exciting, especially after they took a boat at New Orleans to go to Galveston. From Galveston they went to Dallas by train, and at Dallas they got wagons to finish their trip. Both sisters say they still remember the awe with which they watched the sun go down the evening they landed in Smithfield, and realized that they were at last really "out West".

Buffalo Farther West

Buffalo herds still were plentiful farther west, but there were none in Tarrant County. There were many herds of deer in the section for a number of years, Mrs. McDonald recalls. Wolves were numerous and very bold, even coming to the house and catching lambs that had been placed inside the yard fence.

Along with the plentiful crops and rich cotton yield there were hard years. In 1875 there came a plague of grasshoppers. Not a sprig of green was left anywhere when the clouds of grasshoppers moved on, Mrs. McDonald says, adding, "They even ate great holes in our sunbonnets, when we dared venture outside." And still vivid is their memories of the total eclipse of the sun, in 1877.

Last Summer Mrs. Myrick and Mrs. McDonald visited the site of their old home in Georgia on the edge of the Chickamauga battle ground. Often in their Texas frontier farm home they had heard their mother tell of the preparations for the battle, and how she had been warned to take her family to safety before the battle began.

Four of Family Living

There are four members of the Tyner family living. The oldest son, J. W. Tyner, 82, now lives in Mangum, Okla., and a younger brother, (unreadable) Tyner, lives in Wichita Falls. Mrs. McDonald makes her home with a daughter, Mrs. E. E. Lewis at 2302 Lincoln Avenue, and Mrs. Myrick lives on a farm close to Mineral Wells."

When the 1879 tax list for Tarrant County's Precinct 3 was prepared, Mr. Tyner was shown as the owner of fifty acres of the Thomas Peck survey, worth one hundred fifty dollars. He also owned two horses or mules worth sixty dollars, five cattle worth thirty dollars, fourteen hogs worth one dollar each, and miscellaneous personal property worth thirty dollars.

There are two Thomas Peck surveys, each containing six hundred forty acres. One is in the Smithfield area, while the other one is along Big Fossil Creek several miles northwest of Birdville. It seems likely to this researcher that Mr. Tyner lived on the parcel he owned in the survey nearer to Smithfield. The Smithfield-area Peck survey is in today's North Richland Hills, with its eastern boundary running about where Precinct Line Road lies. The survey's southeast corner is about where Lavaca Trail ends into Precinct Line Road as Lavaca Trail comes from the east. The 1895 Sam Street map shows one "Jno. Tyner" living near the east edge of the survey, along the north side of what is now Shady Grove Road, east of Davis Boulevard and west of Precinct Line Road.

Mr. Tyner and his family appear in the 1880 census of Tarrant County's precinct 3, Ivory S. Tiner appears in the 1880 Tarrant County census with his wife, Elizabeth, and three children: John W., Martha A., and James L. Tiner. They were farming.

Ivory Tyner appears in the 1880 agricultural census for Tarrant County. He owned a farm consisting of twenty acres of tilled land and fifty acres of woodlands. The value of his farm, buildings, and fences was placed at four hundred dollars. He owned farming implements and machinery worth forty dollars, and livestock valued at one hundred ten dollars. He estimated the value of all his farm production in the past year to be two hundred twenty dollars. He owned two horses, three milk cows, and two cattle of other classes. Two calves had been dropped on his place in the past year. He had eight hogs and twenty chickens. He had seven acres in Indian corn which made forty bushels, and fifteen acres in cotton which had made four bales. He had cut fifteen cords of wood off his place in the past year, and it was valued at two dollars per cord.

No one appearing to be Ivory or Elizabeth Tyner has been located in the index to the 1900 federal census. Neither Ivory nor Elizabeth Tyner applied for a Texas Confederate pension. No death certificate was recorded for either of them in the Texas vital statistics files. It seems likely, to this researcher at least, that they both died prior to 1900.

The census records of 1850 through 1880, inclusive, have revealed the names of eleven different Tyner children. Each of the following short paragraphs attempts to give a few details of their lives.

Louisa Cornelia Tyner was born about 1846. She was with the family unmarried as late as the 1870 census.

Granberry E. Tyner was born about 1848. He was with the family in the census of 1850, but was not with them in 1860. It seems likely he was dead by then.

Marcena Tyner was born about 1850. She was still with the family and unmarried at the time the 1870 census was taken.

Charles Gardner Tyner was born in April 1853. He married Frances Elizabeth Harris, who was born in October 1859. In 1880 Charles and his wife and daughter lived next-door to Ivory Tyner in Tarrant County, Texas. Census data indicate that they moved from Texas to Oregon at some time in the 1881-1887 time period, and from there to Washington, where by 1892 they had moved to Seattle in King County, Washington. By 1896 they had moved to Utah, and by 1900 they had moved back to Oregon, where in that year they lived in Portland Ward 9, Multnomah County. In 1900 Charles was working as a railroad car inspector. By 1910 the family had moved to Stockton Ward 4, San Joaquin County, California.

Ella (Eller) Tyner was born about 1855. She was still with the family when the 1870 census was taken, but was not with them in 1880.

John W. Tyner was born in 1858, according to his headstone. He married Margaret V. Wilson (1871-1957) in Tarrant County, Texas on November 11, 1884. In 1910 and 1920 they lived in Mangum, Greer County, Oklahoma. He died in 1946 and lies buried beside his wife in Gotebo Cemetery, Gotebo, Kiowa Co., Oklahoma.

Alonzo F. Tyner was born in February 1860. When the 1880 census was taken in Precinct 3 of Tarrant County, he was boarding and working with the family of James Prior. When the 1900 census was taken he was a widower living in Multnomah Co., Oregon and working as railroad car repairman.

Julia F. Tyner was born, according to her death certificate, on December 15, 1860. She was married Charles A. Myrick about 1885. In 1900 and 1910 they lived in Parker County, Texas. She died at 5 a.m. on April 19, 1948 at her home at 817 S.E. 18th Street in Mineral Wells, Palo Pinto County, Texas. She was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth. Her death certificate shows her parents as Ivory Tyner and Elizabeth Gordon.

Martha Adelia Tyner was born September 25, 1866, according to family members at Ancestry.com. She married John Belton McDonald (1855-1920) about 1883 and lived at Keller, Texas in 1900. She died July 8, 1943 according to ancestry.com, but we have been unable to find a Texas death certificate for her. She was buried in Smithfield Cemetery in northeast Tarrant County, Texas.

Minnie Tyner was born in July 1869. She was with the family in the 1870 census, but was not with them when the census was taken in 1880. It seems likely she had died by that year.

James L. Tyner was born about 1872. He married Zona McNutt in Tarrant County, Texas on December 2, 1897. There is one James L. Tyner, born about 1872 in Texas, was living in Amarillo, Texas in 1910. He was in his second marriage to a lady named Mrs. Annie M. Boswell, who was

also in her second marriage. Family sources say Annie and James were married in the area of Lawton, Oklahoma. In 1910 Mr. Tyner was working as a baggage man for a railroad. He may be the younger Tyner brother who was living near Wichita Falls when the Fort Worth Star-Telegram article was written. Jim L. Tyner died in the Wichita General Hospital at 1600 8th Street in Wichita Falls, Texas on March 24, 1939. His last permanent residence was on the county farm in Wichita Falls. His last permanent employment was as a carpenter. He was buried in Wichita Falls in the county cemetery the next day. His wife survived him.



New headstone installed by
E. W. Taylor Camp 1777, Sons of
Confederate Veterans
March 30, 2013