

Remember Them Forever

Name: William Tipton Minor

Birth: 02 Oct 1845
Jackson County, Alabama

Death: 17 Apr 1926
Lewisville, Denton County, Texas, USA

Cemetery: Chinn's Chapel Cemetery
Copper Canyon, Denton County, Texas, USA

Plot GPS: 33° 05' 09" N, -97° 05' 12" W, section II

Family: William's parents were Joseph Minor and Mary Lewaller, both were 22 when William was born. When William's first wife, Mary died, he married her sister, Vesta A Nowlin in Denton, Texas. They had two children during their marriage: Alice and Beecher. Vesta passed away when she was only 44 years old, and William was only fifty. Alice took on the role of keeping house at the young age of 14.

Military: William enlisted on 01 Mar 1862. He served as a Private with the 15th Cavalry; and surrendered with a muster out date of 06 May 1865 in Tyler, Texas.

Civilian: He was a farmer. The 1910 Census finds William living as a farmer with his son, who was also a farmer in Denton County.

History of the Pioneer Log House (pictures attached) : When William came to Texas, he bought property in 1869 near today's town of Highland Village. The Nowlin family came to the same area by wagon train from Tennessee. William Minor along with the Chinn family donated land for the Chinn's Chapel Church and School. His children attended school there, fewer than 200 yards from their home. The Chinn's Chapel School and the nearby Hawk School were consolidated in 1921 and became the new Annie Blanton School, located on Copper Canyon Road. When Alice later married Clarence Porter, the couple set up their household in the log house. They added rooms to the home and covered the logs, and from that point many people (even younger family members) never knew there was a log house 'hiding' there. The enlarged "Prairie House" had a long front porch divided by a covered porch. The log house was the corner room on the right as one looked at the front of the house. A dining room and kitchen were added behind that room and bedrooms and a parlor were added on the other side of the central hall (aka covered porch area). William continued to live in the Prairie House until his death. He had lived on his farm for 56 years. Alice and Clarence had five children and they were the last family to live in the house. When their parents died, the surviving children were grown. Ray sold his share to Olin and then Olin's two daughters donated the house to the City of Lewisville. The house was moved to city property; and in 2005 the log house found its way to LLELA. Bill Marquis, a restoration specialist, restored the house during 2005-2006. The Minor – Porter log house is a beautiful example of the craftsmanship during the mid to late-1800s. Looking closely at the expertly cut half-dovetailed corners and the way the logs were prepared one can't help but respect the skill involved in building a home with the simple tools available.

Sources: Ancestry, US Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, Alabama, TX and VA US Confederate Pensions, Texas, US Death Certificates, Find-a-Grave, LLELA Pioneer House Walking Tour story

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Organization Represented: The Flower Mound NSDAR

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