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.
Williams, G. H. Blewett, J. W. Cook, R. H. Hoffman, J. W. Underwood. Active—Dr. J. P. Blount,
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.”
MAJOR M.W. DEAVENPORT
Born Aug. 23, 1828
Died Feb. 11, 1911

LOUISA J.
Wife of
M.W. Deavenport
Born
Jan. 15, 1832
Died
May 9, 1892