



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

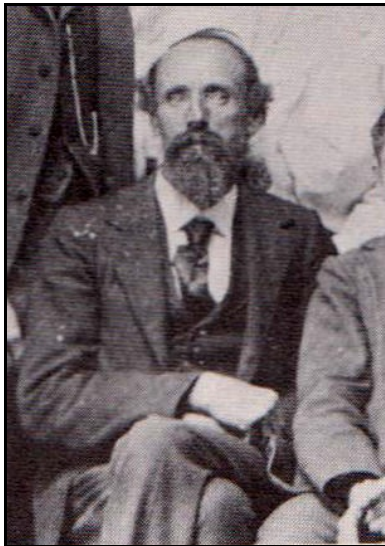
Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

William Eldridge Pearson

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William Eldridge Pearson was a Union veteran of the Civil War who, with his family, became some of the best-known pioneers in the Grapevine area. Several articles about him and his family appeared in the Grapevine Area History, printed in 1979.

Pearson's military records in the National Archives show he was a 2nd Sergeant in Co. G, 8th Tennessee Infantry (Union). He was eighteen years old when he enlisted on March 1, 1863 in Hawkins County, Tennessee for a term of three years. He is shown present on all the surviving rolls of the regiment, with only a few exceptions. He was absent sick for a time in September or October, 1863. At some point in November and December, 1863, he was absent on detached service recruiting more men for the regiment. He was mustered out of the service at Company Shops, North Carolina on June 30, 1865.

Dorothy Pearson Stanfield wrote the article about William Eldridge Pearson in the Grapevine history. Some excerpts from it follow: "...*William Eldridge Pearson was born in Lee Valley, Hawkins County, Tennessee on February 1, 1845....on April 18, 1867 he was married to Arminda "Minda" Sanders. Minda was the daughter of Wiley and Lucinda (Wallis) Sanders of Claiborne County, Tennessee...*

"Minda Sanders was born in Claiborne County on January 4, 1846. Her father, Wylie Sanders married Lucinda Wallis on January 22, 1835. Lucinda Wallas was born July 16, 1819, and died February 25, 1893 in Dallas County, Texas; her parents were John and Mary (Burch) Wallis. Mary (Burch) Wallis was born April 23, 1792 and died November 17, 1872; she and her daughter Lucinda are buried in the Grapevine Cemetery...

“For the first three years after their marriage, Eldridge and Minda Pearson lived in Lee Valley, Tennessee, where they became the parents of two children. In the fall of 1870 they, along with his parents, brothers, sisters, and Minda’s widowed mother and grandmother, left with a wagon train of other relatives to come to Texas. However, the Pearsons, Berrys, and possibly other families stopped off in Christian County, Missouri for a year or more before coming to the Grapevine area. When the Pearsons did arrive they located between old “Cottonwood Church” and Coppell, then known as Grapevine Springs...



Photo courtesy of Dorothy Stanfield

“Eldridge and Minda Pearson had the following children: John J. Pearson, who remained unmarried; Dora H. Pearson, who married J. W. Morgan; Cordie C. Pearson, who remained unmarried; William N. Pearson, who married Grace Knight; Edgar D. Pearson, who married Bessie Hixson; Minnie B. “Dolly” Pearson, who married Charles H. Berry; and Charles O. Pearson, who married Susie I. Francis...

“For a number of years Eldridge Pearson was a successful farmer in the Cottonwood Community. He was a charter member and one of the first deacons of the Cottonwood Baptist Church. However, his life was not without its sorrows...Minda and three of their children preceded him in death. In fact, three members of the family passed away within an eight month period in 1918: Minda, their eldest son John, and their youngest son, Charles. After the death of his wife, Eldridge and his daughter, Cordie moved from the farm to Grapevine...

“Eldridge Pearson died February 26, 1924, and was buried beside his wife, Minda, in Grapevine Cemetery. His parents had earlier been buried nearby...”

An article on Mr. Pearson, almost certainly from material he personally supplied to the publisher, appeared in the Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas County, Texas, published by the Lewis Publishing Company in 1892: *“WILLIAM E. PEARSON, a successful farmer of Dallas county, is a son of John H. and Minerva Pearson. The father was born in Hawkins county, Tennessee, January 29, 1820, remained in his native State until 1870, when he removed to Missouri and thence to Texas, settling on Grapevine Prairie, this county, where he still resides. His father, Lawrence Pearson, was a native of Bucks county, Pennsylvania, but left his native place when a lad, and went to what is now Hawkins county, east Tennessee, then a part of North Carolina. His people settled in that locality in the days of John Sevier, when this great leader attempted to found the new State of Franklin in what is now east Tennessee. Lawrence Pearson died in Hawkins county in 1872, at the age of eighty-five years. His wife, nee Elizabeth De Vault, was a daughter of Abraham De Vault, a native of North Carolina. She was born in East Tennessee and died in Hawkins County in 1878, at the age of eighty-eight years.*

“Our subject's mother, whose maiden name was Minerva Green, is still living, and is a daughter of William Green, also a native of Hawkins county. Mr. and Mrs. Pearson were married August 19,

1842, in Hawkins county, and had the following children: Elizabeth Jane, the widow of Captain James W. Berry of Dallas county; William E., our subject; Enoline, who became the wife of John Willmuth, and died in Dallas county some years ago; Ruthie, the wife of Thomas Swindle, a resident of Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory; George A., of this county; Nicholas, who is still with his parents; Mary Catherine, the wife of William S. Sanders, of this county, and James M., a resident of Tarrant county.

“William E. Pearson, our subject, was born in Hawkins county, Tennessee, February 1, 1845. In March, 1863, he enlisted in the Union army, in Company G, Eighth Tennessee Infantry, entering the company raised by his brother-in-law, Captain J. W. Berry, which was formed at Camp Nelson, Kentucky, largely from refugees from east Tennessee. They served in Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina, and the first active service was at Chattanooga in the fall of 1863. Mr. Pearson was in the Georgia campaign, and took part in all the engagements down to Atlanta; was then under Thomas on the return to Tennessee, taking part also in the battles of Franklin and Nashville, where the Confederate army, under Hood, was dispersed. Mr. Pearson's command was then placed on a boat at Clifton, Tennessee, and transported to Cincinnati, thence by rail to Alexandria, Virginia, next to Fort Fisher, North Carolina, and the joined Sherman's army at Goldsboro, same State. Mr. Pearson enlisted as a private and was mustered out as a sergeant.

“After the close of the war he returned to Tennessee, and in 1870 moved to Missouri, settling in Christian county, where he resided until coming to Texas in 1872. He settled in Dallas county, and in November of that year he rented a place on Grapevine Prairie, but a year later he purchased forty acres. He has since add to this farm until he now owns 215 acres, seventy acres of which is under a fine state of cultivation, and the remained in pasture, timber, and hay land. Mr. Pearson was married in April, 1868, to Miss Minda Sanders, a daughter of Wiley Sanders, a native of Cleveland county, Tennessee. Mr. and Mrs. Pearson have had the following children: John J.; Dora, Cordia T., William, Eddie, Miney, and Charlie. In politics, Mr. Pearson is a Republican; socially, a member of the Farmer's Alliance, and religiously, the family are members of the Baptist Church.”

An obituary for Mr. Pearson appeared on the front page of the Grapevine Sun on March 5, 1925: *“Wm. Eldridge Pearson Dies. William Eldridge Pearson was born in Hawkins County, East Tennessee, February 1, 1845. At the age of 16, he entered the U. S. Army where he served four years. Soon after returning home, in 1867 he married A[r]minda Sanders and they came to Texas in the winter of 1870 and soon located between old "Cottonwood Church" and Coppell, then known as Grapevine Springs; where he lived until 5 years ago, he and his daughter Miss Cordie moved to Grapevine, where he passed away at 3:40 p.m. Thursday, February 26th. He had been very ill since December 15th, having suffered a stroke of paralysis on that night while sitting by the open fire-place and when his daughter was awakened, she found his right foot was burned from contact with the fire. It became necessary to carry him to a hospital the next week and he was taken to the Baptist Hospital in Fort Worth where later a part of his toes were removed. Late in January he had another attack which was followed by pneumonia and when he felt there was small chance of recovery he begged to be brought home to die. His wish to come was granted as soon as he was able to be moved, February 10. He was given every care possible, both by doctors, nurses, loving children and friends at the hospital and at home but he had served a long and faithful life to his Master, his country, family and friends and he could not tarry longer. He had professed faith in*

Christ about the age of 15 years and united with the Baptist Church in Tennessee and when the Cottonwood Baptist Church was organized he was one of the charter members and first deacons of the organization. Uncle George Corbin and Cooper Coleman who have gone to their reward several years ago were the others. Uncle Eldridge remained a faithful member of the church until he was [illegible...] from it. He was a loyal citizen, a true friend, and loving father. His wife and two grown sons, John and Charlie, passed away more than six years ago, and also his daughter, Mrs. Dora Morgan, preceded them. Surviving are three sisters, Mrs. Betty Berry and Mrs. Mary Sanders of Grapevine and Mrs. ...not finished...

No copies of the issue of the Grapevine Sun in which Mrs. Arminda Pearson's obituary would have appeared have survived to the present day.



William Eldridge Pearson family ca 1895-96

Standing L-R: son John J., holding her child Essie Morgan is daughter Dora H. and her husband John Will Morgan, daughter Cordia, daughter Minnie "Dollie", and son William N.

Seated L-R: William Eldridge Pearson, son Edgar D, son Charles O., wife Arminda Sanders Pearson

Minnie or Dollie is the Berry wife.

Photo courtesy of Debbie Pearson



W.E. Pearson's last home on Grapevine Prairie
courtesy of Debbie Pearson



"Uncle Nick" Pearson,
William E. Pearson's midget son, at his home near
Grapevine.

