



# TARRANT COUNTY

## TXGENWEB

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## Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

### Clisby Evans Ponder

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Clisby Evans Ponder was a Confederate soldier who lived near Keller. He lies buried in Bourland Cemetery there.

Mr. Ponder's death certificate says he was born November 30, 1838 (his headstone says 1837). Census records indicate he was born in Indiana. According to Ancestry.com, his parents were Abner Bennett Ponder and his wife, Lavina Tipton Riggs. In 1850, he was living with his parents and siblings in Chickasaw County, Mississippi. Clisby married Sarah Bernice Stegall in Pontotoc County, Mississippi on November 12, 1856.

In 1860, the Ponders were living in Pontotoc County, Mississippi. His wife and both the children were born in Mississippi. Their daughters in that year were Lavina J. Ponder (born about 1858) and Rebecca A. Ponder (born in late 1859).

His official records in the National Archives say he was a private and a sergeant in Co. A, 8<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Cavalry (which became the 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion Mississippi Cavalry on September 10, 1863). He enlisted at Sarepta, Mississippi on August 7, 1863. The last surviving roll of the regiment, for May 1 through October 31, 1864 shows him absent wounded.

When the 1870 census was taken, Clisby and his family lived in Township 11, Pontotoc County, Mississippi. The children with the family in that year were Jane Ponder (born about 1858), Annie? Ponder (born about 1859); James Ponder (born about 1862); William Ponder (born about 1864); and Charles Ponder (probably born in December 1869 or January 1870).

Mr. Ponder's home appears on the 1895 Sam Street Map of Tarrant County. In modern-day terms, it sat in Keller, east of Highway 377, north of Johnson Road, south of Mount Gilead Road, about in line with a straight line coming south from the south end of Valley Ridge Drive and the north end

of Homestead Drive, and due west of a point along Bourland Road about midway between LaVena Drive and Bancroft Road. This is approximately at the hilltop until recently occupied by the home of Mrs. Polly Harmonson.

When the 1900 census was taken in Tarrant County's District 115 (Keller area), Clisby was shown with his wife, Sarah B., who was born in March 1840. She said she had given birth to nine children, but it is unclear in the manuscript whether all nine or only eight were still living. Also in their family was one daughter, Elna (or Edna) M. B. Ponder (born in May 1878) and a married daughter, Leela H. Ponder (born in September 1880) and her husband, Thomas H. Brown.

Mr. Ponder applied for a Confederate pension in 1914. His original application form gives Tarrant County as his residence, but penciled over it is "Mineral Wells." He said he left the Confederate Army at the War's end. He was seventy-six years old, born in Lawrence Co., Alabama. He said he'd been in Texas since 1881, and in Keller since 1887. He was "now at Mineral Wells, Rt. 2." He said he served in Co. A, 5<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Cavalry Battalion from September of 1861 until 1865. He was transferred to the 19<sup>th</sup> Mississippi about 1863. His file contains affidavits by his brother, A. A. Ponder of Erath County, Texas, and W. H. Stegall of Bell County, Texas.

Clisby Ponder died April 19, 1918, at the home of his son, Clisby E. Ponder, Jr., in Fort Worth at 3015 North Houston Street. He died of acute gastric indigestion at 1 p.m. He had been living on Houston Street for six years and in Texas for thirty-seven years. His death certificate contains no information on his parents. No obituary for him has been found in the Fort Worth newspaper.

Several descendants have posted information about Mr. Ponder and his family at Ancestry.com and other internet genealogy sites.

