

Eunice Sullivan Gray

William E. Partlow became the first mayor of Sanger when it was incorporated December 17, 1892. The incorporation was abolished September 21, 1907; it was incorporated again November 25, 1911. Mr. Tilford Wilson, age 85, who was a close personal friend of Mr. Partlow's and who served as mayor of Sanger sixteen years and on the city council twenty years, does not know how many years Mr. Partlow served as mayor, but he knows he was the first mayor. (Affidavit attached.)

The Partlow house was completed in September 1904. It was built on Lot 3, Block 79, Old Township of Sanger, on land bought from his father-in-law, Jack R. Sullivan in 1904. Mr. Sullivan helped supervise the building of the house.

William E. Partlow surrendered with General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. He served with Co I, 6th Virginia Cavalry, Lomax Brigade, Fitzhugh Lee, Colonel of Division, S.S.A. In 1876 he came to Texas, as did many Confederate veterans. He was born in Washington, Virginia, Orange County, March 7, 1846. He died at Sanger, Texas August 20, 1926.

Sometime after coming to Texas he was married to Miss Nancy Jane Sullivan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack R. Sullivan, pioneer residents of Denton County. Mr. Sullivan was also a Confederate veteran, going from Denton County. Mrs. Partlow was born September 25, 1860, and died March 20, 1922. She was a very small woman, never weighing a hundred pounds. She was a fine mother and looked after her household; contented in living next door to her parents and modeling her way of life after theirs. She was a devout Baptist; she wanted to live in Sanger and was very miserable the few years she lived in New Mexico.

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Mr. Partlow was known as one of the smartest men in Sanger in his day. He was a student of the Bible, of Shakespeare, and was a prolific reader. His daughter, Mrs. Mable Partlow Hopkins of Austin has recently remarked that she is amazed when she hears of certain medical innovations on tv, because so many of them were ideas that her father talked about sixty years ago; he had a wide field of knowledge and talked interestingly with his family and friends.

In 1906 the Partlows moved to Hollene, New Mexico, where he was ~~United States Commissioner, U. S. Circuit and District Courts, Territory of New Mexico~~ ~~Land-Commissioner-of-the-Territory~~. He lived there five or six <sup>in 1913(?)</sup> years but returned to his home in Sanger, next door to his wife's parents where he <sup>still</sup> lived when he died in 1926. Mrs. Partlow did not want to rear her children in "sparsely developed" area; she wanted them to have the advantages of good schools and churches. [See letter of GSA, 10/17/1975] DP 10-27 1975

Mr. Partlow owned a general merchandise business in Sanger in its early days; in his later years he was public weigher and for many years was Justice of the Peace.

Furniture from their home is now the property of their daughter, Helen Partlow Brown, Del Rio, Texas. They had a comfortable home which was hospitable and the scene of many parties for their children who were popular in the social life of the town. One daughter, Myrtle, was married to Alex Shocklee of Sanger and died in 1905; a son, Otto, who served in World War 1 is now dead; and Mrs. Hugh Brown of Del Rio and Mrs. S. C. Hopkins of Austin, the two younger daughters, taught school for many years. Both are retired now.

On June 1, 1939, the Partlow heirs sold the property to Mr. and Mrs. Dee Appleton. Mr. Appleton was signal man for the Santa Fe Railway. He died only a few weeks after the sale. Mrs. Appleton later sold the property to Mr. and Mrs. Charley D. GeGear, on January 29, 1941. That same year the property was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Clay

Green. The sale was August 18, 1941. Mr. Green died in 1974. Mrs. Green lives in the home now.

The original house had a living room, three bedrooms, one with a fireplace, kitchen and dining room. The entire upstairs was the third bedroom. A bath was later added to the house. The Greens made extensive improvements to the house in 1942, adding a storage room, and changing the arrangement of the rooms in the house. The gallery which ran across the front of the house was changed into an entrance porch and a side porch.

Mr. and Mrs. Clay Green have taken good care of a well-built house, which was the happy home of an active family, the Partlows, for many years.

One of the identifying features of the house is the dormer windows in the second story, which made it a comfortable bedroom area. The Greens have a lovely yard with many flower beds and flowering shrubs.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Denton County Clerk. Deed Records of Denton County

Abstract of Mrs. Clay Green

Gravestone records of Sanger Cemetery

Comptroller of Public Accounts, State of Texas, Austin

Soldier's Application for Confederate Pension

Texas Municipal League

Denton County Public Library, Denton

Personal files: Mrs. Hugh Brown, Mrs. S. C. Hopkins, Mrs. Paxton Gray, Tilford Wilson, Mrs. Clay Green, Mrs. Charles Peery

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