

Zollie J. Cavender

First Postmaster of Woodley

Zollie Cavender was born in 1861 in Walker County Georgia. As a young child he and his family endured the Civil War. According to the 1880 census he was living in a boarding house in St. Louis, Missouri and working as a clerk.

By 1883 he was a salesman for W.F. Crow & Company, a large mercantile company in St. Louis. According to the April 12, 1883 edition of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat he applied for a marriage license to marry Katie Powers. The Cavender's had two daughters before leaving for Florida in the early 1890's.

On December 14, 1893 Mr. Cavender applied to be postmaster for a new post office at Woodley, a small community of 60 people. Woodley was not far from the Jacksonville, St. Augustine and Indian River Railway and opposite Narrows situated on the east side of the Indian River. Per an article in the Florida Agriculturist dated June 12, 1896 on "Profits of Trucking" it stated that 7,165 bushel of snap beans, 180 bushels of tomatoes, 7 barrels of eggplant and 15 barrels of Irish potatoes were produced for market on approximately 130 acres on the east side of the river. These records were kept in the express and freight office of Z. Cavender & Co. at Woodley, Brevard County.

Zollie Cavender was postmaster at Woodley until December 27, 1899 and Louis Harris became the new postmaster. Mr. Cavender became postmaster for West Pompano in April 30, 1900. By 1901 he had acquired 160 acres, through land grants, in section 4, township 32, range 39, which is just north of the cemetery.

The Cavender's had 3 more children, two girls and one boy. In 1906 Mr. Cavender and Mr. Tischener, two druggists, purchased the Dade Pharmacy. By 1908 he had moved to Nashville, Tennessee for a short time and then settled in Nanarja (Spanish for Orange) Dade County Florida. He bought 15 acres in the Redland region of Dade County, built a house and planted citrus trees.

Mrs. Katie Cavender died October 8, 1915 at the age of 52 and Zollie Cavender died January 19, 1956 at the age of 97.