Richard Tinsley Peterman married the love of his life, Martha L Green in 1876. In 1877 they had their first child, a girl they named Dora. All was well until the sudden and unexpected death of Martha in 1879 at the age of 20.

Richard was devastated. His life was turned upside down. He decided it would be best to have Martha Green's parents raise Dora, which they did.

Richard was still dealing with the loss of Martha when he married Nancy Dale in 1880 in Celina, Tennessee. However, he felt troubled about his life and decided to move away from the tragedy in Celina, Tennessee. Ironically he and his new wife moved to Celina, Collin County, Texas. Richard T Peterman was very instrumental in the development and "growth" of Celina, Texas.

Richard Peterman's first child Dora was female with Martha. Richard and Nancy had children of their own too. Boys! 10 boys infact! The eleventh child was a girl but sadly she died during childbirth.