



## Lavaca County and The Spanish American War

*By Brenda Lincke Fisseler*

*The next several issues of this newsletter will share the story of Lavaca County during the Spanish-American War and later the Philippine-American War. While both military actions were short term conflicts, Lavaca County men were involved in both and this newsletter will endeavor to share information about these men and their commitments to service. This newsletter series will also highlight some of the individuals whose stories are unique and those who lost their lives in service to their county.*



### Volunteers in the Spanish American War

The next issues of this newsletter will focus on the individuals who served from Lavaca County in the Spanish-American War. Many times, the stories will be brief, but there will be instances where the story can be quite unusual.

**Volney Ellis Brown**  
**1st Texas Cavalry Co. G**  
**Enlisted: April 28, 1898**  
**Discharged: November 14, 1898**



Volney Ellis Brown was born December 8, 1875 in Lavaca County Texas and died on January 29, 1958 in Yorktown, DeWitt County, Texas. He is buried in the Runge City Cemetery in Runge, Texas. He enlisted on April 28, 1898 and was discharged on November 14, 1898. He served as a private in Troop G First Texas Cavalry. As an adult, he worked as a carpenter and farmer. He married twice, Erma Adele Brown in 1899 and Clara Chambers in 1923.



*“Great minds are related to  
the brief span of time  
during which they live  
as great buildings are to a  
little square in which they  
stand...”*

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*Please share this newsletter  
with any one who might be  
interested!*

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*By Brenda Lincke Fisseler*

## Volunteers in the Spanish American War

**Ernest Henry Gillar Jr.**  
**1st Texas Cavalry Co. G**  
**Enlisted: April 28, 1898**  
**Discharged: November 14, 1898**



Ernest Gillar Jr. was born in North Moravia, Czech Republic on January 4, 1878. He came to the United States on October 11 1889 thru the port of New York, NY., setting in Hallettsville. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and the KJT.

In his early adult life, he taught at two rural schools, Greive and Witting, for 17 years, and farmed the remainder of his life.

He was married twice, to Emilie Sonka in 1907 and Frances Klimitschek in 1948.

Ernest died on June 8, 1963 in the Veteran Administration Hospital in Houston, Texas. He was interned in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Thomas W. Hill**  
**1st Texas Cavalry Co. G**  
**Enlisted April 28, 1898**  
**Discharged: November 14, 1898**



Thomas William Hill was born on September 11, 1871 in Bastrop County, Texas. He was the son of Capt. And Mrs. T.A. Hill who moved to Weimar in 1873. T.A. Hill founded the T.A. Hill Bank, later the Hill Bank and Trust Co. Thomas attended Weimer Institute and Texas A&M College and later enrolled in business courses in Poughkeepsie, NY. He worked in his father's bank and later was in the lumber business. At the time of his death on February 19, 1950, he was a director of the Hill Bank and Trust Co., a position he had held for about 25 years. A life long bachelor, Hill was interned in the Weimar Masonic Cemetery.



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