



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.

Frank Vincent Schoppe
3rd Regt. TX Infantry Band
Enlisted: June 5 1898
Discharged: February 22, 1899



Frank Vincent Schoppe was born on February 22, 1876 in Birch, Texas to Fred and Annie (Marek) Schoppe. During the Spanish American War, Frank was a member of the 3rd Regiment Texas Infantry Band. After returning from military service, Frank married Lillie Galla on September 21, 1906. As a young man, Schoppe attended Sam Houston Normal Institute in Huntsville, Texas and continued as a student when the school became the Sam Houston State Teachers College. He later attended Southwest Texas State Teachers College in San Marcos where he obtained his Bachelor and Master degrees. He taught in the Hallettsville public schools and was elected county school superintendent a post he held for 20 years. He later worked for the State Dept. of Education in Austin. He retired in 1945 and moved to Beeville, Texas. At the time of his death on January 12, 1956, Frank was the last living Bee County survivor of the Spanish American War veterans.



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with any one who might be
interested!*

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Herman Seekamp
1st Texas Cavalry Co. H
Enlisted: April 28, 1898
Discharged: November 14, 1898



Herman Seekamp enlisted in Co. H of the 1st Texas Cavalry on April 28, 1898 in Hallettsville, Texas. He was born on April 26, 1877 in Flatonia, Fayette County, Texas, to Albrect Seekamp and his wife, Hulda F. (Duelberg) Seekamp. He moved to Yoakum, Texas as a young man and was employed with the railroad. He later worked in land, stock and oil. Seekamp married Mrs. Nellie Craig Morgan on June 8, 1908 in DeWitt County. Herman was elected as County Commissioner of DeWitt County in 1926 and held the position until 1952 when ill health kept him from running for reelection.

Mr. Seekamp was instrumental in the building of Highway 111 from Edna to Yoakum, securing an underpass through the business section of Yoakum. His obituary stated that he was credited with building more lateral paved roads than any other commissioner in the State of Texas.

He died on April 3, 1954 and was interred in the Oak Grove Cemetery outside of Yoakum, Texas.

Note of Interest:

When Herman registered for the WWI draft on September 9, 1918, it was noted on his registration card that "He has been badly cut up". No information has been located to explain his condition.



"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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Sources:

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