



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.

Samuel Silber
1st Texas Cavalry Co. G
Enlisted: 1898
Discharged: November 11, 1898



Samuel Silber was the son of Hallettsville residents Theodore Silber and Johanna Pepper. He was born on February 23, 1875 in Hallettsville, Texas and died on May 10, 1929 in Morgan City, St. Mary, Louisiana and is buried in the Morgan City Cemetery.

When Samuel was discharged, he moved to Hempstead, Texas in December of 1898. From 1902 to 1903 he managed the A. Meyerhoff Store in Runge, Texas. After the store closed, he moved to Lake Charles, Louisiana in late 1903. Samuel remained in Louisiana for the rest of his adult life.

Samuel married Clara Lehmann on November 27, 1910 in New Orleans Louisiana.

In the 1920 census, Samuel and his wife Clara were living with Clara's brother in Morgan Louisiana and Samuel was working as a furniture merchant. He was 54 years old at the time of his death.



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

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Volunteers in the Spanish American War

John Omer Smothers
1st Texas Cavalry Co. G
Enlisted: April 28, 1898
Discharged: November 14, 1898



John Omer Smothers was born on June 6, 1876 in Hallettsville, Texas to Archibald Smothers and his wife, Charlotte Brown.

At the age of 16, John was found guilty of burglary in Lavaca County, Texas on February 19, 1893. He as sentenced to serve two years at the Texas State Prison in Huntsville, Walker County, Texas.

On November 15, 1894, when John was 18 years old, he was given a full pardon by Governor J.S. Hogg and was restored to full citizenship and the right of suffrage.

John enlisted on April 28, 1898 and was discharged from service on November 14, 1898.

He returned to Hallettsville, and on June 18, 1900, he married Minnie Wunburger.

During their married life, he and Minnie lived in Bastrop, Bexar and Travis Counties, where John was employed as a painter.

Around 1950, John and Minnie returned to Elgin in Bastrop County where they lived out the rest of their adult lives.

Minnie died on February 2, 1959 in Elgin and John died at a hospital in Temple, Bell County, Texas on January 28, 1965.

The couple is buried at the Austin Memorial Part Cemetery in Austin, Travis County, Texas.



*“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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