



## 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.

**Georg Louis Ritter**  
**21st Kansas Infantry**  
**Enlisted: May 4, 1898**  
**Discharged: December 10, 1898**



Georg Louis Ritter was born in Stuttgart, Germany on April 19, 1869 to Georg Andres Ritter and Johanne Phillippine Zimmerman. He enlisted in Co. D 21st Kansas Infantry on May 4, 1898 and was discharged on December 10, 1898. He married Louise Doell on June 14, 1914. Around 1918, Ritter moved to Yoakum, Texas where he was employed by the railroad as a store clerk. He passed away on February 20, 1950 in Yoakum and is buried at the Oak Grove Cemetery in Yoakum. While living in Yoakum, he served as the Adjutant for the Dennis O'Connor Camp #54.

*“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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## Volunteers in the Spanish American War

**Dave/David Samusch**  
**1st Texas Cavalry Co. G**  
**Enlisted: April 28, 1898**  
**Discharged: November 11, 1898**

David Samusch, formerly of Hallettsville, died at the St. Joseph Infirmary in Houston, Texas on New Years' Day at the age of 34 after a short illness of pneumonia due to exposure to cold and wet conditions.

David was the son of Isaac Samusch and his wife, Auguste Benedict of Hallettsville. He enlisted in Co. G 1st Texas Cavalry on April 28, 1898 and was discharged on November 14, 1898.

Samusch, who was born in Hallettsville, lived in many locations including San Antonio, Louisiana and finally, Houston where he was an employee of the Sam's Shoe Store. During June, 1900 he spent some time in Marlin,

Texas to improve his health. His remains were shipped back to Hallettsville and interred in the Jewish Cemetery.

In his obituary the local newspaper stated "He was a genial, good natured young man, who may have had his faults, like the balance of us, but not a single fault was hurtful to anyone but himself. He was genuinely liked by all who knew him and the news of his sudden and untimely end caused profound regret throughout the entire community".



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History of DeWitt County