



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.



The Military Future of the First Texas Cavalry Co. G

On June 9, 1898, the regiment was transferred to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas.

In early June of 1898, five companies at Fort Sam Houston received orders to transfer to several forts along the Rio Grande River. The following troops received the orders, Companies A, C, E, F and H. Company G, however, remained at Fort Sam Houston.

According to the San Antonio Express, there was still hope that the First Texas Cavalry, or at least part of it, would see some active service outside of the United States.

By the end of August 1898, it was obvious that the 1st Texas Cavalry Regiment was not destined to see action in Cuba, which included Company G. When he realized that his regiment would not see action, Captain William W. Walker offered his services as a surgeon on detached duty, and requested that he be sent to Cuba. Walker received his special orders from the War Department on August 13, 1898 and was sent to Cuba.

*“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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The Military Future of the First Texas Cavalry Co. G

In September 1898, rumors were still flying that the 1st Texas Cavalry would be retained and possibly be sent to Cuba as an army of occupation.

While Captain Walker was in Cuba, Company G and other companies in the regiment were becoming increasingly upset over not seeing any military action on the front. The men were anxious to be discharged if they were not going to see actual combat, but the mustering out orders were slow in coming.

Upon his return to Fort Sam Houston, Captain Walker completed all unfinished business with Company G and tendered his resignation effective November 1, 1901. The regiment was officially mustered out of United States service on November 14, 1898.

The following Lavaca County men were mustered out on November 14th, 1898 from the 1st Texas Cavalry Company G:

Henry G. Arnim	Courad P. Barak	Hugh E. Barnes
Volney E. Brown	Ernest H. Gillar Jr.	Thomas W. Hill
Ernest H. Holaitick	Armond Kainer	Frank W. Kunetka
Adolph E. Lindenberg	Henry A. Lindenberg	David Samusch
Herman Seekamp	Samuel Silber	John O. Smothers
John L. Speary	Joseph A. Sykora	Joseph D. Turner
John W. Willeford		

1st Texas Cavalry Band

Gottlob F. Eucher enlisted April 17, 1898; mustered out November 11, 1898

Frank Schoppe enlisted June 5, 1898; mustered out February 22, 1899

Texas Infantry Second Regiment

Buhler W. “Doc” Houchins enlisted May 3, 1898; mustered out November 9, 1898

6th Regiment Co. D

Dr. Charles L. Kopecky enlisted March 11, 1898; mustered out April 8, 1902

1st Texas Cavalry Co. D

Charles H. Miller enlisted May 2, 1898; mustered out April 18, 1899

1st Texas Cavalry Co. K

Otto Richter enlisted May 3, 1898; mustered out April 17, 1899

21st Kansas Inf.

Georg L. Ritter enlisted May 4, 1898; mustered out December 10, 1898

1st Texas Cavalry Co. G

Earl Y. Woods enlisted April 28, 1898; mustered out April 19, 1913

Sources:

Wikipedia contributors. "Spanish–American War." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 14 May. 2024. Web. 18 May. 2024.

Hallettsville Herald: 1898 June 30; August 25; September 8

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/85696309/william-wallace-walker>