



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.



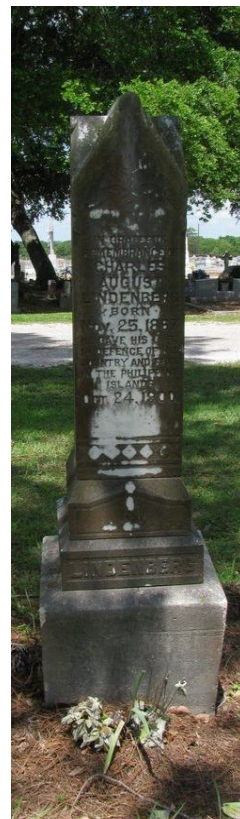
Volunteers in the Spanish American War

In the summer of 1899, an army of 25 U.S. Volunteer Regiments were organized, one regiment of which, the 33rd U.S. Volunteers, was recruited at San Antonio, Texas. Several Hallettsville and Lavaca County boys enlisted in the regiment. The next newsletters will focus on the twelve men who enlisted and served in Company H of this regiment.

Charles August Lindenberg
33rd U.S. Vol. Inf. Co. H
Enlisted: August 1899
Killed in Action: October 24, 1900

Charles August Lindenberg was born November 25, 1867 the only son of Fritz Lindenberg and Augusta Morris Lindenberg.

In July of 1899, Capt. Cunningham, a recruiting officer, arrived in Hallettsville looking for volunteers. Charles, a son of a Terry Ranger in the Civil War, enlisted. He was sent to the Philippines with the 33rd Infantry.



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The first news of Charles' death was brought to his father's attention when he saw his son's name among the dead in a press release from the Galveston News.

On the very day of his death, his father received a letter from his son stating that his regiment was soon to be mustered out and he hoped to be home by Christmas.

The next letter the father received was written by another Hallettsville boy, Chas. Schoenbusch, who shared particulars of Charles death.

On October 24th, Lindenberg and his regiment were ordered to engage some insurgents gathered about fourteen miles east of Narvacan, Ilocos Sur Province, Luzon in the Philippines. The American soldiers were trapped in a canyon with the insurgents firing down upon them from the ridges on both sides of the canyon. Schoenbusch was with Lindenberg when he was mortally wounded.

Another letter arrived from a Corporal Perry Wilson telling the Lindenberg family that his brother and Charles fell side by side not three feet from each other. He told the family that he had just come back from where the two men were buried side by side and that their graves were marked.

In 1902, the remains of Charles August Lindenberg were returned to his family by the United States Government Burial Corp. The remains arrived in San Francisco and were then shipped to Hallettsville for burial.

Charles August Lindenberg, the only Hallettsville boy killed in the Spanish American War, was laid to rest in the Hallettsville City Cemetery on May 14, 1900 by the local lodge Ancient Order of United Workman, the Hallettsville Fire Department and the Silver Cornet Band, of which he was a member.

Note:

When Charles died, he was survived by his parents and sisters. Some online sources suggest that he had a daughter, Olivia Mims Lindenberg, born in 1895 to a woman by the name of Emmaline Olivia Mims. On the death certificate of Olivia Mims Sommerlatte Ray, Charles Lindenberg was listed as her father.

Sources:

www.ancestry.com

www.fold3.com

www.findagrave.com

Shiner Gazette: 21 May 1902

Weimer Mercury: 24 May 1902

Hallettsville Herald: 1 November 1900;

29 November 1900; 20 December 1900;

15 May 1902



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