



## 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.

**John Leonard Speary**  
**1st Texas Cavalry Co. G**  
**Enlisted: April 28, 1898**  
**Discharged: November 14, 1898**



John Leonard Speary was born on September 1, 1875 in Lavaca County, Texas to John Speary and his wife Mathilda Friedrichs Speary.

John volunteered for military service on April 28, 1898 in Hallettsville and was assigned to the 1st Texas Cavalry Co. G as a trumpeter.

When he was mustered out of service he returned to Hallettsville but eventually made his home in Runge (Karnes County) Texas where he lived with his brother August and his family for over 22 years. He was employed at his brothers mercantile store as a bookkeeper.

About two weeks prior to this death, John, a lifelong bachelor, returned to Hallettsville to make his home with his two sisters, Misses Martha and Elizabeth Speary.

John Speary died on November 19, 1944 at the VA Hospital in Kerrville, Texas. He is buried in the Hallettsville City Cemetery.



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

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*By Brenda Lincke Fisseler*

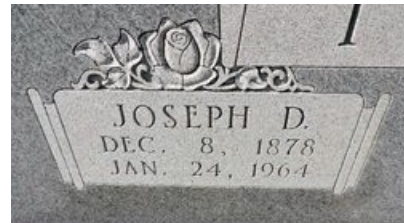
## Volunteers in the Spanish American War

**Joseph Anton Sykora**  
**1st Texas Cavalry Co. G**  
**Enlisted: April 28, 1898**  
**Discharged: November 14, 1898**



Joseph Anton (Joe) Sykora was born in Lavaca County on March 11, 1876 to Valentin Sykora and his wife Barbara Pustejovsky Sykora. After returning from military service, Joseph married Doretha Hermes on March 13, 1899. After the death of his first wife in 1905 from typhoid malaria, Joseph married Amalia Baumgarten on May 1, 1912. During his adult life, Joseph worked as a dry goods salesman for Valenta Bros. in Sweet Home, Texas. At the time of his death on January 2, 1975, Sykora was living at the Stevens Nursing Home in Yoakum, Texas. Sykora would have been 100 years old on March 11, 1975. He was laid to rest at the St. Joseph Cemetery in Yoakum, Texas beside his second wife, Amelia.

**Joseph Daniel Turner**  
**1st Texas Cavalry Co. G**  
**Enlisted: April 28, 1898**  
**Discharged: November 14, 1898**



Joseph D. Turner was born on December 8, 1878 in Hackberry, Texas the son of Fritz Turner and Sisley A. Pace Turner. After he returned from military service, he married Mina Mae Steen on December 24, 1905. Over the years, the family lived in Schulenburg, Gonzales County and Yoakum Texas. While living in Yoakum, Texas, J.D. worked as a merchant and served as fire chief. Turner died on January 24, 1964 and is buried at the Oak Grove Cemetery.

*“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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