



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.



Leopold Albert Klish
33rd U.S. Vol. Infantry Co. H.
Enlisted: August 12, 1899
Discharged: April 17, 1901



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Klish was born November 11, 1877 in Teshan, Austria, Silesia. He sailed from Bremen Germany in May 1890 and was naturalized on September 29, 1902 in Bexar County, Texas.

Leopold Klish was recruited by Lieutenant Cunningham in August of 1899, while Cunningham was in the Hallettsville area securing recruits for the 33rd Infantry.

In August 1899, Emil Hanzlik and Leopold Klish were in San Antonio, had received their uniforms and weapons and were scheduled to be transferred to Fort Clark. In the October 12, 1899 issue of the Svoboda, it was reported that Klish, C.A. Lindenberg, Hanzlik and Joseph Mikeska were on their way to Manila.

During the Battle of San Jacinto in the Philippines, Private Klish of Co. H. cut down the battle banner of the retreating insurgents who had left their unit's flag in their barracks.

In the April 12, 1900 issue of the Hallettsville Herald, in a letter from J.F. Euchner, Euchner stated that Klish, who was wounded in the knee, was on his way home.

In the April 25, 1901 issue of the Hallettsville Herald, an article appeared that all the men who had enlisted in the 33rd had finally arrived back home.

After his service, Klish moved to Philadelphia and then to Camden, New Jersey where he was employed as a cook in a sanitarium, in the maintenance department of the RCA Victor and as a watchman at the Stollwerck Chocolate Plant.

Klish died on October 10, 1950 at his home on 1460 Pershing St. in Camden, New Jersey after a short illness. He was survived by his wife, Blanche Jagodziski Klish.

He was buried at St. Joseph's Cemetery at Chews Landing.

Sources:

www.ancestry.com

www.fold3.com

www.findagrave.com

Hallettsville Herald: August 17, 1899; April 12, 1900; April 25, 1901

Svoboda: August 31, October 12, 1899

Service Honest & Faithful: The 33rd Volunteer Infantry Regiment in the Philippine War 1899-1901 by Jack D. Anderson M.A.



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