



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.

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.

Emil J. Hanzlik
33rd U.S. Vol. Infantry Co. H.
Enlisted: August 12, 1899
Discharged: April 17, 1901



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with any one who might be
interested!*

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Emil Hanzlik volunteered for Co. H in the 33rd U.S. Infantry that was being organized to serve in the Philippines on August 12, 1899 in Hallettsville, Texas. He was one of ten men recruited by Lieutenant Cunningham from San Antonio, Texas. The 33rd was scheduled to leave San Antonio for Manila on September 11th.

At the time of this newsletter, Emil's birthdate and birthplace are unknown.

In August, 1899, Hanzlik and Leopold Klisch were in San Antonio, had received their uniforms and weapons and were scheduled to be transferred to Fort Clark.

In the November 2, 1899 issue of the Svoboda, Emil wrote a letter to the newspaper stating that after an eight hour voyage, he had successfully reached the port of Honolulu on the island of Hawaii on the way to the Philippines. He was to stay in Hawaii for four days, then travel on the Manila. He stated that the medical condition of the regiment was good and that he had been vaccinated three times since he departed San Francisco.

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

In May of 1901, the local newspaper reported that Emil Hanzlik, one of the soldiers recently returned from the Philippines, who was living in the home of Mr. A. F. Groeber, developed a severe case of the measles possibly being exposed to the disease on his way home from the Philippines.

On May 25, 1901, Emil died of the measles and was buried in the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Hallettsville, Texas.

In December of 1938, Paul F. Brier, then the head of the Dennis O'Connor Camp U.S.W.V. applied and received a headstone for Hanzlik.

Sources:

www.ancestry.com
www.fold3.com
www.findagrave.com
Hallettsville Herald;
August 17, 1899
April 25, May 2, 1901
Svoboda:
August 31, October 12, November 2,
1899
April 12, 1900
Schulenburg Sticker:
May 30, 1901



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