



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.



Paul Frank Brier
33rd U.S. Volunteer Inf. Co. H
Enlisted: August 13, 1899
Discharged: December 15, 1900



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with any one who might be
interested!*

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Paul Frank Brier was born on February 25, 1876 in Germany and arrived in the United States in 1885. He was the son of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Brier.

He enlisted in the 33rd Regiment on August 13, 1899 in San Antonio with several other young men from Hallettsville and Lavaca County.

On September 30, 1899, the 33rd U.S. Volunteers embarked from San Francisco CA on the Army transport, Sheridan, and landed at Manila, Philippines on October 29, 1899.

After several engagements, Brier was involved in the Fight in Kusukus Canyon, a deep gorge in the mountains of northern Luzon. The ensuing battle resulted in the death of Chas. Lindenberg, from Co. H, and a Hallettsville native.

Near Cervantes, Brier's left kneecap was shot off and for three days his comrades carried him until they reached the coast, then he was removed to Manila. Due to his injury, Brier was later discharged from service.

After his discharge, Brier returned to Hallettsville and married Mary Alice (Mamie) Champion on February 25, 1908. The marriage resulted in four sons and three daughters.

From September 15, 1905 until 1931, Brier served as the mail carrier out of Hallettsville from Rural Route 3.

When rodeoing came to Hallettsville, the first rodeo was held on property owned by Mr. Brier. This was in 1925 and that site was used from many rodeos thereafter.

The land was later sold to the sponsors of the State Championship High School Rodeo.

Paul Frank Brier died on July 29, 1954 at the age of 78 years, 5 months and 4 days.

He was buried in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church Cemetery in Hallettsville, Texas.

Note: There is an informative article in the January 6, 1942 issue of the Lavaca County Tribune where Brier shared some of his impressions of the Philippines.

Sources:

www.ancestry.com

www.fold3.com

www.findagrave.com

Lavaca County Tribune

January 6, 1942

Hallettsville New Era Herald

July 30, 1954



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