

Columbia County Volunteers in the Spanish-American War

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I've often wondered if Columbia County had any soldiers who served during the Spanish-American War. My first clue came while filling out gravestone survey sheets in the Catholic Section of the Old Rosemont Cemetery. I found the gravestone of Charles F. Stohner, born January 1, 1866, died 3 October 1898. Engraved on his stone was *CO. H I U.S. V. ENGR'S, SP. AM. WAR.* There also was a war veteran marker and flag beside his gravestone. I wasn't sure what all the letters stood for in the engraving, so I took advantage of the digital copying project by Google, found on Google Books <<http://books.google.com/>>.

If you are searching for a Pennsylvania ancestor who you know has, or think may have, served in the Spanish-American War, look in the scanned book, *Record of Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Spanish-American War, 1898*, printed by the Adjutant General in 1901. The entire book can be word-searched online or you can download the book in a .pdf file on to your computer. I found the online search to work relatively well, but it missed one name when I searched for veterans from Bloomsburg. (The search feature didn't work at all with the downloaded .pdf file. Note: This book is also available at the Society's Library, Call Number 973.894/SpAW/S1165).

An alphabetical list of all the volunteers, along with their position, company and regiment, is at the end of the book. With that information you can find the section that discusses your ancestor's regiment. All volunteers are listed in alphabetical order in the regiment sections and each listing includes the name, position, residence, date enrolled, date mustered in and date mustered out. Promotions, death date and other information is included if applicable. Many companies were made up of volunteers from specific areas. For example, Company F in the 12th Regiment was made up primarily of volunteers from Danville and the 9th Regiment was made up of eight companies from Luzerne County. Columbia County did not have enough volunteers to create a company just for them, so these volunteers are scattered in various companies.

Thanks to Google books and a little work a list was created of ten volunteers from Columbia County. Most were from Bloomsburg, but Berwick, Lightstreet and Mifflinville were also represented. Below is the list.

From Berwick:

Clyde J. Jamison, Private, 12th Reg., Co. B

From Bloomsburg:

Samuel S. Carbaugh, Private, 9th Reg., Co. I

Wilbur E. Fisher, Private, 1st Reg., Co. H, U.S. Vol. Engr's

Edson [sic] S. McKillop, Private, 1st Reg., Co. H, U.S. Vol. Engr's

Guy F. Rawlings, Private, 9th Reg., Co. I

Boyd Shaffer, Private, 1st Reg., Co. D, U.S. Vol. Engr's

Charles F. Stohner, Private, 1st Reg., Co. H, U.S. Vol. Engr's

From Lightstreet:

William E. Ammerman, Priv., 12th Reg., Co. C
Charles W. Hidlay, Private, 12th Reg., Co. C

From Mifflinville:

Harry V. Smith, Private, 9th Reg., Co. B

Charles F. Stohner, my original query, is listed as having mustered in on June 30, 1898. He died on October 3, 1898 in the General Hospital at Ponce, Porto Rico, of typhoid fever. Thanks to Google Books, I now know what all the letters stand for on his gravestone and also have a list of Spanish-American War volunteers for Columbia County.

As I said, the Google Book search engine is not perfect, so if any reader knows of someone not on the list who served during the Spanish-American War from Columbia County, please leave a message for me at the Society.

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