

(Following is the muster roll of the Van Buren Company F, 1st Regiment, Arkansas mounted volunteers General Archibald Yell: *The Arkansas History Commission Bulletin of Information No. 6* gives information about the men in this unit that is not included in the newspaper article, and I am adding this information to the list as given in the original article. Unless noted otherwise, the men were all enrolled in Van Buren, Arkansas, on June 26, 1846. If the name was not listed on the list in the newspaper, it will be marked with an asterisk — Amelia Martin.)

Roane, John S., Captain.

Mustered into service as Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment July 6.

Dillard, John J., Captain.

Age 26. Enrolled as private June 26, 1846, Van Buren, Ark. Elected Captain of Company "F" July 6, and mustered in as such.

Foster, George, 1st Lieutenant.

Stewart, Alexander, 2nd Lieutenant.

Willhaff, Leonard, 2nd Lieutenant.

Enrolled June 26, 1846, Van Buren, Ark., private Company "F". Mustered into service of the United States July 7, 2nd Lieutenant, having been duly elected.

Latham, George Y., 1st Sergeant. Age 33.

Spratt, John, Sergeant. Age 23.

Houck, William A., 2nd Sergeant.

*(AHC report shows "Allouck, William, Sergeant, Age 23. This name does not appear on the muster in roll.") (It also does not appear on roster in the newspaper. Since AHC report does not list Houck, William A., as a Sergeant, it is possible the two are the same man. A William A. Houck is listed later as a private. — A.M.)

David, James W.B., 4th Sergeant. Age 31.

Rudy, John, 1st Corporal.

Discharged by order of General Taylor, June 9, 1847.

Pierce, John, 2nd Corporal.

(This name is shown in AHC report as Price, John. Age 23.)

Stewart, Darwin, 3rd Corporal.

Age 22. This name does not appear on the muster out roll.

Thompson, David, 4th Corporal. Age 18.

Bell, Gideon R., Bugler. Age 25.

Parker, Micajah W., Bugler.

Discharged by order of General Wool, May 27, 1847, to re-enlist for the war in Captain Mears' company.

Stewart, Benjamin L., Farrier. Age 23.

Lewis, David E., Farrier. Age 23.

PRIVATES

Allen, William. Age 19.

Atkins, David. Age 28.

Boyd, Andrew. Age 21.

Boyd, James S. Age 19.

Bone, James. Age 21.

Caddrain, Abner.

AHC report does not list this name. (*AHC report does list "Caddean, Alexander, age 40, on extra duty in Quartermaster Department as teamster from January 15.)

Campbell, Jos. F.

Age 22. This name does not appear on the muster out roll.

Capps, William. Age 30.

Chew, Abner.

(Listed in newspaper, not in AHC report.)

Chew, Alexander B. Age 21.

Chew, Robert B.

Age 24. This name does not appear on the muster in roll.

*Compton, Jas. B. Age 24.

Criner, George. Age 19.

Dale, Aaron. Age 28.

Duty, William.

Age 39. Discharged by order of General Wool, May 27, 1847, to re-enlist for the war in Captain Mears' company.

Ester, James J.

Age 30. This name does not appear on the muster out roll.

Fean, B.B.

(Name not listed in AHC report.)

Fean, James J.

Age 32. This name does not appear on the muster out roll.

Finley, John.

Age 35. Captured by the enemy at Encarnacion January 23. Mustered out at New Orleans, September 30, 1847, by Major A.G. Blanchard.

Fogarty, Owen. Age 35.

*Forrester, Rufus.

Age 23. This name does not appear on muster out roll.

Foster, Riley.

Age 25. On extra duty in Quartermaster Department as teamster, from March 10.

Hagood, James A.

(Newspaper lists name as Haguewood.) Age 36. Discharged by order of General Wool, May 27, 1847, to re-enlist for the war in Captain Mears' company.



General Gatlin was on the return to Vera Cruz. His escort camped on the mountain, one of his tired mules gave out and died. He awoke in the night and heard the Irish sentinels passing the watch with cheerful jokes as they smoked by the campfire. Said one, "Pat, why is that dead mule like the Orizaba mountain? Give it up? Because it's an extinct craythur!"

Joe Merrill, of Fort Smith, enlisted in Jack Hayes' Texas regiment of cavalry. These were the "rough riders" of the campaign, and were enrolled along the western border of Texas. They enlisted under the idea that they were to serve at home, to protect their counties from the Comanches, with whom they were in constant conflict. When Hayes got orders to move to the Rio Grande, they were enraged and covered him with abuse. Joe said that Hayes rode along with the columns for three days white as a sheet, expecting to be shot every moment. Joe Merrill's company of rangers, with Albert Pike's from Arkansas, were joined with Captain Mays' company of United States dragoons and did scouting duty. On one of their raids, they attempted the capture of Santa Anna. They got his tent and his bed was warm, but the bird had flown. They secured all his papers.

General Arbuckle was too aged for active service, but his aid, Captain Page, went with General Taylor. At the first battle (Palo Alto) Page was struck by a grape shot, which cut off his lower jaw entirely. He was removed to the hospital at New Orleans where, under the careful nursing of the sisters, he lived for several weeks and was visited by one of our citizens, to whom he gave an account of the fight, written on his slate, for he was speechless. He closed his statement with, "but we gave the Mexicans hell."

Pierce Butler, who we all knew so well here as the Cherokee agent, resigned his agency and went to South Carolina, where he raised the noted Palmetto regiment. He had been governor of that state. He was the uncle of Mrs. Robert Rutherford, of Fort Smith, and had married the aunt of Col. DuVal. He led his men in all the severe battles that led to the capture of the city, but was killed in the battle of Cherubusco.

Butler and Jeff Davis were lieutenants in the First Dragoons at Fort Gibson, under Col. Henry Dodge (afterwards governor of Minnesota), and it was at this period that Butler courted and married the sister of Captain William DuVal at Fort Smith. During the Black Hawk war, Col. Zach Taylor was stationed at a post on the upper Mississippi, and it was at that point that Jeff Davis first met and courted Taylor's oldest daughter who died a year after the marriage. Taylor's second daughter, Miss Bessie, was with him while at Fort Smith. She married Captain Bliss, the general's aid, who was well known to our citizens.

At the Cherubusco fight General Shields led the first charge, and his men were nearly all killed by the storm of shot. Shields called for volunteers. Butler shouted, "Every South Carolinian will follow you to the death." The Palmetto's rushed in and Butler was shot in the head. Shields calling to them to avenge his death, gave the word forward. They were only 400, but they charged with such fury that the Mexican host of 4000 were scattered. Three of the Palmetto flag bearers were killed in succession.

It would take an inspired pen to do justice to the bravery of our troops in this war. The Mexicans outnumbered them five to one in every engagement.

Nearly all of our most distinguished officers who figured in the civil war "fleshed their maiden swords" in the Mexican campaign.

I was informed by Doctor Joseph H. Bailey that General Shields was shot through the lungs. The surgeons after mature deliberations considered his case hopeless. It happened that General Santa Anna's chief surgeon was a prisoner in the American camp. He was of great eminence in his profession. In their consultations on the Shields case he was the only one who entertained a possibility of survival. The doctors turned the case over to him. He searched the camp for the finest cambric handkerchief he could get, rolled it in a close roll and carefully worked it through the body, giving it his close attention every day. General Shields recovered and lived for many years.

*Harris, James M.
Age 21. This name does not appear on the muster out roll.

Haynes, John L. Age 21.

Hart, David.
Age 22. Discharged by order General Taylor, June 9, 1847.

Holoman, Wm. L.
(Newspaper lists name as Holman.) Age 21.
Captured by the enemy at Encarnacion January 23.

Hardin, Howell.
Age 18. This name does not appear on the muster out roll.

Houck, Felix. Age 20.

Houck, William A.
Age 23. This name does not appear on the muster out roll.

Ingraham, Alexander C. Age 19.
(Newspaper gives the name as Ingram.)

Johnson, Samuel C. Age 20.

*Karraus, Samuel. Age 20.

Kelly, Moses. Age 25.

Little, James W. Age 19.

*Larimore, Thos.
Age 19. This name does not appear on the muster out roll.

Lasater, Jno. W.D. Age 18.

Lewis, David E.
(Name does not appear on AHC list.)

Marshall, Andrew L.
Age 29. Captured by the enemy at Encarnacion January 22. Mustered out at New Orleans, September 30, 1847, by A.G. Blanchard, Major 12th Infantry, U.S.A.

McFarlane, Wm. R. Age 19.

Moore, Lewis.
Age 24. Discharged by order of General Wool, May 27, 1847, to re-enlist for the war in Captain Mears' company.

Nichols, Benj. F.
Age 19. Discharged by order of General Wool, May 27, 1847, to re-enlist for the war in Captain Mears' company.

*Nesbitt, Jas. C.
Age 27. Name does not appear on muster out roll.

Patty, Isaac. Age 22.

*Perkins, Thos. J.
Age 22. Name does not appear on muster out roll.

Peyton, Geo. W. Age 38.

*Pope, Benton. Age 22.

Price, Reice (newspaper says Reece).
Age 22. Discharged by order of General Wool, May 27, 1847, to re-enlist for the war in Captain Mears' company.

*Price, Geo. B.
Age 20. Name not on muster out roll.

Quesenbury, Wm.
Age 23. On extra duty in Q.M. Dept. from January 24, 1847.

Roberts, James C. Age 31.

Smith, Benj.
Age 28. Name not on muster in roll.

*Smith, Berry. Age 21.

Smith, James H. Age 21.

*Smith, Riley. Age 18.

Stinnett, Wiley
(Newspaper gives name as Wesley.) Age 19.

Story, John.
Age 21. Name not on muster in roll.

Taylor, Asbury (name not on AHC list).

*Taylor, Berry H.
Age 18. Name not on muster out roll.

*Taylor, John W.
Age 24. Discharged by order of General Taylor, June 9, 1847.

Thomas, Marcus. Age 36.

Thomas, Wm. C. Age 23.

Vice, John.
Age 28. Name not on muster out roll.

Waters, James J.
Age 22. Name not on muster out roll.

White, Solomon. Age 21.

*Worley, M.A. Age 28.

Wynn, Harman (1st).
Age 24. Name not on muster out roll.

*Wynn, Harman (2nd).
Age 18. Name not on muster out roll.

This company was mustered into the service of the United States June 29, 1846, at Van Buren, Arkansas, by W. Hoffman, Captain, U.S.A., for the term of twelve months. The newspaper article adds that the company was inspected and enrolled at Washington, Hempstead County, by Capt. Hoffman and marched overland to the Rio Grande. Unless otherwise stated, members of this company were mustered out at Carmargo, Mexico, June 20, 1847, by W.G. Belknap, Colonel and Inspector General, U.S.A. William Allen, a member of this company now living near Fort Smith, tells the writer that he does not know of any other living member. Excepting skirmishes with guerrillas, he thinks that Buena Vista was the only great fight they were engaged in.

Santa Anna, in addition to this infantry and artillery, had a force of 10,000 mounted lancers. His army numbered in all over 20,000. He intended to crush Taylor with his great army, and so confident was he of success that he demanded Taylor's surrender. During the

progress of the fight the Mississippi and Arkansas regiments were fronted by this band of lancers. Governor Yell at the head of his regiment charged them, but they were repulsed with great loss and Yell was killed. Braggs' Battery, however, came up and scattered the host.

Captain John Dillard searched for and found Yell's corpse among the dead Mexicans. A spear had struck him high in the forehead, split through his nose and upper lip, entered his mouth and passed through his neck, a horrid impalement! Other spear wounds were in his body, which was brought back and buried at his home in Arkansas. When he shouted to the men to follow, and charged into the forest of lances, he must have been in a stooping position and braced for the shock. We are told in history that Arnold Winkleried, the Swiss patriot, opened the way for his followers through the cordon of Austrian lancers by gathering their spears to his bosom.

In the songs of the Northern poets
 The brave, who in battle die,
 Arise from the blood strained soil
 And fight on in the upper sky;
 And as we read the rounding rhyme,
 The reverent fancy hears
 The tramp of the changing line
 And the clash of the spectral spears;
 And I see in yon lurid cloud
 Where the lightning parries the lance,
 Brave Yell on his charger proud
 Rushing on in the fierce advance;
 I hear the distant bugle call,
 I see the rainbow pennons fly,
 And flashing sabres rise and fall
 As the dark war cloud is rushing by;
 And they camp on a field of fate,
 Afar in that upper sky.
 Where death's red roses grow elate
 In bloody bloom for aye.

W.J.W.

On the roster of Captain Stephen B. Enyart's Company, Arkansas Mounted Volunteers, it is noted that all of his commissioned and non-commissioned officers, although enrolled in Fayetteville, were elected to their rank in Fort Smith on June 14, 1847. They were:

Enyart, Stephen B., Captain.
 Neel, James P., 1st Lieutenant.
 O'Brien, Elijah, 2nd Lieutenant.
 Rieff, Joseph F., 2nd Lieutenant.
 Berry, Albert L., 1st Sergeant. Age 21.
 Skelton, James, 2nd Sergeant. Age 20.
 Cline, George M., 3rd Sergeant. Age 24.
 Tramell, George S., 4th Sergeant. Age 22.
 Sanders, Arthur L., 1st Corporal. Age 19.
 Hudson, Andrew J., 2nd Corporal. Age 21.
 Kimbrell, Solomon F., 3rd Corporal. Age 19.
 Discharged March 10, 1848, at camp near Mier, Mexico, on account of disability.
 McPherson, Joseph P., 4th Corporal. Age 19.
 Hart, Wilson D., Corporal. Age 35.
 Name not on muster in roll.
 Ledford, William, Bugler. Age 28.
 Thomas, John, Bugler. Age 21.
 Snider, Henry, Farrier.

Privates listed in this company as having been enrolled in Fort Smith were:

Adams, Errin. Age 23.
 Givins, James M. Age 22.
 Grubbs, Jacob. Age 27.
 Helfy, James. Age 26.
 Johnson, John A. Age 23.
 Deserted June 30, 1847, en route from Fort Smith to Fort Towson.
 Merrill, Peter. Age 24.
 Morris, Abraham. Age 23.
 McAlroy, Phillip. Age 26.
 Reynolds, Cyrus L. Age 22.
 Schmidt, William. Age 19.
 Standifer, Thomas. Age 33.
 Taylor, James. Age 21.
 Williams, William I. (Age not given.)

This company was mustered into service of the United States June 15, 1847, at Fort Smith, Arkansas, by F.F. Flint, Lieutenant 6th Regiment U.S. Infantry, for the term of "during the war with Mexico." Unless otherwise stated, members of this company were mustered out at Carmargo, Mexico, June 23, 1848, by F.E. Hunt, Captain 4th Artillery, U.S.A.

Soldiers discharged from Fort Smith and Van Buren units to join Captain Gaston Mears' company, joined that company in Buena Vista, Mexico.

LOOKING FOR YOUR MEXICAN WAR VETERAN?

Descendents of Mexican War Veterans is a non-profit Texas organization devoted to honoring the United States study of that war, including the preservation of documents and artifacts. The group, which was started in 1989 in Dallas, is conducting a project to compile the names of every U.S. veteran of the Mexican War in the form of a book at a later date. The society will check their files for a veteran's name at no charge if a SASE is sent with the request. For information, write to the Descendents of Mexican War Veterans National Office, 1114 Pacific, Richardson, Texas 75081.

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