

Old Soldiers Never Die

On February 10 of 1906, the Grapevine Sun newspaper ran a notice marking the death of Confederate Civil War Veteran William George Henslee. He was residing in the Gentry community, located in the southern portion of present day Coppell, at the time of his death.

During the Civil War Henslee served in a cavalry unit known as Co. C, Taylor's Regiment Mounted Texas Rifles. The company was later referred to as the 22nd Texas Cavalry. A muster roll written in 1863 records that Henslee was owed fifteen dollars because he used his own gun in the service.

Henslee was friends with prominent Coppell resident Burrell B. Howell, himself a veteran of the Confederate Army. The two frequently discussed their wartime experiences. One can easily picture the two old soldiers sitting on a porch, dreaming of diving "once more into the breach." Howell later served as a pallbearer at Henslee's funeral.

Unfortunately, when Mrs. Mary Henslee applied for a Confederate widow's pension in 1929, her application was denied due to a lack of evidence that her husband had served later than 1863.

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