



John Leverton

Company A, "Bayou City Guards"
5th Regiment Texas Infantry, Hood's Brigade

John Leverton was born in Lincolnshire, England, March 29, 1837, one of eleven children born to William and Anne Draper Leverton. John and his family left England Nov. 26, 1851, for America, arriving in New Orleans Jan. 24, 1852.

It is believed John's parents and nine of the eleven children died either enroute to New Orleans or shortly after arriving. Only John, a teenager, and his five-year-old sister, Susanah survived. John's sister was raised by a successful banking family in Shreveport, Louisiana. John, in his teens, moved to Houston, Texas.

John enlisted in the Confederate States Army on July 19, 1861, in Houston, Texas. He was a 2nd Corporal, in Company A, 5th Regiment, Texas Infantry, "Hood's Brigade". In October 1861 he was promoted to 1st Corporal. In Dec. 1861 he was promoted to 4th Sergeant and later, promoted to 3rd Sergeant. He was reduced in rank by his own request on July 1, 1862.

At the Second Battle of Manassas, Aug. 28-30, 1862, the Hood's Brigade overran the 5th and the 10th New York Zouaves. On the first day of the battle, Aug. 28, John was wounded with an injury to his hand.

During the Battle of Gettysburg, on July 2, 1863, John was severely injured when hit by a cannon ball. He suffered a fractured thigh and wounded hip. John lay on the battlefield for two days. During that time, he said he packed his wound with mud to try to keep maggots out.

On July 4, 1863, after two long days of lying on the Gettysburg battlefield, John was taken prisoner of war. Due to his injury, he was admitted to Camp Letterman Field Hospital, Gettysburg, PA. He was later taken on Oct. 27, 1863, to General Hospital West Bldg., Baltimore, Maryland. John was part of a POW exchange in Point City, Virginia, Nov. 17, 1863.

The day after the POW exchange, due to his injury, John was admitted to Howard's Grove Hospital, Richmond Virginia. He was later admitted to Chimborazo Hospital, Richmond Virginia, April 8, 1864. On April 16, 1864, he was transferred to Wayside Hospital, No. 9, Richmond, Virginia.

Confederate Congress established the "Confederate Invalid Corps" on Feb. 17, 1864. Those in the Invalid Corps were expected to perform light duties that they could physically perform. John was in the Invalid Corps, but due to permanent injury to his hip, John retired from the Invalid Corp, Nov. 22, 1864.

On Jan 3, 1865, John was released from the hospital in Virginia and returned to Texas on horseback. Family story is that John was attacked on his way home and he killed his attacker in self-defense.

On July 6, 1869, John married Mary Jane Thomas (1839-1910), the daughter of Judge John Thomas, in Harris Co., Texas. John had one stepson and together, he and Mary Jane had one son, and three daughters. One daughter died in infancy. John named his son, my grandfather, John Evander Leverton, after Confederate General Evander Law.

May 23, 1895, John attended a Hood's Texas Brigade gathering in Houston, Texas. Men from all over Texas attended and the bond these soldiers shared is revealed in an article of the event:

Dallas Morning News on May 25, 1895., pg. 7.

"General (Evander) Law of the old Alabama brigade, with whom Hood's brigade were closely associated in all the great battles in Virginia, was then introduced and such a welcome given him as would convince him he was still beloved by the old Texas brigade. He made a most touching and feeling address, and amid perfect silence his beautiful words caused the tears to flow down the cheeks of many an old soldier. At its conclusion he was given a perfect ovation."

John was a boiler maker by profession. He died Feb. 16, 1920, in Houston, Texas, from the Spanish Flu during the worldwide pandemic. He was 82 years old. John is buried at Glenwood Cemetery in Houston, Texas.

Information provided by John's son and from John's military records.

Cynthia Bownds Hooks
Great Granddaughter