

Herman L. Raven Texas Ranger Service

In 1847, Colonel Peter H. Bell organized a regiment of volunteer companies known as Bell's Regiment of Texas Rangers (also known as Bell's Regiment of Texas Volunteers) headquartered at Presidio (then called Presidio Crossing) and Brownsville. The regiment was organized to combat Indian, Mexican Army and Mexican bandit attacks into Texas along the Rio Grande. At the start of the Mexican-American War in 1848, the Regiment was attached to General Zachary Scott's U. S. Army Expeditionary Force as an independent regiment of scouts and fighters.

Herman Lee Raven, age 18, enlisted in Captain Samuel Highsmith's Company, Bell's Regiment of Texas Rangers when it was organized and served in this unit during the war. Capt. Samuel Highsmith's Company of Bell's Regiment of Texas Rangers was composed of volunteers from various locations in Texas. The Regiment was mustered into United States service on May 15, 1848 and was mustered out of Federal service on December 26, 1848. Herman L. Raven, private, age 18 is shown on the original muster roll as, private, #62, on the roster.

After the war he was a member of a detachment of thirty-five Texas Rangers of Captain Highsmith's Company, under Col. John C. (Jack) Hays that was assigned to escort and protect members of the Chihuahua-El Paso Expedition. This expedition's purpose was to explore and determine a route for new trade roads through the uncharted and unexplored territory between San Antonio to El Paso and then into Mexico. The expedition got lost in the mountains of Texas and Mexico, ran out of food and had to eat some of their mules and horses to survive. They were finally found and guided out of the mountains to Leaton's Fort on the Rio Grande near Presidio Del Norte also called Presidio Crossing (now Presidio, Texas) by friendly Indians. Also in the Texas Ranger detachment with Raven were several famous Texas Rangers, Col. Jack Hayes, Capt. Ben McCullough, Capt. William A. (Big Foot) Wallace.

Raven served three more enlistments with the Texas Rangers. prior to the Civil War. In 1850 and 1851 he was a private in Captain Henry McCulloch's Company, Texas Rangers. Hostile Indian depredations by Comanches, Apaches, and Kiowas were a serious problem for Texas during this period and these Ranger companies were the about the only effective defense against their marauding over the great expanse of south and west Texas. Raven was a participant in the notable "McCulloch's Fight On the San Saba in 1851" and was wounded by an Apache arrow during this battle, which effectively eliminated a particularly brutal hostile band. In 1852 and 1853, as corporal, he served two enlistments in Captain Owen Shaw's Company, Texas Rangers, still fighting Indians and outlaws.

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From: National Archives-"Mexican War Veteran Pension Applications"

Herman L. Raven filed for Mexican War Veteran Pension, July 31, 1889 from Texas, application # A21920. got pension.

From: National Archives-"Indian Wars Pension Applications"

Herman L. Raven filed for Indian Wars Veteran Pension:

RAVEN, Herman L. , application #SC-5390 from Texas Sept. 8 1903. Mex War S-0#21920 pension.

Chihuahua Expedition source: first person narrative by Herman L. Raven in Frank Brown's "Annals Of Travis County And The City Of Austin (From The Earliest Times To The Close Of 1875)". (Texas State Archives) and:

Captain Samuel Highsmith's Written Report of Chihuahua Expedition to Col. Hays (Texas State Archives)