

Captain Theophilus Perry – Co. F – 28th Texas Cavalry

Theophilus was born in North Carolina on February 3, 1933. He was one of three sons born to Levin K. Perry and his wife Martha Davis Perry.

The family would move to the Marshall, Texas, area in the mid-1840s. Theophilus and one brother would stay in Louisburg, N. C., to finish their schooling and then Theophilus went on to attend the University of North Carolina. He graduated in 1854 and opened a law office in Marshall, Texas, in 1856.

On 9 February 1860 he married Harriet E. Person of Louisburg, N. Carolina. Shortly thereafter they bought 8 acres of land in Marshall, they owned 8 Negroes, and set up housekeeping.

Martha (Sugar Lumpy) was born in early 1861.

Theophilus enlisted on May 10, 1862 in Company F for 3 years or the war. He was elected 2nd Lieutenant.

Theophilus, Jr. (Theo) was born on December 24, 1862.

In February, 1863, he wrote Harriet that, *"I send Sugar Lumpy a great sheet of paper filled with pictures of animals. . . . My heart is with you, Sugar Lumpy & in the cradle of the Baby. I desire to go home above all things."*

He is promoted to Captain on July 5, 1863. On July 17 from Trenton, LA., he wrote, *"There is a good deal of sickness here. Some chills and fever. We have all been debilitated by the swamps."*

Records show a furlough for 40 days dated August 10, 1863. His daughter, Martha, died on August 12th before Theophilus reached home.

In a January 8, 1864, letter home he noted, *"Beef is very poor and no pork or bacon . . . Bad diet is the cause of many deaths in the army."*

Theophilus was killed in action during the battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, on April 9, 1864. He was buried on the battlefield. In late 1865 Harriet returned to Louisburg, N. Carolina. She had lost her husband, her daughter, and sometime before the 1870 census Theo Jr. died. She remarried in 1872 and passed away in 1885 at the age of 49.

(Compiled Service Records Confederate, Brewer Museum, UDC, Richmond, VA, Microcopy 323, Roll 145; *Widows by the Thousands*, Johansson, Fayetteville, 2000, p. xv-xxi, quotes by date.)

