

Corporal William A. Fletcher
Co. F – 5th Texas Infantry & Co. E – 8th Texas Cavalry

Born 1839 in Sandy Parish, Louisiana. Enlisted August 10, 1861 at Harrisburg, Texas at the age of 21.

October, 1861 – January, 1862 sick in Richmond hospitals.

August 30, 1862 wounded at 2nd Manassas. October 10, 1862 at Institute Hospital in Richmond with gunshot wound. October 19, 1862 admitted to Chimborazo #4. October 23, 1862 at Chimborazo Genl. Hospital # 4 – age shown as 23.

February, 1863 promoted to Corporal of Company F

September 19, 1863 wounded in action at Chickamauga with GSW to his foot. In early October from a hospital in Augusta, GA he wrote; *“Gangrene in a few days set in where the bullet entered [my foot] and I was returned to the hospital for treatment. Here they burned the wound with acid and it was very painful. The first three applications nearly gave me the horrors . . . the treatment . . . was kept up for seven days . . . a hospital inspector stopped the burning treatment and had a warm poultice applied . . . in a few days the wound had sloughed and were healing nicely.”*

January 21, 1864 muster and pay records show payment of \$26 for 11 & 12 of 1863. March, 1864 transferred to the 8th Texas Cavalry (Terry’s Texas Rangers).

Captured near Rome, Georgia and sent to prison in Chattanooga, TN. William recorded his thoughts of winter confinement: *“There was no provisions for heating, the weather was cold, the accommodations were crowded and we all knew how to lie hog in the bed style and passed the night fairly well. We received a small amount of fuel each day for fires. Our daily rations consisted of a small thin slice of poor Southern milch cow, without any semblance of fat, and 2 crackers 3 ½” square by 3/8” thick. This was issued each day after daylight.”*

Arrived home in Beaumont , Texas in May of 1865 and wrote, *“When I got home to Beaumont I found my old stepfather and two half sisters. My brother and stepmother had both died of yellow fever and a young half brother had gone to other parts and had joined the sporting element as a race horse rider.”*

William was very successful in the retail and wholesale lumber business after the war. He died of pneumonia at his home near Beaumont, Texas on January 4, 1915 at age 76.

[Compiled Service Records CSA at United Daughters of the Confederacy in Richmond – Micro Copy 323, Roll 299; A Rebel Private Front and Rear, William Fletcher, Meridian, 1997, p. 105, 151 & 211.