

CSA Headstone Dedication Text

SIMON FREDERICKSON (1832 - November 12, 1894)

Plot D-212-1

Private, Edgar's Battery, Texas Light Artillery

Seaman (S-e-a-m-on) Frederickson was the name used by this Confederate Soldier during the War, according to his Compiled Service Record. He is definitely the most mysterious of the Confederate Veterans that we are recognizing today. Almost every time we found his name it was spelled differently. In the three newspaper notices of his death, his first name is consistently Simon; however, his last name appears as Fredericks, Friederichs, and Freiderickson. In cemetery records, his name is written as both Friedrich and Fredrick. In the 1870 and 1880 censuses his name is reported as Frederick and Friederichs. In city directories between 1884 and 1894 it is Friedrichs, Frederick, and Fredericks. In all, we found his last name spelled over 15 different ways.

Simon was born in Prussia about 1832, of Danish-born parents, but we could not find proof of his exact birth date. His date of immigration is unknown, though it must have been prior to March 20, 1862, for that is when he enlisted at Galveston in Captain William Edgar's Battery of Texas Light Artillery. For several months, the Battery was attached to Waul's Legion. Late in 1862, it was detached and sent to Louisiana, where it served until the end of the War. The last record in his file indicates that he was sent to the hospital in Shreveport on April 12, 1864, suffering from ulcers, and was transferred to the hospital in Jefferson, Texas four days later. There is no later record of his service.

In 1870, he lived in Houston with his wife Ernestine and worked as a gardener. We found no record of their marriage. By 1880, he had become a schoolteacher, and was married to Johanna. The age difference between Ernestine and Johanna suggests that these are two different people, but if so, we never found the second marriage or what happened to Ernestine. No children appear with him in either census. The Houston City Directories show him as a teacher in every year from 1884 to 1894, except for 1890, when he suddenly appears, not as a schoolteacher, but as a worker in a beer saloon! None of his three obituaries ever mentioned his profession. Because he lived at Chaney Junction (near Washington and Studemont), well outside the Houston city limits, he has no City of Houston death certificate, so no proof of birthplace or birthdate there either.

He joined the Dick Dowling Camp, United Confederate Veterans less than a year before his death, which occurred on November 12, 1894. His obituary says that he "was about 70 years of age at his death, and though an invalid for many years, ... he awaited the summons to his last roll call with calm serenity." He was buried in the UCV plot in German Cemetery (now Washington Cemetery), with services conducted by the Dick Dowling Camp and Rev. Mr. Pfaeffle of the German Methodist Church (now Bering Memorial Methodist Church). Washington Cemetery records indicate that his body was later disinterred, with no date or place given. Magnolia Cemetery records show Simman (S-i-m-m-a-n) Fredrick was buried here on October 16, 1901. His wife Johanna Fredrick was buried next to him in Magnolia Cemetery on December 9, 1903.

Although a very mysterious man, he must have been loved by many, for his obituary says "the mound was literally hidden from view with floral contributions." Yet there was no marker for Simon at either burial site.