

CSA Headstone Dedication Text

NATHAN BRAGG FULLER (October 2, 1849 – January 1, 1920)
Private, Co. A, Houston Battalion, Texas Infantry

Plot C-151

Nathan Bragg Fuller was born at Preston Avenue and Smith Street in Houston on October 2, 1849. He was the youngest of seven children in an illustrious family. His father, Colonel Nathan Fuller, a native of North Carolina, moved the family to Houston by 1843, and became Houston's 12th Mayor in 1853. His mother, Charlotte Mathilda Marshall Fuller, was a daughter of Mary Bragg Marshall, of Beaufort, North Carolina.

Nathan Fuller is the youngest Confederate veteran we are recognizing today. His Confederate service was also the most difficult to document. His *Houston Post* obituary gave a good description of his war service, noting that he enlisted at age 15 and served until the end of the war under Captain Hugh Scott of Company A, Hillestear's Battalion. Yet when we looked for Compiled Service Records, we could find neither Fuller nor Hillestear. This was at first very discouraging, but we were able to get some help from the librarians at George Memorial Library in Richmond, Texas. "Hillestear's Battalion" turned out to be the Houston Battalion, organized by Major Waldemar Hyllested in January 1865, with Captain Hugh T. Scott commanding Co. A. Nathan was indeed 15 in January 1865, but since there are no muster rolls for Companies A, B, C, or E, there are no CSRs for eighty percent of the privates in the Houston Battalion.

We really wanted to find another source to corroborate the obituary. It stated that he "graduated in 1869 from Washington college, now called Washington and Lee University," so we contacted the university, hoping that their records would mention his military service, but they did not. They confirmed that he did attend there in 1867 and 1868, but did not graduate. The obituary also said that he "was connected with the police force for 30 years" and "was known as one of the bravest men in the city". So we contacted the Houston Police Retired Officers Association to see if they had any records of his military service. But again, nothing.

We knew that Nathan's family had a strong military background and was very supportive of the Cause. His only living brother, Belcher Pugh Fuller, was serving in Virginia as an officer in Company A, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Hood's Texas Brigade. His eldest sister, Mathilda Jane Fuller Young, made the battle flag for the Fifth Infantry and wrote numerous articles supporting the Confederacy. In the end, we determined that while the service described in the obituary could not be positively proved, neither could it be disproved. Although Nathan was too young for the regular army, he could well have enlisted when a Local Defense unit was organized in his hometown soon after he turned 15. The V.A. accepted our research, and provided this headstone to mark the previously unmarked grave of Confederate Veteran, Nathan Bragg Fuller.

Following his service in the Confederate Army, Nathan worked for *The Houston Post* for several years before joining the Police Department. On May 6, 1891, he married his second wife, Sophia Milligan, a widow with three children, and helped rear her children. While we have not located any direct descendants of Nathan or Sophia, we are in contact with descendants of Nathan's sister, Mathilda Young, most especially Catherine Young Pokrzywinski [*Pock-sha-VIN-ski*] of Cordova, TN, and her husband John.

Stuff that didn't fit ...

Nathan Bragg Fuller was born soon after the death of his oldest brother, Nathan F. Fuller.

His eldest sister, Mathilda Jane Fuller Young, was a botanist and writer who had several pen names including Maude Jennie and Patsy Pry. Her son, Dr. Samuel O. Young, later became a writer for *The Houston Post* and published several books (the Leon Hale of his day).

Additional Note: Thank you for these documents. "Belgher " should be spelled "Belcher." He enlisted as a Private and I believe mustered out as a Lieutenant. He served at Appomattox, and was wounded in the hand at the Battle of Wilderness. He was hospitalized in Richmond for an illness in a hospital that Maud Jenny raised funds for, Her son, Samuel Oliver Young II, joined Hoods Brigade at the age of 17 years, but saw little duty as the war was nearly over. So three members of Nathan Fuller's household served in the CSA, two sons and a grandson.