

Joseph E. Lowe
son of
William Harrison Lowe
and
Sarah C. Pleasant

born 1870
died between 1930 and 1936

served in the 3rd Tennessee Infantry
and the 37th U.S. Infantry

The 3rd Tennessee Infantry never saw combat, but was sent to
Cuba as part of the occupation forces, according to

<http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/exhibits/veterans/spanishamerican.htm>

The following document gives a physical description of Joseph Lowe,
military history and other personal information.

Although this document indicates that Joe Lowe had blue eyes and brown hair,
his granddaughter, Nellie Privette Blaylock Cox Byrd remembers her
grandfather with dark red hair and a dark red handlebar moustache. -- JK

SP WAR

Joseph E. Lowe

PROVISIONAL ARMY.

MILITARY HISTORY.

Time and Place of Each Enlistment.	Rank.	Company and Regiment.	Time and Place of Discharge.	Cause of Discharge.	Disabilities when admitted to the Home.
Jan'y. 22. 1898 Penn.	Pt.	A. S. Penn Inf	Jan'y 31. 1899 I saw also	muslin coat right	Loss of left eye ring finger left hand. defective vision both eyes.
aug. 8. 1899	Pt.	37. U.S. Inf.	Feb'y. 20. 1901 Colo	muslin coat right	chronic, malaria.

DOMESTIC HISTORY.

Where Born.	Age.	Height.	Complexion.	Color of Eyes.	Color of Hair.	Read and Write.	Religion.	Occupation.	Residence Subsequent to Discharge.	Married or Single.	Name and Address of Nearest Relative.
Tennessee	41	5-10	fair	Blue	Brown	yes.	Prot	farmer	Penn.	married	wife Martha E. Lowe Grandall Penn. Box 86,

HOME HISTORY.

Rate of Pension.	Date of Admission, Re-Admission and Transfer.	Conditions of Re-Admission.	Date of Discharge and Transfer.	Cause of Discharge.	Date of Death.	Cause of Death.
10.00	ad. mt B. 8-1-12		Re. mt B. 9-4-12	OR		

GENERAL REMARKS.

PAPERS.	Location of Grave and Remarks
Admission Paper 1	
Army Discharge 2	
Certificate of Service	
Pension Certificate 1126.991.	
EFFECTS.	
Cash \$	
Pension Money \$	
Personal, Appraised at sold \$	
Total \$	
How Disposed of	

History of the Spanish-American War -- from the Internet

The Spanish-American War (1898) was a conflict between the United States and Spain that ended Spanish colonial rule in the Americas and resulted in U.S. acquisition of territories in the western Pacific and Latin America.

The war originated in the Cuban struggle for independence from Spain, which began in February 1895. Spain's brutally repressive measures to halt the rebellion were graphically portrayed for the U.S. public by several sensational newspapers, and American sympathy for the rebels rose. The growing popular demand for U.S. intervention became an insistent chorus after the unexplained sinking in Havana harbour of the battleship USS Maine (Feb. 15, 1898; see Maine, destruction of the), which had been sent to protect U.S. citizens and property after anti-Spanish rioting in Havana. Spain announced an armistice on April 9 and speeded up its new program to grant Cuba limited powers of self-government, but the U.S. Congress soon afterward issued resolutions that declared Cuba's right to independence, demanded the withdrawal of Spain's armed forces from the island, and authorized the President's use of force to secure that withdrawal while renouncing any U.S. design for annexing Cuba.

Spain declared war on the United States on April 24, followed by a U.S. declaration of war on the 25th, which was made retroactive to April 21. The ensuing war was pathetically one-sided, since Spain had readied neither its army nor its navy for a distant war with the formidable power of the United States. Commo. George Dewey led a U.S. naval squadron into Manila Bay in the Philippines on May 1, 1898, and destroyed the anchored Spanish fleet in a leisurely morning engagement that cost only seven American seamen wounded. Manila itself was occupied by U.S. troops by August.

The elusive Spanish Caribbean fleet under Adm. Pascual Cervera was located in Santiago harbour in Cuba by U.S. reconnaissance. An army of regular troops and volunteers under Gen. William Shafter (and including Theodore Roosevelt and his 1st Volunteer Cavalry, the "Rough Riders") landed on the coast east of Santiago and slowly advanced on the city in an effort to force Cervera's fleet out of the harbour. Cervera led his squadron out of Santiago on July 3 and tried to escape westward along the coast. In the ensuing battle all of his ships came under heavy fire from U.S. guns and were beached in a burning or sinking condition. Santiago surrendered to Shafter on July 17, thus effectively ending the war.

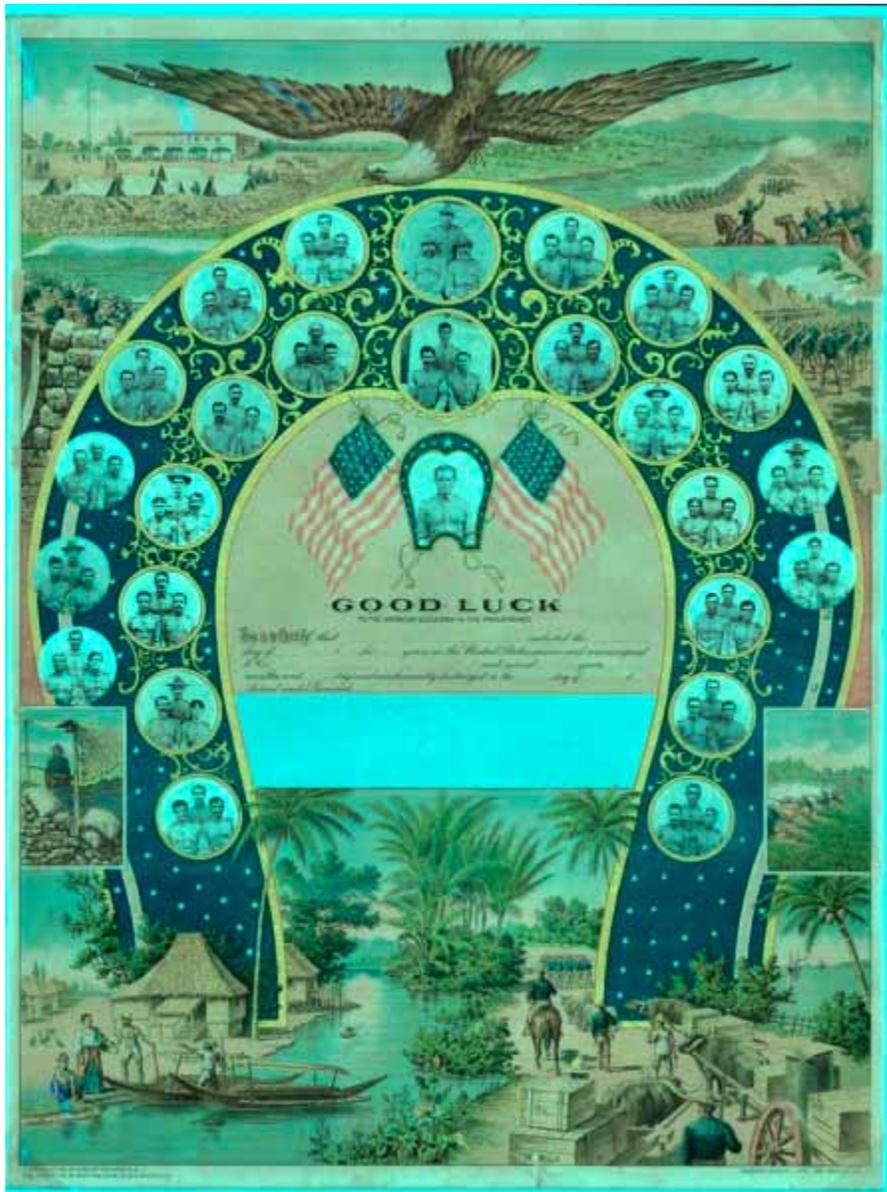
By the Treaty of Paris (signed Dec. 10, 1898), Spain renounced all claim to Cuba, ceded Guam and Puerto Rico to the United States, and transferred sovereignty over the Philippines to the United States for \$20,000,000. The Spanish-American War was an important turning point in the history of both antagonists. Spain's defeat decisively turned the nation's attention away from its overseas colonial adventures and inward upon its domestic needs, a process that led to both a cultural and a literary renaissance and two decades of much-needed economic development in Spain. The victorious United States, on the other hand, emerged from the war a world power with far-flung overseas possessions and a new stake in international politics that would soon lead it to play a determining role in the affairs of Europe.

<http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/exhibits/veterans/spanishamerican.htm>

Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection

Good Luck to the American Soldiers in the Philippines

"Good Luck to the American Soldiers in the Philippines," 1901



Library Broadside Collection

"We All Felt Like We Could Whip the World"

Secretary of State John Hay called it "a pleasant little war," and its outcome was never in doubt. U.S. forces would ultimately crush the Spanish, ending an empire that had begun with the discovery of America four centuries earlier. Complete victory over Spain signaled the emergence of the United States as a major player in international affairs.

The fighting in Cuba lasted about four months during the spring and summer of 1898. The conflict in the Philippines, however, would prove more troublesome — and cause more soul-searching.

The fighting took place simultaneously in two theaters, Cuba and the Philippines. As the war broke out, Spain was attempting to suppress popular rebellions in both colonies. Stories of Spanish cruelty toward the Cubans were widely published, and newspapers did not hesitate to use propaganda to incite their readers. The term "concentration camps" originated during this period, arising from the reconcentrados (prison camps) the Spanish military had been using in Cuba.

The case for war was advanced in part by the sinking of the USS Maine, an armored cruiser sent to Havana Harbor to protect American interests during the Cuban uprising. On February 15 an enormous explosion ripped apart the hull of the Maine, killing 266 sailors. The New York press, in a fit of jingoism, attributed the blast to Spanish sabotage and whipped up a ferocious war fever among readers.

Wreckage of the Maine

Wreckage of the Maine,
Havana, Cuba, 1898

"Remember the Maine, to Hell with Spain!" became the rallying cry of those eager for war. Such sensationalism sold millions of newspapers. Some historians believe this "yellow journalism" helped precipitate war with Spain.

Americans were already incensed by a harshly critical letter written by Spanish diplomat Enrique Dupuy de Lôme about President McKinley, who was actually against the idea of the war. When the note was published by William Randolph Hearst's New York Journal on February 9, 1898, public outrage against Spain was predictable.

Congress declared war against Spain in April 1898 for the purpose of liberating Cuba. The president called for 125,000 volunteers, and the first jubilant soldiers departed in June, singing "There'll be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight."

On April 22, 1898, the gunboat USS Nashville fired the opening volley of the war in the Caribbean and assisted in cutting the undersea telegraph cable between Spain and Cuba. Commander Washburn Maynard of Knoxville is credited with firing the first shell.

No Tennessee regiment saw combat in Cuba, though individual Tennesseans distinguished themselves during the fighting. Seventeen of them served in the First U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, popularly known as the "Rough Riders," commanded by Theodore Roosevelt. The Third Tennessee was sent to Cuba as part of the occupation forces. **[Joseph Lowe served in the Third Tennessee Infantry.]**

In the ranks of the regular Army in Cuba was a former Tennessee slave named Alfred Martin Ray who, under heavy fire, planted the first American flag on San Juan Hill. Ray, from Jonesborough, served in the celebrated Tenth U.S. Cavalry, nicknamed the "Buffalo Soldiers," with whom he was later sent to fight in the Philippines.

In all, Tennessee contributed four regiments (more than 4,200 men) to the Spanish-American War. Just one, the First Tennessee Infantry, saw combat, and that was in the Philippine Insurrection. The First Tennessee was disbanded in November 1899, but almost a third of its men joined the 37th U.S. Infantry, which became popularly known as the "Tennessee Brigade." The Second Tennessee, raised mostly from men in West Tennessee, trained for war but never saw combat. They were discharged in February 1899. **[Joseph Lowe served in the 37th U.S. Infantry.]**

Lt. John L. Jordan of the First Tennessee wanted to finish out his service in China. He believed the American soldiers had hardened in the Philippine campaigns and were already accustomed to the guerilla warfare they would find in China. He thought his Tennesseans could "outclass" any European power there.

An armistice in August 1898 stopped the shooting in both theaters. In December the Treaty of Paris ended the hostilities with Spain, forcing Spain to cede Puerto Rico and Guam to the United States. The Philippines were ceded to the U.S. in exchange for \$20 million, and Spain relinquished all claim to Cuba. America, once a colony itself, was becoming an imperialist power.



Playful soldiers relieving the boredom of camp life, 1898

Library Photograph Collection

Chronology of Major Events of the Spanish-American War

Jan 1898

Spanish sympathizers staged a riot in Havana, Cuba, a colony of Spain. The United States government sent the ship the U.S.S. Maine to Havana to protect the Americans in Cuba.

15 Feb 1898

The U.S. Maine was blown up in the Havana harbor. Many Americans believe that the ship was sunk by the Spanish, though the actual cause was never proven.

19 Apr 1898

The U.S. Congress adopted resolutions that declared Cuba independent from Spain and authorized U.S. military intervention to compel the Spanish to leave Cuba.

21 Apr 1898

Spain broke diplomatic relations with the United States. They declared a state of war on April 24. The U.S. officially declared war on Spain the following day.

23 Apr 1898

President McKinley asked for 125,000 volunteers to fight the war with Spain.

1 May 1898

Commodore George Dewey led an American attack against the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay in the Philippines, a Spanish colony. The Spanish fleet was destroyed, but the American ships were unharmed. Only eight Americans were slightly wounded in the skirmish.

15 Jun 1898

American forces repulsed a Spanish force at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

1 Jul 1898

American troops stormed the Spanish strongholds of San Juan and El Caney near Santiago, Cuba. Casualties were heavy on both sides. The city of Santiago surrendered on July 17th.

3 Jul 1898

The Spanish fleet, stationed in the Santiago harbor, was either destroyed or disabled.

25 Jul 1898

American troops landed at Guanica Harbor, Puerto Rico. Three days later the island surrendered.

12 Aug 1898

All hostilities ended by the terms of a protocol. The terms ceded Cuba and Guam, one of the Mariana Islands, to the United States. The U.S. also purchased the Philippine Islands.

10 Dec 1898

The peace treaty was signed in Paris.

6 Feb 1899

The peace treaty was approved by the U.S. Senate.