

Frederick Herman Snider  
by Michael Leamons

Frederick Herman (F. H.) Snider was a man on the move. He was born August, 1843 in Ohio to French and German immigrants,<sup>1</sup> who came to the U.S. from Germany about 6 years prior to Frederick's birth.<sup>2</sup> He enlisted in the Union Army on May 10, 1864, in Cincinnati, Ohio and was discharged on August 19, 1864. He served as a private in Company A, of the 137th Ohio Infantry.<sup>3</sup>

On July 26, 1875 in Victoria County, Texas, Frederick married Mary Blossman,<sup>4</sup> daughter of Elena Reyes Blossman, who was born in Tarragona, Catalonia, Spain to a well educated and cultured family and was a descendant of the famous explorer and conquistador, Ponce de Leon. Elena's grandfather was Felix Maria Samaniego<sup>5</sup>, "*...a poet whose books of fables for schoolchildren have a grace and simplicity that has won them a place as the first poems that Spanish children learn to recite in school.*"<sup>6</sup>

According to Bosque County tax rolls, in 1878, Frederick owned 415 acres in that county.<sup>7</sup> The federal census of 1880 indicates, Frederick and Mary were living in Hamilton County, Texas. In view of the other names listed beside theirs on the census report, the two were living, if not in Hico, at least in the near vicinity. Frederick was reported to have been a retired druggist.<sup>1</sup> As evidenced by stationary bearing his name, by 1883 Snider was operating a real estate and insurance agency in Hico. Several letters relating to his management of properties owned by Adele Looscan are maintained in an archive at the San Jacinto Museum of History.<sup>8</sup> In 1884, the Texas Secretary of State's Office listed Snider as a Hico notary.<sup>9</sup> In that same year,<sup>10</sup> a daughter, Mabel, was born to the Sniders.<sup>3</sup>

A few years later, F. H. was selling real estate, insurance and investment advice in Canadian, Texas. According to an article in the Canadian Free Press, the Sniders returned to Hico to sell some property, and F. H. decided to stay, after being elected Mayor in April, 1888, having received 45 out of the 52 ballots cast.<sup>11</sup> He was elected to a second term in 1889.<sup>12</sup> (With so many Confederate veterans living in Hico, it's curious that a veteran of the Union Army would be elected mayor. Evidently the people of Hico weren't particularly clannish, for although Snider's successor as mayor, Daniel Pingree, wasn't a veteran, he had been born and raised well north of the Mason-Dixon line.) In 1889 and 1891, Snider was listed as an insurance agent in Hico.<sup>13</sup> In 1890, while in Hico, he and John A. McLellan jointly filed a patent on a "Combined Flour Bin and Sifter."<sup>14</sup>

By 1894, Snider and his wife had again moved and were living in Ardmore, Oklahoma, where "Captain" Snider was operating a retail business.<sup>15</sup> Later, while living in Kay County, Oklahoma, Frederick was listed as an insurance salesman.<sup>16</sup> In 1910, the Sniders were again living in Ardmore.<sup>17</sup> From 1913 through 1916, Frederick spent most of his time in a Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in Dayton, Ohio. He was described as being 5' 6", light complected, with gray eyes and gray hair.<sup>3</sup> He died March 21, 1919 and is buried at Fort Smith National Cemetery in Arkansas.<sup>18</sup>

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1. 1880 Federal Census, Hamilton County, Texas, page 369B.
2. 1850 Census, Washington County, Ohio, page 292A.
3. Registry for the United States National Home for Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938, registration 37514.
4. Marriage records, Victoria County, Texas.
5. Transcript of obituary for Elena de Reyes Blossman posted on ancestry.com by rekrupp on November 17, 2010.
6. "Felix Maria Samaniego," Encyclopaedia Britannica, online version.
7. Bosque County Tax Roll, 1878.
8. Adele Briscoe Looscan Papers, MC041, Albert and Ethel Hezstein Library, San Jacinto Museum of History, One Monument Circle, La Porte, Texas.
9. Biennial Report of the Secretary of State of the State of Texas, by Texas Secretary of State, 1884, page 190.
10. 1920 Federal Census Record, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, page 5A.
11. The Canadian Crescent. (Canadian, Tex.), Vol. 1, No. 25, Ed. 1 Thursday, April 19, 1888, page 6.
12. List of the City of Hico Mayors.
13. The Southern Insurance Directory, 1889, page 244 and The Spectator Insurance Year Book: Fire and Marine Volume, 1891, page 439.
14. The Canadian Patent Office Record, Vol 18, No. 2, page 103, Patent Number 33,699.
15. "The Daily Ardmoreite," December 11, 1894 as republished in November 13, 2004, This & That Weekly, Vol 8 Issue 395 by Butch Bridges.
16. 1900 Federal Census, Kay County, Oklahoma, page 8A.
17. 1910 Federal Census, Carter County, Oklahoma, page 6B.
18. Frederick Snider findagrave.com memorial.