George Wilson Banta, Lieutenant, Co I 18 TX Cavalry C.S.

1841  January 29: Banta was born in Clarksville, TX to Isaac and Eliza Banta.

1850  October 23: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Hunt County, TX showed 8-year-old “Wilson” living with his parents and siblings. His father, Isaac, was a wagon wright.

1855  July 16: Banta’s father, Isaac, died in Burnet County, TX.

1862  March 1: Enlisted in the C.S. Army. He mustered into 18 TX Cavalry on March 15th.


1863  January 11: George was captured at Arkansas Post and sent to Camp Douglas.

April 2: Paroled at Camp Douglas, IL and delivered to City Point, VA for exchange.

May - December: Company Muster Roll. Present.

1864  January –April: Company Muster Roll. Present.

July: Appeared on an inspection report in the field near Atlanta as being absent by the authority of the medical board.

August 9: Listed as a patient ready for railroad transportation from St. Mary’s Hospital in La Grange, GA. He had been treated for Hernia.
November 30: Banta was wounded at the Battle of Franklin. The following account appeared in a Texas newspaper in Kerrville, TX in 1936.

James and Martha Davis lived in Franklin with their family in 1860. They had five daughters and one son. Medora “Dora” was 11 and Emma was 9. At the time they would have assisted George in escaping the girls would have only been 15 and 13 years old.
1865  March 15: Married Susan Rippey.

1870  August 17: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Gillespie County, TX showed George, a farmer, living with Susan and their three young children.

1879  July 18: *Brenham Weekly Banner*, Brenham, TX.

1880  June 15: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Burnet County, TX showed George, a farmer, living with Susan and their growing family.

1900  June 18: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Bandera County, TX showed George, a farmer, and Susan living with their three youngest children. Some of his other grown children live on neighboring farms with their families.

1930  March 15: Banta’s wife Susan died on their anniversary.

    April 10: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Bandera County, TX showed a recently widowed George living on his own at 89 years old.

1936(abt)

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1 Photo from ancestry.com
1937  March 15: Seventy-one years to date of his marriage and six years to the date of his wife's death, Banta died in Medina, Bandera County, TX. He was buried at Oak Rest Cemetery. (It is also interesting to note George mustered into the 18 TX on the same day. The Ides of March)

2 Photo from findagrave.com
March 18: *The Kerrville Times*, Kerrville, TX. An obituary for Banta appeared in the local newspaper.
Death Takes
George Banta
At Age of 96

George Wilson Banta, 96, one of the oldest native Texans and a resident of Bandera County since 1878, died Monday at his home in Medina, 23 miles south of Kerrville. Funeral rites for the nonagenarian were held there Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Banta was born at Clarksville, Red River County, on January 29, 1841, when Sam Houston was serving his second term as president of the Texas Republic. He served as a Confederate cavalryman during the Civil War, being wounded three times and twice taken prisoner. Once he was released from a Federal prison in Illinois in an exchange of prisoners and later fought under General Braxton Bragg in Virginia. The second time he was captured by the enemy he succeeded in making his escape, and at the close of the war returned to the home of his mother in Gillespie County.

The Hill Country pioneer lived in Burnet, Blanco and Gillespie counties before settling at Medina. In the early days, he had several skirmishes with Indians in this section.

Seven children survive. They are: E. J. Banta, C. W. Banta, Mrs. E. J. Greer and Mrs. Alma Keese, all of Medina; Mrs. D. M. Gibson of Los Angeles, Calif., Mrs. M. F. Balleau of San Diego, Calif., and Mrs. E. E. Baxter of Altus, Okla.