Theodore Frelinghuysen Brewer, Private, Co. K 47 TN Infantry C.S.

1845  January 20: Brewer was born to Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Brewer in Gibson County, TN.

1850  December 23: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Gibson County, TN showed six-year-old Theodore living with his parents and siblings. His father was a doctor.

1860  The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Gibson County, TN showed 17-year-old T.F. living with his parents and siblings. His father, James, was a doctor.

1862  February 21: Enlisted in the C.S. Army and was mustered into Co. K of the 47th TN Infantry.

March 21: Brother, Napoleon Bonaparte Brewer, enlisted in the C.S. Army. He mustered into the same company and regiment as his brother.

May to December 31: Company Muster Roll. Absent Remarks “Absent without leave.”

1863  January to April: Company Muster Roll. Absent. Remarks “At home without leave.”

1 Photos from ancestry.com
March 17: Brother, Napoleon died in Shelbyville, TN.

1864 July: Appeared on a report from St. Mary’s Hospital in La Grange, GA as being given a vaccination.

August 9: Appeared on a hospital list for St. Mary’s Hospital in La Grange, GA. He had dysentery. He was admitted on July 22nd.

November 30: Brewer fought at the Battle of Franklin.

1873 Marcy 26: Married Mrs. Mary Dyer in Corinth, MS.

1882 September: Co-founded a periodical called “Our Brother in Red” published monthly with the purpose of educating and converting Native Americans. The motto for the publication was “Christian education the hope of the Indian.”

1890 Brewer taught at Harrell Institute in Muskogee. One of his students was the future humorist Will Rogers. Unfortunately “Willie” was not a good student which forced Brewer to write a letter to Willie’s father “I regret to inform you that your son is not doing well in school and would suggest you remove him.”

1910 April 16: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Norman, Cleveland County, OK showed Theodore, a minister, and Mary living with their children.

1916 August 12: Wife, Mary, died in Oklahoma. The following obituary appeared in a local newspaper. It gives many details on the couple’s life.

“Mrs. T.F. Brewer Passes Away—-Wife of Well Known Clergyman Dies at Son’s Home in McAlester.--- Funeral services were held over the body of Mary E. Brewer, wife of Rev. T.F. Brewer of Eufaula, at the First Methodist church south, at 10 o’clock Sunday morning in Muskogee. Mrs. Brewer died Saturday morning at the home of her son, R.P. Brewer in McAlester.

Mrs. Brewer was prominent in both church and educational work throughout the state. Her life has been a career of benevolence and she is remembered as “Mother” in the hearts of graduates of Harrell Institute for girls, later Spaulding college.

Mary E. Brewer was born February 18, 1847, in Holly Springs, Miss. She wedded T.F. Brewer in Corinth, Miss., March 26, 1873, and five years later they moved to Indian Territory settling at Eufaula. During their residence in Eufaula Reverend Brewer was an instructor in the Asbury Manual labor school and was pastor at Eufaula. After being away from Eufaula thirty-six years, the minister was assigned to this place at the last Methodist conference in November.

Revered Brewer and his family move to Muskogee in 1890. It was at this time Mrs. Brewer organized Sunday school of the First Methodist church south there. In the following year the minister founded the Harrell institute for girls. The school later became known as Spaulding college.
As matron to the hundreds of girls who attended the school, the influence of Mrs. Brewer became a part of the character of many of Oklahoma’s young women.

Mrs. Brewer’s health caused her husband, to leave the college in 1908. The minister and his family moved to Norman where he was a member of the Oklahoma University faculty for two years. Four years he spent in Wagoner as pastor of the First Methodist church south and during that time acquired the title of the “marrying pastor.” Many couples went from Muskogee to be joined in marriage by the Reverend Brewer.

The body of Mrs. Brewer was carried to Muskogee Saturday night. Friends from Eufaula, Wagoner and other towns attended the funeral.”

1920 January 3: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Pittsburg County, OK showed a widowed Theodore still working as a preacher.

1928 April 6: Reverend Theodore Frelinghuysen Brewer died in Tulsa, OK. He was buried in Greenhill Cemetery.

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2 The Indian Journal, Eufaula, OK, Friday August 18, 1916, pg. 8
3 Photo from findagrave.com
REV. BREWER DIES IN TULSA

Former Wagoner Pastor Passed Away

Last Friday at Home of Son.—One of Best Known Ministers in Oklahoma—Story of His Life.

TULSA, April 6—The Rev. Theodore F. Brewer, pioneer minister, educator and missionary among the Indians, died here this morning at the home of his son, R. P. Brewer.

He became ill May 8, 1927, suffered a slight stroke of paralysis December 17 and a third about two weeks later. He had been confined to his bed continuously since his first illness.

Mr. Brewer was one of the most widely known preachers and educators in eastern Oklahoma, having served as pastor of Methodist Episcopal church, South, churches in Muskogee, McAlester, Guthrie, Eufaula, Wagoner, North McAlester, and Broken Arrow. He also served as president of the Asbury Manual Training School for Indians at Eufaula, of the old Harrell Institute at Muskogee, and the Willie Halsey college at Vinita.

He was a member of the first state textbook commission and was the first man in the state to hold the position of state high school visitor.

Born and Educated in Tennessee

Theodore Frelinghuyzen Brewer was born on a plantation in Gibson County, Tennessee, January 20, 1845. He was the son of Dr. and Mrs. James M. Brewer.

His early education was in public schools of Tennessee and at home study and at an early age entered Yorkville Academy, at Yorkville, Tenn., being graduated at the early age of 13 years. After graduation he entered Andrew college but with the start of the Civil War, although only 16 years old, he quit school to join the 21st Tennessee Cavalry under General N. B. Forrest, taking part in 29 engagements beginning with the battle of Shiloh and terminating with the battle of Franklin.

At the close of the war he was discharged from the army and reentered Andrew college where he received his B. A. degree in June, 1866. He taught school the following summer and in October of that year was licensed to preach by the conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, South. In November of the same year he was admitted on trial into the Memphis conference at Jackson, Tenn., and was appointed assistant on the Dyersburg circuit which included 19 charges in a territory 60 miles long and 38 miles wide.

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