# SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Lt. Commander Edward Lea U.S.N. – Camp Number 2



# **Harriet Lane**

#### FROM THE COMMANDER'S TENT

When each of us joined the SUVCW one of the questions we faced is "what do I wear?" The camp rules describe a "camp uniform" (blue blazer, camp tie and gray slacks) that is to be worn for certain occasions. Some members however go out and spend \$300 or more to buy an authentic Union Army uniform. Why go to this trouble and expense?

When I first joined I had no intention of ever buying a uniform. Yet now I have. The basic reason for my change of heart is seeing the reactions of people when members appeared at events in uniform. Invariably they were asked about the details of the uniforms and the different pieces of equipment. People wanted to know more about the Civil War era and about the SUVCW. I realized that this was our most effective tool we have for publicizing our order and its mission. And to be honest with you it's a lot of fun to wear the uniform and be the center of attention like that.

Nowhere was this more apparent than our recent trip to Junction Texas to honor two living daughters of a Civil War veteran. Almost everyone participating was in period uniform, and in my opinion I think this was a major factor in the success of the event.

The camp is planning several events later this year where it would be fun to be in period uniform. These include the Houston Veteran's Day Parade, the Civil War weekend at the Liendo Plantation near Prairie View, and the dedication of our new monument in Galveston honoring the Union soldiers and sailors killed at the Battle of Galveston, which will be in January. We also have a volunteer Union gun crew, and are in the process of forming a color guard, both of which will be in period dress.

Please don't think I am trying to pressure anyone to fork over a bunch of money to buy a period uniform. Believe me you are always welcome at any event no matter what you are wearing. The important thing is that you are there. But if you've ever toyed with the idea let me encourage you to give it a try. I think you'll find, as I have done, that it is a lot of fun and money well spent.

#### Steve

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SUVCW Edward Lea Camp #2 website: http://www.geocities.com/edwardleacamp/

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#### Trivia – Calendar Clocks

Starting around 1865, clocks told not only the time but the day, the date, and even the month. The calendar clock had been a mechanical possibility for centuries, but in America after the Civil War, it finally took hold, and inventors peppered the Patent Office with improvements.

With one dial or two separate ones, it was a gadget suited to the age, equally popular in schools, offices, and front parlors. A Connecticut inventor named Daniel J. Gale patented clocks that kept track of the number of years until the next leap year, the week number (out of 52), the moon phase, and the sunrise/sunset times on a latitude he described only as "New England."

After 1915, the craze for calendar clocks of all types faded, just as quickly as it had once taken hold. By the end of the 1920's, almost none were being manufactured in the United States.

### Editor's Message

I would like to extend my heartfelt "Thank You" for all the support and positive comments I have received regarding the Spring 2003 re-launching of the *Harriet Lane*. Much credit must be extended to the many SUVCW Brothers who assisted me with contributions and assistance with the production of that inauguralissue.

Like Commander Schulze, I also attended my first SUVCW function in full period attire. Like he, I also was a little apprehensive about donning such unusual clothing in the land of blue jeans and cowboy hats! That apprehension evaporated immediately after I saw and felt the positive reaction of 'ordinary' citizens. The grand spectacle of numerous men dressed in authentic looking Union and Confederate uniforms seemed to create instant admiration and curiosity. I felt proud to play my small part in honoring and remembering our heroic forefathers.

As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, I welcome comments and suggestions about the content and form of the *Harriet Lane*. One suggestion recently received was to distribute the *Harriet Lane* via e-mail instead of through the U.S. postal system. Several Brothers cited: ease of reading, lower postage costs, and flexible printing options, as factors favoring an electronic distribution of the newsletter. Although I concur with these benefits of electronic vs. paper, I still plan to mail hard copies to anyone requesting such.

Please let me know if you still wish to receive the traditional paper version of your newsletter. Or if you have a new e-mail address, please notify me in order to be included on the electronic mailing list.

Michael L. Lance Editor

The *Harriet Lane* newsletter is published quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter). Please send questions, letters, suggestions or corrections concerning the newsletter to the Editor: Michael L. Lance, 6303 Craigway, Spring, TX 77389 (or E-mail <a href="mlance1963@charter.net">mlance1963@charter.net</a>). Publishing deadlines are: Spring issue - February 15, Summer issue - May 15, Fall issue - August 15, Winter issue - November 15.

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#### **Member Ancestor Profile**

### Iowa's Hundred Days Men: Philip and John Apffel

Philip Jacob Apffel was born in Wissembourg, Alsace, France on 6 June 1825 and immigrated to the United States in 1851. He is believed to have arrived at New Orleans before traveling up the Mississippi River to settle in Dubuque, Iowa. He married Katherine Schambeck in that city in 1854 and in 1859 became a naturalized citizen. Throughout the 1850s and early 1860s, he worked as a carpenter and painter. In the waning months of the Civil War, Philip volunteered for military service and became one of Iowa's so-called Hundred Days' Men.

By 1864, the Union army had advanced deep into the Confederacy and was burdened with the task of guarding communication lines throughout its conquered territory. In an effort to relieve the more experienced troops from garrison duty and return them to engage the enemy, the call went out in Iowa to provide volunteers to serve 100-day enlistments for this purpose. The people of the state responded and four regiments were raised: the 44th, 45th, 46<sup>th</sup> and 47th Iowa Volunteer Infantries.

Philip Apffel enlisted on 5 May 1864 and was detailed to Company A of the 46th Iowa Volunteers. Known as the Union Guards, his unit was mustered into service on 10 June 1864 at Davenport, Iowa and sent to Memphis, Tennessee. On 27 June 1864, Company A was sent to Collierville, Tennessee to guard the railroads from rebel attack. On the 28th, his unit was detailed to Camp Look Out, a post three miles west of Collierville, and situated on the Charleston-Memphis rail line. Here they remained until 1 September 1864 when the entire 46th Iowa was ordered back to Memphis. From there, the unit was transported back to Davenport and mustered out of service on 23 September.

Following the expiration of his term of service, Philip returned to Dubuque, where he remained until 1873. By 1874, Philip and his family had relocated to Galveston, Texas, where he and three of his sons were engaged in carpentry and painting. Circa 1882, Philip moved to San Francisco, California where he remained until his death on 18 September 1906. (It should be noted that he survived the April 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and that his death was unrelated to that disaster) Philip was a member of George H. Thomas Post #2, Grand Army of the Republic, and is buried in San Francisco (Presidio) National Cemetery, Section GHT, Row 49, Grave 324.

Philip's brother, John (Johann) Apffel was also a Union Army veteran. John was born 20 January 1833 in Wissembourg, Alsace, France and accompanied his brother to America. He too settled in Dubuque where he married his spouse Magdalena (Madeleine) Knoll in 1856. Along with his brother, John also served in the 46th Iowa for the same period of service. After the war, he migrated to Los Angeles where he died on 16 July 1888. He was buried in Rosedale Cemetery, Los Angeles and has a military headstone denoting his Civil War service. Of note, John's grandson, Edward Apffel, founded the Apffel Coffee Company in 1914. This firm survives today and sells specialty coffees in gourmet markets throughout southern California.

Submitted by: Mr. Harrold Henck, Jr.
Past Camp Commander
Edward Lea Camp #2 SUVCW

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#### Rose O'Neal Greenhow - Spy

In the U.S. Civil War, spying was common, but the identification of and catching of spies was difficult. This was because of the common heritage and language of the belligerents and because people who lived on one side often favored the other. At the outbreak of the war, there were no existing intelligence organizations and little in the way of intelligence experience among the military on either side. No Confederate or Union General had the intelligence skills of George Washington. Although there were no trained professionals, some of what took place was rousing and dramatic.

When the conflict started, Lincoln called private detective Allan Pinkerton, the founder of a national private detective agency, to found a secret service, which eventually became *the* Secret Service. Unfortunately, Pinkerton was a better detective than a counter-spy but his work in capturing a female Confederate agent is illustrative of a chivalrous but naïve attitude toward women that both sides often displayed.

In the 1850's, Washington widow Rose O'Neal Greenhow, a popular hostess with a diverse circle of friends, wholeheartedly supported the Southern cause. Before Colonel Thomas Jordan resigned his Union Army commission and left Washington to become adjutant-general of the Confederate army, he made espionage arrangements with Greenhow that proved bloody for the North. In July 1861, Greenhow alerted the Confederates to Union plans for the first major battle of the Civil War - the First Battle of Bull Run. Her warning turned an expected Union victory into a grim and astonishing defeat. Suspicions were aroused and Pinkerton was ordered to place Greenhow under close surveillance. He spent many nights outside the high windows of her home, balancing on the shoulders of two of his men, and peeking through the shutters. Greenhow was involved in a liaison with a traitorous Union officer, and eventually Pinkerton felt he had enough evidence to arrest her. In a naïve effort to trap her contacts, he had Greenhow confined to her home. Amazingly, none of the Pinkerton agents watching the Greenhow home noticed that Greenhow's eight-yearold daughter would climb a tree outside the house and chant "Mother has been arrested" whenever anyone she recognized came near the house. Greenhow's contacts hid and Pinkerton wondered why he could make no further arrests. Information kept leaking from the Greenhow home, but the Pinkerton operatives were too chivalrous to investigate the thick-stockinged legs of Greenhow's friend Lillie MacKall or what might be hidden in the shoes of Greenhow's daughter as the little girl ran in and out of the yard. Eventually, Greenhow and her daughter were transferred to Washington's Old Capitol Prison, but even in prison, she continued spying, writing cryptic messages that she kept hidden and then handing them out the window to agents, doing this until her window was boarded up.

However, that wasn't the end. Greenhow kept bragging about her exploits. In March, 1862, a defiant Greenhow was given a hearing on the charges of espionage and taunted the judge, "If I gave the information you say I have, I must have got it from sources that were in the confidence of the government. If Mr. Lincoln's friends will pour into my ear such important information, am I to be held responsible for all that?"

Since Greenhow had many Northern friends in high places, a trial would have been a hot potato. The judge decided it would be best to exile her from Washington. He sent her south and asked her to pledge not to return during the course of the war. She left the Old Capitol Prison draped in a Confederate flag, and was greeted as a hero by the elite in Richmond when she arrived there. In the South, Greenhow, now famous, was sent to Britain and France as Confederate President Jefferson Davis' personal envoy. She slipped through a blockade of Union ships, and upon reaching Britain was welcomed by the gentry who favored the Southern cause and arranged for her to be received by Queen Victoria. In Britain, she wrote and published her book, My Imprisonment and the First Year of Abolition Rule at Washington. All the while, she worked diligently to raise money for the South. Traveling in Europe, she found a strong sympathy for the South among the ruling classes. In Paris, she was granted an audience with Emperor Napoleon III. On 1 October 1864, returning home, she set sail from England on the Confederate blockade-runner Condor, but the vessel ran aground in heavy seas off the North Carolina coast. To avoid possible Union capture, Greenhow insisted on going ashore in a small boat, which overturned in the surf. 'Rebel Rose' alone was drowned - some said she was dragged under by the weight of the gold sovereigns she had obtained for the Confederates and sewed into her clothing. Her body was recovered and buried with full honors by the Confederacy. Though records vary, she was about 50 years old at the time of her death. It is fascinating to speculate that the Civil War might have ended sooner if the North had won the First Battle of Bull Run, which could well have happened but for Greenhow's espionage. End

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### **Secrets of the Hunley**

With a 90-pound explosive charge attached to an iron spar protruding from her bow, the Confederate sub *H. L. Hunley* looked like a lopsided hypodermic needle. On the night of February 18, 1864, off Charleston, South Carolina, she gave the Union sloop *Housatonic* a lethal injection.

After ramming the barbed spar into the *Housatonic's* wooden hull, crewmen furiously hand-cranked their engineless vessel across the surface of the harbor amid small-arms fire from the surprised Yankee sailors. In so doing, they unspooled a line attached to a trigger mechanism. About a minute later, a mighty explosion sank the *Housatonic* almost instantly, killing five of her crew. According to one account, the *Hunley* then signaled with a gas lantern to lookouts four miles away on Sullivan's Island and then disappeared with her crew of nine.

Since then, the *Hunley* has been awash in mystery and controversy as well as mud. The controversy intensified after she was lifted from the harbor floor on August 8, 2000, by a team led by the novelist and shipwreck expert Clive Cussler. Another salver says he found the submarine back in 1970 (although he made no attempt to raise her); while a self-styled 'degreed archeologist' says he located her in 1973. But Cussler insists his group was the first to pinpoint the *Hunley's* location. The government agrees with his claim.

The Hunley Commission, a semi-private organization operated by South Carolina, has taken charge of the submarine's preservation. At the new Warren Lasch Conservation Center in North Charleston, the *Hunley* rests submerged in a huge water tank whose pH, oxygen level, and conductivity are regulated by a computer.

The vessel turns out to be rounder than was thought. She also has previously unrecorded hydrodynamic fins built into her sides, and there are signs that gunshots from the *Housatonic* may have penetrated her conning tower. Nothing as yet explains, however, what made her sink.

Robert Neyland, the project director, and his team are using a three-dimensional scanner to record 2.5 billion survey points, which will map the artifact's external shape. Sonar allows the researchers to probe its interior. "We plan to remove rivets and take off plates shortly," says Neyland, "and we plan to go inside by March." What does he expect to find? "You never know for sure, but I think we'll find human remains."

Calendar For 2003			
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	
Tuesday June 10	Monthly Meeting - Guest Speaker - Deborah Konrad	Spaghetti Warehouse - Houston	
Tuesday July 8	Monthly Meeting	Spaghetti Warehouse - Houston	
No Meeting in August			
Tuesday September 9	Monthly Meeting	Spaghetti Warehouse - Houston	
Tuesday October 14	Monthly Meeting	Spaghetti Warehouse - Houston	
Tuesday November 11	Monthly Meeting - Veteran's Day Observance	To be announced	
Date to be announced	Civil War Weekend	Liendo Plantation	
Tuesday December 9	Monthly Meeting	Spaghetti Warehouse – Houston	

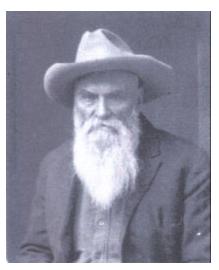
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# **Recent Camp Events**

The day dawned cloudy and breezy at Junction, Texas on Sunday, May 4, 2003. For the nearly twenty members of the **Sons of Union Veterans and Sons of Confede rate Veterans of the Civil War** who converged on Junction that day, those clouds and breezes were a blessing. For in just a few hours, those Brothers planned to don heavy woolen uniforms similar to those worn by their Civil War soldier forefathers. The participating Brothers had trekked to Junction from as far away as Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, Round Rock, San Angelo, and Corpus Christi. Some had arrived earlier and had lodged at area motels. After a leisurely Sunday breakfast, the men began to assemble at the cemetery in Junction. The ceremony planned for this Sunday morning had long been anticipated. Numerous area citizens and family members gathered under an open tent and stood, snapped pictures, or relaxed on chairs. The upcoming activities of the day were planned to honor 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John William Boone of the 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Company E, Indiana Cavalry.

The ceremony was also highlighted by of the three living daughters of Lt. age 88, and Mrs. Tempa Boone daughter of Lt. Boone, Mrs. Flossie state and was unable to attend. A fourth 'Gussie' Boone Watson passed away buried next to her father, 1st Lt. Boone.

A bugle call given by **Mr. Bruce Smith** bearers and the musket squad. They the immediate rear of Lt. Boone's Bearers posted the colors by stepping holders near Mr. Boone's grave. of Lt. Boone, then gave the invocation.



the attendance and recognition of two Boone: Mrs. Maude Boone Graham, Reynolds, age 93. The third living Boone McLendon is living out of daughter, Mrs. Mary Augusta February 20, 2003 at age 97 and was

summoned forth the uniformed flag marched up single file and halted to gravesite. On command, the Flag forward and placing the flags into flag **Reverend Tim Graham**, a grandson

# 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John William Boone later in life – born April 15, 1845 – died April 12, 1930

Mr. Stephen Schulze, Commander of Edward Lea Camp #2 SUVCW of Houston led the Pledge to the U.S Flag.

Mr. Dean Letzring, Commander of the *Department of the Southwest, SUVCW*, welcomed all and introduced the guests – which included: Mr. Jim Fleming from the *Tom Green SCVCW* camp in San Angelo, Texas; Mrs. Tamara Pitts from San Antonio, Texas representing the *Daughters of Union Veterans*; Bill Brinkman from the *Sam Houston SUVCW* camp in Round Rock, Texas; and Brother Mark Backus from the *Lone Star SUVCW* Camp in Dallas, Texas.

A proclamation was read by Junction Mayor **Alan Herring**.

Another grandson of Lt. Boone, **Mr. Patrick Graham**, gave an interesting and informative biographical sketch of his grandfather.

Department Commander **Dean Letzring** then introduced Lt. Boone's two attending daughters to the assembled crowd. The two distinguished looking ladies were each presented with a bouquet of flowers by **Mrs. Janice Watson Kirby**, a daughter of **Mary Augusta Boone Watson**. Commander Letzring then awarded a special *SUVCW* certificate honoring *Real Sons and Daughters of Union Veterans*.

A roll call for the three other Union Veterans interred at the cemetery was then given by **Mr. Stephen Forman**, Past Camp Commander, *Edward Lea Camp #2 SUVCW*.

A beautiful wreath was then placed on a stand at Lt. Boone's grave.

Bagpiper **John Fargason** played *Amazing Grace*.

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The musket squad, commanded by Mr. Stephen Forman, saluted with three volleys.



Bugler Bruce Smith then sounded Taps.

Amidst the waving flags, the benediction was given by Chaplain Randy Scallan, Edward Lea Camp #2, SUVCW.

At the conclusion of the formal ceremony, participants, family members, special guests, and spectators mingled for conversation and photo opportunities. **Mrs. Graham** and **Mrs. Reynolds** (below) were obviously the main attraction.



Ceremony participants and guests were then invited to a meal and refreshments at nearby City Park. Members of the *Mary Harlow-Griffith Chapter #16 of The Order of the Confederate Rose* of Junction hosted the park festivities. Once again, we were able to mingle and converse with the special guests and enjoy the fellowship of our SUV and SCV Brothers. The folks of Junction were gracious and friendly hosts and we warmly thank them all.

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# Members Page - Volunteers Needed

### \* Camp Patriotic Instructor - the activities of the Camp Patriotic Instructor should include:

- Presenting at each Camp meeting information on such items as:
  - 1) Civil War military, civilian, and other great American leaders
  - 2) National and state holidays
  - 3) The United States Flag
  - 4) Duties of citizenship such as voting
  - 5) Great Civil War battles and battles of other wars
  - 6) Great American artifacts and sites
- Providing public displays and orations on patriotism as called upon
- Providing awards of recognition to deserving individuals as deemed necessary or ordered by the Camp.

#### \* **Camp Guard** – The activities of the Camp Guard should include:

- Securing the door of the Camp meeting
- Checking dues receipts or cards of Brothers and admitting only qualified Brothers and authorized visitors
- Allowing no one to enter during the opening or closing of the Camp
- Allowing no one to enter during the initiation of candidates
- Becoming familiar with the duties of the office as set forth in the Order's Ritual and Ceremonials

#### \* Camp Color Bearer – The activities of the Camp Color Bearer should include:

- Placing the altar cloth and an unopened Bible on the altar prior to the opening of the Camp
- Placing station banners at the stations prior to the opening of the camp
- Assisting the Guide in ascertaining if everyone present is entitled to remain for the Camp meeting
- Presenting the United States Flag during the Pledge of Allegiance by the Camp
- Attending to the altar and stations by removing the altar cloth, Bible and station banners following the close of the Camp
- Becoming familiar with the duties of the office as set forth in the Order's Ritual and Ceremonials

#### \* Camp Guide – The activities of the Camp Guide should include:

- Ensuring that the Camp room is in proper order and that the altar and stations are properly arranged
- Instructing candidates for membership per the instructions of the Order's Ritual and Ceremonials
- Acting as an escort for all visitors
- Ascertaining if everyone present is entitled to remain for the Camp meeting
- Becoming familiar with the duties of the office as set forth in the Order's Ritual and Ceremonials

If you have an interest in supporting our Camp by serving in any of the above mentioned open positions, please notify Camp Commander Steve Schulze.

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# The Grand Review 23-24 May 1865

On 23 May 1865, the city of Washington was aflutter. Only weeks earlier, Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia had surrendered, bringing an end to the long and bloody nightmare of the Civil War. Now, the nation prepared to celebrate. On this day and the next, more than 200,000 men in blue would march in a Grand Review, and receive a final salute and a long goodbye from thousands of grateful citizens.

Tuesday, the first day of the review, was cloudless, the sky a brilliant blue, and the weather "sent from Heaven." Bleachers lined Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol to the reviewing stand in front of the President's House.

At 9 a.m. the Grand Review began as General George Gordon Meade lead the Army of the Potomac out onto the Avenue. The tumult of "sound and motion" swept over the city as children sang patriotic songs, flags waved and young girls threw flowers at the passing heroes. "Almost all the officers in the army had their hands filled with roses, and many had wreaths around their horse's necks," wrote Mrs. Henry Adams. Citizens, who were dressed in their Sunday best, hurrahed as the army marched by. Mrs. Adams wrote, "we sang out as each regiment passed. 'What regiment are you?' 'Michigan!' 'Wisconsin!'

As Meade reached the reviewing stand, the band struck up "John Brown." After saluting President Andy Johnson and General Grant, Meade dismounted to review his troops. The reviewing stand was crowded with dignitaries and decorated with pots of azaleas and cactuses in full bloom. Above the President and members of the Cabinet, hung great American flags inscribed with the names of Union victories – Petersburg, Vicksburg, Shiloh, Wilderness, Antietam, Gettysburg, and Richmond. Over the President's House, the Stars and Stripes flew at full mast for the first time in the nearly six weeks since Lincoln's assassination.

Back on the Avenue, General Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain turned as the parade neared the Treasury. Chamberlain, a scholar from Maine's Bowdoin College and the hero of Little Round Top, took a backward glance at the "mighty spectacle: the broad Avenue for more than a mile solid full, from door to roof, with straining forms and outwelling hearts. In the midst, onpressing that darker stream, with arms and colors resplendent in the noon-day sun, an army of tested manhood, clothed with power, crowned with glory, marched to its dissolution!"

For six full hours came the Army of the Potomac, its soldiers spit and polished, their bayonets freshly polished and gleaming in the sun. General Chamberlain noted that the "new uniforms, sashes, epaulettes, saddle housings and other gay trappings almost disguised some of our hardiest veterans."

The Zouave regiments wore red bag trousers, pale sea-green sashes, dark blue jackets braided with red, and red fezzes on their heads with yellow tassels. Irish units wore sprigs of greenery in their caps. On came the artillery, ambulances, wagons, pontoon bridges and seven unbroken miles of cavalry. The formal majesty of the occasion was broken only once when 25 year old General George Custer bolted past the reviewing stand, his horse spooked by a wreath thrown from the curb. With his golden curls flying in the wind, and his scarlet scarf whipping behind, the young general regained control of his horse and returned to pass the reviewing stand at a more stately pace.

As each regiment passed the President's House, their thoughts must have turned to the unseen presence of the late President. Chamberlain wrote "we miss the deep, sad eyes of Lincoln coming to review us after each sore trial. Something is lacking in our hearts now, even in this supreme hour."

Mrs. Adams wrote to a friend "It was a strange feeling to be so intensely happy and triumphant, and yet to feel like crying."

On the reviewing stand, General William Sherman, commander of the western armies kept a sharp eye on the Potomac boys. The red-haired Ohioan wondered how his rough and tumble plowboys, who were to march the next day would measure up to this "bandbox" Army? He turned to Meade and said, "I am afraid my poor tatterdemalion corps will make a poor appearance tomorrow when contrasted with yours." Sherman noted, to himself, however, that the Potomac men "turned their heads around like country gawks to look at the big people on the stand," and warned his officers that the westerners had better "keep their eyes 15 feet to the front." Sherman needn't have worried.

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The next day, 24 May 1865, dawned cool and clear as the western armies crossed the Potomac like the "uncoiling of a tremendous python." At 9 a.m., a cannon boomed and the band struck up "The Star Spangled Banner." William Tecumseh Sherman, his battered slouch hat in hand, led his rag-tag Army out into the sea of adoring citizens.

Sherman's farmers and plowboys were a sharp contrast to their eastern cousins. Their uniforms, according to a New England soldier, had weathered to a "cross between Regulation blue and Southern gray. Their hair and beards were uncut and uncombed; huge slouched hats, black and gray, adorned their heads; their boots were covered with the mud they had brought up from Georgia." But to Mrs. Henry Adams, Sherman's Army "in physique and marching surpass decidedly the Potomac Army." A reporter noted the soldiers to be "all bone and muscle and skin under their tattered battle flags." Their rolling swagger caused a spectator to proclaim "they march like the lords of the world!" Sherman turned to admire the sight. It was "simply magnificent."

As the sunburned Westerners marched with their eyes 15 feet to the front, one of them, a 5' 8 ½' tall blue-eyed, blond-haired Missouri farm boy must have been flooded with memories. He'd seen it all, from the opening days of the war, to bloody Shiloh, his father's death in Atlanta and now the Grand Review. Of the 900 men who had signed up with him in 1861, only 187 remained. He was my great-grandfather, Corporal James Knox, 18<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry.

For two full days, the Grand Army of the Republic marched the streets of Washington, their regimental flags flying, bullet torn and blood-stained battle flags held proudly aloft. The battle flags, presented to regiments by their communities, represented home and family. Even though flag-bearers were the first targets of enemy marksmen, carrying the colors was an honor. Mrs. Adams wrote, "the colors told a sad history. Some regiments with nothing but a bare pole, a little bit of rag only; hanging a few inches, to show where their flag had been. Others that had been the Stars and Stripes, with one or two stripes hanging, all the rest shot away." Yes, we'll rally once again, shouting the battle cry of freedom!

As the armies marched, it must have felt as if their cadence echoed the names of the dead and the places they fell: Antietam; Malvern Hill; Gaines' Mill; Chancellorsville; Gettysburg; The Wilderness; Spottsylvania; Lone Jack; Cold Harbor; Chickahominy; Fredericksburg; Sailor's Creek; Shiloh; Atlanta; Five Forks; Corinth; Vicksburg; Chickamauga; Chattanooga.

In the four years of war, almost two million Union men joined the fight. Of those, over 110,000 died in battle and hundreds of thousands more of disease. Boyhood friends lay in shallow graves in thousands of battlefields across America. Historian Shelby Foote wrote, "for every two men who marched up Pennsylvania Avenue, the ghost of a third marched with them." In a letter home, spectator Ellen Hooper said "It was a sad day too – you felt as if there were another army – larger and finer – marching about them."

In a few weeks this army would disappear forever, the men paid and mustered out and the army officially disbanded. But today was theirs. Flowers paved their steps, the Stars and Stripes fluttered over a cheering city, and against the field of blue, each star remained intact, as did the nation. Long after the armies passed and the footsteps of the Grand Army of the Republic faded in to history, the Union – their Union – remains preserved. I with I'd been there. (Nancy Hendrickson)



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# A Maine Regiment at Gettysburg

Joshua Chamberlain and the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine Regiment have received acclaim for their role at the Battle of Gettysburg, but often overlooked is another unit of soldiers from Maine that also did its part on the killing fields of Pennsylvania.

The rocky islands and windswept coast of Maine seemed far removed from the sun-baked fields of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on July 2, 1863. The sounds of battle were all around the men of the 19<sup>th</sup> Maine Volunteer Infantry. Cannon boomed and minie balls whined overhead. The long line of soldiers fidgeted inside their scratchy, blue-wool uniforms as the sun beat down. They watched with a mixture of eagerness and apprehension as the fighting ebbed and flowed in front of them.

Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, commander of the Army of the Potomac's 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, had placed the Maine unit into position by leading a man to where he wanted the regiment to form. "Will you stay here?" he asked. "We'll stay here, General, until hell freezes over!" The soldier replied.

Hancock smiled. It was just the answer he wanted. After all, much was at stake. The outcome of the battle, even of the whole war hung in the balance as if on the edge of a bayonet. Before the day ended, the actions of another Pine Tree State regiment, the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine under Colonel Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, would become the stuff of legend a short distance away at Little Round Top. Yet the men of the 19<sup>th</sup> would carry out their own acts of battlefield heroism to aid the Union cause at Gettysburg.

For the Maine soldiers, Gettysburg was one of the long string of battles they would see throughout the war. Mustered into service on August 25, 1862, the 19<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Maine Volunteer Infantry belonged to the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division of the Army of the Potomac's 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps. It saw action in 21 skirmishes and battles, including some of the war's most significant struggles: Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Cold Harbor, The Wilderness, and Spotsylvania. Gettysburg, however, would represent what was probably the greatest moment for the men of the 19<sup>th</sup> Maine.

The 19<sup>th</sup> started the war with something of a reputation, and not a good one. A story had circulated that in October 1862 at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, a dull-witted soldier from the 19<sup>th</sup> had built a fire and set his frying pan on some live artillery shells to cook supper. The shells had exploded, the man had been killed, and the noise had sent the soldiers into a panic, thinking they were being attacked. In reality, a brush fire had spread to a pile of shells and set them off, but the incident was embellished in the Philadelphia *Inquirer* and other newspapers, making the 19<sup>th</sup> the laughing stock of the Union Army.

At full strength, the regiment had 1,008 men, comprised of 969 enlisted and 39 officers. Most of the regiment's soldiers hailed from Maine's coastal towns and villages, some of them from the remote and rugged islands off the coast. One such place, Vinalhaven Island in Penobscot Bay, is so far out in the Atlantic Ocean that it takes modern ferries nearly an hour and a half to travel between the island and mainland. In the 1860's, Vinalhaven was remote from the rest of the Union, let alone the Confederacy. Yet the island would contribute at least 172 soldiers and sailors to the Union cause.

The soldiers sent frequent letters to their families. For many, it was their first time away from home, and few had ever been as far south as New York City or Washington. Eighteen-year old Woster Vinal, from one of the island's prominent families, gently chided his father in a letter he penned in Washington on September 15, 1862: "I want you to write and send me some postage stamps and when you get a chance I want you to send me a pair of stockins. I only want one pair," he wrote. "I want all hands of you to write don't be so afraid of your three cents."

It's understandable that the islanders might have been frugal. After all, they made a hard living from fishing and by quarrying Vinalhaven's famous granite

The Carvers were another well-known island family who sent young men to fight for the Union. A total of five Carvers – either brothers or cousins – would wear blue. One of them, a schoolteacher named Lafayette, joined the regiment when it formed. In his mid-20's, the brown-haired, blue-eyed islander was married and had a small child. Lafayette signed up as a private, but by 1864 he had been commissioned as a lieutenant in Company I. In August 1863, he wrote

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home to his father, "If I never do [survive] I believe you can die happy in knowing and saying you gave two sons for your country's cause." Those words would prove prophetic.

Lafayette's older brother, Thaddeus, was killed in action on May 27, 1863, at Port Hudson, Louisiana. He had joined the 21<sup>st</sup> Maine in October 1862 and become a corporal. At 38, he was old for a soldier, and perhaps his relatively advanced years left him sensitive to perceived slights. In one of his letters home, from aboard the ship *Morton* near Hilton Head Island, North Carolina, he complained about the officers, whom he considered arrogant toward enlisted men like himself. He wrote, "A man that is a man wishes to be respected as such and while on duty is willing and will show due respect to his superior officers and looks for respect in return."

Just over a month after his brother died, Lafayette Carver found himself in the struggle at Gettysburg. Confederate forces had invaded the North for a second time in General Robert E. Lee's daring bid to bring the war to the Union states. During the resulting three-day battle, Gettysburg's farm fields became the setting for thousands of small stories of heroism and tragedy. The Maine men added a chapter of their own to this drama.

On July 2, the second day of fighting, Carver was among the men who helped repel Confederates who had forced back Major General Daniel E. Sickles' 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps. The 19<sup>th</sup> Maine had been put into position on Cemetery Ridge to fill a gap in the Union line. General Hancock then jumped down from his horse and took the last man in the 19<sup>th</sup>'s line – George Durgin of Company F – and placed him where he wanted the regiment to form. The 19<sup>th</sup>'s commanding officer, Colonel Francis E. Heath, positioned the regiment from where Durgin stood.

While the men of the 19<sup>th</sup> watched, the battle in the Peach Orchard unfolded disastrously in front of them. The fault lay with Sickles, a political general who had disobeyed Major General George Gordon Meade's orders to stay in position - and instead had moved his corps forward a half-mile ahead of the rest of the Union army. Soon, some 14,000 Confederates took advantage of Sickles' move to strike this "bump" in the line. Attacked on three sides at once, Sickles' divisions eventually fell apart and began to retreat.

Faced with a potential disaster, Hancock ordered one of the 2<sup>rd</sup> Corps' best units, the 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota, to make an unsupported counter-attack to hold back the Confederate advance. As a result, the unit lost 50 killed and 173 wounded out of the 262 who participated in the bayonet attack. Hancock later said he would have ordered the attack even if "every man would be killed....In some way five minutes must be gained or we would have been lost." But the Minnesotans' effort gave Hancock the time he needed.

The Maine men were situated to the right rear of Brigadier General Andrew A. Humphreys' brigade, which finally was forced to withdraw from its exposed position along the Emmitsburg Road. As Humphreys' men gave way with the Confederates at their heels, Colonel Heath ordered the 19<sup>th</sup> Maine to lie down on their stomachs. Some of the retreating soldiers stepped around the prone men while others trampled arms, legs, and backs. The fleeing soldiers cried out, "Run boys, we're whipped, the day is lost!" Others shouted encouragement as they ran, "Hang to it, boys, give it to them, we'll form in your rear!"

Just behind the retreating Yankees came Florida and Georgia troops screaming the rebel yell. It must have been a frightening sight as the Confederates came on, shouting triumphantly, but the Maine men were veterans of several battles and they held steady. The Rebels were about 35 yards away when Colonel Heath gave the order to rise and fire: "Give it to them!" The Maine soldiers blasted eight volleys into the oncoming Confederates from a distance of roughly 30 yards. The Rebel charge staggered to a halt under the hammer blow.

"They must have thought that God had suddenly raised from the earth an army to oppose their march," wrote Lieutenant Joseph Spaulding, who had recently graduated from Bowdoin College. Spaulding watched as the Confederates pressed the attack. Maine men fell under the Rebel's Enfield rifles, and holes began to appear in the 19<sup>th</sup>'s line. "Oh my God," Spaulding later wrote. "Would they never stop!"

Heath pulled his men back and reformed the 19<sup>th</sup>'s line. As the smoke shifted, it became clear the Confederates had lost momentum. Heath saw a color bearer attempting to rally the Rebel troops and ordered the man shot down. Then, just like Chamberlain on Little Round Top, Heath ordered his men to fix bayonets and charge. The Confederates broke and ran. Some dropped their rifles and surrendered. The Maine men chased the others back across the Emmitsburg

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turnpike. The 19<sup>th</sup> would have kept right on going if one of Hancock's aides hadn't galloped out to stop them. The Maine men had advanced too far, and Hancock was concerned they would be cut off and captured. "We stopped," recalled Captain Silas Adams, "but we hated to do so, as we were enjoying seeing them run and scale a five-rail fence along the side of the road with the agility of a deer."

As a humid summer dusk began to fall, the 19<sup>th</sup> Maine returned to the Union line with hundreds of prisoners, one enemy flag, three recaptured cannon, and four caissons. (A fourth captured cannon had overheated so badly that its brass barrel was warped and the gun was abandoned). The Union line greeted them with wild cheering. Afterwards, Adams wrote, "It was the first time that I felt the regiment had done anything more than what might naturally be expected of any regiment."

In his official report of the day's event, the commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, Brigadier General William Harrow, gave the 19<sup>th</sup> Maine credit for its role in blunting the Confederate attack. "Colonel Heath, 19<sup>th</sup> Maine Volunteers, was attacked with equal desperation, the enemy at one time obtaining possession of three guns at the battery to his left. These guns he retook and carried from the field, most of the battery horses having been killed and many of the gunners killed and wounded. The officers and men of this regiment, as also the officers and men of the battery, deserve high commendation for their determination and valor." Hancock also praised the regiment.

The fight exacted a devastating human toll. Adams described finding a Confederate whom a Maine soldier had shot down during the stand. The Rebel was just 17 years old, the only son of a widow, and he had run away from home to join the army. He had been shot through both lungs. "Kneeling by his side, at the earnest request of this young soldier, but poorly prepared for the sacred duty, tried to pray with and comfort this dying boy," Adams wrote. He made the soldier as comfortable as possible and then returned to the regiment's position.

"At the first dawn of the day upon the following morning this Confederate boy was found in just the position the writer had placed him the evening before – his eyes glazed in death, looking up at the morning sky not seeing nor caring," Adams wrote. "The poor mother waiting at the lonely hearthstone never knew what had become of her only child."

The battle had not yet ended for the 19<sup>th</sup>, however, and on July 3, the regiment positioned itself slightly to the left of a copse of trees at the center of the Union line. Those lone trees in an otherwise empty field would become known as the point where the Confederacy reached its high-water mark. Nearby were the men of the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine. Also sent to the center was the 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota, which had lost 82 percent of its men in the previous day's fight.

Confederate cannon opened fire early in the afternoon to begin an incredible barrage answered by Union guns. The 19<sup>th</sup> Maine was right in the middle of the fray. When the artillery fire ended, some 15,000 Southern troops, spearheaded by the units under Major General George E. Pickett, proceeded across the field toward the Union line. Even though the Rebel troops were decimated crossing the field, enough of them survived to hit the Union line with considerable force. "Our line rolled back to the point where I was standing, very much the same as a piece of birch bark when one end is placed in the fire." Lieutenant Spaulding remarked.

Colonel Heath ordered the 19<sup>th</sup> Maine into the gap. The men in gray and blue crashed into one another in terrible hand-to-hand combat. They fought for 10 to 15 minutes, with some soldiers using the butts of their rifles, others hurling stones. Those in the rear lifted their rifles high and fired over the heads of their comrades in front. When the fighting ended, wounded and dying men covered the ground. Colonel Heath had been shot in the shoulder. The attackers were driven back or captured, and the high tide of the Confederacy ebbed. "The 15<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts, 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota and 19<sup>th</sup> Maine had joined the line and are entitled to a full share in the credit of the final repulse," wrote Colonel Norman J. Hall, commander of the Second Division's Third Brigade.

After the fight, hunger overtook Lieutenant Spaulding. Many of the Confederates were well supplied with food after foraging through the Maryland and Pennsylvania countryside on their way to Gettysburg. Spaulding found a dying young Confederate praying aloud for God to look out for his wife and child. "I waited a few minutes till he was dead," Spaulding wrote. "Then I removed his haversack and canteen, and feasted upon some fresh biscuit and honey that I found there."

Following two days of fighting, the 19<sup>th</sup> Maine had suffered heavy losses. Of the 405 members of the regiment present for duty at the start of the Battle of Gettysburg, a count revealed 65 killed or mortally wounded, 137 wounded, and four missing. The regiment had lost more than half its men. In fact, the 19<sup>th</sup> was one of the 10 regiments with the

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greatest number of wounded at Gettysburg. Colonel Heath survived but resigned his command of the 19<sup>th</sup> in November and returned home to Waterville, Maine.

Despite the casualties, the men of the 19<sup>th</sup> Maine knew they had been present at a turning point in the war. "This believing the Rebs are going to lick [us] and that they will fight better than our troops is played out here and I am glad," Lafayette Carver wrote home on August 4.

Carver's life would soon be touched by more personal tragedy in addition to the battlefield death of his brother. On April 17, 1864, while stationed in Virginia, he wrote to his commanding officer to request a leave of absence. "Under circumstances that now [occur] at home my presence is much needed. My only child has recently been taken away by death and my wife is now sick with the same disease with which my child died." Muster rolls show that Carver received leave for 10 days beginning April 24, under General Hancock's orders.

Despite the victory at Gettysburg and their own personal losses, the war continued for Woster Vinal, Lafayette Carver, and other soldiers of the 19<sup>th</sup>. The battle at Jerusalem Plank Road near Petersburg, Virginia, on June 22, 1864, proved especially devastating for the island men. Carver was mortally wounded, shot through the right lung, and died at Douglas Hospital in Washington. He was just 26, and his prophetic letter to his family had been fulfilled: the Carvers had lost two sons to the Union cause. Back home on the island, Sarah Carver had survived her illness but had lost both her husband and only child.

Corporal Vinal was among the 1,700 Union soldiers captured that day by the Confederates under Lieutenant General Ambrose P. Hill. Vinal was interned in some of the worst prisoner of war camps in the South, including Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia, and the camp at Andersonville, Georgia, before being transferred to Savannah. The captured Union soldiers were marched from Georgia to Lakeside, Florida, and on to Jacksonville. They were in Florida when the war ended. For Woster Vinal, it must have seemed that he had gone as far from Maine as he could get. Years later he wrote about his experiences as a prisoner of war but declared, "I have purposely omitted from this account the scenes of indescribable cruelty and horror in those awful prison pens. No one can ever know what our boys suffered except the knowledge be had through bitter experience. It all comes back to me like an awful nightmare after all these years that have passed since the long months of hunger, sickness, and brutality."

As the war drew to a close, news of those who had disappeared into the Confederate prisons was slow to reach waiting families. Vinal's concerned father began writing letters to an organization called Friends of Paroled Prisoners in Annapolis, Maryland, headed by Clara Barton. But the organization had no record of Vinal.

Good news finally came on June 27, 1865:

Dear Sir,

The following information had been received from J. W. Raymond, U.S. Mustering Office, Augusta, Me. 'Woster S. Vinal Co. I 19<sup>th</sup> Me. Vols has returned from Southern prison and was mustered out of service at that office.' Very Sincerely yours, Clara Barton.

Vinal returned to his island home, where he died in 1937 at age 93, the last surviving member of the Grand Army of the Republic from Vinalhaven.

Like Lafayette Carver, many of the Maine men never returned home after the 19<sup>th</sup> was mustered out on May 31, 1865. A total of 1,441 men had served with the regiment. Of those, 192 were killed in battle or died of wounds, 501 were wounded, 184 died of disease, and another 47, like Woster Vinal, were confined in Confederate prisons.

Today a granite monument stands in the town of Vinalhaven to honor Carver and other islanders who served their country and the state of Maine. A monument to the 19<sup>th</sup> Maine also stands at Gettysburg.

A letter Lafayette Carver sent home less than a year before his death is especially haunting now and makes the peace the Maine men helped win all the more bittersweet. "Oh, Father of God only spare my life to see the end of this war and to return home and live once more in a land of peace and harmony." Carver wrote. "How we will appreciate it after going through so much to gain it."

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## Legacies of the Civil War

After the Civil War, veterans groups for the former servicemen of the Union and Confederate armed forces were organized. In the North, the ex-Union veterans formed the *Grand Army of the Republic* (GAR) in 1866. In the South, delegates from several Confederate groups consolidated in 1889 to found the *United Confederate Veterans* (UCV). Both groups thrived for many decades until, by natural attrition, their numbers declined. Seeking to pass on their heritage, the two bodies created the *Sons of Union Veterans* (SUV) of the Civil War in 1881 and the *Sons of Confederate Veterans* (SCV) in 1896.

Situated in the deep South, Houston was home to many ex-Confederates. Postwar growth, however, attracted many former Union servicemen to settle in the city. As a result, Houston became home to local branches of the GAR and UCV. The *George McClellan GAR Post 9* was formed in the 1880's and survived until the 1930's. The *Dick Dowling UCV Camp 197* had a similar life span. Following the demise of both groups, local descendant bodies, namely the *Dick Dowling SCV Camp 1305*, and the *Edward Lea SUV Camp 2*, were organized to perpetuate their forebear's legacy. The Dowling SCV, like its UCV predecessor, took its name from the famed Houstonian who led his Confederate troops to victory against a Union invasion at Sabine Pass in 1863. Dowling died in 1867 and is buried in Houston's St. Vincent Cemetery. The Lea Camp's namesake was a Union Naval officer killed in the 1863 Battle of Galveston who is buried in that city's Episcopal Cemetery. The Lea camp also supports a ladies auxiliary named for Sarah Emma Seelye, a daring woman who served in the Union Army while disguised as a man. Seelye was the only female member of the GAR and is buried in Houston's Washington Cemetery.

The SCV and SUV both seek to honor their Civil War ancestors through preservation work, historical lectures, and the marking of veteran's graves. As non-political patriotic bodies, both groups are committed to preserving the history of the Civil War for future generations. Membership is open to male descendants of those who served honorably during the turbulent years from 1861 to 1865.

#### Additional photos from Junction, Texas – May 4, 2003







Musket crew is briefed by Mr. Stephen Forman prior to the beginning of the ceremony.

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## Becoming a Member of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

**Eligibility** - Any male descendant, whether through lineal or collateral line, who:

- \* Is a blood relative of a Soldier, Sailor, Marine, or member of the Revenue Cutter Service, who was regularly mustered and served honorably in, was honorably discharged from or died in the service of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Revenue Cutter Service of the United Sates of America or in such State regiments called to active service and was subject to orders on United States general officers, between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865.
- \* Has never been convicted of any infamous or heinous crime.
- \* Has, or whose ancestor through whom membership is claimed has, never voluntarily borne arms against the government of the United States.

**Membership Types**: a) *Member* – 14 years of age and older with documented lineage.

- b) *Junior* 8 to 12 years of age with documented lineage.
- c) Associate 14 years of age and older without lineage.

#### Sources for determining if your ancestor(s) served during the Civil War

- \* State indexes to service records (available at the Clayton Genealogical Library in Houston, Texas).
- \* Published county histories
- \* Internet Civil War site indexes
- \* Federal census records (1910)
- \* Obituaries
- \* Gravestone inscriptions or cemetery listings
- \* Published family histories

\* Death certificates

- \* Wills
- \* Local Family History Centers of the Latter Day Saints

<u>Military Service Records</u> – rarely contain family information but they may: show the unit(s) in which he served and any date of any transfers, the date of any change in rank, his muster in and out dates, information on any wounds or sickness, and a brief physical description. You must know the veteran's name and the state from which he served. It is also helpful if you know the unit in which he served, whether Infantry, Cavalry, or Artillery, his rank, his date and place of birth, and his date and place of death. The current cost for copies of Military Service Records is \$17. Order with NATE form 86.

<u>Pension Application Files</u> — usually contain the most complete information regarding a veteran's military career and other useful genealogical information. They may contain details about: his age or date of birth; his place of birth; date and place of his marriage; date and place of his death; the maiden name of his wife; the date of her death; and the names of their surviving children with dates and places of birth for each child. A Pension Application File may also include: medical reports; divorce information, and various types of affidavits given by friends and family members. You *must* know the veteran's name, the branch of service in which he served, and the state from which he served. It is also helpful if you know the unit in which he served, whether Infantry, Cavalry, or Artillery, his rank, his date and place of birth, his date and place of death, and the widow's name. The current cost of a full Pension Application File is \$37. Order with NATF form 85.

#### **To Obtain Military Records or Pension File Order Forms**

\* NATF forms 85 and 86 can be ordered by mail from the NARA at:

National Archives and Records Administration Attn: NWCTB, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C. 20408-0001

\* Or on-line from the NARA at: <a href="http://www.archives.gov/global\_pages/inquire\_form.html">http://www.archives.gov/global\_pages/inquire\_form.html</a>

If you have questions, need assistance with genealogical research, wish to obtain a SUVCW Membership Application, or Military Service Records or Pension Application File forms, you may contact:

Michael L. Lance JVC 6303 Craigway Spring, TX 77389

phone 281-320-2132 or e-mail: mlance1963@charter.net

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# The American's Creed

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a Republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its Flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

# William Tyler Page

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a patriotic and educational organization, similar to the Grand Army of the Republic. It was founded on November 12, 1881 and incorporated by Act of Congress August 20, 1954. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is the legal heir to and representative of the Grand Army of the Republic.

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