

# SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

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



## Harriet Lane

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Spring 2003

Volume 10

Number 1  
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### FROM THE COMMANDER'S TENT

This is the inaugural edition of our Camp newsletter. It will be coming out every quarter. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep you informed of the activities of the camp including upcoming events. We also plan to include articles that will be of interest to everyone and will bring us closer together as brothers in our Order.

One regular feature we plan to have is the biography of one of our Brother's Civil War ancestor. This first issue presents the history of the Great-Great Grandfather of Brother Scott Shuster. We invite each of you to submit a brief sketch and maybe a photo if you have one of your Union ancestors.

This newsletter is the brainchild of Brother and Junior Vice-Commander Mike Lance, who has spent many hours planning and putting together this first edition. Great job Mike. Mike will be the editor-in-chief of the newsletter, but I am sure he will appreciate all the help and ideas you can contribute. Remember this is YOUR newsletter. It will be what you want it to be. So please don't be bashful about comments and suggestions about what you would like to see in these newsletters.

We especially want to hear from those of you who live too far away from Houston to participate in regular camp activities. You are important to us and we want to hear from you. Let us know if there are any Civil War related sites or activities close to you, or if you have any ideas for a program. Maybe we could schedule one event a year close enough to you for you to come participate and meet your Brothers.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter as much as we have putting it together.

### Steve

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## Membership Muster

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Mr. Randall D. Scallan

**Patriotic Instructor**

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**Historian**

(open)

**Color Bearer**

(open)

**Guard**

(open)

**Guide**

(open)

**Graves Registration Officer**

Mr. Charles Chambers

Mr. Michael Boyd  
Mr. Edward F. Brodie  
Mr. William D. Campbell \*\*  
Mr. Stephen D. Forman \*\*  
Mr. James M. Foster  
Mr. Steven A. Gilbert  
Dr. Albert Gunn  
Mr. Albert Gunn III  
Mr. Andrew R. Gunn  
Mr. Olin E. Hartley  
Mr. Harrold Henck Jr. \*\*  
Mr. Robert Julian \*\*  
Mr. John E. LaFlamme  
Mr. Dean Letzring \*\*  
Mr. Jeffrey R. Maxie  
Mr. Nolan R. Maxie  
Mr. Frank S. Moore  
Mr. Harrison G. Moore IV \*\*

Mr. Gilbert M. Morse  
Mr. Michael J. Oszman  
Mr. Thomas H. Penney  
Mr. Jay M. Peterson  
Mr. Lee A. Phillips  
Mr. C. John Powers  
Mr. Henry W. Satterwhite  
Dr. Harold E. Secor  
Mr. Bartley N. Stockton  
Mr. Stephen W. Tanner  
Mr. Kenneth W. Vaughn  
Mr. Glenn A. Webber  
Mr. Robert E. Wickman  
Mr. John E. Worm

\*\* Past Camp Commanders

SUVCW Edward Lea Camp #2 website:  
SUVCW Department of the Southwest website:  
SUVCW National website:

<http://edwardlea.no-ip.com>  
<http://www.txsub.org>  
<http://www.suvcw.org>

### **New Member Profile**

Introducing **Mr. Michael Boyd** of Victoria, Texas. He comes to the Edward Lea Camp #2 as a transfer-in from the George L. Willard Camp #54 in Albany, New York. Mr. Boyd became a member of SUVCW in honor of his ancestor Thomas Howey of the 38<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Boyd to our camp.

### **Editor's Message**

I have been entrusted with this re-launching of the *Harriet Lane* newsletter and am looking forward to serving as Editor for subsequent issues. The last camp newsletter published was for Fall 1997 - Volume 4 I have decided to continue the newsletter numbering tradition for our camp by re-launching the Spring 2003 issue as Volume 10, Number 1. My goal is to provide all members of the Edward Lea SUV Camp #2 with enjoyable and informative reading. I am honored that Commander Shultze has entrusted this position to me and I pledge to give my best effort with making this endeavor worthy of our camp.

I believe the *Harriet Lane* will prove to be an important and vital tool for informing, educating and entertaining our membership with matters concerning our common interest - Civil War history. Each issue will feature, among other things, a historical article about the Civil War era. Special features in this issue include: A profile of the *U.S.S. Harriet Lane* - the namesake of this newsletter (page 6), the story of Lt. Commander Edward Lea - the namesake of our camp (page 9), and a brief history of Dr. Richard Gatlin and his Gatlin gun (page 10).

The *Harriet Lane* will be a publication by and for all Camp members. I encourage you to share your personal Civil War stories and other interesting historical items. Put your ancestor in the spotlight by telling us his story. He deserves no less!

As you can see, one section of the newsletter will be dedicated to member letters, questions, concerns, and announcements. Errors and misprints always seem to find their way into print. So please let me know about necessary corrections or accidental omissions. This is your newsletter, so please take advantage of it. I welcome your comments and suggestions.

**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 [mlance1963@charter.net](mailto:mlance1963@charter.net)). Publishing deadlines are: Spring issue - February 15, Summer issue - May 15, Fall issue - August 15, Winter issue - November 15.

**Member Ancestor Profile*****In Memory of the Service of My Great-Great Grandfather John S. Darling*****Submitted By Scott Shuster - SVC, Edward Lea Camp #2**

John S. Darling was born October 1, 1843 in Blacklog Valley, Juniata County in East Central Pennsylvania. He was the first of 6 sons born to Thomas J. and Jane Purvis Darling who were married in Philadelphia on January 2 of that same year.

When the war came in 1861, John was a 17 year old young man, single and living at home with his parents in Tuscarora Valley, Juniata County, where the family moved about 1857. John was employed as a laborer in an unspecified business.

On October 22, 1862, John and his father, being members of the existing Pennsylvania militia, joined for duty and were enrolled in Company F of the 171<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry. The 171<sup>st</sup> was comprised of several units of the Pennsylvania drafted militia. Thomas and John were enrolled for 9 months service and were mustered in at Camp Curtin, near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on November 2, 1862.

After about a month of training, the unit was assigned to Spinola's Brigade, VII Corps, Department of Virginia and transported to New Berne, North Carolina. From this point, the 171<sup>st</sup> participated in various expeditions along the North Carolina coast. They saw their only notable action in a skirmish at Blount's Creek, North Carolina on April 9, 1863.

The unit was then ordered to Fortress Monroe, Virginia and upon arrival on June 20, 1863, took part in Dix's Peninsula Campaign from July 1 to July 7, 1863. They were then ordered to Harper's Ferry where they participated in the pursuit of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia as it made its way towards Manassas Gap, Virginia following the Battle of Gettysburg from July 11 to July 24, 1863.

On August 2, 1863, the 171<sup>st</sup> was ordered to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and mustered out of service by Company between August 6 and August 8. Thomas Darling was present at muster out, but John was not. According to his service record, he became ill on or about July 8, 1863 at Harper's Ferry and had been hospitalized in Washington, DC from that date forward.

After returning home to Juniata County, John either became bored with civilian life, or was stirred by some great patriotic feeling – or perhaps a combination of the two. For reasons never documented, he enlisted in the 49<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on March 18, 1864. He was mustered in at Camp Curtin on April 4, 1864 with veteran status, which earned him a bounty payment of \$60. He was assigned to the new Company G and became part of the great Army of the Potomac's VI Corps, First Division, Third Brigade. According to his service record, John at age 20 stood 5 foot 1 inch tall, had a dark complexion, dark hair, and hazel eyes.

What those hazel eyes saw over the next year probably tested every ounce of his courage and being and likely defined him as a man. If the \$60 bounty was his reason for re-enlistment, at some point, John probably questioned the wisdom of what he had done. As part of the VI Corps, John saw horrific fighting and carnage all during Grant's Overland Campaign – including The Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, actions along the North Anna River and the assaults at Cold Harbor, Virginia.

By June 16, 1864, he was in the trenches around Petersburg, where his unit took part in the initial assault on Petersburg on June 18 and engagements at Jerusalem Plank Road and along the Weldon Railroad.

When the VI Corps was temporarily assigned to General Sheridan to take part in the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864, John stayed behind in Virginia. He had been assigned ambulance guard duty at City Point. He remained at City Point until the VI Corps returned to Petersburg in October or November 1864. On October 1, 1864, John celebrated his 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday.

During this period, on March 7, 1865, John was promoted to the rank of Corporal. Additionally, his pension records indicate that “on or about the middle of March 1865 while on review”, John was “stricken down with sunstroke in camp near Petersburg, Virginia”. It does not appear that he was hospitalized at any point, nor was he reported absent from duty.

Back in the trenches with the 49<sup>th</sup>, his unit took part in the siege operations around Petersburg and battles at Dabney’s Mill, Hatcher’s Run, as well as the final assault on and capture of Petersburg on April 2, 1865. They further took part in the pursuit of what was left of Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia and engaged those remnants at Sailor’s Creek on April 6.

From April 6 to April 12, the VI Corps was assigned to the escort of Confederate prisoners from Sailor’s Creek to Richmond. Thus, the units who had fought so valiantly during the campaign were not present for the final surrender of Lee’s Army at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865.

From Richmond, they returned to Petersburg and from April 23 to April 29 participated in the expedition to Danville, Virginia where they stood ready to support and join Sherman’s forces in North Carolina if needed – they were never needed for that purpose.

They moved to Washington, DC in late May where they participated in the VI Corps review on June 8, 1865. The 49<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania mustered out of Federal Service at Hall’s Hill, Virginia on July 15, 1865.

Having witnessed and survived some of the most horrific fighting of the war, John returned to Juniata County, Pennsylvania. He married Arabella L. Emory on May 29, 1866. Arabella was the daughter of John and Martha Emory of adjacent Perry County, Pennsylvania. Whether John and Arabella knew each other before the war is not clear.

Shortly after their marriage, the entire Darling family – John and Arabella, John’s parents and all 5 brothers relocated to Venango County in Northeast Pennsylvania and settled in Cornplanter Township, near Oil City. The entire family became heavily involved in the booming oil business, serving as pumpers, engineers and producers.

John S. Darling “died Saturday morning, March 18, 1916 at his home near East Waterford, Perry County, Pennsylvania; death being due to heart trouble and the infirmities of old age”. A lengthy obituary appeared in the “Butler County Citizen” on March 21, 1916 and concluded with the following words:

“During the Civil War, he enlisted in the Army and was engaged in very active service until the close of the war, having taken part in many of the severest battles fought between the North and the South.

Mr. Darling was a man among men. A man who could always be relied upon, and a man whose word was as good as gold. A man who will be missed in the neighborhood where he lived and where he took an active interest in the welfare of the community”.

John and Arabella are buried side by side in the East Waterford Cemetery, East Waterford, Pennsylvania.

### Trivia

The fashion of men growing long side whiskers came to prominence in North America in the early 1800’s. Ambrose Everett Burnside, a Union general during the Civil War popularized the new trend when he grew a dramatic example of the style. While we now know them as sideburns, they were originally called ‘burnsides’ in honor of the general. Over time, the general faded from memory and the words were reversed to their current form – sideburns.

### USS *Harriet Lane* (1861-1863) Originally USRC *Harriet Lane* (1858-1861)

The USS *Harriet Lane*, a 750-ton side-wheel gunboat, was built at New York City in 1857 as the U.S. Revenue Cutter *Harriet Lane*. In addition to Service duties, she served with the Navy during the 1858-59. Returning to Navy control in late March 1861, *Harriet Lane* took part in the attempt to that vital position in Charleston harbor, South Confederate forces. While so engaged, on 12 April Navy shot of the Civil War.



carrying out her Revenue Paraguay expedition of 1861, as the secession crisis relieve Fort Sumter when Carolina, was besieged by 1861, she fired the first U.S.

In early June 1861, *Harriet Lane* enemy battery near Newport News, Virginia, and in the Navy's initial major combat operation, the capture of Forts Hatteras and Clark at Hatteras Inlet, North Carolina. She was formally transferred from the Revenue Cutter Service to the Navy in September. Also during 1861, *Harriet Lane* captured four prizes while enforcing the blockade and, in December, fired on Confederate positions at Freestone Point, Virginia.

exchanged fire with an late August participated in

*Harriet Lane* was sent to the Gulf of Mexico in February 1862 to serve as flagship of Commander David Dixon Porter's fleet of mortar schooners. While en route, she engaged Confederate artillery at Shipping Point, Virginia, and captured a sailing vessel off the Florida coast. During March and April, Porter's mortar flotilla played an important part in the operations that led to the capture of New Orleans. *Harriet Lane* accompanied this force at that time and during some of its subsequent activities on the Mississippi River below Vicksburg. In May 1862, she also assisted in the occupation of fortifications at Pensacola, Florida. After serving on the blockade off Mobile, Alabama, *Harriet Lane* participated in the early October 1862 capture of Galveston, Texas. She remained in the Galveston area and, on January 1, 1863, while inside Galveston Bay, she was boarded and captured by Confederate troops operating from the steamers *Bayou City* and *Neptune*. Following this bold action, which resulted in the recovery of Galveston by Southern forces, *Harriet Lane* was employed by the Confederate Army in Texas waters. In about early 1864, she was sold and converted to a blockade runner. Renamed *Lavina*, she left Galveston in late April and went to Havana, Cuba. Interned there through the end of the Civil War, she subsequently became the sailing merchant vessel *Elliot Richie* and remained in commercial service until May 1884, when she was lost off Pernambuco, Brazil.

#### Calendar For 2003

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Tuesday March 11	Monthly Meeting	Spaghetti Warehouse - Houston
Tuesday April 8	Monthly Meeting - Program: <i>Uniforms of the Union</i>	Spaghetti Warehouse - Houston
Tuesday May 13	Monthly Meeting	Spaghetti Warehouse - Houston
Friday May 30	Memorial Day Observance	Houston National Cemetery
Tuesday June 10	Monthly Meeting	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

## Recent Camp Events

On January 11, 2003, the Edward Lea Camp #2 conducted our annual remembrance ceremony at the Episcopal Church Cemetery in Galveston, Texas. The following 4 photos were taken at the remembrance ceremony and have been added to the camp archives.



Chaplain Randy Scallan reading from the Memorial Ceremony prayer text of the SUV with Camp Commander Dean Letzring in the background.



Chaplain Randy Scallan reading from the prayer text. In the foreground are: Brother Steve Foreman (on left) and Brother Gary White (on right).



Camp Commander Dean Letzring ordering a hand salute.



Lunch meeting at the Golden Corral in Galveston following the Remembrance Ceremony. From left: Steve Schulze, Randy Scallan, Scott Shuster, and Gary White.

## 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.



## Lieutenant Commander Edward Lea USN

At the beginning of the Civil War, Edward Lea was a promising young naval officer in the U.S. Navy. His father, Albert Miller Lea, was a West Point graduate. Born in Tennessee, Albert Lea had no difficulty in deciding to serve the Southern cause. He urged his son to do likewise, warning him that "if you decide to fight for the Old Flag, it is not likely that we will meet again except face to face on the battlefield." Edward Lea ignored his father's prophetic advice and stayed with the Union Navy. He told Admiral David Porter, his mentor, that he did not desire his family's love if he could only possess it by becoming a traitor to his country.

Edward rose rapidly in rank and became the first officer on board the steamer *Harriet Lane*. His ship was one of the first into Galveston Harbor when the Union Navy captured the Island City in October 1862. Unknown to Edward, his father had recently begun serving as a volunteer on the staff of Confederate General John Bankhead Magruder, with whom he had been a classmate at West Point.

Magruder had arrived in Texas at the end of 1862 and determined to recapture Galveston. When Magruder's forces launched a night attack against the Union forces on January 1, 1863, Albert Lea was posted at the top of one of the tall residences near Broadway (possibly Ashton Villa) to observe and report on the status of the attack. The turning point in the battle came when two Confederate river steamers armored with cotton bales attacked and disabled the *Harriet Lane*, Edward Lea's ship. After the battle had ended in the Confederate's favor, Albert Lea revealed to General Magruder for the first time that his 26 year old son had been serving on one of the captured Union ships, and asked permission to look for him. Saying "My God! Why didn't you tell me this?" Magruder immediately granted his old friend permission to look for Edward. Albert Lea rushed to the waterfront and anxiously climbed aboard the *Harriet Lane*.

Confirming his worst fears, Albert found his son lying on the deck, severely wounded from multiple gunshots. Ignoring the harsh words that had passed between them before the war, Edward smiled at his father and inquired about the health of the rest of his family. Knowing that his son was almost certain to die soon, Albert Lea nevertheless hurried off to find some means of transporting Edward to a place where he might receive medical attention. But it was too late; Edward died before his father returned.

While Albert Lea searched in vain for help for his dying son, Edward was asked several times by his shipmates as well as Confederate soldiers, if there was anything they could do to ease his suffering. Edward refused all such offers, confidently insisting, "No. My father is here." These were his last words. The young man would never complete his promising career. In a final irony, on the same day that Edward died, an order had been signed in New Orleans directing him to report to that place, where he was to be given command of his own ship and a flotilla of mortar boats. It was an order he would never receive. As the dramatic story of the Lea family emphasizes, the Battle of Galveston, as the engagement came to be called, was literally a case where father fought against son. As this tragic story also emphasizes, however, when the fighting was over, and the end drew near for Edward, the arguments were forgotten, and father and son were reconciled.

On the day following Galveston's recapture, General Magruder ordered a large contingent of Confederate soldiers and Union prisoners to be turned out for the hastily organized funeral for Edward Lea and the young man's commanding officer, Jonathan Wainwright. The two men were buried together in the same grave in a spot donated by businessman George Grover. Albert Lea read the funeral service over his son's remains, closing with these words:

*"Allow one so sorely tried in this his willing sacrifice to beseech you to believe that while we defend our rights with our strong arms and honest hearts, those we meet in battle may also have hearts as brave and honest as our own. We have buried two brave and honest gentlemen. Peace to their ashes; tread lightly over their graves."*

There is no marker from any historical association or veteran's group for Edward Lea's grave. Instead, there is only a simple stone recording Edward's last words - "My father is here" - together with an anchor and sword. No monument has ever said more with so few words.

## A Humanitarian Idea Results in a Deadly Invention

In 1861, at the outbreak of the Civil War, Dr. Richard Gatlin (1818 – 1903) was living in Indianapolis, Indiana. In an 1877 letter, he recounted the story of one of his most famous inventions:

*“In 1861, during the opening events of the war, I witnessed almost daily the departure of troops to the front and return of the wounded, sick, and dead. The most of the latter lost their lives, not in battle, but by sickness and exposure incident to the service. It occurred to me if I could invent a machine, a gun, which could by its rapidity of fire, enable one man to do as much battle duty as a hundred, that it would, to a great extent, supercede the necessity of large armies and consequently, exposure to battle and disease be greatly diminished.”*

Dr. Gatlin conceived the idea of the ‘machine gun’ in the summer of 1861 and was able to demonstrate a prototype by early 1862. The speed with which Dr. Gatlin developed his project from an idea to a working model is amazing.

The 1862 Gatlin gun had 6 rifled barrels arranged parallel to an axis and all revolving around it. Behind these was a revolving carrier breech block in which, behind each barrel, was an open trough. The barrels, block and strikers were revolved by a hand operated crank. As each open trough came uppermost, a round would fall into it from a hopper and as the block revolved, a striker operated by a lug bearing on an inclined plane would be released suddenly to detonate a percussion cap. The rounds consisted of metal cylinders with a closed end into which paper cartridges and .58 bullets were inserted. Each metal cylinder then fell out of the trough as its barrel became inverted and could be re-used. Each completed revolution of the barrel assembly resulted in loading, firing, and ejection of 6 rounds. The gun was mounted on a 2 wheel carriage.

The Gatlin gun could fire 200 rounds per minute, an amazing capability in its day. But, this 1862 model had problems and Dr. Gatlin decided to modify it to use the recently invented self-contained metallic cartridge. At first, the new cartridges were inserted into the old metal cylinders before loading. However, feed and flight problems recurred and Dr. Gatlin eventually devised a breech system which inserted and withdrew each round from a chamber within each barrel, using a reciprocal motion for the breech mechanism. The breech loading system was perfected by 1865 and was used in all later models.

The first Gatlin guns were made by Greenwood and Company in Cincinnati, Ohio. Confederate saboteurs have been blamed for the factory fire that destroyed the original battery of 6 guns of proven ability. Later, McWhinney, Rindge & Company were persuaded to finance the project and another 13 guns were built. Gatlin then approached Chief of Army Ordnance, Colonel Ripley, to consider deploying his guns. Colonel Ripley refused to buy them citing the fact there was already too great a variety of guns in the service – 79 different models of musket alone. Anyway, the Colonel did not see how they would be able to deploy such a weapon. Fortunately, Dr. Gatlin’s backer, Mr. Rindge, happened to meet Major General Benjamin Franklin Butler in Baltimore. Major General Butler was fascinated by such a military curiosity even though he was totally lacking in military experience. He immediately bought 12 guns with 12,000 rounds of ammunition for \$12,000, a huge sum at the time. The historical records are not clear, but these 12 guns may have been directed by Butler to be used at Petersburg.

Dr. Gatlin continued to vigorously promote his invention. By October 1863, he had interested the French army in his guns but a suitable contract was never reached.

The Civil War ended in April 1865, costing over 800,000 lives, but there is no hard evidence the Gatlin gun was used. Despite rumors and anecdotes, it seems the military had not been ready for the Gatlin gun. It was not until 1898 that the U.S. army, at San Juan Hill, conceives its use as close support for infantry attack.

Dr. Gatlin died suddenly in 1903 at age 86. In an obituary, the *Scientific American* wrote:

*“Although best known as the inventor of a terrible death-dealing weapon, Dr. Gatlin was the gentlest and kindest of men. By making war more terrible it seemed to him nations would be less willing to resort to*

*arms.” Although this notion is now known to be misguided, it “does demonstrate a compassion which, perhaps, led to the study of medicine, and gives the lie to the wag who commented that by giving up medicine Dr. Gatlin merely changed his method of killing!”*

## Blockade Runners

President Lincoln ordered a blockade of Southern ports early in the war. Almost immediately, ships of every description evaded the blockade to bring supplies to the South.

Sailing ships were too slow to evade the Union Navy for long, and swift modern British-built steamships replaced them. Wilmington, North Carolina, and Charleston, South Carolina were the main blockade-running ports, and were reached by steamers running in from Bermuda and the Bahamas. Other blockade-runners operated from Havana, Cuba and steamed into Mobil, Alabama, Galveston, Texas and other ports on the Gulf of Mexico.

Steamers would carry as many as 800 bales of cotton from the South and return laden with military supplies, medicines, food and machinery, as well as luxuries such as silk, liquor, wallpaper, carriages, furniture and even coin collections. Expensive ships paid for themselves after a couple of runs. Captains were paid as much as \$5,000 in gold, and the lowliest crewman could make \$250 a trip, also in gold. Some of the crewmen were Confederate naval personnel, but many were British sailors on leave seeking gold, adventure, or both.

Blockade-runners relied on speed, stealth and the pilots' skills to avoid capture. Ideally, they would enter and leave port on moonless nights, use smokeless coal, and hide in fog and mist when possible. They were among the first ships to be painted a modern 'battleship gray' to help them blend in with water, mist and fog.

Blockade-runners brought the South much of her supply of rifles, ammunition, and other vital supplies. Yet, the success of the blockade was an important contribution to the North's war effort.

## The Difficulties of Sending a Letter

The sudden onset of the war caught the South unprepared, even concerning the matter of postal service. Most former U.S. postmasters kept their jobs, but there were no Confederate postage stamps at first. People sending letters could pay in cash at the post office, and the letters were marked 'Paid' with a hand stamp or pen. Many postmasters printed their own provisional stamps until the Confederate government distributed its first stamps later in 1861.

When Confederate stamps arrived, they lacked perforations and gum, and so had to be cut apart with scissors and pasted to envelopes. Stamps were always scarce. Due to the near disappearance of coins and shortage of small bills, stamps were frequently used as small change. It was common for soldiers writing home to ask their relatives to send them stamps, as they could not find them where they were stationed.

Paper was also in short supply. Envelopes were often cut open, reversed and pasted with molasses or other improvised glue for a second use. Scrap wallpaper was used to make envelopes. Some Confederate letters were written on captured Union patriotic stationery. Writers packed more words on precious pages by 'criss-crossing' – writing more lines at right angles to the others. Wartime letters were full of apologies for illegibility due to inferior paper, cheap ink, or even the use of a pencil. Poor quality ink was so common that it inspired a popular ditty: 'My pen is poor/My ink is pale/My love for you/Will never fail'.

### Legacies of the Civil War: The SCV and SUV

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.

### The Rapid Rise of George Armstrong Custer

In July 1861, the 20-year-old George Armstrong Custer graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point as a second Lieutenant. He was the anchorman of his class: 34<sup>th</sup> in a class of 34. Less than a week after his arrival in Washington, he was promoted to the rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, something that usually took a number of years to accomplish. Less than 4 years later, at the age of 23, he held the rank of major general in the Union Army. He was one of the generals present when Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox. Less than 12 years later, he would ride to glory and into history on a Montana hillside. His family called him 'Autie', and his detractors referred to him as the 'Boy General'.

Second Lieutenant Custer left West Point on July 18, 1861. He reported to the War Department in Washington on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Within 72 hours he had his first taste of combat. He was assigned the duty of delivering dispatches to his new commanding officer. The very next day, he took part in the first battle of Bull Run. Although the battle was a complete defeat for the Union forces, battlefield reports of it mentioned the outstanding leadership and bravery displayed by the 'shavetail' (newly commissioned) Custer, who was promptly promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. In 1862, he was promoted to captain, in 1863 to brigadier general and in 1864 to major general.

Custer's rapid rise must have been difficult for many senior officers to accept. Career officers with 15 or 20 years service were placed in the position of taking orders from a boy young enough to be their son. The officer ranks were filled with militiamen and political appointees who had no practical military or leadership experience, but this did not stop them from having bruised egos. Most of these officers swallowed their pride and followed behind Custer. However, the career officers who were also West Point graduates felt differently. The officers knew that the brevet (temporary) ranks they held would be gone when the war was over. Still, many officers harbored a deep resentment toward Custer and never forgave him for usurping their own career opportunities. Fortunately, Custer never wavered or showed any signs of weakness in his leadership or his acceptance of command. At the end of the Civil War, the reality of peacetime settled over the lives of the career army officers. Custer reverted to the permanent rank of captain and assumed the role of 2<sup>nd</sup> in command of the Seventh Cavalry.

## 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 States 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
- \* Federal census records (1910)
- \* Gravestone inscriptions or cemetery listings
- \* Death certificates
- \* Local Family History Centers of the Latter Day Saints
- \* Internet Civil War site indexes
- \* Obituaries
- \* Published family histories
- \* Wills

**Military Service Records** – 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 NATF form 86.

**Pension Application Files** – 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: [http://www.archives.gov/global\\_pages/inquire\\_form.html](http://www.archives.gov/global_pages/inquire_form.html)

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](mailto:mlance1963@charter.net)



## **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*.



### **Sources for Volume 10, number 1**

Pg 5: Trivia – Sideburns – History Magazine, page 6, Apr/May 2001, by Nicole Brebner

Pg 6: USS Harriet Lane – Harriet Lane internet website

Pg 9: Lt. Cmdr Edward Lea USN - Edward Lea Camp #2 website

Pg 10: Dr. Gatlin's Killing Machine – History Magazine, pages 46-48, Oct/Nov 2000.

Pg 11: Blockade Runners – History Magazine, pg 27, Oct/Nov 2002.

Pg 11: The Difficulties of Sending a Letter – History Magazine, pg 28, Oct/Nov 2002.

Pg 12: The Rapid Rise of George Armstrong Custer – History Magazine, pg 18, Dec/Jan 2000.