

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

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



Harriet Lane

Fall 2003

Volume 10

Number 3

FROM THE COMMANDER'S TENT

Where does the time go? Another summer has passed. School and all the activities of the autumn are upon us. I hope that everyone had a great summer and is looking forward to the coming season. This fall promises to be a busy time for the camp. We have lots of things to do and events to plan for. We will have our first practice session for our new Color Guard. And selection of Camp Officers for next year is upon us. If you want to volunteer for an office please let me know as soon as possible.

Veteran's Day this year falls on the 2nd Tuesday of the Month. In May, the Camp decided to combine participation in the Veteran's Day parade with the Camp meeting. This will tentatively be the first official function for our new Color Guard. Plans for this evolution will be on the September meeting agenda.

The annual observance of the Battle of Galveston is scheduled for January 10, 2004. This year's ceremony will include the dedication of the monument to the Union casualties of the battle installed by the Camp in the Episcopal Cemetery. In addition the annual Department of the Southwest Meeting will be held in Galveston that weekend. We are inviting the National Officers as well as the other Camps in Texas and local dignitaries to participate in the dedication ceremony. It promises to be a memorable occasion. I hope everyone will mark their calendar and make a special effort to be present.

In F, C & L,
Steve Schulze
Camp Commander

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Membership Muster

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Guide

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Graves Registration Officer

Mr. Charles Chambers

Mr. Michael Boyd
Mr. Edward F. Brodie
Mr. William D. Campbell **
Mr. Dale Cates
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. Dale H. Leach
Mr. Dean Letzring **
Mr. Frank S. Moore

Mr. Harrison G. Moore IV **
Mr. Gilbert M. Morse
Mr. Thomas H. Penney
Mr. James R. Perry
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:

<http://edwardlea.no-ip.com>

SUVCW Edward Lea Camp #2 (temporary – newsletters online)

<http://www.lonestarsales.com/suv.htm>

SUVCW Department of the Southwest website:

<http://www.txsv.org>

SUVCW National website:

<http://www.suvcw.org>

New Member Profile: Introducing **Dale H. Leach**

My name is **Dale H. Leach** and I was born in 1948 and grew up in south Eastern Michigan where I lived until moving to the Houston area in the fall of 1981 with my wife and son. I am proud to say that I have been married to the same wonderful woman for almost 33 years now and we have one son who is 25 and recently graduated from the University of Houston with a Bachelor's in Business. I work in the Oil Industry and am employed as a Mechanical CAD Designer though my educational background is actually in Fine Arts having graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Michigan in 1977. I am an accomplished photographer and enjoy travel having been to Colorado, New England, Scotland, England, and a magnificent 1400 mile Alaskan cruise this past June. In addition to my avid photographic interests, I have passionately pursued Genealogy for 25 years and have always, always loved history and, in particular, that great American epoch: The Civil War. This then brings me to my involvement and interest in joining The Son's of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

In a recent conversation with J.V.C. Mike Lance, I related how my primary purpose for joining the S.V.U.V.C.W. was to both honor and perpetuate the memory of my beloved ancestor, **Sylvester Leach** (1841-1928). He was a Veteran Volunteer serving in the 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry for the entire period of the Civil War. This regiment is of special note, not so much for it's particular battle record, but rather because it was commanded by Rutherford B. Hayes and officered by William S. McKinley, both going on to become U.S. Presidents. Naturally, having been born 20 years after his death, I never had the honor of knowing him personally though I somehow feel as though I did - in some intimate and almost miraculous way. This knowledge is due in large part to at least four very admirable people who have graced my humble life over the past quarter century and who did know this remarkable man, Sylvester Leach, and thus, passed on such a wonderful legacy to me

I too have served my country as a Combat Medic in the 3rd Infantry Division in Germany during the Viet Nam War. My father, **Carl W. Leach** (1917-1988), served before me during WWII in the 473rd Inf. Regt., 5th Army in North Africa and Italy just as his great-grandfather did before him in the Civil War. My father saw rough action at Salerno, Montecassino, and Anzio and my great-great-grandfather witnessed the blood and smoke at Antietam, South Mountain, and Cedar Creek while, I, on the other hand, remained relatively safe helping to protect Western Europe during the Cold War. Perhaps the real purpose my unscathed fate is to help perpetuate the memory others who came before me and in that: I gratefully rise to the occasion in joining the S.U.V.C.W.

New Member Profile: Introducing: **Clifford Dale Cates**

I was born June 9th 1945 in Urania, Louisiana near Alexandria. My dad worked for Hunt Oil Company and in 1955, we were transferred from north Louisiana to the Spring, Texas area. I graduated from Conroe High School in 1963 and then attended Blinn Junior College and San Houston State. I worked mostly in automotive parts store management and outside heavy duty truck parts sales to fleets. I have been self-employed for the last seven years in the tractor business.

I first became interested in genealogy through friendship with Michael Lance, which turned into Civil War ancestor interest. My great-grandfather, **Green Berry Cates** fought with the 2nd Georgia Cavalry under Bedford Forrest and was wounded in a skirmish with Pennsylvania Infantry at Blains Crossroads in Tennessee.

My Cates family originally came from England to North Carolina to Georgia to Louisiana. I am still searching for a northern branch of my family. In the meantime, I am delighted to be an Associate Member of Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, Edward Lea Camp #2.

New Member Profile: Introducing: **James R. Perry**

My name is **Jim Perry**, and I am a proud new member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. I live in Lumberton, Texas, which is located approximately seven miles north of Beaumont, Texas. I work at one of the local plants and have been a resident of the area for sixteen years.

Both sides of my family can be traced back to the Civil War. I have proof of ancestry on both the Union and Confederate sides of the war.

My great- great grandfather on my Mother's side was in Company C of the 3rd Wisconsin Infantry and his name was **James R. Cook**. He is buried in Sulphur Springs, Texas, and his tombstone reads Captain James Cook, 3rd Wisconsin Infantry. The muster rolls show that he mustered out as a private, and I have yet to find why he had the title of Captain on his tombstone.

Editor's Message:

I would first like to welcome the three latest new members of the Edward Lea Camp 2 – Dale Leach, Dale Cates, and Jim Perry. We are glad to have you and hope you find your association with the Camp to be enjoyable and rewarding.

I also want to again extend my gratitude to the many contributors to the *Harriet Lane*. Your generous donation of time, photos, ideas, and information has greatly assisted me with making our Camp newsletter happen. Slowly but surely, the *Harriet Lane* is moving away from paper to an electronic format. Moving the newsletter to the internet will have several advantages, including:

- * The newsletter will then be accessible to the general public. This additional exposure will ideally generate interest in what we do and assist the Camp with recruiting new members.
- * The color photos will be displayed in color instead of black-and-white photocopies.
- * Postage costs will be greatly reduced and delivery of new issues will be as fast as an e-mail notice.
- * Readers will be able to more easily save, file, or print the newsletter as desired.

While most of us have internet access, some do not. I will continue to mail paper copies of the *Harriet Lane* to those members who don't, and to anyone else who requests them. Obviously, it will be necessary for you to keep me informed of residence or e-mail address changes.

And finally, to echo the thoughts of Commander Schulze, the planned Camp activities of the near future are going to provide terrific opportunities for valuable public exposure. I encourage all Brothers to consider becoming more involved with the Camp by volunteering your services in any way you can. Besides having fun, you are likely to find your involvement to be personally rewarding.

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). Publishing deadlines are: Spring issue - February 15, Summer issue - May 15, Fall issue - August 15, Winter issue - November 15.

Ancestor Profile

George D. Webber was born on November 3, 1845 in Madison County, New York to **Hudson** and **Sarah Webber**. George was the 2nd of 3 sons. **Henry Webber** was the oldest, and **William Chandler Webber** (my great-grandfather) was the youngest. For reasons unknown to me at this time, the 3 sons moved west to Loami Township in Sangamon County, Illinois. I have been unable to find the whereabouts of Hudson and Sarah, but it appears that they did not move west with their sons.

An 1860 Illinois census entry shows Henry Webber (age 25) as head of household with his two younger brothers as boarders. When the Civil War broke out, George was too young to enlist. When he turned 18, he finally enlisted as a Private in Company E of the 133rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry. His enlistment papers describe him as: 5 feet, 10 inches tall, with dark hair and grey eyes. The terms for enlistment in this regiment was for 100 days. George mustered into service on May 31, 1864 at Camp Butler. After training, the regiment was transferred to Rock Island Prison where it guarded confederate POW's. Captain Duggan of Company E assigned Private Webber the duty of company cook on August 20, 1864. The regiment was reported to have performed its duties well and was mustered out of service September 24, 1864.

After the war, George returned to a life of farming with his two brothers. On March 23, 1875 George married the widow **Florence Hammonds Bulgier**. She was the mother of a 4 year old son, **William Bulgier**. George and his new family lived on and farmed 80 acres in Sangamon County, Illinois until 1879. Prior to 1879, the oldest brother Henry Webber, with his wife and all 5 of their children, had perished and are all buried in Loami, Illinois.

In 1879, George and his family, along with his younger brother William Chandler Webber and his new family, all packed up and moved further west to Hastings, Nebraska. Whether the death of their brother Henry and his family was a factor in the decision to move further west is unknown. But free land in Nebraska was there to be had. I believe this was the main reason for their move.

George and Florence never had any children. Stepson William was the only child. They lived and farmed in Hastings, Nebraska the rest of their lives. In 1915, George applied for his military pension and did receive it. By this time, Florence had already passed away. I have been unable to find any information for his stepson William.

In the 1890's, William Chandler Webber had packed up his family and moved even further west to Otis, Colorado. William passed away September 1898 in Otis and is buried there.

George Webber passed away on February 7, 1936 at the age of 90 years, 3 months, and 4 days. His obituary states that no family could be found and a veterans group would see to his burial. George was laid to rest in the Parkview Cemetery in Hastings with no family present, and no marker for his grave.

67 Years later

Upon finding my ancestor and the news that he was laid to rest like this I felt that something had to be done. I contacted the Veterans Administration office in Hastings and began communicating with Kim Wilder, one of their officers. She was very glad to help out. With her help, I ordered George a headstone. It took 6 months to receive the stone and it came in the dead of a Nebraska winter to boot. The Parkview Cemetery was kind enough to set the stone this spring, free of charge.

I contacted the Nebraska Division, Son's of Union Veterans to see if they would be interested in some type of ceremony to help dedicate the marker. Nebraska Division Commander Rudebusch turned the task over to Vice-Commander Paul Hadley. Mr. Hadley was great to work with. He took care of every detail for the ceremony. The ceremony was to take place Saturday, May 24th on Memorial Day weekend.

My wife, Gail, and I traveled to Nebraska not knowing what all to expect. We went to the Hastings Veterans Administration office on Thursday, May 22nd, and presented Mrs. Wilder with flowers and big Texas "Thank You" for all her kind help and concern for my ancestor. After that we went to the cemetery and found the grave of George D. Webber.

Friday was our sightseeing day. Saturday we spent most the morning getting ready for the 2:00 PM dedication. We arrived early and placed a cross with yellow flowers on George's grave. Then the people started showing up. Gail and I figured this would be a short, and small ceremony with only few people present to serve as an honor guard. Lord have mercy were we wrong! People kept coming. Those present included: the Nebraska Division Commander, past Commander, Vice Commander, and several members of the local SUV camp, members of the DUV, local chapter of the VFW, Veterans Administration officers, 1st Nebraska Volunteer Infantry re-enactors, spectators, and newspaper and TV coverage. The ceremony was conducted by

Commander Rudebusch. They used a modified version of the GAR funeral ceremony. I had never seen a dedication like this one before. It was very moving for me, and brought tears to my wife's eyes. The service lasted 2 hours. I say service because it was more like a funeral service than a stone dedication. All those Nebraska folks mentioned above have touched my heart and I will never forget what they did to honor George D. Webber. Sixty-seven years after his death, Private George D. Webber has his marker, a proper funeral.....and he had family present this time.

Submitted by Glenn A. Webber



**Glenn E. and Gail Webber at the grave marker of George D. Webber at Parkview Cemetery
Hastings, Nebraska – 24 May 2003**

Weapons from the Past – Lances and Pikes

An unidentified political leader in Pennsylvania had what seemed to him to be a great idea. Because Northern men were volunteering for military service in such large numbers, there were not enough muskets to go around. So, he championed the notion of supplying some of them with lances. Prodded by Governor Andrew G. Curtin, the U.S. War Department let a contract for a manufacturer to turn out one thousand lances adapted from an old Austrian pattern. A nine-foot staff of Norwegian fir, tipped with a foot-long three-edged blade seemed like a formidable weapon. Citizens of Philadelphia contributed bright red swallow-tailed pennons to embellish each lance. They were delighted with the weapon because they figured it would put a quick end to the war.

The organization of a new unit of fighting men was completed in October 1861. Those splendid lances were given to members of the Sixth Cavalry Regiment, commanded by English-born Colonel Richard H. Rush. On May 25, 1862, the men of Company C charged a Confederate picket line, lances at the ready, and pretended they didn't notice that men in gray doubled up with laughter when they saw them coming. The men of Rush's Lancers later took their cumbersome weapons to fight at: Gaines' Mill, Savage's Station, White Oak Swamp, Malvern Hill, Harrison's Landing, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Brandy Station, and numerous other battlefields. A remnant of the regiment, then armed with rifles, was present at Appomattox.

Heavy and awkward lances, not known to have accounted for a single Confederate death, were discarded in May 1863 as "unfit for the wooded country of Virginia". When these weapons were abandoned, lancers strapped on sabers to replace them.

Colonel Arthur Rankin, a Canadian abolitionist eager to fight for the Union, secured permission to raise a large regiment. From the beginning, Rankin made it clear that he expected his men to fight with lances. Newspapers in Toronto soon accused him of deliberately setting out to violate the Neutrality Act. Canadian authorities refused his request for a leave of absence as commander of the Ninth Military District, Canada West. Because of these rebuffs, the sixteen hundred Canadian lancers expected by Washington to help put a quick end to the fray never entered it.

In the Roman Empire, the pike became the standard weapon of infantrymen. It was about six feet long and it could be thrown, jabbed, or used defensively. The pike had been long since deemed obsolete by European armies. However, this was one of the weapons with which John Brown hoped to establish his new American nation. Brown's fancy for the pike would seem to have been enough to turn all Southerners away from it – but it was not! In the weapons-short Confederacy, manufacture of pikes was in full swing within a year after Fort Sumpter. An act of the Confederate Congress, never implemented, provided that each regiment should include two companies armed with pikes.

Although they didn't turn the tide in a single battle, pikes continued to be regarded as fearful. When Federal forces captured Knoxville, they found a stockpile of about one thousand of these weapons carefully stored for future use. Governor Joseph E. Brown of Georgia had so many pikes made for the use of state-controlled troops that the weapons took his name! Two pieces of timber banded together with iron and tipped with a spring-activated blade fifteen inches long constituted the 'Joe Brown pike'. Although those pikes were described as being "ready for use in the event the state should be invaded by men in blue", the Georgia-produced weapon was never employed against General Sherman's Army.

Trivia

West Point and The Civil War - The Civil War was a signature conflict for West Point, from start to finish. Of the sixty major battles, fifty-five of them had Academy graduates commanding both sides. Of the five remaining major battles, a West Point Graduate commanded at least one side. *.....submitted by Ross Brigger.*

Blades – Were They a Factor?

In spite of numerous personal accounts of bayonet charges made by both Confederates and Yankees, the weapon really played an insignificant role in the battles. Edged weapons – lances, pikes, swords, sabers, and bayonets – are believed to have accounted at most for only one wound out of twenty. Some experts estimate that bayonets were responsible for only about .5 percent of battlefield wounds.

Knives were not issued as weapons by the contending governments, but hundreds of thousands of them went into battle as personal property. Factory-made blades predominated among Union forces but vast numbers of Southern fighting men fashioned their own blades from saws and other pieces of sheet steel.

Just as officers were frequent recipients of presentation swords, so enlisted men often received knives as gifts from fellow townsfolk. For example, each resident of Ashby, Massachusetts (and many other communities), was solemnly presented with a Bowie knife at the time of his enlistment.

Officers and members of cavalry units frequently preferred knives equipped with ‘stone hooks’, which enabled them to remove pebbles from the hooves of their horses.

Predating today’s Swiss Army Knife, many a Civil War blade folded into a bone-covered compartment that also held a fork and spoon.

According to accounts penned by Union participants, “wagon loads of great ugly-looking knives were picked up on the battle-field of Shiloh where they had been thrown away”. Similar reports from the August 1864 encounter at Athens, Tennessee, indicate that many soldiers discarded their knives when they went into battle.

Regardless of their size or shape, many large blades were called ‘Bowie knives’. Men from Mississippi who fought in Missouri may have been the only combatants who took into battle big, clumsy ‘cane knives’, which they had used during time of peace to cut stalks of sugar cane. Useless as these and Bowie knives were in battle, some of them came to be prized when their owners needed to cut up beef or pork.

Calendar For 2003-2004

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
9 Sep 2003 - Tuesday	Monthly Meeting	Spaghetti Warehouse - Houston
14 Oct 2003 - Tuesday	Monthly Meeting	Spaghetti Warehouse - Houston
11 Nov 2003 - Tuesday	Monthly Meeting - Veteran’s Day Observance	To be announced
Date to be announced	Civil War Weekend	Liendo Plantation
9 Dec 2003 - Tuesday	Monthly Meeting	Spaghetti Warehouse – Houston
10 Jan 2004	Annual Observance of the Battle of Galveston	

Recent Camp Events – Dept. Of the Southwest Annual Encampment - Hurst, TX - 21 June 2003

The Encampment was a very cordial gathering with most of the guys from the Dallas/Fort Worth area coming to the meeting straight from a re-enactment drill. They were in their uniforms and Mike Beard (the new Dept. SVC) even brought his reproduction flag (seen in the photograph behind us below). The meeting was chaired by Dean Letzring as Department of the Southwest Commander. Several issues were touched upon.

Of intense interest was the Eagle Scout program, whereby the SUVCW issues certificates to Eagle Scouts. One of the brethren from the Lone Star Camp, Blair Rudy, agreed to take over the program since he was an Eagle Scout. Rudy has since then sent out at least eighteen certificates to qualified Scouts.

Another issue that was brought to our attention was the lack of representation in the committees by the smaller departments around the country. Statistics were sent to Commander Letzring from a camp in Massachusetts showing that all the plum committee jobs and appointed positions were held by the largest departments, with some smaller departments (like ours) never allowed on a committee. So the encampment moved to allow Commander Letzring to present our view that the smaller departments should be allowed some representation on committees and to appointed positions.

To round it out, we also discussed the activities that each camp participated in for Memorial Day, and the fact that we need to get our face out to the public more. We then discussed having the next encampment in Galveston in January 2004 to coincide with the dedication of our new monument. Officers were then elected, and we all departed for home.....*submitted by Brother Harrison Moore IV, Edward Lea Camp 2.*



Bottom Row L to R: Craig Reves - Commander Lone Star Camp and JVC Dept of the Southwest; Dean Letzring - Cmdr Depart. of the Southwest; Steve Schulze - Commander Edward Lea Camp 2. Top Row L to R: Gary White -Secretary/Treas. Edward Lea Camp 2; Bruce Metter - Lone Star Camp; Blair Rudy – JVC Lone Star Camp; George Hansen - Lone Star Camp; Mike Beard - SVC Dept of the Southwest; Harrison Moore - Edward Lea Camp 2.

Recent Camp Events

**Memorial Day 2003 - National Cemetery
Ike Turner SCV and Edward Lea gun crews.**



Recent Camp Events



MEMORIAL DAY 2003

“Load Charge!”

“FIRE!”

A thundering roar resounded through Houston National Cemetery, followed by a cacophony of horns from every car alarm within a quarter mile radius. Another Memorial Day ceremony had started with an opening cannon salute by guns manned by members of the Edward Lea camp, SUVCW and the Ike Turner camp, SCV.

For the 6th year members of the Edward Lea camp traveled to the Houston National Cemetery to participate in the ceremonies honoring those who have fallen in the service of our country. This year the participants included Commander Schulze and Brothers Steve Forman, Dean Letzring, Harrison Moore, Randy Scallan and Gary White.

For the 4th year now the Ike Turner camp, SCV brought two full size cannons to the cemetery. One gun was manned by uniformed members of the Turner camp, while the other gun was manned by uniformed members of the Lea camp. The firing of the guns is always a high point of the ceremony for spectators, who take many pictures and ask many questions about the camp and its activities.

In addition, members of the camp paraded the colors through the rotunda as part of the parade of organizations. This year there was a little bit of confusion. The color guard from the Turner camp lined up in spot where the Lea camp should have been. They assured us that it didn't matter as both organizations were going to be called out at the same time. Naturally this didn't happen. Instead the Stars and Bars were marched in to the announcement of “Edward Lea Camp, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War”, while the Stars and Stripes proudly flew as the announcer read “Sons of Confederate Veterans”. The question is, did anyone notice?

The ceremony ended with a slightly delayed fly-by from National Guard jets and several more cannon salutes from the two cannons. All that was left was to pack up the cannons and fight the traffic home - and, to look forward to next year.

.....Submitted by Steve Schulze – Cmdr., Edward Lea Camp #2

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.

The Myth VS the True Story of the Origin of Taps

The Myth:

"It all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moan of a soldier who lay mortally wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The captain lit a lantern. Suddenly, he caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, he enlisted in the Confederate Army. The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status.

His request was partially granted. The captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for the son at the funeral. That request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. Out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician.

The captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of his dead son's uniform. This wish was granted. This music was the haunting melody we now know as "Taps" that is used at all military funerals." Again, while a good story, this is an absolute MYTH. There is no evidence to support the story, nor is there even evidence that a Captain Robert Ellicombe ever existed.

The Truth:

During the Civil War, in July 1862 when the Army of the Potomac was in camp, Brigadier General Daniel Butterfield summoned Private Oliver Wilcox Norton, his brigade bugler, to his tent. Butterfield, who disliked the colorless *Extinguish Lights* call then in use, whistled a new tune and asked the bugler to sound it for him. After repeated trials and changing the time of some notes which were scribbled on the back of an envelope, the call was finally arranged to suit General Butterfield and used for the first time that night. Private Norton, who on several occasions, had sounded numerous new calls composed by his commander, recalled his experience of the origin of *Taps* years later:

"One day in July 1862 when the Army of the Potomac was in camp at Harrison's Landing on the James River, Virginia, resting and recruiting from its losses in the seven days of battle before Richmond, Gen. Butterfield summoned the writer to his tent, and whistling some new tune, asked the bugler to sound it for him. This was done, not quite to his satisfaction at first, but after repeated trials, changing the time of some of the notes, which were scribbled on the back of an envelope, the call was finally arranged to suit the general.

"He then ordered that it should be substituted in his brigade for the regulation *Taps* (extinguish lights) which was printed in the Tactics and used by the whole army. This was done for the first time that night. The next day buglers from nearby brigades came over to the camp of Butterfield's brigade to ask the meaning of this new call. They liked it, and copying the music, returned to their camps, but it was not until some time later, when generals of other commands had heard its melodious notes, that orders were issued, or permission given, to substitute it throughout the Army of the Potomac for the time-honored call which came down from West Point."

In the western armies, the regulation call was still in use until the autumn of 1863. At that time, the XI and XII Corps were detached from the Army of the Potomac and sent under the command of General Hooker to reinforce the Union Army at Chattanooga, Tennessee. Through its use in these corps, it became known in the western armies and was adopted by them. From that time, it became and remains to this day the official call for *Taps*. It is printed in the present Tactics and is used throughout the U.S. Army, the National Guard, and all organizations of veteran soldiers.

General Butterfield, in composing this call and directing that it be used for *Taps* in his brigade, could not have foreseen its popularity and the use for another purpose into which it would grow. Today, whenever a man is buried with military honors anywhere in the United States, the ceremony is concluded by firing three volleys of musketry over the grave, and sounding with the trumpet or bugle "Put out the lights. Go to sleep". There is something singularly beautiful and appropriate in the music of this wonderful call. Its strains are melancholy, yet full of rest and peace. Its echoes linger in the heart long after its tones have ceased to vibrate in the air."

After the war, *Taps* became an official bugle call. Colonel James A. Moss, in his Officer's Manual first published in 1911, gives an account of the initial use of *Taps* at a military funeral:

"During the Peninsular Campaign in 1862, a soldier of Tidball's Battery A of the 2nd Artillery was buried at a time when the battery occupied an advanced position concealed in the woods. It was unsafe to fire the customary three volleys over the grave, on account of the proximity of the enemy, and it occurred to Captain Tidball that the sounding of *Taps* would be the most appropriate ceremony that could be substituted."



Words to *Taps* (note: there are no 'official' words to *Taps*...below are the most popular)

<i>Day is done,</i>	<i>Go to sleep,</i>	<i>Love, good night,</i>	<i>Fades the light,</i>	<i>Thanks and praise,</i>
<i>Gone the sun,</i>	<i>Peaceful sleep,</i>	<i>Must thou go,</i>	<i>And afar</i>	<i>For our days</i>
<i>From the hills,</i>	<i>May the soldier</i>	<i>When the day,</i>	<i>Goeth day,</i>	<i>'Neath the sun,</i>
<i>From the skies.</i>	<i>Or sailor,</i>	<i>And the night</i>	<i>And the stars</i>	<i>'Neath the stars,</i>
<i>All is well,</i>	<i>God keep.</i>	<i>Need thee so?</i>	<i>Shineth bright,</i>	<i>'Neath the sky,</i>
<i>Safely rest,</i>	<i>On the land</i>	<i>Speedeth all</i>	<i>Fare thee well,</i>	<i>As we go,</i>
<i>God is nigh.</i>	<i>Or the deep,</i>	<i>To their rest.</i>	<i>Day has gone,</i>	<i>This we know,</i>
	<i>Safe in sleep.</i>		<i>Night is on.</i>	<i>God is nigh.</i>



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.

Wartime Mascots

Horses belonging to line officers and mules pulling wagons were probably the animals most seen by the Civil War soldiers. Not only did horses transport their masters into battle, but during lulls in fighting they also became pets of enlisted men. Next to the mule and the horse, the most common animal seen around camp or on the march was the dog. A few examples:

A mongrel was adopted as their mascot by the men of the 6th Iowa Regiment. To make sure that the animal would win at least a footnote in accounts of their achievements, they gave it a carefully chosen name: *Jeff Davis*.

Records of the 102nd Pennsylvania Regiment indicate that its large black and white dog was given the commonplace name *Jack*. *Jack* went through a score of battles without injury and then took a bullet at Malvern Hill. After his recovery from the wound, *Jack* and many of his two-legged comrades were captured at Salem Heights and imprisoned for six months at Richmond. During a later conflict, he was again a prisoner of Confederates; this time he was freed after just six hours.

At Harris Farm in May 1864, with Confederates moving forward under terrific fire, a bulldog ran back and forth just behind the Federal line. The dog was believed to be a pet belonging to Company D of the 4th New York Heavy Artillery. The animal was described by a diarist as "yapping as though delighted by the show." He went on to write that it seemed the dog "tried to jump up and snatch balls as they whizzed by him." Yet, when the tail of the canine was clipped by a bullet, "he took out to the rear like a yellow streak."

French-born Captain Werner Von Bachele, a member of an Ohio brigade, had trained his dog "to perform military salutes and many other remarkable things." Constantly at the side of its master, the pet accompanied Von Bachele on the battlefield at Antietam. When the carnage was over, a burial crew discovered the body of the captain "abandoned by our line of men but faithfully guarded by his dog."

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

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, please contact:

Michael L. Lance JVC
 6303 Craigway
 Spring, TX 77389
 phone 281-320-2132 or e-mail: 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 3

Pg 7: **Weapons from the Past – Lances and Pikes** - *Civil War Curiosities* by Webb Garrison, Rutledge Hill Press, 1994

Pg 8: **Blades – Were They a Factor?** - *Civil War Curiosities* by Webb Garrison, Rutledge Hill Press, 1994

Pg 13: **The Myth VS the True Story of Taps** – Military District of Washington website
<http://www.mdw.army.mil/FS-H06.HTM>

Pg 15: **Wartime Mascots** – *Civil War Curiosities* by Webb Garrison, Rutledge Hill Press, 1994