

# SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

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



## Harriet Lane

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Winter 2006 Volume 13 Number 4  
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### *From the Commander's Tent*

Here it is, another December. It seems like every year passes more swiftly than the previous year. The past year was certainly a full one. Camp members participated in a variety of activities including:

- The dedication of the historical marker at the grave of Lt. Cdr. Edward Lea.
- Reenactments at Crockett and *Liendo Plantation*.
- Awarding of *Letters of Achievement* to the son of Brother John Schneider at his *Court of Honor* upon his elevation to Eagle Scout.
- Several brothers marched with the 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry in the *Veteran's Day* parade.
- Brother Chap Traylor participated in a Civil War living history program for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade class in Mason, Texas.

One activity unfortunately did not occur this year. Due to heavy rains and flooding around the *National Cemetery*, the *Memorial Day* observance was cancelled for the first time since the mid 1960's.

Next year promises to be another busy year. On January 20<sup>th</sup> the camp will host the *Department of Texas* 2007 encampment. It will be held in Galveston in conjunction with our annual ceremony at the grave of Lt. Cdr. Edward Lea. The National Chaplain will be in attendance. I hope everyone will make a special effort to attend.

I close with the wish that this Holiday Season and the coming year will be the best yet for us all.

Yours in F. C. & L.

*Steve Schulze*

Camp Commander

### *Contents*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1..... From the Commander's Tent                             | 8..... Current Events – Veteran's Day   |
| 2..... Membership Muster                                     | 9..... Current Events – Nov 2006 Camp Meeting   |
| 3..... Editor's Message                                      | 9..... "Major" Pauline Cushman – Yankee Spy   |
| 3..... Camp Calendar   | 10.... Current Events – Skirmish at Liendo Plantation   |
| 3..... Contact information                                   | 11.... Profile of Liendo Plantation   |
| 4..... New Members – Young, Schneider, Whitlock, and Hampton | 12.... Current Events – Liendo Plantation Re-enactment photos                                     |
| 5..... Current Events – Sep 2006 Camp Meeting                | 14.... The Signal Corp – Part 2   |
| 5..... Current Events – Oct 2006 Camp Meeting                | 16.... Veteran's Day Photo – 13 <sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry and SUVCW at the historic Yates House |
| 7..... Current Events – Carnage at Crockett                  | 16.... Major General John Buford - Quote  |

Membership Muster
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**Camp Member**

Mr. Stephen D. Schulze - Camp Commander  
 Mr. Scott D. Shuster - Sr. Vice-Commander  
 Mr. James S. Hackett - Jr. Vice-Commander  
 Mr. Gary E. White - Secretary/Treasurer ~  
 Mr. Randall D. Scallan - Chaplain  
 Mr. Harrison G. Moore IV - Patriotic Instr. \*\*~  
 Mr. Dale H. Leach - Camp Historian  
 Mr. Gregory R. Stafford - Graves Registration

Mr. Mark H. Andrus  
 Mr. Michael Boyd  
 Mr. William D. Burdette  
 Mr. William D. Campbell \*\*  
 Mr. Dale Cates ^^  
 Mr. Stephen D. Forman \*\*  
 Mr. Maurice Foster  
 Mr. Daniel A. Gillaspia  
 Mr. Glenn C. Gillaspia III  
 Dr. Albert E. Gunn  
 Mr. Albert E. Gunn III  
 Mr. Andrew R. Gunn  
**Mr. Samuel F. Hampton ++**  
 Mr. Harrold Henck Jr. ~ \*\*  
 Dr. Stevenson T. Holmes  
 Mr. Thomas A. Jackson  
 Mr. Thomas I. Jackson  
 Mr. Robert Julian ~ \*\*  
 Rev. Hubert J. Kealy  
 Mr. Erik Z. Krause  
 Mr. David K. LaBrot

Mr. Michael L. Lance  
 Mr. Dean Letzring \*\*  
 Mr. Kurt A. Letzring  
 Mr. Randall S. McDaniel  
 Mr. Frank S. Moore ~  
 Mr. Gilbert M. Morse  
 Mr. Thomas H. Penney  
 Mr. James R. Perry  
 Mr. Jay M. Peterson  
 Mr. C. John Powers ~  
 Mr. Henry W. Satterwhite  
 Mr. John E. Schneider Sr.  
**Mr. John E. Schneider Jr. ++**  
 Mr. Jeffrey R. Schurwon  
 Dr. Harold E. Secor  
 Mr. Brian A. Sinainejad ^^  
 Mr. Allen D. Stafford  
 Mr. Bartley N. Stockton

Mr. Stephen W. Tanner  
 Mr. Chapman P. Traylor  
 Mr. Nash S. Traylor  
 Mr. Kenneth W. Vaughn  
 Mr. Glenn A. Webber  
 Mr. Charles B. White  
**Mr. Harry L. Whitlock ++**  
 Mr. Robert E. Wickman  
**Mr. Patrick M. Young ++**

Mr. Edward Cotham - Author ##  
 Mr. Charles Mitchell - Camp Web Master ##

**Civil War Ancestor**

Pvt. Henry Ludwig Schulze  
 Pvt. John S. Darling  
 Cpl. Thadeus Hendrickson  
 Commissary Sgt. William Judson  
 Chaplain Francis M. Byrd  
 Pvt. William Moore  
 Pvt. Sylvester Leach  
 Pvt. John Berry

Pvt. Matthew Barth  
 Pvt. Thomas Howey  
 Pvt. Nathan R. Price  
 Cpl. William Moore Campbell  
 \*\*  
 Pvt. John Henry Arnold  
 Pvt. Xavier Henkel  
 Pvt. Martin V. B. Leonard  
 Pvt. Martin V. B. Leonard  
 Pvt. Edward Gunn  
 Pvt. Edward Gunn  
 Pvt. Edward Gunn  
**Pvt. Samuel Pate Hampton**  
 Pvt. Philip Jacob Appfel  
 Pvt. Warren W. White  
 Sgt. Isaac Newton Stubblefield  
 Sgt. Isaac Newton Stubblefield  
 Pvt. John Walter Stoker  
 Pvt. Richard James Kealy  
 Sgt. Burton Millard  
 Hosp. Steward Louis LaBoret

Pvt. Finas Euen Lance  
 Pvt. Alexander McLain  
 Pvt. Alexander McLain  
 Pvt. Fernando Cortez Nichols  
 Pvt. William Moore  
 Pvt. Charles W. Magan  
 Cpl. Thomas Penney  
 Pvt. James R. Cook  
 Pvt. William Herbert Trull  
 Pvt. James Albert Powell  
 Lt. Gen. Wesley Merritt  
 Lt. Col. Casper Carl Schneider  
**Lt. Col. Casper Carl Schneider**  
 Pvt. Martin V. B. Leonard  
 Pvt. Isaac Secor  
 \*\*  
 Pvt. John Berry  
 William R. Reck

Cpl. Jacob John Tanner  
 Cpl. John Anderson Laws  
 Cpl. John Anderson Laws  
 Cpl. Newton B. W. Vaughan  
 Pvt. George D. Webber  
 Cpl. John Henry White  
**Pvt. Alexander Whitlock**  
 Pvt. Hugh Alexander Hoy  
**Pvt. William Young**

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**Service Unit**

Co. D, 9<sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteers  
 Co. F, 171<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry  
 4<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Mounted Infantry  
 Co. D, 1<sup>st</sup> New York Mounted Rifles  
 184<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry  
 Co. K, 63<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry  
 Co. H, 8<sup>th</sup> MO State Militia Cav.

Co. B, 52<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Infantry  
 Co. A, 38<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry  
 Co. H, 122<sup>nd</sup> New York Vol. Inf.  
 Co. I, 12<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry  
 \*\*  
 Co. C, 20<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry  
 Co. C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Light Infantry  
 Nelsons 19<sup>th</sup> Indep Batt OH Lt Arty.  
 Nelsons 19<sup>th</sup> Indep Batt OH Lt Arty.  
 Co. C, 74<sup>th</sup> NY Inf & Co. G, 40<sup>th</sup> NY Inf.  
 Co. C, 74<sup>th</sup> NY Inf & Co. G, 40<sup>th</sup> NY Inf  
 Co. C, 74<sup>th</sup> NY Inf & Co. G, 40<sup>th</sup> NY Inf  
**Co. G, 47<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry**  
 Co. A, 46<sup>th</sup> Iowa Volunteer Inf.  
 Co. K, 44<sup>th</sup> U.S. Colored Infantry  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Texas Cavalry  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Texas Cavalry  
 54<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry  
 Co. K, 52<sup>nd</sup> PA Vol. Infantry  
 Co. G, 5<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry  
 Co. E, 12<sup>th</sup> MO State Militia Cav.  
 Co. L, 5<sup>th</sup> MO State Militia Cav.  
 Co. F, 12<sup>th</sup> IN Inf & Co. E, 59<sup>th</sup> IN Inf.  
 Co. E, 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry  
 Co. E, 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry  
 Co. A, 7<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry  
 Co. K, 63<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry  
 25<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry  
 Co. G, 8<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry  
 Co. C, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wisconsin Infantry  
 Co. D, 26<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry  
 Co. C, 146<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry  
 Commander 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade (regulars)  
 103<sup>rd</sup> New York Infantry  
**103<sup>rd</sup> New York Infantry**  
 Nelsons 19<sup>th</sup> Indep Batt OH Lt Arty.  
 Co. D, 28<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts  
 \*\*  
 Co. H, 8<sup>th</sup> MO State Militia Cavalry  
 Co. F, 74<sup>th</sup> NY & Co. H, 40<sup>th</sup> NY Inf. &  
 Co. F, 5<sup>th</sup> Regt., Excelsior Brigade  
 1<sup>st</sup> Nebraska Infantry  
 Battery B, 1<sup>st</sup> Btn Tenn. Lt Artillery  
 Battery B, 1<sup>st</sup> Btn Tenn. Lt Artillery  
 Co. E, 3<sup>rd</sup> MN Inf & Trp K, 2<sup>nd</sup> MN Cav.  
 Co. E, 133<sup>rd</sup> Illinois Vol. Infantry  
 Co. G, 47<sup>th</sup> Missouri Volunteers  
**Co. I, 14<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry**  
 Co. D, Bracketts Btn, Minn. Cavalry  
**30<sup>th</sup> Reg., Pennsylvania Militia**

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## Editor's Message

Boy, the heavy wool of my Civil War uniform sure was welcome when I participated in the activities at *Liendo Plantation* on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The autumn and winter months are prime time for 'putting on the Blue'. As usual, everyone participating and visiting at *Liendo* had a wonderful time. It is difficult to describe how much fun it is to don the uniform and act the part of our Civil War ancestors. For those of you thinking about outfitting yourself with a nice set of blue with all the fixins', my only advice to you is: *Try it – You'll love it!* Support our Camp by joining us in uniform – or without uniform - at the next event! Again, you'll be glad you did!

I reduced the font size of the text type slightly in this issue. I'm hoping that none of you will have difficulty reading the print. I had to do so in order to keep the page count and corresponding costs within reason. If you have any problems with the new print size, please let me know. If you do, one simple solution would be to increase the zoom on your pages (*when viewing by computer*).

Our Camp membership continues to grow with several new additions recently. We heartily welcome each new member. They all bring special talent, ideas, and interests to the table. Naturally, the relevance, strength, and vitality of our Order depend on this expanding talent pool. I hope this positive growth trend continues throughout the new year.

I also want to wish all of you and your families a very happy and joyous Christmas and holiday season!

In F. C. & L,

*Michael L. Lance*

Editor

### Camp Calendar

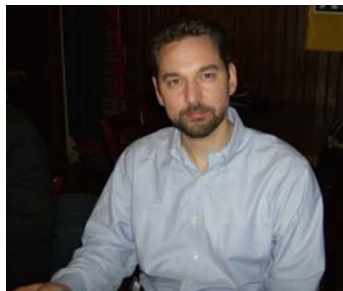
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
12 Dec 2006	Monthly Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Speaker: Tom Eishen Topic: The Battle for Little Round Top	Spaghetti Warehouse, Houston, TX
20 Jan 2007	Battle of Galveston Commemoration: 10:00 a.m. Department Meeting & 2007 Camp Officer Installation	Galveston, Texas
13 Feb 2007	Monthly Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Speaker and topic: T.B.A.	Spaghetti Warehouse, Houston, TX
13 Mar 2007	Monthly Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Speaker and topic: T.B.A.	Spaghetti Warehouse, Houston, TX

The **Harriet Lane** newsletter is published quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter). Please send questions, letters, suggestions or corrections concerning the newsletter to Michael L. Lance, 6303 Craigway Road, Spring, Texas 77389 (or E-mail [mlance1963@charter.net](mailto:mlance1963@charter.net)). Publishing deadlines are: Spring issue – Feb 15, Summer issue – May 15, Fall issue – Aug 15, Winter issue – Nov 15.

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Junior Vice-Commander – Mr. James S. Hackett	281-495-4235	<a href="mailto:jrvic6@yahoo.com">jrvic6@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary/Treasurer – Mr. Gary E. White	281-890-7823	<a href="mailto:gwhite18@houston.rr.com">gwhite18@houston.rr.com</a>
SUCVW Edward Lea Camp #2 website:		<a href="http://www.txsuv.org/lea/index.htm">http://www.txsuv.org/lea/index.htm</a>
SUCVW Department of Texas website:		<a href="http://www.txsuv.org">http://www.txsuv.org</a>
SUCVW National website:		<a href="http://www.sucv.org">http://www.sucv.org</a>

The SUCVW Edward Lea Camp #2 still needs volunteers to fill the important positions of: [Camp Color Bearer](#), [Camp Guard](#), and [Camp Guide](#). If you have an interest in supporting our Camp by serving in either of these open positions, please notify Camp Commander Steve Schulze.

## New Member Profiles



### Introducing – Mr. Patrick Michael Young

Patrick Young is a graduate of the *College of the Holy Cross* and *Georgetown University*. He served in the U.S. Navy aboard the *USS Cole* and on the staff of Mine Counter Measures Squadron Two. He is a veteran of the *Kosovo Campaign*. He is currently employed as a Planning Specialist, Exxon-Mobil Chemical Company.

*Patrick joins the Camp based on the Civil War service of his great-great-great-grandfather, Private William Young – Co. G, 30<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Pennsylvania Emergency Militia.*



### Introducing - Mr. John Edward Schneider Jr.

John Edward Schneider, Jr., oldest son of Brother John Schneider, was born in Houston in 1988. An Honors Graduate of *Lutheran South Academy*, John is currently a freshman at *Colorado State University* where he is majoring in Chemistry. While in high school, John was active in dramatics and symphonic band. John was also very active in Scouting and was awarded the rank of *Eagle Scout* this past summer. John was also a member of the *Student Ambassador Society* and participated in programs in various parts of Europe as well as Australia and New Zealand. In 2004, John was chosen to be a *Presidential Classroom Scholar* and attended the second inauguration of President Bush. John's favorite pastimes include reading, camping, hiking, snow skiing, and collecting and viewing movies.

*Note: John Jr. joins the Camp based on the Civil War service of his great-great-grandfather, Lt. Colonel Casper Carl Schneider - 103<sup>rd</sup> New York Infantry.*



### Introducing - Mr. Harry L. Whitlock

Harry L. Whitlock II of San Antonio, Texas is a recently retired Army officer. He served 21 years active duty as an enlisted Soldier and as a commissioned officer in the *Medical Service Corps*. He is currently working part-time for a military contractor at Fort Sam Houston, Texas while he figures out what he wants to be when he grows up. His hobbies include genealogy, hunting, fishing, and home improvement projects. Harry was born and raised in Wyoming, and graduated from the University of Wyoming. He is married to Tammy, a native Alabama girl, who has Confederate ancestors. They have two children, Kaitlyn and Bremen, who are now a meld of Blue and Gray blood.

*Note: Harry joins the Camp based on the Civil War service of his great-great-grandfather, Private Alexander Whitlock - Company I, 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment Illinois Infantry.*



### Introducing - Mr. Samuel Hampton

I was born in Arkansas, but my parents moved to Wichita, Kansas before I was school age. I graduated from East High School there in 1966. I moved to Houston for a time, returning to Wichita to marry my lovely wife, Betty. We made our home in Houston and were blessed with the birth of our son, Merlin, here in 1968. I gained employment with the Hughes Tool Company that year, another blessing! I worked in different departments and machine shops there until 1991, when they began closing the plant location. I began employment with a private security agency, ABM. They changed their name to ACSS. I remained with them until 2002, when I joined Medallion Oil Company. I sit at their front desk as a clerk and keep a watchful eye for them now.

My contact with the SUVCW was preceded by the interest, or hobby of genealogy. I was fortunate to find another great-grandson of Samuel Pate Hampton by searching the internet – Mr. Dareth Raymer. He supplied me with enough information to submit to the NARA (National Archives). I was so surprised and happy that they had his complete pension file. I was thrilled to receive photo-copies from them, and made copies for Mr. Raymer as well. I feel quite fortunate to have been able to travel this past October to Hunter, Missouri I took pictures of my great-grandfather's final resting place. Photography has long been a hobby of mine. Computers have taken much of my interest and time since about 1998. Now that I have a digital camera, the 35mm is forgotten!

*Note: Samuel joins the Camp based on the Civil War service of his great-grandfather, Private Samuel Pate Hampton - Company G, 47<sup>th</sup> Regiment Missouri Volunteer Infantry.*

## Current Events

### *Edward Lea Camp #2 Meeting*

Houston, Texas – 12 Sep 2006

At 7:15 p.m. on September 12, 2006, [Cmdr. Steve Schulze](#) called the Camp monthly business meeting to order. Fourteen souls were on hand to hear the fall of the gavel. All immediately rose to pledge allegiance to the Flag. [Camp Chaplain Randy Scallan](#) followed with an opening prayer. Meeting attendance continued to be strong and steady as Brothers Schulze, White, Forman, Shuster, Leach, LaBrot, Hackett, Lance, Cates, and Scallan filled the reserved meeting/dinner tables at the Spaghetti Warehouse restaurant in downtown Houston. They were joined by new member prospect Patrick Young and guests Jana Marsh, Marjorie Henck, and Liz Scallan.

While the food servers labored to satisfy each attendee with a splendid Italian dinner, [Secretary/Treasurer Gary White](#) read the minutes from the July meeting and reviewed the latest Camp financial statement. He reported that the financial condition of the Camp continues to be strong. Brother White, also representing the *Historical Marker Committee*, reported that the *Texas Historical Commission* recently enacted new rules, fees, and application deadlines for new historical markers. He assured us that the Camp is right on target in the process of obtaining the planned new historical marker for Sarah Emma Seelye, the namesake of our *Ladies Auxiliary*.

[Marjorie Henck](#) then took the floor to report that the revitalization of the *Ladies Auxiliary* is slowly continuing with four new applicants coming forth. The local *Daughter's of Union Veterans* tent met on September 8, 2006 with additional ladies applying for membership. Mrs. Henck reports that the growth rate of this *DUV* tent has been hindered somewhat by the vast geographical area covered. The widely separated members have had difficulty meeting on a regular basis.

Cmdr. Schulze informed the Camp about the debut of the new *Department of Texas* flag at the 2006 National Encampment. He also reported that, in the future, the national organization will manage the ROTC medal program and support those activities financially. Individual Camp participation will be voluntary. The *Speaker Committee* reported that *Honorary* Camp member [Charles Mitchell](#) has volunteered to act as guest speaker at the October 2006 monthly meeting. His talks are always interesting and a joy to listen to!

Brothers Hackett and White volunteered to form a committee to manage the nominations for Camp Officer Candidates for 2007. They committed to report on their progress at the next meeting.



Camp membership continues to be strong at 56. Brother Gary White filled us in on new contacts and additional prospects. Cmdr. Schulze urged us all to remain focused on recruiting and also reminded us of the *Certificate of Achievement* that is available to those who excel at bringing new members aboard.

One of the highlights of the evening was the nomination, discussion, voting, and swearing-in of two new members. After a unanimous vote, applicant [Patrick M. Young](#) was immediately sworn-in by Cmdr. Schulze and received his membership medal (*photo at left*). Also receiving an 'Aye' vote was applicant [John E. Schneider Jr.](#), son of Brother John Schneider Sr. The Camp extends a warm welcome to both new Brothers!

The Camp then shared some opinions about and discussed plans for several upcoming events, including: Crockett Springs, Livingston, Liendo Plantation Civil War Weekend, and the Veteran's Day parade. In addition, the Edward Lea Camp will host the *Department Encampment* in 2007. Discussion revolved around coordinating the Encampment activities in conjunction with our annual

*Battle of Galveston* commemoration in January. As you can see, the next several months should continue to be active and interesting.

*....Respectfully submitted by Michael L. Lance*

## Current Events

### *Edward Lea Camp #2 Meeting*

Houston, Texas – 10 Oct 2006

[Commander Stephen Schulze](#) called the monthly business meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. on October 10, 2006 at the Spaghetti Warehouse Restaurant in downtown Houston. After the *Pledge of Allegiance* and an opening prayer, the attending 11 Camp members and 6 guests introduced themselves one-by-one. The minutes of the previous meeting and the financial statement were presented by [Secretary/Treasurer Gary White](#); followed by a motion to accept the same; seconded; and then passed.

Following the presentation of a *Membership Certificate* to our newest Brother, [Patrick Young](#), by Commander Schulze, the membership applications of [Mr. Samuel Floyd Hampton](#) and [Mr. Harry Lee Whitlock](#) were reviewed, discussed, and favorably voted upon.

*(Continued on following page)*



## Current Events – October 10, 2006 Meeting *(continued from previous page)*

The *Nominating Committee*, represented by Brother White, then reported that the slate for 2007 officer positions was finalized and a ballot would be forwarded to all members shortly. Brother White also reported on the progress of the *Marker Committee*. Brother David LaBrot added that he was attempting to contact, Laura Gansler, author of: "*The Mysterious Private Thompson: The Double Life of Sarah Emma Edmonds, Civil War Soldier*", to request assistance with preparing the narrative for the historical marker being planned for Sarah Emma (Edmonds) Seelye.

Guest Marjorie Henke then updated the Camp on the progress of reviving the *Emma Seelye Ladies Auxiliary*. She reports that the processing of new member applications continues. The forming of a *Daughters of Union Veterans Tent* in the Houston area is still slowly moving forward. We certainly wish much success to both of these endeavors!

Celebrated author (*and Honorary Camp Member*) Edward Cotham Jr. was announced as the guest speaker for the Camp meeting in November. The topic of his upcoming talk is unknown at this time but is anxiously anticipated! Discussion then turned to planning for the following upcoming events: the *Veteran's Day* parade; the *Battle of Crocket Springs* re-enactment; the *Civil War Weekend* at *Liendo Plantation*; and the January 2007 annual *Battle of Galveston Commemoration/Department Encampment* activities. A busy schedule, indeed!

Commander Schulze conducted the formal swearing-in ritual for newly accepted member, Samuel F. Hampton (*photo at right*). Brother Hampton proudly accepted his new membership medal.

Brother Harrold Henck Jr. introduced and then graciously donated a large cache of historical articles from his personal files relating to the *Lea Camp*. Harrold is one of the Camp's original charter members and past Camp Commander. Future issues of the *Harriet Lane* will feature excerpts from this interesting material.

Then all eyes and ears were directed towards Department webmaster, Charles Mitchell (*photo below*). He had volunteered to be our guest speaker for the evening. And, as usual, we were not disappointed! His expertly crafted talk focused on the *1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Alabama Cavalry*. He led us through the saga of this unit and a brief general history of the area, including:



L-R: Samuel F. Hampton and Stephen Schulze

The *Union 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment Alabama Cavalry* was organized in October 1862. It was comprised of about 2,500 volunteers from the northern hill country of Alabama. Before this time, portions of this unit served the Northern cause and fought at Shiloh and Corinth. They were used primarily as guides and scouts.

At the beginning of the Civil War, Alabama consisted of 52 counties. Twenty-six of these counties *did not* choose to secede. However, since the other 26 counties contained the majority of the population and most of the wealth, the state of Alabama ultimately became part of the Confederacy. Even so, a great number of the folks of the Appalachian Mountain hill country of the far northern Alabama counties remained strongly pro-Union. Many were raised on stories about the *War of Independence* and did not want to do it all again. They saw no benefit of leaving the Union. They already had freedom! They did not own plantations or slaves. They just wanted to be left alone! The citizens of Winston County, Alabama, in fact, wanted to secede from Alabama! They actually joined a few counties from neighboring states and did try to secede. But, those efforts failed as most men wanted to instead focus on fighting to preserve the Union. They said 'no' to succession! They wanted the Union to win, so many of them took up arms against the South!



The *1<sup>st</sup> Alabama* was unique in that it was one of the few cavalry regiments comprised of members from just one state. It even had 7 African-American units. The *1<sup>st</sup> Alabama* fought in 75 engagements between 1862 and 1865. They served under General Ord and later under General O. M. Mitchell. The unit was very successful at scouting since the men could 'talk Southern'. Also, they knew the people and the lay of the land. They even dressed as Confederates on occasion in order to gather military intelligence. Once in a while, they were even supplemented with an attachment of artillery. The regiment fought all the way to North Carolina. It was present at the surrender of General Johnston to Union General Sherman at Bentonville, North Carolina on April 26, 1865.

Of the original 2,500 volunteers, only 397 survived the war. Nearly 14% (345) were killed in action while 188 were taken prisoner. Many soldiers of the *1<sup>st</sup> Alabama* deserted (279). The driving force behind many of the desertions was the vicious atrocities and abuses that were heaped upon their homes and families by Southern sympathizers while they were away fighting. To be fair, many abuses were ultimately conducted by both sides! The *1<sup>st</sup> Alabama* eventually split into 2 sections: while 1 section fought with the Union Armies, the other went home to protect their homes and families. After a length of time, the 2 sections reversed roles. This activity went on for about three years.

*(Continued on next page)*

## Current Events – October 10, 2006 Meeting *(continued from previous page)*

But the atrocities, including hangings and house burnings, continued. Besides struggling to protect their families and homes, the pro-Union men on the home-front also had to worry about being swept up into the conscription apparatus of the Confederate armies.

Many ordinary citizens living in Northern Alabama helped the North by: assisting Confederate deserters (*sometimes hiding conscripts in their barns*); fighting as guerrillas in Alabama and Tennessee; furnishing information to Union troops; and serving as guides to Northern forces (*advising on what to expect up ahead*).



Bad blood between the sympathizers of the Union and those of the Confederacy continued for many years after the war. Winston County, even today, struggles along as a lower-than-average economic area. Getting sufficient funding from the state for services and other projects continues to be difficult. Animosity stemming from the Civil War activities of the ancestors of residents in the area still apparently plays a part in fueling this ill will.

Rejuvenation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Alabama Cavalry is in progress today. About 600 descendants of the unit have formed an organization based in Huntsville, Alabama.

*Left: Charles Mitchell being presented with an Honorary Camp Membership Certificate by Cmdr. Stephen D. Schulze.*

## Current Events – Battle of Crockett Springs Re-enactment

### *Carnage At Crockett*

Crockett, Texas – 21-22 Oct 2006

"Front Rank Prepare to Fire"

"Fire"

My rifle went off in my hand, although I didn't hear it because of the noise of the muskets on either side of me. Across the field the grey line stopped and returned our fire. Suddenly three field guns were wheeled out of some brush to the left of the rebel infantry, and Rebel cavalry bore down on our right flank. Our commander refused our line to the right to counter this new attack, while the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Infantry moved up to support us. The thought went through my mind how real this all felt and how much trouble we would be in if this was not just a reenactment.

Fortunately it was a reenactment. I was at Crockett, Texas at their annual *Civil War Weekend*. Every year the Camp sets up a recruiting booth at the event. But I have never participated in the battles before. This year I decided to give it a try, especially as the Union side was very much outnumbered by the Confederate forces on the field. Every man was needed.

Tom Whitesides of the 13 U.S. Infantry re-enactors invited me to join them. After falling in for inspection at the Union camp and standing around waiting for awhile, the order to move out was given. We marched out on the field in column of two's. It didn't take long to make contact with the opposing forces. We formed our battle line and commenced exchanging musket volleys.

I quickly found out how difficult it is to repeatedly load and fire as quickly as possible. Several times, I pulled the trigger only to have nothing happen. I had left the hammer in the half cocked position ... again. Actually, this worked in my favor as my ammunition ran short. The word had been passed that anyone who ran out of ammunition was to fall down dead at the next volley (I always wondered how they determined who would be casualties in these re-enactments). When the order to fall back to the Camp was given, I had two rounds left plus the round in my rifle. Had it not been for the misfires, I would have been obliged to lay among the cow paddies with the other casualties.

We formed a defensive line at the edge of the Union Camp. Just then, the Confederate cavalry charged a field gun just in front of our line and shot the entire gun crew, including Brother Jim Hackett, who was helping to man the gun (He was killed again the next day, along with just about everyone on the Union side). Come to think of it, he got killed here last year also. Remind me not to be in the same unit with him next time! Several of us charged out from the camp, driving the confederates off and saving the gun. A cease fire was arranged to remove the dead, ending the day's fighting.

After the battle we marched back to the 13<sup>th</sup>'s camp where they showed me how to clean my rifle and offered me some of their home brew beer. It made for a most pleasant end to a fun afternoon. I'm going to have to do this again.

*... Submitted by Stephen D. Schulze*



## Current Events

### *Veteran's Day*

Houston, Texas – 11 Nov 2006



*Above:* With muskets stacked, the Union men gather for planning and instructions. The Colors rest atop the weapons.

On a beautiful November day in downtown Houston, a small Union unit of nine volunteers assembled to participate in the *Veteran's Day* activities and parade. The Edward Lea Camp was represented by Jr. Vice-Comdr. James Hackett and Brother Dale Leach. The number of spectators was significant and they applauded enthusiastically for our men in blue and for the numerous other veterans groups as they passed along the parade route.

*Right:* James Hackett with National Colors



*Above left:* "At Ease" - The Union unit includes Brother Leach at right end of the front row and Brother Hackett with the U.S. Colors standing behind.



*Above right:* The Federal unit was also comprised of 7 members of the impressively well-trained 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry. They stand at "Order Arms" with the two Color bearers behind.

*Right:* "Fire" – a musket salute to all veterans erupts into a cloud of white smoke.



*Note:* Photos on this page were submitted by Brothers Dale Leach and David LaBrot. See additional event photo on back cover.



## Current Events

### *Edward Lea Camp #2 Meeting*

Houston, Texas – 14 Nov 2006

Due to the absence of [Commander Stephen Schulze](#) and [Sr. Vice-Commander Scott Shuster](#), the November meeting was called to order at the Spaghetti Warehouse Restaurant in downtown Houston by [Jr. Vice-Commander James Hackett](#). Cmdr. Schulze had just recently recovered from a severe bout with the flu and, unfortunately, he passed it on to his wife. So, he thought it wise to not attend the Camp meeting (for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 4 years!) and risk spreading the bug among the brethren. SVC Schuster was out of town on business and unable to attend the meeting.

[Secretary/Treasurer Gary White](#) and [Brother David LaBrot](#) reported on their unsuccessful attempts to contact Ms. Laura Gansler, author of: *"The Mysterious Private Thompson: The Double Life of Sarah Emma Edmonds, Civil War Soldier"*. They were hoping to provide the Camp with additional news regarding their progress towards obtaining the *Sarah Edmonds Seelye Historical Marker*. The Marker Committee continues to work hard towards meeting our unveiling and dedication deadlines.

Discussion and planning then turned to the upcoming *Civil War Weekend* events at *Liendo Plantation* in Hempstead, Texas. The annual activities and battle re-enactments are planned for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, November 17-19, 2006. Our fund-raising booth location and staffing, along with choosing raffle items were also discussed.

The highlight of the evening was a great talk by *Honorary Camp Member* and author, [Edward Cotham Jr.](#) His presentation was entitled, *'Was the Civil War important in Texas?'* Mr. Cotham eloquently described: the many attempts that were made by the Union Army to invade Texas; the reasons for the invasions - which were mostly political in nature; and the resulting cost of the invasions - such as extending the duration of war by not adequately marshalling the necessary Union forces to capture the strategic Texas areas. Mr. Cotham fielded many questions from his listeners after his interesting talk and he answered each one very thoroughly and expertly. .... *submitted by Brother David LeBrot*



Edward Cotham Jr.

### "Major" Pauline Cushman – The Federal Spy Who Barely Escaped Hanging



Pauline Cushman was an actress who turned Union spy. Born in New Orleans on June 10, 1833 (as Harriet Wood), she moved with her family at a very early age to Grand Rapids, Michigan. When she turned 18, she ran away to New York to pursue a career in acting. It was then she took the name 'Pauline Cushman'. While appearing in a show in Union occupied Louisville, Kentucky, she was approached by two Confederate officers who offered her \$300 to personally give a toast to Jefferson Davis. Being loyal to the Union, she reportedly first asked permission to do so from Union officials. They agreed to permit the toast on the basis that by doing so, it would appear that Cushman was loyal to the secessionist movement, and would endear her to the Confederates, thus making her later useful as a Union spy. After making the toast to Davis, the theatre manager publicly fired her. She then began following the Confederates. Her excuse was that she was looking for her brother. She was soon considered a trusted favorite of the Confederate troops, and through this relationship, was able to obtain important intelligence information to send back to Union officials.

While spying in Shelbyville, Kentucky, Confederate General Braxton Bragg found her at his headquarters in possession of papers containing crucial information. She was tried, found guilty of spying, and sentenced to hang in ten days. Fortunately for her, three days before her hanging, Union troops invaded Shelbyville and freed her. Despite her narrow escape, Cushman agreed to carry out further spying missions behind the Confederate lines. She continued to provide considerable information for General William Rosecrans. Because of her gallant service, President Abraham Lincoln awarded her with an honorary Major's commission.

Returning to the stage in 1864, she lectured, sold copies of her autobiography, shared the stage with musicians playing patriotic airs, and raised money for the Fenian cause. P.T. Barnum promoted her as *"The Spy of the Cumberland."* In June 1864, she appeared at his *American Museum* in New York City. Barnum's "generosity" gained her popularity and recognition.

After the war, she toured the country dressed in her Major's uniform lecturing on her spying exploits. She published an account of her life, illuminating her time as a spy, entitled: *'The Life of Pauline Cushman'*. Most scholars agree that much of the biography is exaggerated. She finally settled in Casa Grande, Arizona, with her 3<sup>rd</sup> husband, Sheriff Jere Fryer. After a few years of marriage, she moved on to San Francisco and returned to acting. She spent the last years of her life living in a boarding house working as a seamstress and as a scrubwoman. She suffered from arthritis and rheumatism and began taking opium. Addicted, she died from an opium overdose (note: also reported in some sources as a 'morphine' overdose) on December 7, 1893 amid rumors of suicide. She was buried in the military cemetery at the Presidio with military honors by the *Grand Army of the Republic*.



## Current Events – Liendo Plantation - Texas Skirmish

### *Texas Skirmish*

Hempstead, Texas - 17 Nov 2006

On Friday, November 17, 2006, I participated in a Civil War skirmish re-enactment at the historic *Liendo Plantation* near Hempstead, Texas. The plantation was used during the Civil War as, among other things, a new-recruit training base and later as a Union prisoner-of-war camp. General Custer was also stationed at the plantation for a while!

The re-enactment program is an annual 3-day event each November (Friday-Sunday). On Friday, the activities were reserved for school children. Students were bused to the plantation from schools around the state. Living-history re-enactors were on hand to explain what life was like in the 1860's. They wore clothing which looked like they stepped right out of the past! Continuous demonstrations were given all morning and into the afternoon by traditional blacksmiths, weavers, battle-field surgeons, cannon operators, musicians, handmade ice cream makers, and others.

Luckily, I was not stuck in a tent or behind an exhibit or booth. I wandered the plantation grounds at will with 3 uniformed friends. We were continuously approached by groups of school children wanting to know about our uniforms and weapons. It was a lot of fun showing them how a Civil War soldier loaded and fired an 1853 British *Enfield* black-powder muzzle-loading rifled musket with a bayonet! I sometimes let the smaller children hold the musket for a moment to feel the heaviness of the gun. Most of them were fascinated by the long pointed bayonet. We occasionally fired the rifle with only a percussion cap to help them understand how the guns worked. Several of the youngsters were startled and jumped each time we fired! I also scared some of the older youngsters by asking them if they were 16 years old yet. I told them I was looking for some draftees! I did not find any takers!

At one o'clock in the afternoon, two of my friends and I joined a column of Union soldiers that was marching through the camp towards the battlefield. We fell-in at the end of the column. The unit paraded past the grandstands on its way to the battle area. The stands were filled to capacity with spectators. I heard an announcer on a PA system introduce our unit as we passed by. There were a few cheers for us as we passed in our Union blue uniforms. But, we *are* deep in the South....if you know what I mean! Our company marched on by the grandstands and out onto the battlefield. I noticed that the field was obviously heavily used by the famous *Red Brahman* cattle that this ranch and plantation is famous for. In other words, I had to be careful where I stepped! It was a little tricky trying to march in a straight line while dodging the patties! The soldier marching in front of me made some pretty fancy foot moves with his dodging and made it tough for me to stay in step with him!

Finally, we formed up into a double skirmish line. Our two commanding officers gave some brief instructions about our upcoming battle strategy and the various commands that we could expect to hear as we attacked (or retreated). I was sure hoping that my musket would perform better than it did the previous year. Last time, it began misfiring after only about four shots. I had to take an early bullet and fall dead last time since I could not fire. This year, I was hoping to stay on my feet a little longer!

Our fine blue line faced a motley line of Rebels across the field. While our officers were still in the process of briefing us, we noticed that the Rebels began an attack. The smoke from their musket muzzles filled the air in the distance. We were ordered to quickly charge our weapons. It did not look like a good beginning for my company! However, instead of retreating for cover, we



we were ordered to advance! On command, the line in front of us took a knee and fired a volley in unison. My line was then ordered to pass through the front line as they remained on their knees to reload. Now my line was in front. We were ordered to halt and drop to one knee. I could hear the commander of the Rebels yelling out commands across the field as they continued to fire at us. Our line commander then ordered us to "fire by file". The man on the right end of the line fired first and then each man fired in turn down the line from right to left. As we reloaded, the Union line behind us passed through our line to repeat the process over again. I eventually got shot and went down wounded after my musket misfired a couple times. I continued to load and fire with difficulty while lying and writhing on my back on the ground playing wounded!

**L-R: Michael L. Lance, Dale Cates, Bob Lockwood, Dale Leach**

The whole affair was a lot of fun. But, the Rebels finally won the day when their cannon blast wiped out what remained of my unit. A mounted Rebel then charged over through our lines and captured our flag bearer and drummer boys. Since my musket was 'hot' when the Rebel on horseback passed by with his captives, I was very tempted to shoot him down! But, I decided not to change the ending of the battle! I held my fire. We heard some jeering from the spectators as we limped back into camp. I heard one shout out "I thought you were dead!" Maybe *our side* will get to win next year!.....*Respectfully submitted by Michael Lester Lance*

*Note: This photo was submitted by the author. Additional event photos from the following day were submitted by Brother Dale Leach and are printed on page 12.*

## *Liendo Plantation*

In 1830, José Justo Liendo gave Thomas F. McKinney power of attorney to locate the 67,000 acre Spanish land grant that he had purchased from the Mexican government 2 years before. McKinney successfully located the property in what is now Waller County, Texas. In 1841, McKinney, still acting on behalf of Mr. Liendo, sold 3,000 acres of that land to Mr. Leonard Waller Groce for \$1,500. Mr. Groce completed the building of his large home on the property in 1853, naming it *Liendo*. *Liendo* thus became one of the earliest cotton plantations in Texas.



**Liendo Plantation**

Mr. Groce's home was built by slave labor. The bricks were made from the red clay of the Brazos River. The foundation was constructed of brick and stuccoed with red plaster. The chimneys were also made of brick and plastered with lime. The colonial-style house had outer walls of drop-leaf siding, painted white. The adjustable blinds were dark green. The floors and ceilings were tongue-and-groove yellow pine. The ceiling of the drawing room was hand-painted in a design of roses and morning glories with the same design being carried out in its frieze. The interior walls were smoothly finished in plaster. The wainscoting of the dining room and the second-floor bedrooms reached six feet above the floors. The kitchen had facilities large enough to roast a whole beef; whole roast pig was mere routine. A "bachelors' hall" on the grounds was equipped to house guests. The Groce children and children of neighbors were instructed by a tutor at a schoolhouse situated on the plantation.

*Liendo* was a convenient stopping place between the Houston-Galveston area and Austin. It had a continuous stream of guests that included the most prominent persons of the day. *Liendo* quickly became the social center of Texas, receiving and lavishly entertaining early Texas dignitaries and notorieties. The revenues of this typical Southern plantation, which was operated with about 300 slaves, have been estimated as high as \$80,000 to \$100,000 a year in good years. Sufficient in all its needs - it was a self-contained community.

During the Civil War, *Camp Groce* was established at the plantation. Cavalry, artillery, and infantry were recruited there. Later it was converted to a prisoner-of-war camp and a hospital. *Liendo* was used to house Union troops captured at the 1863 *Battle of Galveston*. The plantation had always been recognized for its warm Southern hospitality, and this same tradition of generosity probably saved it from destruction after the Civil War. For a brief time after the conflict, the plantation served as headquarters for Union General George Armstrong Custer and his command. It is said that both Mr. Custer and his wife were so impressed with the plantation and the gracious hospitality shown to them during their stay that, in appreciation, they made sure *Liendo* was not harmed. However, like most Southern plantations, *Liendo* did fall on hard times after the Civil War and became somewhat of a 'white elephant'. In 1866, the year after the Civil War ended, Mr. Groce actually sold the plantation but had to take it back the next year. A long succession of new owners then followed. Since each new owner rarely knew anything about cotton planting, the plantation struggled to survive.

In 1873, Leonard W. Groce, Jr., sold *Liendo* - 1,100 acres - to world-renowned sculptor Elisabet Ney and Dr. Edmund D. Montgomery for \$10,000. Ms. Ney eventually moved on to Austin, Texas.

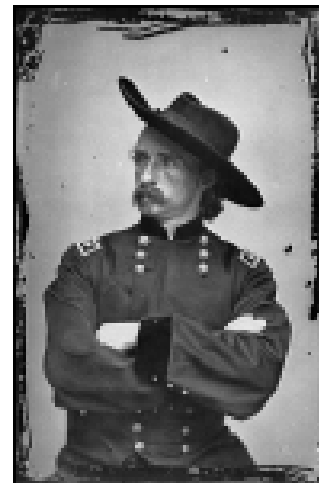
In 1909, Dr. Montgomery deeded *Liendo* to Theodor Low. He also reserved for himself a life interest and right of occupancy at the plantation. That same year, Mr. Low sold *Liendo* to W. P. Gains, who, in turn sold it to George W. Harris of Hughes County, South Dakota in 1910.

Dr. Montgomery finally waived his life interest in the plantation and reserved only the right to use a portion of the main house. He lived at *Liendo* until his death in 1911. He and Elisabet Ney were buried in a grove of live oaks on the grounds.

In 1943 Mrs. Laura B. Harris, widow of George W. Harris, sold her interest in the property to Miss Willene Compton, who then occupied the mansion.

In 1961, the plantation was purchased by Phyllis and Carl Detering and then completely reconstructed and modernized.

Today, *Liendo* is recognized as a Texas historic landmark and is listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*. A record of the appearance and condition of the plantation mansion has been deposited in the *Library of Congress*. Among the relics to be seen at *Liendo* are possessions of Elisabet Ney and Dr. Montgomery.



**Gen. George A. Custer**



Current Events – Photos – *Liendo Plantation* – 18 Nov 2006



A Union soldier says goodbye to his family at the front front steps of *Liendo Plantation*. His young daughter in the dogcart wears a sorrowful expression.



L-R: Brothers Dale Leach, Gary White, James Hackett, and David LaBrot pose in front of the Lea Camp booth. *Liendo Plantation* looms beyond the old oak trees.



A company of Federal Zouaves repose in camp prior to the impending battle.



A Federal skirmish line makes contact with Rebels. A vicious battle has begun.



The Rebel battle line, with Colors flying, looks strong as it stands to oppose the oncoming Federals.



A Federal company takes a few casualties as it moves forward to drive the Rebels from the field.

Note: Event photos on pages 12-14 were submitted by Brothers Dale M. Leach and David LaBrot

(Continued on next page)



Current Events – *Liendo Plantation* (continued)



Federal infantry advances on the double-quick.



A Rebel battery forcefully responds to the charging Yankees



A Federal battery fires a salvo. The Rebel cannons must be silenced.



A Federal mortar proves to be a good weapon for the up-close fighting.



A Union battery shows its mettle. The smoke soon billows into a thick cloud over the battlefield.



A Federal company moves forward with Colors flying. Union dead and wounded litter the ground in front.  
*(Continued on next page)*

## Current Events – *Liendo Plantation* (continued)



A wounded Federal Zouave appeals for medical aid while the battle rages beyond.



Victorious Rebels assist a wounded Yank.

## The Signal Corps – Part 2 - By A. W. Greely – Major General, United States Army

As Elk Mountain dominated the valley of the Antietam, it was occupied only to find that the dense woods on its summit cut off all view. However, energetic action soon cleared a vista, known to the soldiers as "McClellan's Gap," through which systematic telescopic search revealed all extended movements of the foe. The busy ax furnished material for a rude log structure, from the summit of which messages of great importance, on which were based the general disposition of the Federal troops, were sent.

At Fredericksburg, flag-work and telescopic reconnoitering were supplemented by the establishment of a field-telegraph line connecting army headquarters with *Franklin's Grand Division* on the extreme left. The flag station at headquarters kept Burnside in constant touch with the Federal attacking force on the right, under Couch and Hooker, through their signalmen in the courthouse steeple. One station near a field-hospital was under a fire, which killed about twenty men and wounded many others near by, until the surgeons asked suspension of flagging to save the lives of the wounded.

A most important part of the Signal Corps' duty was the interception and translation of messages interchanged between the Confederate signalmen. Perhaps the most notable of such achievements occurred in the Shenandoah Valley in 1864. On Massanutten, or Three Top Mountain, was a signal station which kept Early in touch with Lee's army to the southeastward, near Richmond, and which the Federals had under close watch. Late in the evening of October 15<sup>th</sup>, a keen-eyed lieutenant noted that "Three Top" was swinging his signal torch with an unwonted persistency that betokened a message of urgency. The time seemed interminable to the Union officer until the message began, which he read with suppressed excitement as follows: "*To Lieutenant-General Early. Be ready to move as soon as my forces join you, and we will crush Sheridan. Longstreet, Lieutenant-General.*"

Sheridan was then at Front Royal, en route to Washington. The message was handed to General Wright, in temporary command, at once, and was forwarded by him to Sheridan at midnight. The importance of this information is apparent, yet Early took the Union army completely by surprise three days later, at daybreak of October 19<sup>th</sup>, although the tide of morning defeat was turned to evening victory under the inspiration of Sheridan's matchless personality.

In the battles at Gettysburg, the Confederates established their chief signal station in the cupola of the Lutheran seminary, which commanded an extended field of operations. The Union Signal Corps was extremely active in gathering information and transmitting orders, and for perhaps the first time in military history, the commanding general of a large army was kept in communication during active operations with his corps and division commanders.

The most important Union signal station, on the second day of this titanic struggle, was at Little Round Top on the Federal left flank, which commanded a view of the country occupied by the right of Lee's army. Heavy was the price paid for flag-work at this point, where the men were exposed to the fierce shrapnel of artillery and the deadly bullet of Confederate sharpshooters in Devil's Den. On or beside this signal station, on a bare rock about ten feet square, seven men were killed or seriously wounded. With rash gallantry, Captain James A. Hall held his ground, and on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the most critical phase of the struggle, signaled to Meade's headquarters, "*A heavy column of enemy's infantry, about ten thousand, is moving from opposite our extreme left toward our right.*"

General Warren had hastened by Meade's order to Little Round Top to investigate. He says: "*There were no troops on it [Little Round Top] and it was used as a signal station. I saw that this was the key of the whole position, and that our troops in the .... woods in front of it could not see the ground in front of them, so that the enemy could come upon them unawares.*" A shot was fired into these woods by Warren's orders. He continues: "*This motion revealed to me the enemy's line of battle, already formed*

*(Continued on next page)*



## The Signal Corps – Part 2 *(continued from previous page)*

*and far outflanking our troops...The discovery was intensely thrilling and almost appalling.*" After narrating how he asked Meade for troops, Warren continues, *"While I was still alone with the signal officer, the musket balls began to fly around us, and he was about to fold up his flags and withdraw, but remained, at my request, and kept them waving in defiance."* This action saved the day for the Federals, as Warren declares.

The system around Vicksburg was such as to keep Grant fully informed of the efforts of the Confederates to disturb his communications in the rear, and also ensured the fullest cooperation between the Mississippi flotilla and his army. Judicious in praise, Grant's commendation of his signal officer speaks best for the service. Messages were constantly exchanged with the fleet, the final one of the siege being flagged as follows on the morning of July 4<sup>th</sup>: "4.30 A.M. 4: 1863. Admiral Porter: The enemy has accepted in the main my terms of capitulation and will surrender the city, works and garrison at 10 A.M....U.S. Grant, Major-General, Commanding."

The fleets of Farragut and Porter, while keeping the Mississippi open, carried signal officers to enable them to communicate with the army, their high masts and lofty trees enabling signals to be exchanged great distances. Doubtless the loftiest perch thus used during the war was that on the United States steamship *Richmond*, one of Farragut's fleet at Port Hudson. The *Richmond* was completely disabled by the central Confederate batteries while attempting to run past Port Hudson, her signal officer, working, meanwhile, in the maintop. As the running of the batteries was thus found to be too dangerous, the vessel dropped back and the signal officer suggested that he occupy the very tip of the highest mast for his working perch, which was fitted up, one hundred and sixty feet above the water. From this great height it was barely possible to signal over the highland occupied by the foe, and thus maintain uninterrupted communication and essential cooperation between the fleets of the central and lower Mississippi.

The most dramatic use of the Signal Corps was connected with the successful defense of Allatoona, Sherman's reserve depot in which were stored three millions of rations, practically undefended, as it was a distance in the rear of the army. Realizing the utmost importance of the railroad north of Marietta and of the supplies to Sherman, Hood threw Stewart's corps in the rear of the Union army, and French's division of about sixty-five hundred men was detached to capture Allatoona. With the Confederates intervening and telegraph lines destroyed, all would have been lost but for the Signal Corps station on Kennesaw Mountain. Corse was at Rome, thirty-six miles beyond Allatoona. From Vining's Station, the message was flagged over the heads of the foe to Allatoona by way of Kennesaw, and thence telegraphed to Corse, as follows: "General Corse: Sherman directs that you move forward and join Smith's division with your entire command, using cars if to be had, and burn provisions rather than lose them. General Vandever." At the same time, a message was sent to Allatoona: "Sherman is moving with force. Hold out." And again: "Hold on. General Sherman says he is working hard for you."

Sherman was at Kennesaw all day, October 5<sup>th</sup>, having learned of the arrival of Corse that morning, and anxiously watched the progress of the battle. That afternoon came a dispatch from Allatoona, sent during the engagement: "We are all right so far. General Corse is wounded." Next morning, Dayton, Sherman's assistant adjutant-general, asked how Corse was and he answered, "I am short a cheekbone and one ear, but am able to whip all h\_\_l yet." That the fight was desperate is shown by Corse's losses, seven hundred and five killed and wounded, and two hundred captured, out of an effective force of about fifteen hundred.

An unusual application of signal stores was made at the siege of Knoxville, when Longstreet attacked at dawn. Sending up a signal by Roman candles to indicate the point of attack, the signal officer followed it by discharging the candles toward the advancing Confederates, which not only disconcerted some of them, but made visible the approaching lines and made possible more accurate fire on the part of the Union artillery.

While at Missionary Ridge, the following message was flagged at a critical point: "Sherman: Thomas has carried the hill and lot in his immediate front. Now is your time to attack with vigor. Do so. Grant." Other signal work of value intervened between Missionary Ridge and Allatoona, so that the Signal Corps was placed even more to the front in the Atlanta campaign and during the march to the sea.

The Confederates had changed their cipher key, but Sherman's indefatigable officers ascertained the new key from intercepted messages, thus giving the general much important information.

Several stations for observation were established in high trees, some more than a hundred feet from the ground, from which were noted the movements of the various commands, of wagon trains, and railroad cars. Hood's gallant sortie from Atlanta was detected at its very start, and despite the severity of the fight, during which one flagman was killed, messages were sent throughout the battle – even over the heads of the foe.

Of importance, though devoid of danger, among the final messages on arrival at Savannah was one ordering, by flag, the immediate assault on Fort McAllister by Hazen, with the soldierly answer, "I am ready and will assault at once," and the other announcing to the expectant fleet that Sherman had completed the famous march to the sea with his army in excellent condition.

*(To be continued...)*

*(Source: Reprinted from The Photographic History of the Civil War – Volume 8 – pages 324-336 – published by The Review of Reviews Company, 1911)*

## Veteran's Day – 2006

Historic 1870 Yates House – Houston, Texas



Front row L-R: **1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Tom Whitesides** (13<sup>th</sup> U.S.); **Pvt. Curtis Lewis** (13<sup>th</sup> U.S.); **Pvt. Bobby Gant** (13<sup>th</sup> U.S.); **1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Pete Hollyer** (13<sup>th</sup> U.S.); **Cpl. Johnathan Shanks** (173<sup>rd</sup> NY Vol. Inf.); **Pvt. Lanny Low** (13<sup>th</sup> U.S.).  
Back row L-R: **1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. James Hackett** (Lea Camp - SUV); **Pvt. Patrick Gant** (13<sup>th</sup> U.S.); **Pvt. Bob Lockwood**; **Pvt. Dale Leach** (Lea Camp - SUV).

*"A heavy task was before us; we were equal to it, and shall all remember with pride that at Gettysburg we did our country much service."*

**John Buford** – Major General (1826-1863)

John Buford was born in Kentucky in 1826 but moved to Illinois when a child. He was later appointed to *West Point* and graduated 16<sup>th</sup> of 38 in his 1848 class. Buford was then posted to the dragoons and saw some action along the western frontier and participated in the expedition against the *Mormons* in Utah in 1857-1858.

He served several assignments during the Civil war, including: Brigadier General and Cavalry Commander. Two of Buford's cavalry brigades initiated the fighting at Gettysburg in July 1863. He succeeded in holding off the Confederate forces long enough for Union troops to secure a defensive position.

His health deteriorated in the fall of 1863, and he took a sick leave in November. Buford died from typhoid fever on December 16, 1863, in Virginia. His appointment as Major General, to rank from the first day of the *Battle of Gettysburg*, was confirmed after his death.

