

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

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



Harriet Lane

Summer 2006 Volume 13 Number 2

From the Commander's Tent

Here we go again. It's summer. School is out, people are on vacations and the pace of life in some ways is even more frantic than during the other seasons of the year.

Our Camp continues to grow and prosper, with new members and new activities. January saw the successful culmination of years of hard work as we dedicated the historical marker for Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea in Galveston. There was also one event that was notable for its absence. For the first time since its inception in 1965, the annual *Memorial Day* commemoration at the National Cemetery was cancelled due to torrential rains. My thanks to everyone who braved the deluge to come out to the cemetery.

The Camp initiated a new award program in support of the high school Junior ROTC program. Awards were presented to deserving cadets in the Air Force JROTC programs at Klein High School, Klein Collins High School, Lamar Consolidated High School, and Foster High School. This program was instituted by the National organization three years ago, but this was the first year the Camp participated. The future of the program will be determined at the National Convention in August.

The next six months promise to be just as busy, with the upcoming reenactments at Crockett in October and Liendo Plantation in November. Our speakers committee is hard at work lining up interesting speakers for the fall.

With everything going on there is more than enough to do for everyone. Each of you makes an important contribution to the Camp every time you come to a meeting or participate in one of our events. Your continued support is critical to the success of our Order, and is greatly appreciated. I hope to see every one of you before the year is over.

Have a happy summer.

Yours in F. C. & L.

Steve Schulze Camp Commander

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Membership Muster

Camp Member

Camp Commander – Mr. Stephen D. Schulze
 Sr. Vice-Commander – Mr. Scott D. Shuster
 Jr. Vice-Commander – Mr. James S. Hackett
 Secretary/Treasurer – Mr. Gary E. White ~

Chaplain – Mr. Randall D. Scallan
 Patriotic Instr. – Mr. Harrison G. Moore IV ~ **
 Camp Historian – Mr. Dale H. Leach
 Graves Registration – Mr. Gregory R. Stafford

Mr. Mark H. Andrus
 Mr. Michael Boyd
 Mr. William David Burdette
 Mr. William D. Campbell **
 Mr. Clifford Dale Cates ^^
 Mr. Stephen D. Forman **
 Mr. James M. Foster

Mr. Daniel Andrew Nelson Gillaspia ++
Mr. Glenn Clayton Gillaspia III ++
 Dr. Albert Gunn

Mr. Albert Gunn III

Mr. Andrew R. Gunn

Mr. Olin E. Hartley
 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. Lee A. Phillips
 Mr. C. John Powers ~
 Mr. Henry W. Satterwhite
 Mr. John Schneider
 Dr. Harold E. Secor
 Mr. Allen D. Stafford
 Mr. Bartley N. Stockton

Mr. Stephen W. Tanner
 Mr. Chapman Traylor
 Mr. Nash Traylor
 Mr. Kenneth W. Vaughn

Mr. Glenn A. Webber
 Mr. Charles B. White
 Mr. Robert E. Wickman

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
 Co. G, 40th New York Infantry
 Pvt. Edward Gunn
 Co. G, 40th New York Infantry
 Pvt. Edward Gunn
 Co. G, 40th New York Infantry
 Pvt. William Gass
 Pvt. Philip Jacob Apffel
 Pvt. Warren W. White
 Sgt. Isaac Newton Stubblefield
 Sgt. Isaac Newton Stubblefield
 --
 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
 Cpl. Isaiah Green
 Pvt. James Albert Powell
 Lt. Gen. Wesley Merritt
 Lt. Col. Casper Carl Schneider
 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. Hugh Alexander Hoy

Service Unit

Co. D, 9th Illinois Volunteers
 Co. F, 171st Pennsylvania Infantry
 4th Kentucky Mounted Infantry
 Co. D, 1st New York Mounted Rifles

184th Ohio Infantry
 Co. K, 63rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry
 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry
 Co. H, 8th MO State Militia Cav.

Co. B, 52nd Illinois Infantry
 Co. A, 38th Illinois Infantry
 Co. H, 122nd New York Vol. Inf.
 Co. I, 12th Illinois Infantry
 **

Co. C, 20th Indiana Infantry
 Co. C, 2nd Illinois Light Infantry
 Nelsons 19th Indep Batt OH Lt Arty.
 Nelsons 19th Indep Batt OH Lt Arty.
 Co. C, 74th New York Infantry &

Co. C, 74th New York Infantry &

Co. C, 74th New York Infantry &

Co. A, 168th Penn. Militia Infantry
 Co. A, 46th Iowa Volunteer Inf.
 Co. K, 44th U.S. Colored Infantry
 2nd Regiment Texas Cavalry
 2nd Regiment Texas Cavalry
 --

Co. K, 52nd Penn. Volunteer Inf.
 Co. G, 5th Wisconsin Infantry
 Co. E, 12th MO State Militia Cav.
 Co. L, 5th MO State Militia Cav.
 Co. F, 12th Indiana Infantry
 Co. E, 59th Indiana Infantry
 Co. E, 7th Michigan Cavalry
 Co. E, 7th Michigan Cavalry
 Co. A, 7th Indiana Infantry
 Co. K, 63rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry
 25th Missouri Infantry
 Co. G, 8th Illinois Cavalry
 Co. C, 3rd Wisconsin Infantry
 Co. D, 26th Massachusetts Infantry
 Co. C, 37th Indiana Infantry
 Co. C, 146th Illinois Infantry
 Commander 3rd Brigade (regulars)
 103rd New York Infantry
 Co. D, 28th Massachusetts
 Co. H, 8th MO State Militia Cavalry
 Co. F, 74th New York &
 Co. H, 40th New York Infantry &
 Co. F, 5th Regt., Excelsior Brigade
 1st Nebraska Infantry
 Battery B, 1st Btn Tenn. Lt Artillery
 Battery B, 1st Btn Tenn. Lt Artillery
 Co. E, 3rd Minnesota Infantry &
 Troop K, 2nd Minnesota Cavalry
 Co. E, 133rd Illinois Vol. Infantry
 Co. G, 47th Missouri Volunteers
 Co. D, Bracketts Btn, Minn. Cavalry

~ Charter Member

** Past Camp Commander

++ New Member

^^ Associate Member

Editor's Message

This issue of the *Harriet Lane* is shorter than previous recent issues due to the unfortunate rainout of the *Memorial Day* ceremonies planned for May 29th at the National Cemetery. I expected a wealth of interesting photos taken at that event to be available to grace these pages. But alas, maybe next year!

I would like to use this opportunity to suggest that those of you who have internet access take an on-line look at some of the other SUVCW camp newsletters from around the country. There are some really fine ones out there. At the top of the list would have to be *The Lone Star Unionist*, the newsletter of the *Department of Texas*.

Our Order is involved with many interesting and beneficial causes and projects. I, for one, am very proud to be associated with this organization.

In F. C. & L,

Michael L. Lance – Editor

Camp Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
13 Jun 2006	Monthly Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	Spaghetti Warehouse, Houston
11 Jul 2006	Monthly Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	Spaghetti Warehouse, Houston
Aug 2006	No regular Meeting	
12 Sep 2006	Monthly Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	Spaghetti Warehouse, Houston
10 Oct 2006	Monthly Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Nominations for Camp Officers for 2007	Spaghetti Warehouse, Houston
21-22 Oct 2006	Battle of Crockett Springs Re-enactment	Crockett, Texas
11 Nov 2006	Veteran's Day Parade	Downtown Houston
14 Nov 2006	Monthly Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	Spaghetti Warehouse, Houston
18-19 Nov 2006	Civil War Weekend – Liendo Plantation	Hempstead, Texas
12 Dec 2006	Monthly Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	Spaghetti Warehouse, Houston
13 Jan 2007	Battle of Galveston Commemoration: 10:00 a.m. Monthly Meeting and 2007 Camp Officer Installation	Galveston, Texas

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). Publishing deadlines are: Spring issue – Feb 15, Summer issue – May 15, Fall issue – Aug 15, Winter issue – Nov 15.

Camp Commander – Mr. Stephen D. Schulze
 Senior Vice-Commander – Mr. Scott D. Shuster
 Junior Vice-Commander – Mr. James S. Hackett
 Secretary/Treasurer – Mr. Gary E. White
 SUVCW Edward Lea Camp #2 website:
 SUVCW Department of Texas website:
 SUVCW National website:

713-729-0348 sdsmcs@swbell.net
 281-859-7125 dshuster@ix.netcom.com
 281-495-4235 jrvic6@yahoo.com
 281-890-7823 gwhite18@houston.rr.com
<http://www.txsuv.org/lea/index.htm>
<http://www.txsuv.org>
<http://www.suvcw.org>

New Member Profiles

Introducing Mr. Glenn Clayton Gillaspia And Mr. Daniel Andrew Nelson Gillaspia



Glenn Clayton Gillaspia, III - Glenn is a 2004 Texas Scholar graduate of Abundant Life Christian Academy in La Marque, Texas. While in high school, Glenn was captain of the varsity football team as well as the varsity baseball team. Glenn was placed on the 1st team all-district TAPPS (Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools) 2-A varsity baseball team as well as given All-State Honorable Mention in defense for TAPPS 2-A varsity football. He is currently attending San Jacinto Junior College and will be transferring to Texas Chiropractic College in Pasadena upon completion of his undergraduate hours. Glenn was awarded Highest Dean's Honors and was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa at College of the Mainland. His hobbies include playing in a softball league at Big League Dreams Ball Park, playing paint ball war games, and collecting DVDs. His goal is to become a Chiropractor specializing in sports therapy.



Daniel Andrew Nelson Gillaspia - Daniel is a 2006 Texas Distinguished graduate of SRA-Abundant Life Campus in La Marque, Texas. He graduated as Salutatorian of his class with a 4.39 GPA and was the recipient of several state and National scholarships. He was a member of the National Honor Society and the National Society of High School Scholars. Daniel was the senior class president and captain of the varsity football team. Daniel was a TAPPS 2-A varsity track state finalist. He was a 2nd place National Finalist in TAPPS 2-A Drama competition. While in high school, he also attended College of the Mainland and was placed on the National Dean's List and was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa. Daniel plans to obtain a business degree at Texas A&M in College Station, Texas. His goal is to one day serve in the United States Navy as a Navy SEAL.

Glenn and Daniel join the Camp based on the Civil War Service of their great-great-great grandfather, [Martin Leonard](#). Martin Leonard served as a Private with the 19th Ohio Independent Light Artillery.

Current Camp Events

Edward Lea Camp #2 Meeting

Houston, Texas – 14 Mar 2006

Commander [Stephen D. Schulze](#) called the March 2006 meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. at the Spaghetti Warehouse Restaurant in Houston. Eight Brothers and two guests were in attendance. Department Commander/Camp Patriotic Instructor [Harrison Moore](#) led the *Pledge of Allegiance* and offered the opening prayer. Secretary/Treasurer [Gary White](#) then read the minutes from the previous meeting and presented the financial report – both of which were approved by a voice vote.

Following discussion about the old and new business of the Camp and some comments about the Camp website by guest/webmaster [Charles Mitchell](#), the attendees were treated to a fine presentation given by Jr. Vice-Cmdr. [James Hackett](#). Brother Hackett's topic concerned historic military ships. His interesting presentation was highlighted by fourteen handcrafted models arrayed on a long table in individual display cases. Each model was also pictured and described on an antique postcard positioned in each display case (post-card collecting is another hobby of this talented man). The historic models were totally handcrafted by Brother Hackett using balsa wood, poster paper, tubular aluminum, thread, etc.

(Continued on next page)

Current Camp Events – Camp Meeting 14 Mar 2006 - <i>continued</i>

The following paragraphs describe some of the highlights of Brother Hackett's presentation. He first explained that war ships changed very little for about 400 years. The sixty years beginning about 1855 to 1945, however, brought a complete revolution in ship design and armaments. The guns constantly got bigger and the armor became thicker in an ongoing race for naval superiority.



Brother James S. Hackett holding one of his many finely detailed hand-built historic model ships.

The *U.S. Civil War* brought the 1st battle between ironclads – *C.S.S. Virginia/Merrimac* vs. the *U.S.S. Monitor*. Brother Hackett described this battle in detail using his models. He related that in order to prevent rust, the *Merrimac* was coated with beef tallow since rust-inhibiting paint was not available for the ship. He conjectured that the *Merrimac* was probably brown in color.

The *U.S.S. New Ironside* was introduced in 1862. It was enclosed in railroad iron from the water-line up. The bow and stern were not armored. It had a one inch thick iron deck covered with sandbags and un-tanned animal hides for protection. This ship reportedly never lost a man. It had full sails but took them down during battles. It could only cruise at 4 ½ knots and was often towed to battles. This ship received little recognition and eventually caught fire by accident and sank.

By the end of the Civil War, the U.S. had one of the largest navies in the world. However, neglect soon became the order of the day resulting in only a few surviving steam frigates. Brother Hackett related that by 1880, the U.S. found itself to be number twelfth in naval strength – behind Chili! Meanwhile, Europe continued to innovate and experiment. In 1881, the U.S. Navy was reborn and took advantage of some of the advances made by the Europeans. That year, the cruiser *U.S.S. Baltimore* was built. It had eight-inch open-mounted guns. There were no gun turrets or protection for the sailors. It had armor below the decks. The sides were protected by coal bunkers. The *Baltimore* served during the *Spanish-American War* and operated until it became a hulk at Pearl Harbor.

With the introduction of the cruiser *U.S.S. Olympia* in 1895, guns were mounted in round deck-mounted turrets. The turrets rotated on rollers and had to be turned away from the battle for reloading. Thus, it took four to six minutes between shots.

1895 also saw the introduction of the 2nd class battleships *U.S.S. Maine* and *U.S.S. Texas*. They had off-set turrets (not on the centerline) to shoot forward or backward. Unfortunately, it was soon discovered that some gun blasts tore up portions of the deck when shot fore and aft.

The 1st Class heavy battleships (*Indiana Class*) were soon introduced. They were very tough ships with large guns. Four 13 ½ inch guns and eight 8 inch guns in turrets were complimented by many smaller guns. These ships also saw service during the *Spanish-American War*.

Soon came the dreadnought and super-dreadnought battleships. These vessels caused smaller close-range guns to become obsolete. They had triple-gun turrets which allowed for more weapons on shorter ships. They also sported torpedo netting along their sides. The effectiveness of the netting was never tested during hostilities. Since the netting tended to cause drag and slow the ships down, it was often taken down.

On behalf of the Camp, I would like to thank Brother Hackett for a fine and interesting presentation.

...respectfully submitted by Michael L. Lance

Current Camp Events

Edward Lea Camp #2 Meeting

Houston, Texas – 11 Apr 2006

The Camp met on April 11, 2006 for our regular monthly meeting. The Spaghetti Warehouse restaurant in downtown Houston was the setting again. The usual dedicated cast of characters was present, including: Cmdr. Schulze; Sr. Vice-Cmdr. Shuster; Jr. Vice-Cmdr. Hackett; Sec./Treasurer White; and brothers Cates, Leach, LaBrot, Schneider, and Lance.

About 7:10 p.m., after all present had placed their menu choices with the wait staff, Cmdr. [Schulze](#) called the meeting to order. Following the *Pledge of Allegiance*, Brother [Cates](#) offered an opening prayer. We all then took our seats and the business portion of the meeting began in earnest.

Brother [White](#) offered the minutes from the previous meeting and the financial report for approval. He also updated the assembly on the work being done by the Historical Marker Committee. Brother [Shuster](#) then rose to report on the progress of the Speakers Committee. Brother [LaBrot](#) graciously volunteered to speak at the June monthly meeting.

Cmdr. Schulze then opened a lively discussion concerning the Camp's level of participation with the Jr. ROTC Award Program. After reviewing several potential recipient applications, the matter was opened to the floor for discussion. During the ensuing debate, several opinions were expressed before a vote was taken. The resulting tally was not unanimous but all concurred that the debate was conducted in a professional fashion and the discussion was informative.

Cmdr. Schulze then turned the topic of discussion to planning for the upcoming *Memorial Day Ceremonies* at the National Cemetery. All-in-all, it was an enjoyable time with good food, good friends, and a good cause! Try to join us at the next monthly meeting.

....respectfully submitted by [Michael L. Lance](#)

L-R: Brothers Dale Cates, James Hackett, David LaBrot, Michael Lance, Scott Shuster, Stephen Schulze, John Schneider, and Gary White. Brother Dale Leach, unfortunately, was not included in this photo. *Spaghetti Warehouse Restaurant – Houston, Texas.*

If you look closely, you will notice the wooden Indian in the center behind the group participating in a mock vote. Therefore, the 'ayes' carried 5-4!



Current Camp Events

Edward Lea Camp #2 Meeting

Houston, Texas – 9 May 2006



The monthly meeting of the Camp on May 9, 2006 was another in a long line of enjoyable gatherings. Officers [Schulze](#), [Shuster](#), [Hackett](#), and [White](#) were joined by Brothers [LaBrot](#), [Cates](#), [Leach](#), [Holmes](#), and [Lance](#). Vali Reyes and Margie Hencke also graced the meeting with their attendance as honored guests.

Commander Schulze brought the meeting to order shortly after 7:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance to our American flag, Brother Cates offered an opening prayer. The minutes of the previous Camp meeting and the financial reports were then submitted for approval by Secretary/Treasurer White. He also updated the Camp on the progress of the Historical Marker Committee. Senior Vice-Comdr. Shuster then gave the Speakers Committee report.

The new and old business topics discussed included: the recent Jr. ROTC Award presentation ceremonies; the June 10, 2006 annual *Department of Texas* encampment; the latest issue of the *Lone Star Unionist* newsletter; and the May 21, 2006 *Freedom Fighters Founders Day* event.

During the meeting, Brother White displayed the framed original charter of the *Department of the Southwest* to the assembly (photo at left). It lists the names of the original fifteen charter members and was dated May 13, 1895. This exact whereabouts of this document had been in question for some time, so this re-introduction was a happy event. It is now safely in the hands of

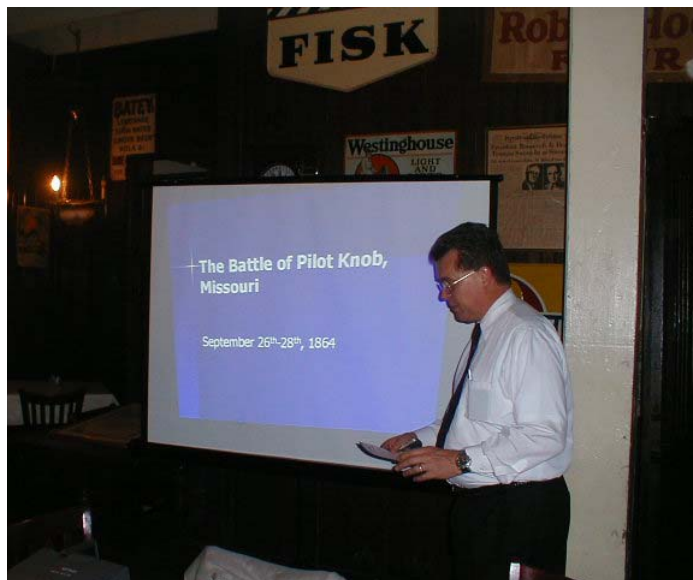
the Department Secretary as is its replacement, the newly issued *Department of Texas* charter.

The applications and qualifications of two new prospective Camp members were also analyzed and discussed. I'm happy to report that the membership applications for [Glenn Clayton Gillaspia III](#) and [Daniel Andrew Nelson Gillaspia](#) were submitted and unanimously approved by a voice vote. Please join me with welcoming these two newly installed Brothers (see *introductions on page 4*).

The highlight of the evening was the wonderful presentation given by Brother [David LaBrot](#). His topic concerned the 1864 *Battle of Pilot Knob* in Missouri. He had been motivated to intensely study that action because of the involvement of his own family. With the help of a fine DVD documentary and a slide presentation, Brother LaBrot brought the battle to life. The strategy and fighting action in and around Fort Davidson was described with clarity and fascinating detail.

Thank you Brother LaBrot!

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



Brother David LaBrot

Current Camp Events – Freedom Fighters Founders Day

On Sunday, May 21, 2006, the 1st Texas Sons and Daughters U. S. Colored Troops - Warren W. White Chapter conducted a program in Cedar Creek, Texas. The event was to celebrate *Freedom Fighters Founders Day*. The official *Freedom Fighters Founders Day* date is actually May 22nd of each year. The purpose of this commemorative program was to insure that the images and legacy of the U. S. Colored Troops participation in the Civil War remains in the public eye.

The program was conducted by [Dr. Steve Holmes](#), who is a member of the *Lt. Commander Edward Lea Camp #2 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*. Camp commander [Steve Schulze](#) and Junior Vice-Commander [James Hackett](#) also attended the event and participated in the activities.

... Submitted by [Brother Steve Holmes, Ed.D., Pearland, Texas](#)

Current Camp Events – Memorial Day

Brothers: Sorry that the ceremony at Houston National Cemetery had to be cancelled today -- it was the first time it has been cancelled since 1965. When I got there this morning at 8:15 they were already turning folks away, even though I was going to go in and try to find any remaining SUVCW members. Thought perhaps we could have gone somewhere to meet for lunch or hold a short impromptu ceremony at Washington Cemetery. Anyway, though disappointed as I know we all were, I hope you have a relaxing and contemplative day today.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
[Harrison Moore, Dept. Commander, Department of Texas, SUVCW](#)

Hardships of War

Combined Confederate and Union forces did not exceed 1.5 million men at any one time during the Civil War. Behind the scenes 31 million noncombatants spent the war years enduring, feeding, and repairing whatever the war created. Civilians grew the crops, rolled the bandages, worked in the factories, and made the wagons. They also sewed shoes, shirts and wounds. Many died, consumed by fire and lead in places like Manassas, Fredericksburg, and Atlanta as well as Baltimore, Knoxville, and New York City. To survive, some citizens turned to relief agencies, pension programs, and almshouses, but most relied on family, friends, and community. Without question, the Southern home front suffered tremendously, sacrificing a greater proportion of men, money, and land to the war than did Northerners. Few had it worse than slaves who remained in bondage while undergoing the same privations as free Southerners.

Ranking high on the list of hardships resulting from the war was the death of a family member in the service. The grim news sometimes came from a friend, an officer, a nurse, or perhaps a newspaper. Sometimes the messengers were the dying themselves, since various untreatable illnesses and wounds worked slowly enough to permit a final letter to be written home. All told, more than 630,000 soldiers died out of a total U.S. population of 32 million (a ratio six times worse than the World War II. A similar proportion of losses in the year 2000 would have meant the death of 5.5 million Americans). Along with high infant mortality rates, the life expectancy of those who did survive until adulthood was less than fifty years. In other words, death was a fairly common part of life in nineteenth-century America. But, most people died at home and among family. Closure was elusive when a loved military family member perished far away on some battlefield or operating table. Adding to the pain was the knowledge that a young life was cut short since the average age of a soldier, North and South, was twenty-three.

With the exception of high-ranking officers, most Civil War casualties were not returned home for burial. Many families traveled long distances to retrieve the body of a loved one if they had the means and adequate information. However, for tens of thousands of families, such information did not exist. Dog tags were not standard military issue until 1913. Some soldiers wrote their names on their clothes or on slips of paper to help identify them should they fall in battle. Since corpses often decomposed quickly, especially in warm weather, burial crews worked at their grim chore in great haste - rarely taking the time to properly identify bodies. Often the burial crews were could not even read the names if they wanted to since grave detail was often assigned to unskilled and illiterate laborers, slaves, and former slaves. Even worse, sometimes there was no body to bury. Many were ground into the earth by horse hooves and wagon wheels. Thousands of soldiers drowned. Square hits from artillery shredded the living and the dead. After several battles, soldiers even recalled seeing bodies eaten by hogs.

...(Source: *The History Buffs Guide to the Civil War*, Thomas R. Flagel, pgs 153-154, Cumberland House, 2003).

The Balloons With the Army of the Potomac - By T. S. C. Lowe

A personal reminiscence by Professor T. S. C. Lowe, who introduced and made balloon observations on the Peninsula for the Union army.

It was through the midnight observations with one of my war-balloons that I was enabled to discover that the fortifications at Yorktown were being evacuated, and at my request General Heintzelman made a trip with me that he might confirm the truth of my discovery. The entire great fortress was ablaze with bonfires, and the greatest activity prevailed, which was not visible except from the balloon. At first, the general was puzzled on seeing more wagons entering the forts than were going out, but when I called his attention to the fact that the ingoing wagons were light and moved rapidly (the wheels being visible as they passed each camp-fire), while the outgoing wagons were heavily loaded and moved slowly, there was no longer any doubt as to the object of the Confederates. General Heintzelman then accompanied me to General McClellan's headquarters for a consultation, while I, with orderlies, aroused other quietly sleeping corps commanders in time to put our whole army in motion in the very early hours of the morning, so that we were enabled to overtake the Confederate army at Williamsburg, an easy day's march beyond Yorktown on the road to Richmond.

Firing the day before had started early in the morning and continued until dark, every gun in the fortification being turned on the balloon, and then the next morning they were still pointing upward in the hope of preventing us in some way from further annoying the Confederates by watching their movements. The last shot, fired after dark, came into General Heintzelman's camp and completely destroyed his telegraph tent and instruments, the operator having just gone out to deliver a dispatch. The general and I were sitting together, discussing the probable reasons for the unusual effort to destroy the balloon, when we were both covered with what appeared to be tons of earth, which a great 12-inch shell had thrown up. Fortunately, it did not explode. I suggested that the next morning we should move the balloon so as to draw the foe's fire in another direction, but the general said that he could stand it if I could. Besides, he would like to have me near by, as he enjoyed going up occasionally himself. He told me that, while I saw a grand spectacle by watching the discharge of all those great guns that were paying their entire compliments to a single man, it was nothing as compared with the sight I would look down upon the next day when our great mortar batteries would open their siege-guns on the fortifications, which General McClellan expected to do.

I could see readily that I could be of no service at Williamsburg, both armies being hidden in a great forest. Therefore, General McClellan at the close of the battle sent orders to me to proceed with my outfit, including all the balloons, gas-generators, the balloon-inflating boat, gunboat, and tug, up the Pamunkey River, until I reached White House and the bridge crossing the historic river, and join the army which would be there as soon as myself.

This I did, starting early the next morning, passing by the great cotton-bale fortifications on the York River, and soon into the little winding but easily navigated stream of the Pamunkey. Every now and then I would let the balloon go up to view the surrounding country, and over the bridge beyond the Pamunkey River valley, I saw the rear of the retreating Confederates, which showed me that our army had not gotten along as fast as it was expected, and I could occasionally see a few scouts on horseback on the hills beyond. I saw my helpless condition without my gunboat, the *Coeur de Lion*, which had served me for the past year so well on the Potomac, Chesapeake, and York, and which I had sent to Commodore Wilkes to aid him in the bombardment of Fort Darling, on the James River, thinking I would have no further use for it. Therefore, all I had was the balloon-boat and the steam-tug and one hundred and fifty men with muskets, a large number of wagons, and gas-generators for three independent balloon outfits. My balloon-boat was almost a facsimile of our first little *Monitor* and about its size, and with the flag which I kept at the stern it had the appearance of an armed craft, which I think is all that saved me and my command, for the *Monitor* was what the Confederates dreaded at that time more than anything else.

After General Stoneman had left me at White House, I soon had a gas-generating apparatus beside a little pool of water, and from it extracted hydrogen enough in an hour to take both the general and myself to an altitude that enabled us to look into the windows of the city of Richmond and view its surroundings, and we saw what was left of the troops that had left Yorktown encamped about the city.

While my illness at Malvern Hill prevented me from reporting to headquarters until the army reached Antietam, those in charge of transportation in Washington took all my wagons and horses and left my command without transportation. Consequently, I could render no service there, but the moment General McClellan saw me he expressed his regret that I had been so ill, and that he did not have the benefit of my services; for if he had he could have gotten the proper information, he could have prevented a great amount of stores and artillery from re-crossing the Potomac and thus depleted the Confederate army that much more. I explained to him why he had

(Continued on next page)

The Balloons With the Army of the Potomac – (continued)

been deprived of my services, which did not surprise him, because he stated that everything had been done to annoy him, but that he must still perform his duty regardless of annoyances. When I asked him if I should accompany him across the river in pursuit of Lee, he replied that he would see that I had my supply trains immediately, but that the troops after so long a march were nearly all barefoot, and in no condition to proceed until they had been properly shod and clothed.

Without the time and knowledge gained by the midnight observations referred to at the beginning of this chapter, there would have been no battle of Williamsburg, and McClellan would have lost the opportunity of gaining a victory, the importance of which has never been properly appreciated. The Confederates would have gotten away with all their stores and ammunition without injury. It was also my night observations that gave the primary knowledge which saved the Federal army at the battle of Fair Oaks.

On arriving in sight of Richmond, I took observations to ascertain the best location for crossing the Chickahominy River. The one selected was where the Grapevine, or Sumner, Bridge was afterward built across that stream. Mechanicsville was the point nearest to Richmond, being only about four miles from the capital, but there we would have had to face the gathering army of the Confederacy, at the only point properly provided with trenches and earthworks. Here I established one of my aeronautic stations, where I could better estimate the increase of the Confederate army and observe their various movements. My main station and personal camp was on Gaines' Hill, overlooking the bridge where our army was to cross.

When this bridge was completed, about half of our army crossed over on the Richmond side of the river, the remainder delaying for a while to protect our transportation supplies and railway facilities. In the mean time, the Confederate camp in and about Richmond grew larger every day.

My night-and-day observations convinced me that with the great army then assembled in and about Richmond, we were too late to gain a victory, which a short time before was within our grasp. In the mean time, desperate efforts were made by the Confederates to destroy my balloon at Mechanicsville, in order to prevent my observing their movements.

At one point, they masked twelve of their best rifle-cannon, and while taking an early morning observation, all the twelve guns were simultaneously discharged at short range, some of the shells passing through the rigging of the balloon and nearly all bursting not more than two hundred feet beyond me, showing that through spies they had gotten my base of operations and range perfectly. I changed my base, and they never came so near destroying the balloon or capturing me after that.

I felt that it was important to take thorough observations that very night at that point, which I did. The great camps about Richmond were ablaze with fires. I had then experience enough to know what this meant, that they were cooking rations preparatory to moving. I knew that this movement must be against that portion of the army then across the river. At daylight the next morning, May 31st, I took another observation, continuing the same until the sun lighted up the roads. The atmosphere was perfectly clear. I knew exactly where to look for their line of march, and soon discovered one, then two, and then three columns of troops with artillery and ammunition wagons moving toward the position occupied by General Heintzelman's command. All this information was conveyed to the commanding general, who, on hearing my report that the force at both ends of the bridge was too slim to finish it that morning, immediately sent more men to work on it.

I used the balloon *Washington* at Mechanicsville for observations, until the Confederate army was within four or five miles of our lines. I then telegraphed my assistants to inflate the large balloon, *Intrepid*, in case anything should happen to either of the other two. This order was quickly carried out, and I then took a six-mile ride on horseback to my camp on Gaines' Hill, and made another observation from the balloon *Constitution*. I found it necessary to double the altitude unusually sufficient for observations in order to overlook forests and hills, and thus better to observe the movements of both our army and that of the Confederates.

To carry my telegraph apparatus, wires, and cables to this higher elevation, the lifting force of the *Constitution* proved to be too weak. It was then that I was put to my wits' end as to how I could best save an hour's time, which was the most important and precious hour of all my experience in the army. As I saw the two armies coming nearer and nearer together, there was no time to be lost. It flashed through my mind that if I could only get the gas that was in the smaller balloon, *Constitution*, into the *Intrepid*, which was then half filled, I would save an hour's time, and to us that hour's time would be worth a million dollars a minute. But how was I to rig up the

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The Balloons With the Army of the Potomac – *(continued)*

proper connection between the balloons? To do this within the space of time necessary puzzled me until I glanced down and saw a 10-inch camp-kettle, which instantly gave me the key to the situation. I ordered the bottom cut out of the kettle, the *Intrepid* disconnected with the gas-generating apparatus, and the *Constitution* brought down the hill. In the course of five or six minutes connection was made between both balloons and the gas in the *Constitution* was transferred into the *Intrepid*.

I immediately took a high-altitude observation as rapidly as possible, wrote my most important dispatch to the commanding general on my way down, and I dictated it to my expert telegraph operator. Then with the telegraph cable and instruments, I ascended to the height desired and remained there almost constantly during the battle, keeping the wires hot with information.

The Confederate skirmish line soon came in contact with our outposts, and I saw their whole well-laid plan. They had massed the bulk of their artillery and troops, not only with the intention of cutting off our ammunition supplies, but of preventing the main portion of the army from crossing the bridge to join Heintzelman.

As I reported the movements and maneuvers of the Confederates, I could see, in a very few moments, that our army was maneuvering to offset their plans.

At about twelve o'clock, the whole lines of both armies were in deadly conflict. Ours not only held its line firmly, but repulsed the foe at all his weaker points.

It was one of the greatest strains upon my nerves that I ever have experienced, to observe for many hours a fierce battle, while waiting for the bridge connecting the two armies to be completed. This fortunately was accomplished and our first reinforcements, under Sumner, were able to cross at four o'clock in the afternoon, followed by ammunition wagons.

It was at that time that the first and only Confederate balloon was used during the war. This balloon, which I afterward captured, was described by General Longstreet as follows:

It may be of interest at the outset to relate an incident which illustrates the pinched condition of the Confederacy even as early as 1862.

The Federals had been using balloons in examining our positions, and we watched with envious eyes their beautiful observations as they floated high up in the air, well out of range of our guns. While we were longing for the balloons that poverty denied us, a genius arose for the occasion and suggested that we send out and gather silk dresses in the Confederacy and make a balloon. It was done and we soon had a great patchwork ship of many varied hues which was ready for use in the Seven Days' campaign.

*We had no gas except in Richmond, and it was the custom to inflate the balloon there, tie it securely to an engine, and run it down the York River Railroad to any point at which we desired to send it up. One day it was on a steamer down on the James River, when the tide went out and left the vessel and balloon high and dry on a bar. The Federals gathered it in, and with it the last silk dress in the Confederacy. This capture was the meanest trick of the war and one that I have never yet forgiven. [Quoted from *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, New York].*

(Source: Reprinted from The Photographic History of the Civil War – Volume 8 – pages 276-284 – published by The Review of Reviews Company, 1911)

The SUVCW Edward Lea Camp #2 still needs volunteers to fill the important positions of: [Graves Registration Officer](#), [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.

Harriet Lane

"17th First Lady of the United States"

"Niece of President Buchanan"

(March 4, 1857 to March 3, 1861)



Unique among First Ladies, Harriet Lane acted as hostess for the only President who never married: James Buchanan, her favorite uncle and her guardian after she was orphaned at the age of eleven. And of all the ladies of the White House, few achieved such great success in deeply troubled times as this polished young woman in her twenties.

In the rich farming country of Franklin County, Pennsylvania, her family had prospered as merchants. Her uncle supervised her sound education in private school, completed by two years at the *Visitation Convent* in Georgetown.

By this time, "Nunc" was Secretary of State, and he introduced her to fashionable circles as he had promised, "in the best manner." In 1854 she joined him in London, where he was minister to the Court of St. James. Queen Victoria gave "dear Miss Lane" the rank of ambassador's wife; admiring suitors gave her the fame of a beauty.

In appearance "Hal" Lane was of medium height, with masses of light hair almost golden. In manner she enlivened social gatherings with a captivating mixture of spontaneity and poise. After the sadness of the Pierce administration, the capital eagerly welcomed its new "Democratic Queen" in 1857. Harriet Lane filled the White House with gaiety and flowers, and guided its social life with enthusiasm and discretion, winning national popularity.

As sectional tensions increased, she worked out seating arrangements for her weekly formal dinner parties with special care, to give dignitaries their proper precedence and still keep political foes apart. Her tact did not falter, but her task became impossible -- as did her uncle's. Seven states had seceded by the time Buchanan retired from office and thankfully returned with his niece to his spacious country home, *Wheatland*, near Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

From her teenage years, the popular Miss Lane flirted happily with numerous beaux, calling them "pleasant but dreadfully troublesome." Buchanan often warned her against "rushing precipitately into matrimonial connexions," and she waited until she was almost 36 to marry. She chose, with her uncle's approval, Henry Elliott Johnston, a Baltimore banker.

Within the next 18 years she faced one sorrow after another: the loss of her uncle, her two fine young sons, and her husband. Thereafter she decided to live in Washington, among friends made during years of happiness. She had acquired a sizable art collection, largely of European works, which she bequeathed to the government. Accepted after her death in 1903, it inspired an official of the Smithsonian Institution to call her "First Lady of the National Collection of Fine Arts." In addition, she had dedicated a generous sum to endow a home for invalid children at the *Johns Hopkins Hospital* in Baltimore. It became an outstanding pediatric facility, and its national reputation is a fitting memorial to the young lady who presided at the White House with such dignity and charm. The *Harriet Lane Outpatient Clinics* serve thousands of children today.

(source: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/firstladies/hl15.html>)

*This nation can never be conquered from without. If it is ever to fall,
it will be from within.*

Abraham Lincoln - 16th President of the U.S. (1809 - 1865)