

# SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

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



## Harriet Lane

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Fall 2006 Volume 13 Number 3  
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### *From the Commander's Tent*

Where does the time go? Another summer has passed. School and all the activities of the autumn are upon us. I hope that everyone had a great summer and is looking forward to the coming season. Fall is almost here with all its activities and celebrations. Before we know it, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas will be upon us. (Hopefully by then I will have last Christmas's bills paid off. Well I can dream, can't I?)

This fall promises to be another busy time for the camp. We have lots of things to do and events to plan for. We have the re-enactments at Crockett and Liendo to look forward to. Department Commander Rudy tells me that the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Re-enactors will be participating at Crockett this year so we will have an opportunity to share the experience with our Brothers from the Byrne Camp.

We will have our annual observance of the Battle of Galveston in January. This year is Edward Lea's turn to host the Department Meeting. We are discussing the possibility of holding the meeting in Galveston concurrently with our ceremony. It would be a lot earlier than we usually hold it, but is within the allowed time frame and offers some scheduling advantages for members of the other Camps. Commander Rudy said that some of the incoming National Officers have expressed interest in attending. We will need to do some serious planning in the next couple of months.

Fall is the time for the selection of Camp Officers for next year. Brothers Harrison Moore and Gary White have agreed to serve on the nominating committee. In the coming weeks they will be speaking with various Brothers. If you want to volunteer for an office please let them know of your interest as soon as possible.

The lifeblood of any organization is its members. We have been very fortunate in the caliber of men who have joined us these past four years that you have entrusted me with the job of Camp Commander. But the future of the Camp will continue to depend on our ability to attract new members. The National organization has a program to recognize members who help the organization grow. The award, consisting of a certificate of achievement and a special device to be worn on the membership badge is awarded to any Brother who is able to bring five new members into the organization. I urge everyone to make membership his personal goal for the coming year. Let's see how many of these awards we can earn.

Yours in F. C. & L.

*Steve Schulze* Camp Commander

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## Membership Muster

**Camp Member**

Mr. Stephen D. Schulze - Camp Commander  
 Mr. Scott D. Shuster - Sr. Vice-Commander  
 Mr. James S. Hackett - Jr. Vice-Commander  
 Mr. Gary 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 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  
**Mr. Jeffrey R. Schurwon ++**  
 Dr. Harold E. Secor  
**Mr. Brian Sinajead ^^ ++**  
 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  
 Mr. Edward Cotham - Author ##  
 Mr. Charles Mitchell - Camp Web Master ##

~ Charter Member    \*\* Past Camp Commander    ++ New Member    ^^ Associate Member    ## Honorary Camp Member

**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. William Gass  
 Pvt. Philip Jacob Appfel  
 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. 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. Hugh Alexander Hoy

**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> New York Infantry &  
 Co. G, 40<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry  
 Co. C, 74<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry &  
 Co. G, 40<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry  
 Co. C, 74<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry &  
 Co. G, 40<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry  
 Co. A, 168<sup>th</sup> Penn. Militia 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

--  
 Co. K, 52<sup>nd</sup> Penn. Volunteer Inf.  
 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> Indiana Infantry  
 Co. E, 59<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry  
 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, 37<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry  
 Co. C, 146<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry  
 Commander 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade (regulars)  
 103<sup>rd</sup> New York Infantry  
 Nelsons 19<sup>th</sup> Indep Batt OH Lt Arty.  
 Co. D, 28<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts  
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Co. H, 8<sup>th</sup> MO State Militia Cavalry  
 Co. F, 74<sup>th</sup> New York &  
 Co. H, 40<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry &  
 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> Minnesota Infantry &  
 Troop K, 2<sup>nd</sup> Minnesota Cavalry  
 Co. E, 133<sup>rd</sup> Illinois Vol. Infantry  
 Co. G, 47<sup>th</sup> Missouri Volunteers  
 Co. D, Bracketts Btn, Minn. Cavalry

## Editor's Message

As the scorching humid days of Summer begin to fall behind us, the cooler Fall weather now calls out for the breaking out once again of the heavy woolen Civil War uniforms. The muskets are getting polished and oiled and the powder packed. And, as happy chance would have it, our Camp has several outdoor activities scheduled during the next couple months. Come out and join us! Volunteer to become involved with an activity or two. Even better, begin procuring a period uniform. If you take the plunge and join us in full uniform, you will surely enjoy yourself and will probably wonder why you had not done so long before.

Our ancestors deserve to be remembered and honored today. Their lives and sacrifices made our lives, as we know them, possible. One excellent way we can honor our forefathers is by participating in reenactments. It always gives me a great pleasure to don the military uniform and accoutrements similar to what my great-great-grandfather wore and carried. I am sure he would break into a large grin to see me try to struggle along in that scratchy wool outfit carrying all that gear. The difference is, I can take it all off within a few hours while he was compelled to travel from Indiana to Georgia to South Carolina to Washington, D.C. to Louisville in it! He must have suffered much from fatigue, bugs, hunger, and who knows what! By the time he reached Louisville, he was disabled by constipation. How sweet his home must have seemed to him upon discharge from service!

Also, it is always a treat to parade out in a group in full uniform! The observing public is always receptive and appreciative when we appear. The look of curiosity and wonderment on the faces, of young and old, is priceless. Come be a part of the festivities and support the Camp at the same time!

In F. C. & L,

*Michael L. Lance*

Editor

### Camp Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
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
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](mailto: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  
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 SUCVW Department of Texas website:  
 SUCVW National website:

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<http://www.txsuv.org>  
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## New Member Profiles

### Introducing

Mr. Brian A. Sinainejad



Brian A. Sinainejad was born July 15, 1988 in Texas City, Texas. He grew up in La Marque and Dickinson, Texas. He graduated from Dickinson High School in May 2006. He is currently employed at Putt Putt Fun House in Webster. He is a talented artist and in July 2006 was accepted into the *Art Institute of Houston*, Texas. He is studying Media Arts and Animation and will graduate with a Bachelors degree in Fine Arts in the year 2010. He attends the *Abundant Life Youth Group* and *Bay Point Church* regularly.

### Introducing

Mr. Jeffrey Schurwon

Jeffrey Schurwon, of Webster, Texas is an assistant Manager at Hooter's of Clear Lake. He has been with the restaurant since January of 2000. Jeffrey devotes much of his time to the many charities and fundraisers sponsored by Hooter's, such as *The Sunshine Kids* and *The Armand Bayou Nature Preserve*. Jeffrey is also active in the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce. In his spare time, Jeffrey enjoys billiards.

Jeffrey joins the camp based on the Civil War service of his gr-gr-gr-grandfather, Pvt. Martin V. B. Leonard. Pvt. Leonard served with the 19<sup>th</sup> Ohio Independent Light Artillery (Shields Battery). He mustered in 11 Aug 1862 at Camp Cleveland, Cleveland, Ohio and was discharged 28 June 1865 at Cleveland. As part of the 19<sup>th</sup> OVA, his unit saw action at Rocky Face Ridge, Kennesaw Mountain and Lovejoy Station, and many other battles.

## Brothers with Separate Fates

Brothers and law partners Elliott and Samuel Rice of Oskaloosa, Iowa, both joined the Union army as military neophytes and rose to general's rank before the shooting ended.

Taking part in one battle after another – Shiloh, Corinth, and the Atlanta campaign among them – younger brother Elliott began service in 1861 as a private and served all the way through the battle of Bentonville, North Carolina, in April 1865. He survived an amazing seven wounds in all. At his death in 1887, twelve years after the Civil War ended, he still had a bullet in his body, acquired in the November 1861 battle of Belmont, Missouri.

Older brother Samuel, on the other hand, entered army service as a colonel after organizing the Thirty-third Iowa, served only in Missouri and Arkansas, and suffered one wound, a blow that struck the spur on his right foot. Due to the primitive medical procedures of the day, however, that one minor-sounding injury was enough. The bullet striking his lower right leg drove fragments of the metal spur into his ankle and shattered the bone. He died three months later.

*...(source: Best Little Ironies, Oddities & Mysteries of the Civil War, pgs 236-237, by C. Brian Kelly, Cumberland House, 2000)*

The SUVCW 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.

## Current Camp Events

### *Edward Lea Camp #2 Meeting*

Houston, Texas – 13 Jun 2006

On Tuesday evening, June 13, 2006, the Camp conducted its monthly meeting at the traditional location – The Spaghetti Warehouse Restaurant in downtown Houston. The officers present were: Commander Stephen Schulze; Jr. Vice-Cmdr. James Hackett; and Secretary/Treasurer Gary White. Past Camp Commanders Dean Letzring and Harrison Moore IV were also in attendance. Brothers David LaBrot, Glenn Gillaspia III, Daniel Gillaspia, Kurt Letzring, and Michael Lance rounded out the assembly. Also on hand were prospective members Jeffery Schurwon and Brian Sinainejad. Special guests included: Margaret Henck, Julie Sinainejad, Vali Reyes, Jana Marsh, and Mary Gillaspia.

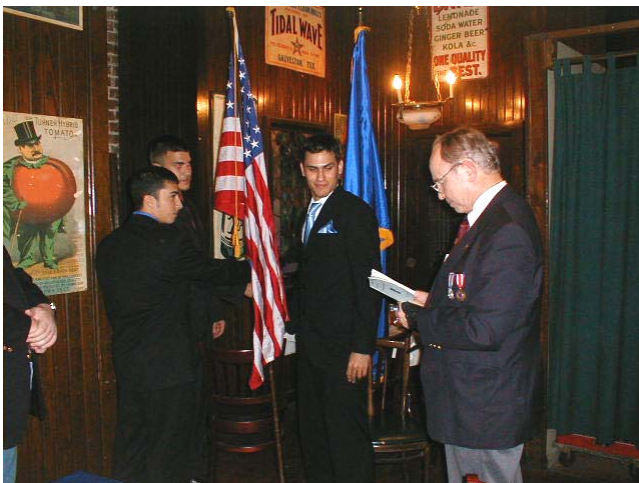
Commander [Stephen D. Schulze](#) called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. Department Commander/Camp Patriotic Instructor [Harrison Moore IV](#) then led the *Pledge of Allegiance*. The opening prayer was offered by Brother [David LaBrot](#). After Commander Schulze welcomed and introduced the members and guests, Secretary/Treasurer [Gary White](#) read the minutes from the previous meeting and presented the financial report. A voice vote approved both documents.

Following updates from the *Speaker* and *Marker* Committees, Brother [Moore](#) enlightened the Camp with news of the Department. The annual *Department Encampment* was successfully held June 10, 2006 in Ft. Worth. It was graciously hosted by the *General James J. Byrne Camp #1*. Major accomplishments of the *Encampment* included the approval of the Departmental Flag and the election of Department officers for 2007. Congratulations and a tip of the Keki goes out to the newly elected officers, who include: Department Commander [Blair Rudy](#) – *General James J. Byrne Camp #1*; Sr. Vice-Commander [Brian Glass](#) – *General James J. Byrne Camp #1*; Jr. Vice-Commander [Stephen Schulze](#) – *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2*; and Secretary/Treasurer [Scott Schuster](#) – *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2*.

Commander [Schulze](#) again took the floor to update the Camp on the status and progress of the Jr. ROTC awards program. Then a nice recap of the May 21, 2006 *Freedom Fighters Founders Day* event was offered with the assistance of Brothers [Stephen Holmes](#) and [James Hackett](#). The unfortunate and unprecedented rain-out of the *Memorial Day* ceremonies at the National Cemetery was reminisced on by several Brothers who attempted to attend.

Special guest [Margaret Henck](#) then took the floor to report on the progress of reforming the nearly dormant *Women's Camp Auxiliary*. She declared six members were forming up and the *Auxiliary* would soon become a viable entity once again. That was very good news indeed. She also informed the assembly about the progress with forming a *Daughter's of Union Veterans* tent in the Houston area. It appears that the ladies are on the move!

One of the highlights of the evening was the swearing-in of three new members (*photo below left*). New Brothers [Brian Sinainejad](#), [Glenn Gillaspia III](#), and [Daniel Gillaspia](#) took their oaths administered by Commander Schulze.



*L-R Taking the Oath:* Brian Sinainejad, Daniel Gillaspia, Glenn Gillaspia, Cmdr. Stephen Schulze



*L-R Posing:* Brian Sinainejad, Daniel Gillaspia, Glenn Gillaspia, Cmdr. Stephen Schulze

*(Continued on next page)*



Current Camp Events – 13 Jun 2006 Camp Meeting *(continued)*



Two proud mothers stand with their sons shortly after the young men officially became new Brothers of the *Edward Lea Camp*.

*L-R: Brian Sinainejad, Julie Sinainejad, Glenn Gillispia III, Mary Gillaspia, and Daniel Gillaspia*

Special guests line up for a photo following the business meeting. They include:

*L-R: Julie Sinainejad – Ladies Auxiliary SUVCW*

*Vali Reyes – Ladies Auxiliary SUVCW and Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War – Nancy Lincoln Tent #5*

*Jana Marsh - Ladies Auxiliary SUVCW and Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

*Mary Gillaspia - Ladies Auxiliary SUVCW and (soon to be) Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

*Margie Henck - Ladies Auxiliary SUVCW, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and United Daughters of the Confederacy of Galveston.*



The entire assembly gathered for a photo at the Spaghetti Warehouse restaurant following the Camp business meeting.

## Current Camp Events

### *Edward Lea Camp #2 Meeting*

Houston, Texas – 11 Jul 2006

On July 11, 2006, the Camp met for our regular monthly meeting at The Spaghetti Warehouse restaurant in downtown Houston. This meeting content was relatively light due to the anticipated 'bye' month of August. Even so, member turnout was strong once again. Officers Stephen Schulze, James Hackett, and Gary White were joined by Brothers Dale Leach, Steve Holmes, John Schneider, Steve Forman, David LaBrot, and Michael Lance.

After the business meeting was called to order by Commander Schulze at 7:21 p.m., Secretary/Treasure White read the minutes and offered the financial report. Brother White reported that the financial condition of the Camp continues to be strong. The minutes and financial reports were quickly approved giving way to the Speaker and Historical Marker committee reports by Brothers Schulze and White.



L-R: Brothers Holmes and White

New business included a call for volunteers to form a committee to nominate candidates for 2007 Camp officers.

News concerning the Good of the Order/Good of the Camp was presented by several Brothers, including: Brother Schneider spoke of his son's upcoming *Eagle Scout Court of Honor* ceremony and requested Camp participation; Brother Forman spoke about the destruction caused to the town of Sabine from Hurricane Rita and offered to investigate how the Camp might assist in the *Battle Of Sabine Pass* re-enactment; and Brother Hackett offered to loan a highly recommended Civil War book for reading to anyone interested.

### One Confederate Prisoner's Impression of Another

Newly captured Jefferson Davis, seen by Confederate Lt. Gen. Joseph "Fighting Joe" Wheeler, also newly captured, aboard the Federal steamboat carrying them both northward to a highly uncertain future as prisoners of the victorious Union...

*"As for President Davis himself, he showed not the slightest trepidation, but reviewed the situation as calmly as if he had no personal interest in it. He discussed the war, the men and its incidents, in the same dispassionate way that a traveler might speak of scenes and incidents in some foreign land. He was affable and dignified, as usual, and if he felt any fear, he certainly showed none."*

*...(source: Best Little Ironies, Oddities & Mysteries of the Civil War, pg 351, by C. Brian Kelly, Cumberland House, 2000)*

### Trivia – Bread

The counting of every pound of flour was one of the essentials required of the quartermaster's department. Each pan of baked bread was weighed. This was systematically done by the commissary-sergeant especially detailed for that purpose. Then the *Army of the Potomac* lay in front of Petersburg in 1864 and 1865, there were a great many inventions brought to the fore for the benefit of the men serving at the front. Among them was the army bake-oven, a regular baker's oven placed on wheels. After each batch of loaves was duly weighed, they went out from this bakery to the various regiments according to the amount requisitioned by their several commissaries. It was always a happy moment for the soldiers when "fresh-bread day" came around. It varied the monotony of "hardtack," and formed quite a luxury after a hard campaign. Soft bread was usually obtainable only in permanent camp since there was no time for it on the march.



## Current Camp Events

### *Civil War Education in Sonora and Mason*

Sonora and Mason, Texas

The far western wing of our Camp was very active this past summer. The following photos were submitted by Brother [Chap Traylor](#). Chap hails from the city of Sonora in Sutton County, Texas (*on I-10*). Since Sonora is over 300 miles from Houston, he rarely has the opportunity to attend any of our Houston/Galveston based functions. Instead, he teams up with his *Sons of Confederate Veterans* camp and the local *Confederate Rose* chapter to present educational programs to area school children and other Civil War related events.



*Above L-R: Mason teacher, Lynn Searcy (in his blue and grey uniform), Chap Traylor, Gaylon Harrison, Roy Timms, and Cecil Conner.*

During his presentations, Chap skillfully morphs between Union Blue and Confederate Gray as he strives to educate the youngsters about the life and ways of their forefathers. His specialty is speaking about the uniforms worn and the equipment carried. He usually starts by wearing his Confederate uniform and ends up wearing his Union uniform.

*Right: The volunteer program presenters, including members of the Confederate Rose, SCV, and SUCVW, pose together for a photo.*

On April 8, 2006, Chap participated in a marker dedication ceremony in Junction, Texas. He unveiled the marker with the assistance of members of the *Confederate Rose* and the *Frontier Guard SCV*. He then read the names of all the Union Veterans buried in Kimble County. Monica Traylor, accompanied by Cecil Conner, led the singing of *The Yellow Rose of Texas*. Members of the Junction and Kerrville SCV joined in to offer a musket salute.

On April 13, 2006, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class in Mason, Texas (*about 86 miles east of Sonora*) were treated with a presentation by Chap and his comrades during the school's *Civil War Day*. The participating school teacher at Mason, Lynn Searcy, wore his unique 'split-personality' uniform of half Blue and half Gray.



On May 10<sup>th</sup>, Chap and his troupe conducted an educational program for the Sonora 5<sup>th</sup> graders (he reports that he also did a presentation alone for the Sonora 8<sup>th</sup> graders on May 16<sup>th</sup> but has no pictures to share at this time).

*Left: Chap Traylor outfits a Sonora 5<sup>th</sup> grader in a period uniform, complete with weapon and accoutrements.*

*(Continued on next page)*



**Current Camp Events – School Presentations** *(continued)*

The program presenters divided the 5<sup>th</sup> graders into four groups. In that way, four different talks were progressing at the same time, including: marching techniques; the flags flown and weapons used; the uniforms and equipment; and what life was like for those who stayed at home.

*Right:* Ladies of the *Confederate Rose* demonstrating things they would have done at home during the war.



*Left:* Members of the *Confederate Rose* and SCV members instructing 5<sup>th</sup> grade Sonora school students in basic marching techniques using wooden guns.

*Right:* Cecil Conner performing period music on guitar for some of the students.



*.....Submitted by Brother Chap Traylor*

## Current Camp Events

### *Eagle Scout Court of Honor*

Clear Lake, Texas – 12 August 2006

On August 12, 2006, the *Edward Lea Camp* participated in an *Eagle Scout Court of Honor* ceremony at the Freeman Public Library in Clear Lake. Camp Commander [Stephen Schulze](#) and Jr. Vice-Commander [James Hackett](#) represented the Camp. The official ceremonies began at 3:00 p.m. and lasted about 40 minutes. A reception and refreshments, including some VERY large shrimp, were served afterwards.



Above L-R: Cmdr. Stephen Schulze, Eagle Scout John Edward Schneider, and JVC James Hackett

This program had a special meaning for our Camp since the Eagle Scout honored that afternoon is the son of Brother [John Schneider](#). Eagle Scout [John Edward Schneider Jr.](#) was presented with an SUVCW recognition certificate by Brothers Schulze and Hackett.

Several other Eagle Scouts were on hand to participate in the ceremony. Also in attendance were John Jr.'s parents. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

... submitted by Brother James Hackett

## One Night's Work – April 20, 1862

*Several years after the close of the Civil War, the following account of a naval action near New Orleans was published in 'Magazine of American History Illustrated'. The author, George B. Bacon, was an officer aboard U.S.S Itasca, one of the participating vessels. His first-hand description of what he saw and did on April 20, 1862 gives us a unique and personal up-close perspective of the action.*

### *Breaking the Chain for Farragut's Fleet at the Forts Below New Orleans*

By

George B. Bacon – Officer of U.S.S. Itasca

On the morning of April 20, 1862, orders were received by the commanding officers of the gunboats *Itasca* and *Pinola* to prepare their vessels for a night expedition. It was understood that the obstructions were to be removed which prevented the passing of Flag-Officer Farragut's fleet by the forts to New Orleans. These obstructions consisted of a huge chain, buoyed up by hulks, between Forts Jackson and St. Philip, which the Confederates had stretched across the river at that point. Captain Bell, who was to take command of the expedition, came on board the *Itasca* after dark and gave the following orders, to be carried out if possible.

The *Pinola* was to take the west side and the *Itasca* the east side. We were to ascend the river, board the hulks, and overpower the enemy if any were found on board of them. On the *Pinola*, the men were to use a petard to break the chain, while to the *Itasca* was assigned two kegs of powder (fifty pounds each) which were to be lashed to the chain and exploded by a five-minute fuse, it having been claimed that a large chain had been broken in that way.

Captain Bell called all the officers on the quarter-deck, and stated to us that on the success or failure of the night's work depended the capture of New Orleans, as Flag-Officer Farragut did not wish to take his fleet up the river until the obstructions were removed. Lieutenant-Commanding Caldwell, commanding the *Itasca* was ordered to place his vessel alongside one of the hulks, while I, with a picked crew of thirty sailors, was to board her, to be followed by Acting-Masters Jones and Johnson with the powder. Then we were to act as circumstances required.

We started up the river about ten o'clock. The night was favorable for the undertaking, as the moon was not up, and it was quite hazy. After passing the gunboats on picket duty, we kept along together when suddenly a light was shown from Fort Jackson, answered quickly by a rocket from Fort St. Philip, and it was apparent that we were discovered.

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One Night's Work – April 20, 1862 – (continued)
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In a moment a sharp fire was opened upon us from the water batteries and Fort Jackson, nearly all the shots passing over us. The engines were slowed down for a few moments when the order came to go ahead "fast" and make a dash at the hulks, which we did, soon losing sight of the *Pinola*.

We struck the second hulk from the shore on the east side of the river, threw our grapnel, stopping the engine at the same time, but the current running very strong, we drifted astern of the hulk, carrying away some of her upper works – started ahead again, and ran up on the port side of the first hulk on the eastern shore, slowing the engine and keeping our helm apart which eased the strain on the grapnel.

We sprang on board with the kegs of powder, but found no enemy on the hulks as was expected. We also found, as substantially reported, that the enemy had seven hulks or schooners, of about two hundred tons each, anchored at a distance of about one hundred yards apart, and extending across the river between Fort Jackson and the shore opposite, supporting a large chain. As well as we could discern in the darkness, these hulks were anchored, and the large chain was lashed to the hulks-chain outside, and near the hawse-pipe, and triced up well under the bows. The hulks-chain was passed around the windlass several times, and the end secured. We found the hulks-chain could be slipped from the bitts without using the powder, which was done by Acting-Master Johnson and his men, and as the hulks-chain went out, the large chain went down with it, setting the hulk adrift.

Our helm being apart and the engine running slow, ere we were aware of it, we found ourselves heading for and near the eastern shore; but before the engine could be reversed, we ran our bow up on a bank close to Fort St. Philip, taking the hulk with us. The firing from the enemy ceased soon after we struck the hulk, showing they had lost sight of us, probably supposing we had gone down the river.

Our position now was a very critical one. Every means in our power were used to back the vessel off, but of no avail. We could not move her an inch. Her bow seemed to be securely held in the mud of the bank. A short distance above us could be seen the Confederate gunboats signaling, and every moment we expected them down upon us. The *Pinola* could not at this time be seen, so every preparation was made to abandon the ship in case we were discovered by the enemy.

As the hulk was afloat alongside of us, a slow match was made ready to fire the magazine of the *Itasca*, when all hands were to board the hulk and float down the river. In a short time, the *Pinola* was discovered coming to our assistance, but failed to pull us off, as the hawser they gave us parted, and she soon disappeared in the darkness down the river. She was gone so long that Lieutenant Commanding Caldwell sent the executive officer in a boat to the *Hartford*, to report our situation to the flag-officer. Soon after the boat left the ship, the *Pinola* made her appearance again, having in the meantime been down the river and taken on board a large hawser, which, making fast to the *Itasca*, fortunately pulled her off just as a fire-raft was seen coming toward us.

The *Itasca* was now headed up stream, and running above the chain, turned, and in coming down passed over the chain between the second and third hulks, breaking it, and setting the hulks adrift, thus making a clear passage for the fleet. The officers of the *Pinola* informed us they were not able to accomplish anything with the petard, as it failed to work. The passage was reported clear to Flag-Officer Farragut, but the machinery of one of the large vessels being out of order, we did not go up to the attack of the forts that night as was expected.

On the 23<sup>d</sup> inst., Lieutenant-Commanding Caldwell, returning from the *Hartford*, said it was reported that another chain had been stretched across the river, and could be seen from the main-top of that vessel; and that Flag-Officer Farragut and he had been up in the main-top, and although *they could not see any chain*, still the flag-officer desired that either he or the Commander of the *Pinola* should go up to the hulks and decide the matter.

Lieutenant-Commander Caldwell said *he* would go, and taking the gig of the *Hartford*, with Acting-Master Jones and a picked crew, he pulled up to the hulks. I followed with the *Itasca*, keeping within supporting distance, and ready to render any assistance that might be necessary.

The gig, after reaching the hulks on the west shore, was steered across the river, a lead line dropped over, soundings made, and no chain or obstruction of any kind could be discovered. The gig returned about eleven o'clock, p.m., when we dropped down and made signal to the *Hartford* that the river was clear. Soon after, our signal was answered.

Another signal was run up by the flagship for "fleet to form line of battle." The *Itasca* took the position assigned to her. The fleet was fully underweigh about three thirty a.m. When opposite Fort Jackson, a forty-two pound shot fired from Fort St. Philip pierced our boiler, causing the steam to escape and completely stopping the motive power of the vessel. The *Itasca* drifted down the river in a sinking condition, having been well riddled with shot, and was towed ashore by the steamer *Harriet Lane*..... *Source: reprinted from 'Magazine of American History Illustrated' edited by Mrs. Martha J. Lamb, pgs 305-307, March 1886.*

*The Itasca was disabled by enemy gunfire on April 24, 1862 as she participated in the Federal squadron's daring ascent of the Mississippi to New Orleans. After repairs, she continued to operate along the great river during the rest of the year. The Itasca was then transferred to participate in the blockade off Galveston, Texas. In January 1863, she took two prizes before she went to Philadelphia for repairs in mid-year. She returned to the Gulf late in 1863 and was stationed off Mobile Bay. The gunboat was one of the squadron that ran past the Bay's defending*

*(Continued on next page)*



## One Night's Work – April 20, 1862 – *(continued)*

*forts on August 5, 1864, thus closing Mobile to external trade. Somewhat later, Itasca went back to the Texas blockade, where she captured one more sailing vessel and destroyed another late in 1864. She remained in the Gulf until August 1865, when she went north and was decommissioned. USS Itasca was sold to private interests in November 1865 and was renamed Aurora for merchant service. She was sold to foreign owners in 1867.*

## The Signal Corps – Part 1

By A. W. Greely – Major General, United States Army

No other arm of the military services during the Civil War excited a tithe of the curiosity and interest which surrounded the Signal Corps. To the onlooker, the messages of its waving flags, its winking lights and its rushing rockets were always mystic in their language, while their tenor was often fraught with thrilling import and productive of far-reaching effects.

The signal system, an American device, was tested first in border warfare against hostile Navajos; afterward the quick-witted soldiers of both the Federal and Confederate armies developed portable signaling to great advantage. The invention of a non-combatant, Surgeon A. J. Myer, it met with indifferent reception and evoked hostility in its early stages. When the stern actualities of war were realized, its evolution proceeded in the Federal army in face of corporation and departmental opposition, yet despite all adverse attacks it ultimately demonstrated its intrinsic merits. Denied a separate organization until the war neared its end, the corps suffered constantly from strife and dissension in Washington, its misfortunes culminating in the arbitrary removal of its first two chiefs. Thus its very existence was threatened. Nevertheless, the gallant, efficient services of its patriotic men and officers in the face of the foe were of such striking military value as to gain the confidence and win the commendation of the most distinguished generals.

Major Myer began work in 1861, at Georgetown, District of Columbia, with small details from the volunteers, though the corps eventually numbered about three hundred officers and twenty-five hundred men. Authorized as a separate corps by the act of Congress, approved March 3, 1863, its organization was not completed until August, 1864. The outcome was an embodiment of the army aphorism that "one campaign in Washington is worth two in the field." More than two thousand signalmen served at the front, of whom only nine were commissioned in the new corps, while seventeen were appointed from civil life. As a result of degradation in rank, eleven detailed officers declined commissions or resigned after acceptance. Colonel Myer, the inventor and organizer of the service, had his commission vacated in July, 1864, and his successor, Colonel Nicodemus, was summarily dismissed six months later, the command then devolving on Colonel B. F. Fisher, who was never confirmed by the Senate. That a corps so harassed should constantly distinguish itself in the field is one of the many marvels of patriotism displayed by the American soldier.

Signal messages were sent by means of flags, torches, or lights, by combinations of three separate motions. The flag (or torch) was initially held upright: "one" was indicated by waving the flag to the left and returning it from the ground to the upright position; "two" by a similar motion to the right, and "three" by a wave (or dip) to the front. Where a letter was composed of several figures, the motions were made in rapid succession without any pause. Letters were separated by a very brief pause, and words or sentences were distinguished by one or more dip motions to the front. [*i.e.* A=11, B=1221, C=212, D=111, E=21, F=1112, and so on; and 3=End of word, 33=End of sentence, 333=End of message, and so on].

When using Coston signals, there were more than twenty combinations of colored lights which permitted an extended system of prearranged signals. White rockets (or bombs)=one, Red=two, and Green=three. White flags with a square red center were most frequently employed for signaling purposes, though when snow was on the ground, a black flag was used, and with varying backgrounds, the red flag with a white center could be seen at greater distances than the white.

To secure secrecy, all important messages were enciphered by means of a cipher disk. Two concentric disks, of unequal size and revolving on a central pivot, were divided along their outer edges into thirty equal compartments. The inner and smaller disk contained in its compartments letters, terminations, and word-pauses, while the outer, larger disk contained groups of signal numbers to be sent. Sometimes this arrangement was changed and letters were on the outer disks and the numbers on the inner. By the use of prearranged keys, and through their frequent interchange, the secrecy of messages thus enciphered was almost absolutely ensured. In every important campaign and on every bloody ground, the red flags of the Signal Corps flaunted defiantly at the forefront, speeding stirring orders of advance, conveying warnings of impending danger, and sending sullen

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## The Signal Corps - Part 1 - (continued)

suggestions of defeat. They were seen on the advanced lines of Yorktown, Petersburg, and Richmond, in the saps and trenches at Charleston, Vicksburg, and Port Hudson, at the fierce battles of Chickamauga and Chancellorsville, before the fort-crowned crest of Fredericksburg, amid the frightful carnage of Antietam, on Kennesaw Mountain deciding the fate of Allatoona, in Sherman's march to the sea, and with Grant's victorious army at Appomattox and Richmond. They spoke silently to Du Pont along the dunes and sounds of the Carolinas, sent word to Porter clearing the central Mississippi River, and aided Farragut when forcing the passage of Mobile Bay.

Did a non-combatant corps ever before suffer such disproportionate casualties – killed, wounded, and captured? Sense of duty, necessity of exposure to fire, and importance of mission were conditions incompatible with personal safety – and the Signal Corps paid the price. While many found their fate in Confederate prisons, the extreme danger of signal work, when conjoined with stubborn adherence to outposts of duty, is forcefully evidenced by the fact that the killed of the Signal Corps were one hundred and fifty per cent of the wounded, as against the usual ratio of twenty per cent.

The Confederates were first in the field, for Beauregard's report acknowledges the aid rendered his army at Bull Run by Captain E. P. Alexander, a former pupil of Myer. McDowell was then without signalmen, and so could neither communicate regularly with Washington nor receive word of the vitally important dispatch from Patterson at Harper's Ferry telling of Johnston's departure to reinforce Beauregard at Manassas, which should have obviated the battle. Major Myer was quick, however, to establish a signal training-school at Red Hill, Georgetown, District of Columbia. In view of modern knowledge and practice, it seems almost incredible to note that the Secretary of War disapproved, in 1861, the recommendation made by Major Myer, signal officer of the army, for an appropriation for field-telegraph lines. While efforts to obtain, operate, and improve such lines were measurably successful on the part of the army, they were strenuously opposed by the civilian telegraph corporations so potent at the War Department.

Active protests proved unavailing and injurious. Colonel Myer's circular, in 1863, describing the systematic attempts of the civilian organization to deprive the Signal Corps of such lines "as an interference with a part of the Signal Corps' legitimate duties," caused him to be placed on waiting orders, while all field-trains were ordered to be turned over to the civilian force. It may be added that both organizations in the field cooperated with a degree of harmony and good-fellowship that was often lacking in Washington. Skilled parties were thus available for the Peninsula campaign of 1862, where McClellan utilized them, strictly army work being supplemented by placing signal officers with the navy, and thus ensuring that cooperation vitally essential to success. Not only was military information efficiently collected and distributed, but at critical junctures, McClellan was able to control the fire-direction of both the field-artillery of the army and the heavy guns of the navy.

At Yorktown, coigns of vantage were occupied in high trees and on lofty towers, whence messages were sent to and fro, especially those containing information of the position and movements of the foe, which were discerned by high-power telescopes – an important duty not always known or appreciated. Often their work drew the Confederate artillery and sharpshooters' fire, of unpleasant accuracy. The saving of Franklin's command at West Point, after the evacuation of Yorktown, was in large part due to the efficiency of the Signal Corps. Valuable as was the work before Richmond, under fire, in reconnoitering and in cooperation with the military telegraph service, it proved to be indispensable to the success of McClellan in changing his base from York River to James River – its importance culminating at Malvern Hill. It will be recalled that the Seven Days' Battles ended with the bloody struggle on the banks of the James, where the use of the Signal Corps enabled McClellan to transform impending defeat into successful defense. When the vigorous Confederate attack at Malvern Hill threatened the flank of the army, McClellan was aboard the United States steamship Galena, whose army signal officer informed him of the situation through messages flagged from the army. McClellan was thus enabled not only to give general orders to the army then in action, but also to direct the fire of the fleet, which had moved up the James for cooperation, most efficiently.

Lee's invasion of Maryland in 1862 would have been a complete surprise, except for the watchful vigilance of an officer of the Signal Corps, Lieutenant Miner, who occupied Sugar Loaf, the highest point in Maryland. From this lofty station were visible the more important fords of the Potomac, with their approaches on both sides of the river. Miner detected the Confederate advance guard, the train movements, and noted the objective points of their march. Notifying Washington of the invasion, although unprotected, he held his station to the last and was finally captured by the Southern troops. The re-occupancy of Sugar Loaf a week later enabled McClellan to establish a network of stations, whose activities contributed to the victory of South Mountain.... *(To be continued next issue)*

*(Source: Reprinted from The Photographic History of the Civil War – Volume 8 – pages 312-324 – published by The Review of Reviews Company, 1911)*

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Eighth grade students pose with members of *Sons of Confederate Veterans*, *Confederate Rose*, and *Sons of Union Veterans* following a Civil War educational program.

Mason, Texas – 13 April 2006

*Every man is said to have his peculiar ambition. Whether it be true or not, I can say for one that I have no other so great as that of being truly esteemed of my fellow men, by rendering myself worthy of their esteem.*

**Abraham Lincoln** - 16<sup>th</sup> President of the U.S. (1809 - 1865)