

# SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

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



## Harriet Lane

\*\*\*\*\*  
Winter 2007 Volume 14 Number 4  
\*\*\*\*\*

### From the Commander's Tent "SEASONS"

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven"

It is hard to believe that five years have passed since you entrusted me with the honor and responsibility of serving as Camp Commander. We have come a long way in the past five years. Camp membership has grown from around 30 to over 60. We founded a Color Guard that has been invited to participate in a number of events including the *Civil War Roundtable* and the *Montgomery County Historical Weekend*. This year we formed an SVR unit. The initial muster was held in November at Liendo. And we have also seen the reactivation of the *Auxiliary* and the formation of a Houston *DUVCW* Tent.

Before starting this final message I went back and re-read the previous ones I had written. They chronicle all of the things this Camp and its members have done and accomplished. Do you remember.....

- Memorial Day Observances at the National Cemetery?
- Veterans Day Parades - first firing cannons with the SCV and later marching with the 13<sup>th</sup> U.S.?
- Battle of Galveston commemoration ceremonies including the dedication of the monument to the Union casualties that the Commander-in-Chief attended?
- The placement and dedication of an historical marker at the grave of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea (and all the work that went into it)?
- Department Encampments?
- Dedication of historical markers and the monument to the Union casualties at the Sabine Pass Battlefield and the marker to Union surgeon Dr. Mason in the Sabine Pass cemetery?
- Civil War weekends at Liendo, Crockett, Livingston and Madisonville?
- Living History programs put on by Brothers at schools and reenactments?
- Boy Scout *Eagle Scout* awards?
- The many interesting speakers we have had?

One of the most notable achievements of the past five years is this newsletter - the award winning "Harriet Lane". Mike, the words "Thank You" seem inadequate to acknowledge all the work you have put into its publication every quarter for the past five years. Well Done. Very Well Done.

In closing this, my final message as Camp Commander, I would like to thank each of you for your support for me and for the Camp. The list of accomplishments above belongs to you, not to me. In January we will install a new slate of officers led by Brother Jim Hackett who, I am confident, will be an outstanding Camp Commander who will lead us to greater achievements in the coming year.

I wish you all the Merriest of Christmases and happiness and success in the coming year.

Yours in F. C. & L.

*Steve Schulze* Camp Commander

#### Contents

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1..... From the Commander's Tent                         | 9.... September 2007 Camp Meeting                           |
| 2..... Membership Muster                                 | 11 ...October 2007 Camp Meeting                             |
| 3..... Editor's Message                                  | 12... News from the Western Front – by Chap Traylor         |
| 3..... Camp Calendar                                     | 13... <i>Back to the Front</i> – Letter by Cpl. Lance       |
| 4..... New Members – Kelly McNamara and Chadwick Chester | 14... November 2007 Camp Meeting                            |
| 4..... Ancestor Profile – Green Berry Cates              | 16.. <i>Civil War Weekend</i> at Liendo Plantation - Photos |
| 5..... Sabine Pass Union Monument Dedication             | 18.. Sabine Pass Monument Dedication – Additional Photos    |

Membership Muster
-------------------

**Camp Member**

**Mr. Stephen D. Schulze - Camp Commander**  
**Mr. James S. Hackett - Sr. Vice-Commander**  
**Mr. David K. LaBrot - 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. Mark H. Andrus  
 Mr. Patrick W. Anthony  
 Mr. Michael Boyd  
 Mr. William David Burdette  
 Mr. William D. Campbell \*\*  
 Mr. Clifford Dale Cates ^^  
**Mr. Chadwick E. Chester ++**  
 Mr. Patrick R. Conley  
 Mr. Thomas M. Eishen  
 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. Samuel F. Hampton  
 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. Michael L. Lance  
 Mr. Jared S. Lenes  
 Mr. John P. Lenes  
 Mr. Dean Letzring \*\*  
 Mr. Kurt A. Letzring  
 Mr. Robert Lockwood  
 Mr. Randall S. McDaniel

**Mr. Kelly P. McNamara ++**

Mr. Frank S. Moore ~  
 Mr. James R. Perry  
 Mr. Peter V. Pederson  
 Mr. Jay M. Peterson  
 Mr. Lee A. Phillips  
 Mr. C. John Powers ~  
 Mr. Zachery Powers  
 Mr. Henry W. Satterwhite  
 Mr. John Schneider Sr.  
 Mr. John Schneider Jr.  
 Mr. Jeffrey R. Schurwon  
 Dr. Harold E. Secor  
 Mr. Scott D. Shuster - Sr. Vice-Commander  
 Mr. Brian Sinainejad ^^  
 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. Patrick M. Young  
 Mr. Edward Cotham - Author ##  
 Mr. Charles Mitchell - Camp Web Master ##

**Civil War Ancestor**

Pvt. Henry Ludwig Schulze  
 Cpl. Thadeus Hendrickson  
 Hosp. Steward Louis LaBoret  
 Commissary Sgt. William Judson  
 Chaplain Francis M. Byrd  
 Pvt. William Moore  
 Pvt. Sylvester Leach  
 Pvt. Matthew Barth  
 Pvt. Jesse Landrum  
 Pvt. Thomas Howey  
 Pvt. Nathan R. Price  
 Cpl. William Moore Campbell  
 \*\*

**Pvt. John A. Watts**

Pvt. Ethan Allen Holcomb  
 Pvt. Andreas Pfothenhauer  
 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. William Gass  
 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  
 Pvt. Finas Euen Lance  
 Pvt. Wilson Keffer  
 Pvt. Wilson Keffer  
 Pvt. Alexander McLain  
 Pvt. Alexander McLain  
 Pvt. Chauncey A Lockwood  
 Pvt. Fernando Cortez Nichols

**Pvt. Henry Hilton Wood**

Pvt. William Moore  
 Pvt. James R. Cook  
 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Royal B. Decker  
 Pvt. William Herbert Trull  
 Cpl. Isaiah Green  
 Pvt. James Albert Powell  
 Pvt. Wilson Keffer  
 Lt. Gen. Wesley Merritt  
 Lt. Col. Casper Carl Schneider  
 Lt. Col. Casper Carl Schneider  
 Pvt. Martin V. B. Leonard  
 Pvt. Isaac Secor  
 Pvt. John S. Darling  
 \*\*

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  
 Pvt. William Young  
 --  
 --

**Service Unit**

Co. D, 9<sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteers  
 4<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Mounted Infantry  
 Co E, 12<sup>th</sup>-Co L, 5<sup>th</sup> MO State Milit. Cav  
 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. B, 52<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Infantry  
 Co. D, 118<sup>th</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  
 \*\*

**Independ Co Trumbull Guards, OH Inf.**

Co. A, 126<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Militia  
 Co. F, 4<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry  
 Co. C, 20<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry  
 Co. C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Light Infantry  
 Shields' 19<sup>th</sup> Indep Batt OH Lt Arty.  
 Shields' 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, 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  
 54<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry  
 Co. K, 52<sup>nd</sup> PA Vol. Infantry  
 Co. G, 5<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry  
 Co. F, 12<sup>th</sup> IN Inf. - Co. E, 59<sup>th</sup> IN Inf.  
 Co. B, 8<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Infantry  
 Co. B, 8<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Infantry  
 Co. E, 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry  
 Co. E, 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry  
 Co. H, 14<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry  
 Co. A, 7<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry  
**Co. E, 121<sup>st</sup> New York Infantry**  
 Co. K, 63<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry  
 Co. C, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wisconsin Infantry  
 Co. B, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine 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  
 Co. B, 8<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Infantry  
 Commander 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade (regulars)  
 103<sup>rd</sup> New York Infantry  
 103<sup>rd</sup> New York Infantry  
 Shields' 19<sup>th</sup> Indep Batt OH Lt Arty.  
 Co. D, 28<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts  
 Co. F, 171<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry  
 \*\*

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. D, Bracketts Btn, Minn. Cavalry  
 30<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Penn. Militia  
 --  
 --

Editor's Message
------------------

This issue marks the end of five years in publication of the *Harriet Lane* in its current format. While this newsletter is a challenge to assemble, seeing and reading the finished product is always very rewarding. As Brother Schulze mentions in his Commander's message, our Camp has accomplished a lot during the last five years. The *Harriet Lane* has faithfully chronicled our activities in words and photos. Each issue has been placed on-line by webmaster and Honorary member, Charles Mitchell, so that anyone wishing to know what we are all about can easily access our recent history with the click of a mouse! In addition, a paper copy of each *Harriet Lane* has been submitted to Camp Historian Dale Leach for inclusion in our Camp archives. As time passes, this written record should remain to testify as to the goals, hard work, and accomplishments of our Order.

This issue also marks the end of a long and very successful tenure of Commander Stephen Schulze. He has faithfully led our Camp to new heights in many areas. The list of events and activities involving our Camp is long and impressive. On behalf of all the Brothers, I salute Commander Schulze for his unfaltering dedication, energy, and leadership during his time in office!

I am confident that the outlook of our Camp will continue to shine brightly as we move into 2008. How could it be otherwise, considering the current slate of talented officer nominees? Our Camp will soon be led by the highly capable James Hackett (Commander), David LaBrot (Sr. Vice-Commander), Samuel Hampton (Jr. Vice-Commander), and Gary White (once again as Secretary/Treasurer)? New ideas, strengths, and energies will quickly become evident as these dedicated new officers lead our Camp to even higher achievements! Let us all pledge to support these men in every way we can!

In F. C. & L,

*Michael L. Lance*

Editor

Camp Calendar
---------------

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
11 Dec 2007	Monthly Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Speakers: Historian Dale Leach & Michael Lance Topics: History of the GAR and Badges of the GAR	Spaghetti Warehouse, Houston
12 Jan 2008	Battle of Galveston Commemoration: 10:00 a.m. Installation of 2008 Camp Officers	Episcopal Cemetery, Galveston, Texas
12 Feb 2008	Monthly Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Speaker: SVC David LaBrot Topic: To be announced	Spaghetti Warehouse, Houston
11 Mar 2008	Monthly Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Speaker: Cmdr. James Hackett Topic: Ironclads of the Civil War	Spaghetti Warehouse, Houston

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	713-729-0348	<a href="mailto:sdsmcs@swbell.net">sdsmcs@swbell.net</a>
Senior Vice-Commander – Mr. James S. Hackett	281-495-4235	<a href="mailto:jim.civil@hotmail.com">jim.civil@hotmail.com</a>
Junior Vice-Commander – Mr. David K. LaBrot	281-364-4845	<a href="mailto:dlabrot@genesismortqagewoodlands.com">dlabrot@genesismortqagewoodlands.com</a>
Secretary/Treasurer – Mr. Gary E. White	281-890-7823	<a href="mailto:gwhite18@houston.rr.com">gwhite18@houston.rr.com</a>
SUVCW Edward Lea Camp #2 website		<a href="http://www.txsub.org/lea/index.htm">http://www.txsub.org/lea/index.htm</a>
SUVCW Department of Texas website		<a href="http://www.txsub.org">http://www.txsub.org</a>
SUVCW National website		<a href="http://www.suvcw.org">http://www.suvcw.org</a>
Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4 – DUVCW		<a href="http://www.rootsweb.com/~txseeduv">http://www.rootsweb.com/~txseeduv</a>
National Auxiliary to the SUVCW		<a href="http://www.asuvcw.org">http://www.asuvcw.org</a>

## New Members

### Introducing — Kelly Patrick McNamara

Brother Kelly Patrick McNamara joins the Camp based on the Civil War service of his great-great-great-grandfather, [Henry Hilton Wood](#). Private Wood served with Company E, 121<sup>st</sup> Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry.

### Introducing — Chadwick E. Chester

Brother Chadwick E. Chester joins the Camp based on the Civil War service of his great-grandfather [John A. Watts](#). Private Watts served with an Independent Company of the Trumbull Guards, Ohio Infantry.

## Ancestor Profile

There are those who never make a study of their ancestors due to lack of will, time, or interest. If they just knew what they were missing! If you are able to connect the descending lines and events, the facts [with a little imagination mixed in] unfold like petals of an old historical rose. And there you get to meet and experience your ancestors face-to-face. You wish you could actually speak to them and tell them how much you appreciate their efforts and struggles thru life that culminated in the future birth of yourself.

Life back then was man against the elements - man against nature. Survival was not a given. Each meal sometimes had to be wrested from the unforgiving soil with its unyielding rocky earth. There were no convenience stores to run to for a gallon of milk or a loaf of bread. There were just the years of surviving and making the most of what you had or could make.

My great-grandfather, Green Berry Cates, was born December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1844 in Clayton, Georgia. He died November 26<sup>th</sup>, 1901, in Milledgeville, Georgia, just south of Atlanta. He was one of the twelve children born to Romulus Sanders Cates and his wife Lucinda Reeves Cates.



On January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1874, Green Berry Cates married Susanna M. Cook and they had eight children. My grandfather, Robert Emmitt Cates [a twin], was one of the eight.

#### Green Berry and Susanna (Cook) Cates

O! Green Berry rode for General Nathan Bedford Forest's Second Georgia Cavalry for about three years in Company F. He had a brother who was captured and later exchanged. The muster rolls show Green Berry being AWOL on Christmas of '63. But he came back after going home for a few days, I guess.

At a place called Blains Crossroads in Tennessee, he got a knock on the head that affected him for the rest of his life. His pension application states he was sitting on his horse under a tree, when a cannonball blew a limb off the tree above his head, causing it to fall, striking him, and causing a severe cracking of his skull. So they sent him home for a while. But he made a comeback, bringing severe headaches with him.

After the war, Green Berry was listed as a farmer for a number of years. But, he began to have 'fits', as they called it in those days - probably pressure on the brain from that dang limb cracking his head. Eventually he was put in the State Mental Hospital in Milledgeville where he lived until his death in 1901.

I'm proud of my great-grandfather's service to his homeland and family. And it gives me a chance to tell his story while telling everyone that I'm living proof that cannonball injuries are hereditary!

### *Dale Cates*

Conroe, Texas

Email: [cactusjack1963@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cactusjack1963@sbcglobal.net)

**Sabine Pass Monument Dedication**

Havoc and destruction roared ashore along the Texas Gulf Coast in September 2005. Many lives were lost and others changed forever. *Rita*, the fourth-most intense Atlantic hurricane ever recorded, swept ashore and ripped through several coastal communities, including the tiny village of Sabine Pass. The surge and winds from the storm destroyed or damaged more than 90% of the structures in that small Texas community. Today, two years later, Sabine Pass continues to fight for survival.

However, havoc and destruction are not something new for the tiny village. On September 8, 1863 (142 years earlier), another type of fury swept in from the Gulf. The threat at that time was in the form of four Federal gunboats and eighteen troop transports carrying 5,000-plus Federal infantrymen. The Union convoy confidently entered the Sabine River from the Gulf of Mexico intending to bring the small community of Sabine Pass to its knees.



But the Rebels controlling Sabine Pass had other ideas! A mere handful of men led by Lt. Richard W. 'Dick' Dowling were intent on repelling the approaching Union invaders. The Confederate contingent consisted of roughly 46 infantrymen of the 1<sup>st</sup> Texas Heavy Artillery and six guns manned by the Jeff Davis Guards. While small in number - they were ready and determined to defend their turf!

**Lt. 'Dick' Dowling** With clever foresight, the Texans had earlier placed stakes in the river to act as markers for their cannon fire. As the Union convoy entered among the stakes, the Confederates opened fire with deadly accuracy. After about forty minutes of intense shelling, the Federals were forced to retreat back down the river. During the brief battle, they lost two gunboats - the USS *Clifton* and the USS *Sachem*. Between two and three hundred Union fighters became prisoners-of-war and some seventy others were killed. Incredibly, Lt. Dowling's men are believed to have suffered only a few casualties. Sabine Pass was safe for the Confederacy for the time being!

On September 8, 2007, exactly 144 years later, the still hurricane-crippled village of Sabine Pass experienced similar threats. Although the winds were more moderate, torrential rainfall, booming thunder, and vicious bolts of lightning again assaulted the area. In addition, under the cover of the inclement weather, uniformed and armed Federal troops approached by land from the west. Was the small community in eminent danger once again?

Fortunately for the town, the Yankees invading this time came with peaceful intent. They were invited by the *Jefferson County Historical Commission* to participate in the celebration of the anniversary of the historic *Battle of Sabine Pass*. Instead of invading and subduing, the primary mission of these approaching Union troops was to remember and honor the Federal soldiers and sailors who died or went missing during the 1863 battle.

A recently-installed six-foot-tall 6,000-pound gray granite monument was waiting in *Sabine Pass Battleground State Park*. The monument was erected to honor the memory of the fallen Union heroes and its formal dedication was scheduled for this blustery September 2007 day. Etched on the face of the monument are the names, ranks and ships on which the soldiers and sailors served. The impressive monument proudly stands facing the water in front of the *Dick Dowling* statue (which was dedicated in 1936). The current dedication ceremony was the first event held in the park since *Rita* struck in September 2005.

Shortly after the Federal troops descended upon the park grounds, the heavy dark storm clouds began to retreat. The blue sky majestically appeared as if signaling for the ceremonies to begin. The troopers eagerly stepped from their vehicles into one to three inches of standing water. They quickly donned their full uniforms and accoutrements and assembled near the new, and as yet veiled, monument.

Throng of curious spectators also began to arrive to observe. They came with folding chairs and refreshments and found relief from the sun under the branches of a large shade tree. A microphone-equipped podium had been earlier installed under a bunting-draped open-sided tent facing the monument. Finally, everything was in readiness and a hush fell over the grounds. The Union Honor and Color Guards and the musicians drifted off to the right along a walkway and disappeared behind a large stand of bushes. Commander Stephen Schulze then quickly



**Union Monument**

*(Continued on next page)*



## Sabine Pass Monument Dedication *(continued)*

briefed the crews as to marching and position assignments. Meanwhile, Master of Ceremonies, Peter Kaatrude, approached the podium and opened the proceedings. After a few remarks, he introduced Reverend Kitty S. Key who then gave a beautiful and fitting opening prayer.



The uniformed Federals, still secluded behind the bushes, were then commanded to march forth. They marched in by twos - led by drummer Kurt Letzring who smartly rapped out the cadence. The Honor Guard halted short of the podium and formed up into a single file. The Color Guard continued forward into position behind the veiled monument.

Drummer K. Letzring leads the Honor & Color Guard

The command to "POST THE COLORS" soon followed. Brothers James Hackett and David LaBrot inserted the National and Camp Colors into holders anchored in the ground. The units were then ordered to come to "AT EASE". With everyone now in position, Commander Schulze eloquently delivered a moving Dedication Address. The spectators seemed to hang on his every

Brothers LaBrot and Hackett post the Colors.



Commander Schulze soon gave the command to unveil the new monument. Brothers Dean Letzring and Scott Shuster stepped forward to lift the veil. When fully uncovered, the beautifully engraved and majestic monument seemed to radiate with pride. The sheer length of the list of names of the Union soldiers and sailors who gave their all that tragic day 144 years ago dramatically underscored their sacrifice. The memory of these heroes will hereafter be preserved and visible for all to see for decades to come.

Brothers Dean Letzring and Scott Shuster unveil the Union Monument

*(Continued on next page)*

Sabine Pass Monument Dedication (*continued*)

Brother Shuster then approached the podium. The mood became solemn as he slowly called out the names of each casualty – one by one. Brother White stood behind and tolled the bell after each name was called. Many heads were bowed in quiet reflection and respect.

*Left: Brother Scott Shuster reads the casualty roll while Brother Gary White stands behind to ring the bell. Brother Dean Letzring in officer's uniform sits at right.*



Soon it was time for the Honor Guard to fulfill its primary function at the ceremony. Commander Schulze recovered his musket which was ready nearby, dashed past drummer Kurt Letzring, and fell-in with the waiting gun crew. Standing in line next to the Commander, in order, were Brothers Michael Lance, David Burdette, Dale Leach, and Samuel Hampton. Brother Gary White was stationed slightly behind and to the right of the firing line. The commands for which the eager gunners anxiously awaited soon came loud and clear:



**"LOAD"** – Each man smartly swung his musket into loading position in front of his body – stock-down on the ground. They then quickly snatched a single paper cartridge from their leather cartridge cases which hung at their right hips. The cartridges were ripped open with their teeth. They spit the bit-off tips to the ground. The coarse grains of black powder contained in the paper cartridges were then poured down into the muzzles of their guns. The guns were then raised up and the hammers were set to half-cock. The men then grabbed a percussion cap from their belt-hung cap boxes. The small brass caps were quickly fitted on the nipples beneath the half-cocked hammers.

*L-R: Color Guard Brothers Jim Hackett and David LaBrot watch as the Honor Guard loads. Drummer Kurt Letzring holds his position at the far right.*

**"READY"** – The muskets were raised in front to waist-high - still half-cocked.

*L-R: Brothers Gary White, Sam Hampton, Dale Leach, Dave Burdette, Michael Lance, and Stephen Schulze are 'Ready' and await the next command.*



*(Continued on next page)*



Sabine Pass Monument Dedication (*continued*)

"*AIM*" – The charged muskets were then raised towards the sky - the stocks brought to cheeks and shoulders. The high-angle aim was directed forty-five degrees to the left, while at the same time and in one motion, the firearms were fully-cocked.

"*FIRE*" – Five triggers were pulled in unison. A deafening roar echoed across the historic park. A puff of white smoke gushed from each barrel and accumulated into a small pungent cloud before slowly wafting away. Each man briefly held his aiming posture.

"*RECOVER*" – Five warm and smoking muskets were then lowered to waist-high while the spent percussion caps were flipped off the nipples with a flick of the right thumb or forefinger.

This command sequence was repeated two more times to complete a 3-volley salute to the Union battle casualties. The Honor Guard was then ordered to "PRESENT ARMS". The melancholy melody of *Taps* was then sounded from off in the distance by bugler Dianne Rutledge.



L -R: White, Hampton, Leach, Burdette, Lance, Schulze, and K. Letzring

Commander Schulze, once again positioned at the podium, ordered the retiring of the Colors. Brothers LaBrot and Hackett dutifully retrieved the National and Camp Colors. On command, the Color Guard marched smartly off to the left and was immediately followed by the Honor Guard, led by drummer Kurt Letzring who once again established a martial cadence. Brothers Lance, Burdette, Leach, Hampton, and White marched behind with their arms shouldered – trailed by bugler Diane Rutledge.

The Federal mission was now complete. The riflemen moved off to a safe distance behind the assembly and cleared their guns before being formally dismissed. As soon as the men in blue retreated from the area, the Confederate forces moved in to take control of the field. The Federals were suddenly cast into the role of spectators. Flowery tributes were given to Commodore Leon Smith for his Civil War exploits and to the successes and victories of two Confederate cotton-clad gunboats.

Celebrated author and friend of the Camp, Edward T. Cotham Jr., took the podium and delivered a magnificent speech describing the highly competent war-time actions of Commodore Smith – aka. *Lion of Confederate Texas*. Smith played a dramatic role in the successful recapture of Galveston and at the *Battle of Sabine Pass*. An historical marker honoring the Commodore was then unveiled by Ron Ellington, Chairman of the *Jefferson County Historical Commission*. Yvonne Sutherlin, Marker Chairman of the Commission then followed by reading the impressive inscription on the new marker. A second marker memorializing the capture of the *USS Morning Light* and *USS Velocity* was then dedicated. This marker describes how two Confederate "Cottonclad" riverboats captured the two heavily armed Union blockaders in the Gulf of Mexico.

Luckily for the Confederates on hand that hot day in September 2007, the armed Federal soldiers in attendance were good natured. Even though they had their senses assaulted by the honors given to the daring and heroic deeds performed by deadly enemies of 144 years ago, the men in Blue this day remained steadfastly focused on their mission to honor their own. Mission successfully accomplished!

#### **Lt. Edward Lea Camp #2 Muster**

Stephen D. Schulze	- Dedication Address & Honor Guard with musket
James S. Hackett	- Color Guard with National Colors
David K. LaBrot	- Color Guard with Camp Colors
Gary E. White	- Honor Guard and bell ringer
William D. Burdette	- Honor Guard with musket
Michael L. Lance	- Honor Guard with musket
Dale H. Leach	- Honor Guard with musket
Samuel F. Hampton	- Honor Guard with musket
Scott D. Shuster	- Casualty roll reader
Dean Letzring	- Color Guard
Kurt A. Letzring	- Drummer

... Respectfully submitted by Michael L. Lance

(Additional photos on back cover)



Camp Meeting – 11 Sep 2007
----------------------------

The September 11, 2007 Camp meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. by Commander Stephen Schulze. SVC James Hackett, JVC David LaBrot, and Brothers Samuel Hampton, Robert Lockwood, Dale Leach, Scott Shuster, Steve Holmes, and Michael Lance, were on hand to witness the rap of the Commander's gavel. Also present at the Spaghetti Warehouse Restaurant in Downtown Houston were several guests, including: Mark Pike, Margie Henck, Vali Reyes, Angela Holder, Linda LaBrot, Betty Hampton, Linda Rendon, and Jana Marsh.

Due to the absence of Secretary Gary White, Brother Shuster volunteered to record the meeting minutes. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance and then remained standing to receive an opening prayer offered by Brother Leach. After seats were resumed, each attendee introduced themselves one-by-one. Commander Schulze then reviewed the Minutes from the previous meeting. A motion to accept the Minutes as presented was offered by JVC LaBrot and seconded by Brother Holmes. The motion carried.

The financial condition of the Camp was then examined as Brother Shuster presented the financial report for June and Commander Schulze did the same for July. The Camp remains in excellent health financially. A motion to accept the reports was made by SVC Hackett and seconded by JVC LaBrot. This motion also carried unanimously. In addition, Brother Shuster noted that 2007 dues have not yet been paid by several members.

The various committee reports then followed. Commander Schulze representing the *Monuments Committee*, stated that the application and all supporting documents have now been submitted for the proposed Sarah Emma Edmonds historical marker.

SVC Hackett, representing the *Speakers Committee*, reported that Susan Salm, President of the *DUVCW - Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4*, has volunteered to make a presentation at our October Camp meeting. In addition, the always interesting Edward Cotham Jr., author, has committed to being our guest speaker in November. Several other Brothers have also stepped forward to volunteer as future guest speakers, including: Dale Leach, David LaBrot, and Michael Lance.

Brother Lance, representing the *Public Information Committee*, reported that an initial rough draft of the Battle of Sabine Pass Union monument dedication ceremony has been prepared and is currently being edited for length and clarity. Upon completion of a final draft and the identification of the most compelling photograph, the information will be submitted for inclusion in the *Banner*. It was noted that photos and a story about the Sabine Pass event were displayed on-line at [www.BeaumontExaminer.com](http://www.BeaumontExaminer.com). It was further noted that the Camp newsletter, *Harriet Lane*, received the *Marshall Hope Award* for best Camp newsletter for 2007.

JVC LaBrot announced that the Texas *Sons of Veteran's Reserve* unit is just about up and running. The dues have been submitted and we are just waiting for formal recognition.

At the completion of the various committee reports, Commander Schulze then followed with a few announcements. He mentioned receiving an invitation from Dr. Craig Livingston to attend an upcoming educational and historical seminar. The Commander also gave an update on Brother Michael Boyd (supplier of authentic-looking uniforms for movies) who has recently returned home to Texas. Brother Boyd reportedly has a warehouse-full of uniforms from recent historical movies, including *The Hunley* film, which might be available for sale.

Discussion then turned to New Business. Topping the list was the annual *Civil War Weekend* at Liendo Plantation near Hempstead on November 16<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>. The Camp resolved to invite the local *DUVCW Tent* to join our booth at the event. Brother LaBrot and his wife displayed the beautiful hand-made quilt that she sewed as a fundraising item at Liendo. The quilt is entitled "Skirmish at Liendo" and should prove to be an exciting attraction. Ticket prices were tentatively set at \$2.00 each or seven for \$10.00.

Brother Hampton announced that the Camp has been invited by the *League City Historical Society* to participate in their annual ghost tour, entitled: "The Blue and Gray Tour". This event is scheduled for October 27, 2007 and will be held at Fairview Cemetery in League City. The tour will focus on the Civil War era and will feature costumed ghosts of veterans (Union and Confederate) and their widows whose bones are buried in the old Cemetery.

Another topic of discussion revolved around the Camp's participation in this year's *Veteran's Day* parade in downtown Houston. We are hoping to march this year as a *SVR* unit either behind or in front of the Co. A, 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry squad. In the past, Brothers from our Camp usually integrated into the 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. But this year we hope to march separately carrying our own Colors. The idea was to march close to the 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. in order to produce a more impressive display of Civil War uniforms.

Commander Schulze noted that it was now time to nominate a slate of Camp officers for 2008. Brothers Holmes, White, and Shuster volunteered to act as a *Nomination Committee* responsible for receiving nominations and for interviewing possible candidates.

*(Continued on next page)*

Camp Meeting – 11 Sep 2007 (continued)
--

As always, the highlight of our monthly meetings is the presentation of new membership applications. Two applications were presented this time. Both were reviewed and discussed. Captain Chadwick Chester applied for membership based on the service of his great-grandfather, Private John A. Watts of the Ohio State Guards – Trumbull Guards. A motion to accept his application was then offered by Brother Shuster and seconded by Brother Leach. Motion carried. Further action on the second application was deferred until the next meeting pending receipt of membership dues.

Vali Reyes, President of the *SUCW Auxiliary* announced that that organization is now up and running. Meetings are scheduled and new memberships are being accepted. The *Auxiliary* now has eight members. The newest member, Linda Rendon, was in attendance. Commander Schulze followed with a pledge to keep the *Auxiliary* informed with our progress concerning the Sarah Emma Edmonds historical marker project.

Brother Lance mentioned that the Camp still has a handful of "Champion Hill" books available as a donation incentive. He also gave an update on the distribution status of the Fall Camp newsletter, *Harriet Lane*, and solicited volunteers for ancestor profiles for future issues. SVC Hackett and JVC LaBrot answered the call.

After Brother Leach offered a closing prayer, Commander Schulze rapped the gavel again to formally adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. – then immediately introduced the evening's guest speaker – Ms. Angela Holder, Professor of History at *Texas Southern University* and President of the *Buffalo Soldier National Museum & Heritage Center* in Houston.

Professor Holder gave a fascinating account of the accomplishments of and also the plight of earlier Black soldiers in America. Her presentation included a video documentary and other historical documents. Her talk revolved around the 1917 *Camp Logan Riots* in Houston. Camp Logan is now long gone and Memorial Park currently occupies the location.

Professor Holder was passionate in her talk and her knowledge and interest in those riots is extensive. One of her ancestors, Jesse Moore, was unfortunately involved with the troubles. Race relations and laws in 1917 were basically governed by the theory, "Separate but Equal". The Blacks were expected to stay in their place.

In 1917, a contingent of Black soldiers was stationed at Camp Logan in Houston. The white civilian community apparently became nervous and viewed the Black soldiers as a threat to the separation laws. They were worried that a camp of armed Black soldiers in their midst might become an incentive for the Black community to stray from "their place". The soldiers were thus ordered disarmed. Tensions and discontent grew and eventually reached a flash point. A disturbance broke out in town. Both sides over-reacted as the police moved in. The ensuing commotion grew into a riot. Several people were injured and killed – Black, White, Police, soldier, and civilian. When order was finally restored, justice was demanded. Many Black soldiers from Camp Logan were then court martialed. Over twenty were found guilty and hanged. Later, several of those hanged soldiers were found to be completely innocent. Proof was provided that showed several were actually in camp at the time – not in town where the riots occurred.

Today, the professor is working hard to clear the record of her ancestor, Jesse Moore. She and her family have prepared a petition to that effect. Along the way, she has gained the support of Congressman Green and intends to pursue her goal all the way to Washington, DC if necessary. On the 90<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the *Camp Logan Riots*, Congressman Green presented her with a "Certificate of Recognition" for her work on the Moore case.

At the conclusion of Professor Holder's presentation, SVC Hackett surprised her with a framed award entitled "20,000 Black Sailors, Treated as Equals" featuring a Civil War era photo taken on the USS *Miami* showing a number of African American crewmen. Brother Hackett also presented her with a thick folio showing African American involvement in the United States Navy from 1861 to the Viet Nam era. Both items are destined to be put on display at the *Buffalo Soldier National Museum & Heritage Center*.



James Hackett presents award to Angela Holder

...Respectfully submitted by Michael L. Lance

## Camp Meeting – 9 Oct 2007

The regular Camp meeting for October was held again at the *Spaghetti Warehouse Restaurant* in downtown Houston. Commander Stephen Schulze gave the Camp to order at 7:10 p.m. Ten Brothers were on hand, including: Cmdr. Schultz, SVC James Hackett, JVC David LaBrot, Secr./Treas. Gary White, Scott Shuster, Samuel Hampton, Michael Lance, Dean Letzring, Kurt Letzring, and Bob Lockwood. Betty Hampton and Mark Pike attended as guests along with two officers of the *Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4 DUVCW*: President Susan Salm and Sr. Vice President Martha Class.

The first order of business was the *Pledge of Allegiance* led by Cmdr. Schulze who then followed with an opening prayer. After all were once again seated, Secretary White distributed the Minutes from the previous meeting for review, discussion, and approval. He then briefly summarized the financial status of the Camp.

Various committee reports were then tended. Brother White, representing the *Marker Committee*, announced that the preparation of the application for the Sarah Emma Edmonds historical marker is still on-going. He reported that the very strict time deadlines and application rules required by the various approving authorities and agencies are likely to delay the ultimate installation of the new marker for at least another year.

SVC Hackett, representing the *Speakers Committee*, happily declared that a full slate of speakers have been lined up for several months to come, including: November – author Edward Cotham Jr.; December – Brothers Dale Leach and Michael Lance; February and March – Brother LaBrot. Brother Hackett also publicly commended Cmdr. Schulze for his leadership role in developing our guest speaker program.

Brother Lance, representing the *Publicity Committee*, reported that a revised and shortened article about the September *Union Monument Dedication Ceremony* at Sabine Pass was complete. After the selection of an appropriate photo or two, the article will be ready for submission to the *Banner*.

JVC LaBrot proudly reported that *Company A, 8<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry – Sons of Veterans Reserve* (SVR) has been officially recognized. He passed out membership cards to the Charter Members and displayed the unit's certificate. This new Texas SVR organization currently consists of twenty-one members with a few more still pending. Brother LaBrot invited other interested parties to join up. He related that although a full Civil War uniform is a SVR requirement, it does not currently need to be Infantry specific. Brother LaBrot related that *Company A, 8<sup>th</sup> U.S.* was the only infantry regiment serving in Texas at the outbreak of the Civil War. It was quickly disbanded by a Southern-sympathizing governor, but elements of the regiment went on to distinguish themselves in several major Civil War battles.

Discussion next turned to 'Old Business'. Three topics were on the agenda. The first dealt with the upcoming *Veteran's Day* parade in downtown Houston. Tom Whitesides of Co. A, 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry has invited the Camp to join their marching unit in the parade. Opinions were solicited as to whether our Camp should join the 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. or march separately as an 8<sup>th</sup> U.S. SVR unit. Most agreed that participating with the crack 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. would be an opportunity for our new unit to gain needed practical experience.

The second issue was our involvement at the Liendo Plantation event on November 16-18. Brother Hackett



"Shuster quilt – "Veteran's Quilt "

volunteered to contact Brother Steve Forman for registration information. Several members eagerly responded to the call for volunteers to man the Camp tent at the event. JVC LaBrot also volunteered to obtain new banners and bunting to spruce up our display. Besides a book donated by Brother LaBrot, the Camp will have a sword and two hand-made quilts to offer as fundraising items. The quilts were sewn by the wives of Brothers LaBrot and Shuster.



LaBrot with quilt – "Skirmish at Liendo"

The last item of 'Old Business' involved our recent participation with the *Union Monument Dedication Ceremony* at Sabine Pass Battleground State Park on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Cmdr. Schulze read a thank-you letter he received from event coordinator, Linda McMahan. He and Brother Dean Letzring also passed around photos, brochures, and newspaper clippings depicting the event.

(Continued on next page)



### Camp Meeting – 9 Oct 2007 *(continued from previous page)*

Attention then turned to 'New Business'. SVC Hackett was given the floor to introduce guest Mark Pike. Mr. Pike, a member of Granbury's Texas Brigade Camp #1479 SCV, invited us to participate in an upcoming Cotillion with his organization. Brother Hackett then presented Mr. Pike with one of his fine hand-made models ships for his SCV Camp - the CSS *Virginia*.

**James Hackett (on right) presents model warship to Mark Pike**



Another highlight of the evening was the review, discussion, and approval of a new membership application. Kelly Patrick McNamara applied for membership based on the Civil War service of his 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandfather, Pvt. Henry Hilton Wood.

The final topic of 'New Business' involved guest Martha Class, Sr. Vice-President, *Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4 - DUVCW*. She rose to invite the Camp to participate at a local Lineage Fair with them on Saturday, October 13, 2007. Their Tent is actively recruiting members. We are invited to attend their next meeting Saturday, January 12, 2008 at 10 a.m. – location: the *Fisher House*, located on the grounds of the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, 2002 Holcombe Blvd. in Houston. To the military and Veteran's Administration, the *Fisher House* is comparable to what a *Ronald McDonald House* is for children with cancer, according to Ms. Class.



Brother Hampton then gave a briefing of his recent participation in the *Battle of Pilot Knob* re-enactment in Missouri. His story was very interesting and it was obvious that it was an experience of a life-time! Brother LaBrot also commented about details concerning the original 1864 battle. As it turns out, both gentlemen had ancestors who fought for the Union in that battle!

Cmdr. Schulze formally adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m. All were invited to remain after a short break to enjoy an interesting talk by guest speaker, Susan Salm – President, *Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4, DUVCW*. She gave a nice synopsis of the functioning, plans and goals of her organization.

**DUVCW President Susan Salm**

### News from the Western Front – By Chap Traylor



On October 13, 2007, I joined my SCV camp, *Frontier Guards*, in performing two cemetery marker dedications at Red Creek Cemetery in Kimble County, Texas, just North of Junction. The first was for a Confederate soldier and the second was for Franklin Latta, a Union soldier. The dedications were well attended, coinciding with a family reunion with several descendents of Private Latta in attendance. The following is a brief biography of Franklin Latta provided by Mrs. Frederica Wyatt: Franklin Latta was born January 15, 1847 in Indiana, of Pennsylvania-born parents. His family moved early to Kansas where he served as a private in Company E, 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Kansas Infantry, attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Division, Army of the Frontier. He married Elizabeth Thomas and two children, Oscar and Belle Latta, were born to them in Kansas. In the early 1870s, Frank and Elizabeth and their two children moved to San Antonio, Texas. Two years later, they migrated to Kimble County, Texas, before its organization. Frank was elected the first sheriff of Kimble County and was the first school

teacher in Junction City, Texas. He purchased land in the Red Creek community and donated land for the Red Creek Cemetery on May 23, 1896. He also gave land for the Red Creek School. It was later moved some distance to be located next to the cemetery. Franklin is listed as a Union Veteran in the 1890 census enumeration of Kimble County, Texas. He died March 23, 1902, after being injured in a horse-related accident and was laid to rest in the Red Creek Cemetery. His wife, Elizabeth, is buried in Del Rio, Texas where she was living in the home of their son, Oscar Latta, at the time of her death. Oscar was also sheriff of Kimble County and a Texas Ranger. His daughter, Belle, married David M. Stewart, and their descendents still own some of the original Latta property. Several descendents still live in Kimble County.



**Musket salute – Chap Traylor at far right**

*....Submitted by Brother Chapman Traylor of Sonora, Texas*

## Back to the Front

Dear Cousin Eleanor,

1862

Although the demands of my farm and other responsibilities leave me little time for other activities, I have secretly hoped for some time now for a chance to rejoin my Federal unit. I often fondly reminisce about my brief time in service. A ball to the shoulder last fall during a hot skirmish sent me home in a most desperate condition. Fortunately, over time, my shoulder mended good as new. And then, in late August just past, my spirits were raised tremendously when I received word of a Union force forming soon at Liendo Plantation near Hempstead, Texas. I took little time in deciding that I would be present at that muster!

While I am certain my family was very reluctant to have me venture off again to face the dangers of war, I cannot deny that the pull of adventure, glory, and duty was too strong to resist. My wife, Jackie, did her very best to appear to support my decision. She cheerfully laid out my old uniform and replaced a couple of missing trouser buttons. I retrieved my carefully maintained musket from the rack on the wall, collected my canteen, cartridge case, cap box, and bayonet and prepared to depart for Liendo. At the last moment, my younger sister, Brenda, decided to accompany me. I was happy to have her company. We departed on a very crisp and sunny day - November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Upon arrival at the plantation, I entered a landscape bustling with activity. I saw a blacksmith, a quilter, musicians, surgeons, an ice cream vendor, hucksters, sutlers, and many other artisans plying their trades. In fact, the grounds were virtually crowded with soldiers and civilians, including hundreds of children. The atmosphere was very festive and many smiles were to be seen. I also saw a large Confederate prisoner-of-war camp. Many of the Rebels were working diligently to improve their living conditions. The smoke from their many campfires, over which coffee was often brewing, wafted across the premises. Those Rebels sure seemed to be living high!

My first objective was to find the Union command. Brenda and I weaved our way through the throng of people while searching for the Colors. We were stopped several times by mobs of curious youngsters who quizzed me heartily about my uniform and weapon. I politely obliged and even had my likeness taken with many of the children - all the while desiring to be on my way!

Suddenly, I spotted a Union man lingering at a sutlers tent. It was my old friend Dale Leach! After a warm greeting, I inquired about the rest of our old unit. He pointed off to the west toward some horses. Amongst the mounts were more blue uniforms. Bob Lockwood and Mark Pike were addressing a large mob of youngsters. Dale and I strolled over towards the horses to reinforce our two friends. We then agreed to meet up again after I located some extra black powder.



**Cpl. Lance demonstrates**



**L-R: Dale Leach, Michael Lance,  
Bob Lockwood, and Mark Pike**

Brenda and I strolled along a row of well stocked Sutler tents whose proprietors seemed to be doing a brisk business. I was specifically looking for the Sutler called Tom, owner of Mercury Supply. But, we did not see him along the row. I briefly stepped into a busy tent and, with a little difficulty, got the attention of a clerk. I inquired about the availability of extra replacement buttons to match those on my trousers (no luck - I was looking for a perfect match!) and also asked for and received directions to Tom's tent. But alas, it turns out good ol' Tom did not have any powder to sell - but he did have acceptable buttons! He also spoke of a man called Alden who might have some powder. So, Brenda and I set off again in search of Alden.

While negotiating our way around the tents, campsites, and other obstacles, we suddenly happened upon a line of Federal soldiers. An officer was barking out orders and the soldiers were smartly following them! The officer then spotted me! I was ordered to fall-in at the end of the line. Naturally I did so without hesitation! It was whispered that

a battle was expected soon. Our thin blue line was soon thickened up a bit as other soldiers appeared from all directions. Soon, were also joined by a couple of artillery pieces and a bugler.

*(Continued on next page)*

### Back to the Front *(continued)*

The commanding officer then organized our hastily assembled unit into two squads and assigned officers to each. We were then briefed about the approaching Rebel threat and the importance of our role in defending the field. The order to move forward soon came! We marched double-file past a rather large assembly of civilian spectators and on out to a commanding position in a nearby field. Our line seemed too meager to oppose the expected Rebel onslaught. The ball was about to begin!

As we were forming up our skirmish line, a charge by Rebel cavalry close on our left flank caught us by surprise. Our brave officers responded smartly with pistols. The attackers were repulsed and forced to simply circle around our unit at a distance and depart. Luckily, we suffered no casualties from the attack. But we now realized that extreme caution was needed.

The enemy line soon came into view in the distance. We saw billows of smoke from their artillery pieces several moments before we heard the reports. Their long line of muskets flashed and also emitted puffs of smoke. We took our first casualty – a lieutenant!

Then chaos seemed to break out! At first, we were ordered to load and fire in an orderly fashion. As the battle became warmer, we were ordered to fire at will! Our left flank was charged again by Rebel cavalry. The Rebels also sent a small force of infantry to face our right flank. The main Rebel line continued to advance to our front. My portion of the line was ordered to turn and defend our right flank.

The barrel of my musket grew hot as I loaded and fired as quickly as I could. Men were dropping all around me! Our officers were shouting orders at the top of their lungs in order to be heard over the din of battle. Heavy smoke obscured my vision but that didn't matter too awful much because there was little time to aim anyway. Then I was ordered to move forward to fill a vacant spot in the line where one of our men had just fallen. Our line was rapidly dissolving due to casualties. I continued loading and firing as fast as I could. Soon, all that was left of our force on the right flank was me and an officer. I heard an order to fall back. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw the officer fall. As I turned to retreat, I felt a sharp pain in my right thigh. I must have blacked out soon after because the last thing I remember as I spun around falling, was a mass of blue uniforms sprawled upon the ground. Not a man was left standing!



So, dear cousin, only due to my good fortune am I able to pen this letter. The Rebels passed through quickly after liberating our prisoners. My sister and others then rushed to our aid. I'm sure my leg will heal as good as new with time. I am already looking forward to when I can return once again to deal with those audacious Rebels. I now have two painful scores to settle with them!

Your loving cousin,

*Cpl. Michael L. Lance*

*(Note: additional event photos on page 16)*

### Camp Meeting – 13 Nov 2007

*Place: Spaghetti Warehouse, Houston, Texas*

*Date & Time: 13 Nov 2007 – Called to order at 7:30 p.m.*

*Muster Roll: Cmdr Schulze; SVC Hackett; Secretary/Treasurer White; Brothers Hampton, Lockwood, Young, Holmes, Cates, Lance, and Eishen; and guests Mark Pike, Betty Hampton, and author Edward Cotham Jr.*

Brother Cates offered an opening prayer after the *Pledge of Allegiance* was proclaimed by all present. Cmdr. Schulze then welcomed the Brothers and guests, made a few comments, and then presented an "Honorary Membership" certificate to celebrated author and friend of the Camp, Edward Cotham Jr.

Brother White then read the minutes from the previous meeting. Discussion followed and a motion to accept them as read was forthcoming. The motion carried. Brother White then reviewed the latest financial statement and advised that planned fundraisers and additional membership dues will soon bolster the already favorable financial status of the Camp.



*Ed Cotham Jr. receives Honorary Member Certificate from Cmdr. Schulze*

*(Continued on next page)*



Camp Meeting – 13 Nov 2007 (continued)
--

Brother White, representing the *Nomination Committee*, further reported that the slate of Officer nominees for 2008 consists of: James Hackett for Cmdr., David LaBrot for SVC, Samuel Hampton for JVC, and Gary White for Sec/Treas. Voting ballots will be soon forthcoming.

Brother Hackett, representing the *Speakers Committee*, reported that Camp meeting speakers are booked through March 2008, including: December – Brothers Leach and Lance; January – none; February – Brother LaBrot; and March – Brother Hackett.

Cmdr. Schulze then reported on the new Texas SVR unit. An e-mail will be sent to alert the Charter Members of a muster planned at Liendo Plantation on November 17, 2008. He also mentioned that membership dues are due in March 2008 with a suggestion that each member donate a few extra dollars to begin a fund to procure a flag and other supplies for the new unit. Further discussion about this matter was deferred until the next meeting.

The planning for the Camp's participation at the *Civil War Weekend* event at Liendo Plantation near Hempstead was then finalized. A full slate of volunteers offered their services for the 3-day event. A tent, table, chairs, flags, recruiting literature, bunting, and fundraising items have also been secured.

Our annual *Battle of Galveston Commemoration* event was next on the agenda. Excitement always precedes this major event! All agreed that we will once again invite several other heritage and historical organizations to participate, including: National SUVCW officers; Co. A, 13<sup>th</sup> US Infantry; the other Department of Texas SUVCW Camps; local SCVCW Camps; our SUVCW Auxiliary; the Houston DUVCW Tent; and many other dignitaries. It was also agreed that the venue for our monthly business meeting following the Commemoration will be the same as last year. The event planning will be finalized at the December meeting.

Following a salute to Brothers Hampton and Holmes for acquiring uniforms, SVC Hackett offered a nice recap of the November 11, 2007 *Veteran's Day Parade* in downtown Houston. He and Brothers Holmes, Leach, and Lockwood were present. Brother Hampton also ventured forth to participate but, unfortunately, did not connect with the other men. Brother Hackett related that the event was well organized and well attended. It was a beautiful day for a parade. Our Brothers fell in to march with Co. A, 13<sup>th</sup> US Infantry. Brother Holmes related that it was definitely a "learning experience" for him as it was his first event in uniform and for marching. He was happily "welcomed as a new guy"! It was also noted that the SCV was conspicuously absent in the parade this year. Three musket volleys were fired – the 1<sup>st</sup> volley and 3<sup>rd</sup> volley by the VFW, and the middle volley was fired by our men in Blue.

Brother Cates then offered a closing prayer which was followed by Cmdr. Schulze gaveling meeting to a close at 8:15 p.m. The Commander then invited all to remain to enjoy yet another interesting talk by author Ed Cotham. And of course, no one thought of leaving and they were not to be disappointed! Mr. Cotham's topic centered on his recent research into the record and performance of the Federal Navy. He stated that there was a "common thread in most records – that of DISASTER" when it came to operations near Texas. He decided to look closer at the causes of the dismal record – specifically as it related to the Texas coast during the Civil War.

The Federal blockade along the Texas coast began in August 1862. It was a nearly impossible task! The coastline was too huge and the available ships too few. The ships that were allotted for duty near Texas were not first-rate vessels. Many were simply converted ferryboats and captured blockade runners.



So it was decided to concentrate on and take the Texas ports instead. Corpus Christi was the initial target. But the Rebels there were determined to fight causing the Federal fleet to withdraw. Union forces then tried to take Corpus Christi by land, and were again repulsed. Disaster! The Union fleet had to be satisfied with some control over Corpus Christi Bay.

The port city of Sabine Pass became the next target. Fort Sabine stood in the way but it was finally subdued. The Union forces took control of the nearby surrounding area as well. Then attention was turned toward Galveston Bay. The city inhabitants were allowed to evacuate Galveston before the Federal forces marched in to take control. It was suddenly looking encouraging for the return of Texas into the Union!

Then a few battles changed the fortunes of the Federals. First, the Navy was defeated at the *Battle of Port Lavaca*. Disaster! In addition, rumors were spread that the Rebels were threatening to attack Sabine Pass. The Federal forces stationed there retreated back to the blockade. Sabine Pass thus fell back to the Confederacy. Disaster!

Then, Galveston was re-taken by the Rebels on January 1, 1863. The U.S. Navy was driven clean out of Galveston Harbor. Disaster! The Navy made a subsequent attempt to recapture Galveston. But as bad luck would have it,

*(Continued on next page)*

Camp Meeting – 13 Nov 2007 *(continued)*

the CSS *Alabama* arrived just at that time off Galveston. It lured the USS *Hattaras* out to sea and then suddenly turned and attacked. The USS *Hatteras* was totally surprised by the attack and sunk. The Federal Navy was shocked by all the set-backs and became a bit timid. Meanwhile, Galveston had time to fortify its defenses. The Federals gave up on the hope of recapturing that city. Disaster! The Rebels had even more tricks up their sleeves. Two of their 'cottonclads' steamed out of Sabine Pass and captured the Union gunboats, USS *Morning Light* and USS *Velocity*. Disaster!

This string of Confederate victories gave the Texans the confidence they needed to continue to fight back. Commodore Bell then authorized an expedition to go back again to try to capture Texas. A plan to attack from the east, starting with Sabine Pass, was devised using Army land forces. The plan was to then march on to recapture Galveston. That plan also failed miserably. Disaster! The Lincoln administration wanted Texas. But so far, all attempts to bring it back into the Union ended in failure. Another attempt had the Navy transport a Federal force down near the Rio Grande River and then march north to Matagorda Bay. That attempt was eventually abandoned as too far and too difficult.

The *Red River Campaign* began during the Spring of 1864 – an invasion from the East. Once again, another failure. Disaster! Mr. Cotham went on to contend that the U.S. Navy failed miserably in its attempt to secure Texas for the Union due to factors of its own making and also due to simple bad luck! Communication technology was primitive at the time which often caused a lack of coordination of movement and confusion. In addition, major campaigns in other theaters kept significant forces from being supplied to the Texas area. The available Federal ships were inadequate in number and quality. The most powerful Federal ships were deep-draft vessels and nearly useless in the shallow-water bay battles. They were usually not used at all. Many of the military disasters were inflicted when Federal vessels were taken by surprise. The war finally came to an end before the Federal Navy could subdue Texas.

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

Civil War Weekend – Liendo Plantation *(continued from page 14)*



Bob Lockwood falls in with gathering Federal troops.



Rt: David LaBrot, addresses the new Co. A, 8<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry unit. The line consists of: (L-R) Stephen Schulze, Randy Scallan, Dale Leach, Samuel Hampton, & James Hackett.



Left: Samuel Hampton (with kepi removed) receives a personal briefing by an officer as Federal troops gather behind.

Right: James Hackett explains the finer points about his weapon to attentive spectators.

*(Continued on next page)*





Civil War Weekend – Liendo Plantation (continued from previous page)



Left: As usual, a contingent of colorfully attired Zouaves answered the call for volunteers.



Right: The Union cavalry makes their appearance following the Colors.



A Federal Soldier (Blair Rudy) finds a soft grassy spot to kill some time!



Brother Gary White (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) begins to organize his artillery battery. A large throng of anxious spectators covers the field beyond.



Left: Cpl. Michael Lance guards a cannon.

Right: Pvt. Dale Leach also answered the call for volunteers.



(Note: most photos submitted by Dale Leach)



Sabine Pass Monument Dedication



The recently dedicated six-foot tall gray granite monument proudly stands as a silent sentinel at *Sabine Pass Battleground State Park* near Sabine Pass, Texas. It is engraved with the names of the Union soldiers and sailors who died or came up missing during the 1863 *Battle of Sabine Pass*. Immediately behind the new Union monument stands the statue of Confederate hero, Lt. Dick Dowling.

*Below:* Muskets blaze as the Union Honor Guard from the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2* of Houston fires a salute during the monument dedication ceremony. The firing party was manned by (L-R): Samuel Hampton, Dale Leach, David Burdette, Michael Lance, and Stephen Schulze.

