

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

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



Harriet Lane

Summer 2007

Volume 14

Number 2

From the Commander's Tent

Here we go again. Its summer with all the bustle and activity associated with the season. School is out, everyone's looking forward to their vacations and the pace of life in some ways is even more frantic than during the other seasons of the year.

The Camp just completed one of its most important evolutions - Memorial Day. We had nine Brothers at the National Cemetery, with eight in period uniform. I think this is the best uniformed turnout we've ever had, at least in my memory.

We are also in the process of forming a unit of the *Sons of Veteran's Reserve*. We have ten prospective members from our Camp. Brother Dave LaBrot is the prospective commanding officer. All we are waiting for is for the James J. Byrne Camp #1 to send down their seven applications so the paperwork can be turned in. We should then soon have the unit up and running. I hope that even more Brothers will join as we get rolling.

I have been watching with great interest the way the level of awareness of and the desire to learn about the Civil War in particular, and the 1860's in general, has been growing throughout the nation during the last few years. In part this may be because we are coming up upon another milestone period (the 150th anniversary). But also I think more people are realizing the importance of the events of that era and the extent that we are still being affected by them today. I believe this to be a healthy trend and hope it will continue.

This trend offers opportunities to this camp to grow and to achieve our goals of honoring the memory of our Civil War ancestors and of all those who have served our country in time of conflict if we will only take advantage of them. We are doing this through our participation in local reenactments, parades and other events. Each of you makes an important contribution to these efforts every time you come to a meeting or participate in one of our events. Your continued participation is critical to the success of our Order, and is greatly appreciated. If you have not come out yet, I hope you will consider coming to a future event, if just to see what it is all about.

Have a happy summer.

Yours in F. C. & L.

Steve Schulze Camp Commander

Contents

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1..... From the Commander's Tent | 7..... Current Events – April 2007 Camp Meeting |
| 2..... Membership Muster | 8..... Cadet Award - Joshua Mills |
| 3..... Editor's Message | 8..... Current Events – Memorial Day Observance |
| 3..... Camp Calendar | 10... Current Events - Sons and Daughters of U. S. Colored Troops |
| 4..... New Member Profiles – Anthony, Conley, Eishen,
Lenes, Pederson, and Powers | 11... The U.S. Gunboat <i>Harriet Lane</i> - (part 1) |
| 5..... Ancestor Profile – James C. Welsh | 14 ... G.A.R. Membership Badge |
| 7..... Current Events – March 2007 Camp Meeting | 15.... Sons of Veterans Reserve |
| | 16.... Memorial Day Photo |
| | 16.... Quote by President Benjamin Harrison |

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. Gregory R. Stafford - Graves Registration

Mr. Mark H. Andrus
Mr. Patrick W. Anthony ++

Mr. Michael Boyd
 Mr. William David Burdette
 Mr. William D. Campbell **
 Mr. Clifford Dale Cates ^^

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. Jaret S. Lenes ++

Mr. John P. Lenes
 Mr. Dean Letzring **
 Mr. Kurt A. Letzring
 Mr. Randall S. McDaniel
 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. Harry L. Whitlock
 Mr. Robert E. Wickman
 Mr. Patrick M. Young
 Mr. Edward Cotham - Author ##
 Mr. Charles Mitchell - Camp Web Master ##

Civil War Ancestor

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

Pvt. Ethan Allen Holcomb

Pvt. Andreas Pfothenauer

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. Fernando Cortez Nichols
 Pvt. William Moore
 Pvt. James R. Cook

1st 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. Vaughn
 Pvt. George D. Webber
 Cpl. John Henry White
 Pvt. Alexander Whitlock
 Pvt. Hugh Alexander Hoy
 Pvt. William Young

--

--

Service Unit

Co. D, 9th Illinois Volunteers
 4th Kentucky Mounted Infantry
 Co. E, 12th-Co L, 5th MO State Milit. Cav
 Co. D, 1st New York Mounted Rifles
 184th Ohio Infantry
 Co. K, 63rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry
 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry
 Co. H, 8th MO State Militia Cav.
 Co. B, 52nd Illinois Infantry
Co. D, 118th Illinois Infantry
 Co. A, 38th Illinois Infantry
 Co. H, 122nd New York Vol. Inf.
 Co. I, 12th Illinois Infantry
 **

Co. A, 126th West Virginia Militia

Co. F, 4th Missouri Infantry

Co. C, 20th Indiana Infantry
 Co. C, 2nd Illinois Light Infantry
 Nelsons 19th Indep Batt OH Lt Arty.
 Nelsons 19th Indep Batt OH Lt Arty.
 Co. C, 74th NY Inf & Co. G, 40th NY Inf.
 Co. C, 74th NY Inf & Co. G, 40th NY Inf
 Co. C, 74th NY Inf & Co. G, 40th NY Inf
 Co. G, 47th Missouri Infantry
 Co. A, 168th Penn. Militia Infantry
 Co. A, 46th Iowa Volunteer Inf.
 Co. K, 44th U.S. Colored Infantry
 2nd Regiment Texas Cavalry
 2nd Regiment Texas Cavalry
 54th Indiana Infantry
 Co. K, 52nd PA Vol. Infantry
 Co. G, 5th Wisconsin Infantry
 Co. F, 12th IN Inf. - Co. E, 59th IN Inf.

Co. B, 8th West Virginia Infantry

Co. B, 8th West Virginia Infantry
 Co. E, 7th Michigan Cavalry
 Co. E, 7th Michigan Cavalry
 Co. A, 7th Indiana Infantry
 Co. K, 63rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry
 Co. C, 3rd Wisconsin Infantry
Co. B, 20th Maine Infantry
 Co. D, 26th Massachusetts Infantry
 Co. C, 37th Indiana Infantry
 Co. C, 146th Illinois Infantry

Co. B, 8th West Virginia Infantry

Commander 3rd Brigade (regulars)
 103rd New York Infantry
 103rd New York Infantry
 Nelsons 19th Indep Batt OH Lt Arty.
 Co. D, 28th Massachusetts
 Co. F, 171st Pennsylvania Infantry
 **

Co F, 74th NY, Co H, 40th NY Inf, Co. F,
 5th Regt., Excelsior Brigade
 1st Nebraska Infantry
 Battery B, 1st Btn Tenn. Lt Artillery
 Battery B, 1st Btn Tenn. Lt Artillery
 Co. E, 3rd MN Inf. & Trp K, 2nd MN Cav.
 Co. E, 133rd Illinois Vol. Infantry
 Co. G, 47th Missouri Volunteers
 Co. I, 14th Illinois Infantry
 Co. D, Bracketts Btn, Minn. Cavalry
 30th Regiment, Penn. Militia

--

--

Editor's Message

I have noticed two positive trends concerning our *Camp* recently. First, as the *Membership Muster* on page 2 shows, our *Camp* is experiencing tremendous growth, especially during this past quarter. I believe we have reached a new all-time high in membership! A heartfelt *WELCOME* and a tip of the kepi goes out to each of the new Brothers!. The new additions should help the *Lea Camp* continue to be a vibrant and active force in this community.

Secondly, I am very pleased to see that more and more Brothers in the *Camp* are purchasing and wearing Civil War era uniforms. Several of you even have more than one type! That is really impressive! And best of all, the more uniforms we can muster during our public appearances, events, and ceremonies, the more powerful we are in attracting the attention and interest of the viewing public. I think I can speak for each of the uniformed Brothers when I say 'it is also a LOT of fun'!

I applaud each of you in your recruiting efforts and your uniform purchases. I trust these two trends will continue.

In F. C. & L,

Michael L. Lance

Editor

Camp Calendar

Date	Event	Location
12 Jun 2007	Monthly Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Speaker: To be announced	Spaghetti Warehouse, Houston
10 Jul 2007	Monthly Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Speaker: To be announced Topic: Underwater Excavation of C.S.S. Alabama	Spaghetti Warehouse, Houston
Aug 2007	No Regular Meeting	--
11 Sep 2007	Monthly Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Guest Speaker - Professor Angela Holder, President, Board of Directors - Buffalo Soldiers National Museum	Spaghetti Warehouse, Houston
9 Oct 2007	Monthly Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Guest Speaker - Brother Dale Leach Speaker: To be announced	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). 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. James S. Hackett
Junior Vice-Commander - Mr. David K. LaBrot
Secretary/Treasurer - Mr. Gary E. White
SUVCW Edward Lea Camp #2 website:
SUVCW Department of Texas website:
SUVCW National website:

713-729-0348 sdsmcs@swbell.net
281-495-4235 jim.civil@hotmail.com
281-364-4845 dlabrot@genesismortgagewoodlands.com
281-890-7823 gwhite18@houston.rr.com
<http://www.txsv.org/lea/index.htm>
<http://www.txsv.org>
<http://www.suvcw.org>

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.

New Member Profiles

Introducing - Mr. Patrick W. Anthony

Patrick W. Anthony joins the Camp based on the service of his great-great-grandfather, Jesse Landrum, who served as a Private with Company D, 118th Illinois Infantry.

Introducing - Mr. Patrick R. Conley

Patrick R. Conley joined the Camp based on the service of his great-uncle, Ethan Allen Holcomb, who served as a Private with Company A, 126th West Virginia Militia.

Introducing - Mr. Thomas M. Eishen

Thomas Eishen attended IPFW earning a B.S. degree in Secondary Education. He has worked for Farmers Insurance Group Inc. in claims for 22 years.

In 2005, his first novel "*Courage on Little Round Top*" was published by *Skyward Publishing*.

Along with writing, Brother Eishen enjoys photography and displays some of his work on the website www.GettysburgPhotographs.com. He currently lives with his wife Brenda in Spring, Texas.

Brother Eishen joined the Camp based on the service of his great-great-great-grandfather, Andreas Pfothenauer, who served as a Private with Company F, 4th Missouri Infantry.



Introducing - Mr. Jared S. Lenex

Jared S. Lenex joined the Camp based on the service of his great-great-great-uncle, Wilson Keffer. Private Keffer served with Company B, 8th West Virginia Infantry.

Introducing - Mr. Peter V. Pederson

Peter V. Pederson joined the Camp based on the service of his great-great-great-grandfather, Royal B. Decker, who served as a 1st Lieutenant with Company B, 20th Maine Infantry.

Introducing - Mr. Zachery K. Powers

Zachery K. Powers joined the Camp based on the service of his great-great-great-uncle, Wilson Keffer. Private Keffer served with Company B, 8th West Virginia Infantry.

Ancestor Profile

Private James C. Welsh (1837-1932)
Company A, 6th Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery
By Brother Scott D. Shuster - 2nd great-grand nephew

James Cunningham Welsh was born October 5, 1837 in Jefferson Township, Butler County, Pennsylvania. He was the first-born son, and oldest child of **Thomas Welsh** and **Mary Cunningham**. Both Thomas and Mary descend from prominent Butler County residents who settled in Butler County in the early 1800's. Thomas Welsh was a prominent farmer who owned an early Butler County sawmill, and owned about 400 acres of prime farmland in Jefferson Township. Nine children were born to Thomas and Mary Cunningham Welsh, including:

- 1) **James Cunningham Welsh**, born October 5, 1837
- 2) **Mary E. Welsh**, born about 1841
- 3) **Bathia Welsh**, born about 1843
- 4) **Loyal Y. Welsh**, born about 1846
- 5) **William J. Welsh**, born about 1848
- 6) **Sarah Jane Welsh**, born August 31, 1849
- 7) **Nancy Welsh**, born about 1851
- 8) **Thomas M. Welsh**, born about 1853
- 9) **Robert A. Welsh**, born about 1856

James received some formal education, as he is reported as having attended school "within the year" on the 1850 census, where he is listed as living at home with his parents and 3 sisters and 2 brothers. By 1860, at age 23, he is the 'man of the house'. His father died in 1858, and James is listed on the 1860 census as "Farmer". All 9 Welsh children are listed on the 1860 census, along with their widowed mother.

James apparently had some time for a social life, as he married **Margaret Belle Drake** in Pittsburgh on November 7, 1861. It is believed they continued to live on the family farm in Butler County. As his oldest younger brother was only about 15, his services were certainly needed on the farm. James and Margaret Belle's first child, **Thomas E. Welsh** was born January 30, 1863.

By August 1864, military service beckoned, and James enlisted as a Private in Captain Hutchinson's Company, 212th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers (Heavy Artillery). This organization subsequently became Company A, 6th Regiment, Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery. The unit served under DeRussy's Division, XXII Corps, Department of Washington. James appears on the muster roll dated Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, September 15, 1864. He reports that he is a 27 year old, sawyer, having been born in Butler County, Pennsylvania. He is listed as 5 feet 7 ½ inches tall with auburn hair and hazel eyes. He enlisted for one year on August 30, 1864. Interestingly, at the time of his enlistment, Margaret Belle was expecting their second child, **James A. Welsh**, who was born on November 27, 1864.

The regiment was organized in Pittsburgh on September 15, 1864 and moved to Washington D. C. on September 17. By November 1864, Company A was firmly entrenched in the vast network of fortifications protecting Washington, D.C. Records indicate that Company A, along with Company F, were stationed at *Fort Marcy*, overlooking the Potomac River. Portions of *Fort Marcy* are preserved within the National Park Service, and is included in the *Fort Circle Parks System*. A *National Park Service* website provides the following description:

Fort Marcy is perched 275.4 feet above the Potomac River on the south side of the road leading from Chain Bridge to Langley and McLean, Virginia. The perimeter of the fort is 338 feet. When completed the fort mounted 18 guns, a 10-inch mortar and two 24-pounder Coehorn mortars. The fort was not entirely completed until the fall of 1862. It is a relatively undisturbed fort and was named in honor of a native of Massachusetts, the Honorable Randolph B. Marcy, a distinguished soldier and father-in-law and chief of state to General McClellan.

Company A was stationed at *Fort Marcy* through June 13, 1865, when the regiment was mustered out of service at Fort Ethan Allen, Virginia. Captain D. W. Van Horn was the mustering officer. The regiment was then transported from Washington by rail car to *Camp Reynolds* in Pittsburgh, where it was disbanded on June 17, 1865. Following the war, James returned to the family farm in Jefferson Township, Butler County. Between 1867 and 1882, six more children were born to James and Margaret Belle, including:

- **Cora A. Welsh**, born July 22, 1867
- **Charles M. Welsh**, born July 30, 1870
- **Mary J. Welsh**, born March 13, 1874
- **Annie B. Welsh**, born April 13, 1877
- **Nettie F. Welsh**, born October 21, 1878 (married W. H. Say)
- **Mabel Z. Welsh**, born November 26, 1882 (married Phillip Montag)

A mere 9½ years later, in February 1892, James, at age 54, applied for an invalid pension under the Pension Act of June 27, 1890. In his notarized statement, James claims that "he is totally unable to earn a support by manual labor by reason of *Bronchitis and throat trouble*". Whether this particular claim was approved or denied is not clear from the available records. Then, sadly, on June 17, 1897, his beloved Margaret Belle dies. She is buried in the Summit Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

(Continued on next page)

Private James C. Welsh – (continued from previous page)

By 1912, at age 75, James' health is apparently deteriorating. In November, he applies for additional pension payments under the Pension Act of May 11, 1912, citing "heart trouble and disease of the respiratory organs – asthma and difficulty breathing". He is subsequently awarded a pension of \$22.50 per month. A similar pension application is filed on his behalf in June 1920. On the 1920 Federal Census, James is listed in the residence of son Charles and his wife Lorinda.

By 1928, James is receiving a pension of \$72.00 per month under the provisions of the existing disability act. In July, at age 90, he applies for an increase to \$90.00 per month due to his "total physical disability through age by partial paralysis in lower limbs requiring the services of a daily attendant". The final document in his pension file is dated August 11, 1932 and states simply: "The name of the above-described pensioner who was last paid at the rate of \$100 per month to July 3, 1932, has this day been dropped from the roll because of death July 8, 1932."

The death of James Cunningham Welsh, at age 95, was front page news in Butler County. His obituary appeared in *The Butler Eagle*, July 8, 1932, page 1. It states:

*OLDEST RESIDENT OF JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP DIES IN HOME AT 95
James Cunningham Welsh Was Last Survivor of Civil War in District*

James Cunningham Welsh, aged 95, oldest resident of Jefferson Township and the last surviving Civil War veteran of that community, died at his home on Butler R.D. 5, Jefferson Center, at midnight last night. He was born in Jefferson Township and was a lifelong resident there, his active years having been devoted to farming.

Mr. Welsh served with Company A, Sixth Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery, during the War Between the States, and was a member of the I.O.O.F. Lodge in Saxonburg and the Thorn Creek Methodist Episcopal Church, Rockdale, Jefferson Township.

Since the death of his wife, Mrs. Margaret Belle Welsh thirty-five years ago, Mr. Welsh had made his home with three of his children on the old homestead.

Surviving him are the following children: James A. Welsh, Miss Cora A. Welsh and Miss Mary J. Welsh, all at the home; Mrs. Phillip Montag and Charles M. Welsh, both of Jefferson Center; Mrs. W. H. Say, Butler R.D. 1, and a brother W. J. Welsh, Jefferson Center. Seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren also survive.

The last Civil War veteran of his township was born October 5, 1837, in Jefferson Township, a son of Thomas and Mary Cunningham Welsh.

Funeral services will be held from the family residence at 2 P.M. Monday, July 11, with the Rev. H. M. Jenkins, pastor of the Thorn Creek Methodist Episcopal Church, officiating. Interment will be made in the Summit Presbyterian cemetery, Butler-Saxonburg Road.

Today, James lies next to his beloved Margaret Belle, with a very ordinary headstone (*photo at right*) that states simply:

James C. Welsh
1837 - 1932
Priv. Co. A 6D PA HVY ART

His simple marker is a fitting tribute to a common citizen who served his country during the dark days of the Civil War.



- Sources:
- Military Service Record, National Archives - Card Numbers – 20361965, 20377682, 20377824, 20377968, 20378124, 20378271, 20378419
 - Military Pension File, National Archives - Soldier's Certificate Number – 843523
 - Samuel Bates, *History of Pennsylvania Volunteers*, Vol X, pg 771-772
 - Official Records - National Park Service
 - Federal Census Records

Note: Private Welsh was the brother of Brother Scott D. Shuster's great-great-grandmother, Sarah Jane (Welsh) Bunting.

Current Camp Events

Edward Lea Camp #2 Meeting

Houston, Texas – 13 Mar 2007

The Spaghetti Warehouse Restaurant was the venue once again for the monthly Camp meeting which was held March 13, 2007. Nine Brothers and one guest mustered to enjoy a great dinner and camaraderie. After the routine reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and the financial statement, each was approved by a voice vote. The various committee chairmen were then called upon to give their respective reports about progress and planning.

Commander Schulze then updated the Camp about the status of the formation of a Texas chapter of a *Sons of Veteran's Reserve* unit. Ten prospective members from our Edward Lea Camp #2 will be uniting with between six and nine members from the General James J. Byrne Camp #1 based in Arlington, Texas (*see page 15 for related story*). It appears that that this new Texas SVR unit will hit the ground running soon!

In an effort to strengthen the Camp and to coordinate and better manage our efforts, the Commander Schulze then opened discussion about creating several new committees. The proposed committees are to focus on specific key areas, including: re-evaluating the content of our website and keeping its presentation current; developing and timely disseminating of information about our Camp to various media and other organizations; and developing a long-range schedule of speakers and presentations for our monthly Camp meetings.

Other new business included plans to procure and present an *Outstanding Cadet Award* to an outstanding Air Force Jr. ROTC cadet at Foster High School in Richmond, Texas. SVC James Hackett volunteered to attend the ceremony and make the presentation on behalf of the SUVCW (*see page 8 for related story*).

Current Camp Events

Edward Lea Camp #2 Meeting

Spaghetti Warehouse Restaurant
Houston, Texas - 10 Apr 2007

Muster

Stephen D. Schulze – Cmdr.
David K. LaBrot – JVC
Gary E. White – Secr./Treas.
Dale H. Leach – Camp Historian
Samuel F. Hampton
William D. Burdette
Stevenson T. Holmes

Guests

Betty Hampton
Jim Robins
Bill Boyd
Bill Vance

As a matter of routine, a fine Italian dinner was followed by the reading of the minutes of the previous business meeting and the current financial statement was reviewed. Both were unanimously approved by a voice vote.

Next on the agenda was discussion and planning for the Camp's participation in the upcoming *Memorial Day* ceremonies at the Houston National Cemetery. As usual, the Edward Lea Camp will be representing the heroes of the Civil War at this event. Participation and collaboration with the Ike Turner Camp (SCV) is expected with our manning at least one of the Turner Camps big guns. Discussion then turned to updates and progress reports concerning the following: procurement of an historical marker for Sarah Emma Seelye; celebration of the *Warren White Chapter of the Sons & Daughters of U.S.C.T.*; the formation of the Texas unit of *Sons of Veterans Reserve*; the *Battle of Pilot Knob* re-enactment in Missouri; and the meeting minutes of the *Emma Seeley Auxiliary*. But the highlight of the evening was the Camp approval of two new members – **Zachery Powers** and **Jared Lenex**. Please join with me in giving these two new Brothers a warm welcome!

As you can see, much goes on at our monthly business meetings. In addition to the items listed above, our meetings are usually graced by an interesting speaker who talks on a Civil War related topic. *Great food, great topics, great camaraderie, and great presentations* all add up to a *great time*! Come and join us next month!

... respectfully submitted by Michael L. Lance

Current Camp Events



Cadet Award

Houston, Texas – 10 Apr 2007

On Tuesday, April 10, 2007, Senior Vice-Comdr. James Hackett traveled to Richmond, Texas to attend award ceremonies at Foster High School. Brother Hackett, dressed in his magnificent 1st Sgt's uniform, formally presented Cadet Joshua Mills with an *Outstanding Cadet* award. The award was presented on behalf of the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*. Congratulations to this outstanding cadet! He probably will not soon forget his close-up meeting with the soldier in the blue woolen uniform decorated with numerous medals and a bright red sash!

....Submitted by SVC James S. Hackett

Current Camp Events

Memorial Day Observance

Houston National Cemetery
Houston, Texas – 28 May 2007



Left: Private Samuel Hampton reports for duty as Sgt. Gary White scans for more volunteers.

Right: Sgt. White is joined by Private William Burdette (with musket) and Sergeant James Hackett.



Left: The Federal gun crew is expertly briefed on cannon operation and safety by Rebel Craig Reese. Federals from left include: Gary White, Steve Holmes, Samuel Hampton, Stephen Schulze, William Burdette, and James Hackett.

Right: The fully trained Rebel cannon crew is joined by a vet from a later day as they await the order to fire.



(Continued on next page)

Current Camp Events – Memorial Day (continued)



Left: In marching formation – (L-R) Gary White, Samuel Hampton, Steve Holmes, David LaBrot, and William Burdette.

Right: Dale Leach and David LaBrot intently await the order to advance.



Left: The highly disciplined Company A, 13th U.S. Regiment also participated separately. It was commanded by Sgt. Thomas Whitesides (far left).

Right: The Edward Lea unit begins to advance. The front rank includes: (L-R) William Burdette, Stephen Schulze, and James Hackett.



Various small units from different eras march by for review with their Colors held high. The Edward Lea contingent (at center) marches tightly with the National and Camp Colors leading the way. Spectators line the top of the balcony overlooking the grounds as many others ring observe from the sidelines.



Three cannons with crews were present for salutes. They opened the ceremonies with a simultaneous blast. They were fired again separately at 4 second intervals to close the activities. Fortunately, the rain held off until the activities concluded.

...Photos submitted by Brother Samuel Hampton

(Additional photo on back page)

Current Camp Events

Sons and Daughters of U.S. Colored Troops

Buffalo Soldiers National Museum
Houston, Texas – 19 May 2007

The 3rd annual memorial program of the *1st Texas Sons and Daughters of the United States Colored Troops - Warren W. White Chapter*, was held May 19, 2007 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the *Buffalo Soldiers National Museum* in Houston, Texas 77004.

Brother Steve Holmes is the founder of this Chapter and he named it after his Civil War ancestor, Private Warren W. White. Private White served in the Union Army in Texas and then re-enlisted with the army after the Civil War to become a Buffalo Soldier. Brother Holmes was joined and supported in the ceremonies by several Brothers of the Lea Camp, including:

L-R: Cmdr. Stephen Schulze; Secr./Treas. Gary White; Samuel Hampton; Steve Holmes; SVC James Hackett; and JVC David LaBrot.



The uniformed Color Guard presented a dashing appearance for the spectators as they filed into the assembly room with their arms and Colors.

A tour of the interesting museum was given following the formal ceremony.



.... submitted by **Brother Steve Holmes** and **Cmdr. Steve Schulze**. Photos by **Brother Samuel F. Hampton**

The United States Gunboat *Harriet Lane* (Part 1)

By Philip C. Tucker III

⁷²In the year 1859 there was launched from Bell's Shipyard in New York harbor, for the use of the United States revenue service, a vessel which was at that time considered the very best of her type. As she entered the water with due ceremony she was christened the *Harriet Lane* in honor of a very popular girl in Washington society of that day, the niece of Senator Andrew Johnson of Tennessee. Later, when her uncle became President of the United States, she became the lady of the White House.

The *Harriet Lane* was not a large vessel, being only two hundred and seventy feet in length, of twenty-two feet beam, and twelve feet from main deck to floor timbers. She was rigged with two masts as a topsail schooner, and equipped with a double-right-angled marine engine of low pressure and with side paddle wheels. She was copper sheathed and copper fastened throughout, and all materials used were of the best. Her berth deck was seven feet below the main. Aft the shaft was the captain's cabin and stateroom, beneath which was a magazine. Next were the officers' ward room, staterooms and lockers, under which was another magazine. Amidships were the machinery and coal bunkers. Forward were staterooms, the galleys and quarters for the crew, below which was a third magazine. Her armament consisted of light guns. She was designed for a revenue cutter and as such she was used for a little time about New York harbor.

Upon the organization of the expedition to Paraguay under Commodore Shubrick, she was temporarily detached from the revenue service to serve as one of the vessels of his fleet. In 1861 upon the breaking out of the Civil War she was transferred from the cutter service to that of the United States Navy, and her first service was as one of the fleet for the relief of *Fort Sumter*, on which expedition, from her deck was fired the first gun of a naval vessel in that struggle. It was a thirty-two pounder in charge of Lieutenant W. D. Thompson and its target was the Confederate steamer *Nashville*, off the Charleston bar.

⁷³ At 8:30 a.m., June 5, 1861, under command of Captain Faunce, she engaged the Confederate battery at Big Point, on Nansemond River, near Newport News, Virginia, for one hour. Her fire was ineffective because of the light caliber of her guns and their short range; she was struck twice by shots from the battery; and five of her crew were wounded.

⁷⁴ She also participated in the attack upon Fort Hatteras, and was used as a convoy for merchant vessels and in cruising. ⁷⁵ Upon the organization of the West Gulf Squadron under Commodore Farragut for the reduction of Confederate ports in Louisiana and Texas, because of her light draft, she was chosen for the work and her batteries were strengthened as follows: one four-inch rifled Parrot gun as pivot on the forecastle deck; one nine-inch Dahlgren gun on pivot forward of the foremast; two eight-inch Dahlgren Columbiads and two twenty-four-pound brass howitzers on ship carriages, aft; and cutlasses and small arms for ninety-five men. She was commanded by Commander John D. Wainwright and Lieutenant Commander Edward Lea, and was used as the flag ship by Commodore Farragut until January 20th, when he transferred his flag to the *Hartford*.

Finally she was ordered to join Captain David D. Porter's fleet which consisted of the *Owasco*, *Westfield*, *Clifton*, *Miami*, *Jackson*, *R. B. Forbes* and *Octorara*, the last his flagship, at Ship Island, near the mouth of the Mississippi river. From this rendezvous they sailed on the 4th of March, 1862, for the Southwest Pass of that river, and thence to attack the forts below the city of New Orleans. On the 8th of April they advanced up the west side of the river as far as Fort Jackson, opened fire upon and enfiladed this fortification, passed it on the morning of April 24 and on the next day took New Orleans. ⁷⁶ After the surrender of the city the *Harriet Lane* was sent up the river to aid in the attack on the Vicksburg batteries, June 29, 1862.

In September, she was dispatched to Galveston, Texas, along with the *Owasco* and *Clifton*, to reinforce Commodore Eagle in the blockade of that port. A demand for the surrender of Galveston previous to this date had been ignored by the Confederate forces there because the commodore's vessel *The Old Santee* was of too deep draft to enter the harbor or to approach within effective range of the shore.

On October 1, 1862, Commodore Eagle was relieved of the command of the blockading squadron by Commodore William H. Renshaw, with the *Westfield* for flagship. Renshaw at once demanded the surrender of the port, but the demand was rejected. On the morning of October 4, the fleet crossed the bar, proceeding up the channel in the following order: the *Westfield*, flagship, on the right, the *Clifton* with *Bomb Schooner No. 19* in tow on the left, the *Harriet Lane* and *Owasco* in the center. As they came on, the fort on Pelican Island on the western side of the channel opened at long range with a ten-inch Columbiad. This was replied to by the entire fleet, with eleven-inch shells and rifle shot. As this Columbiad was the only gun that the Confederates had not removed from the fortifications, all the other batteries being armed with "Quaker guns," i.e. wooden logs, the works were immediately abandoned. The fleet then proceeded up the harbor to the city front and came to anchor.

On October 9, the *Clifton's* guard, marines, and one hundred sailors landed for the purpose of raising the United States flag on the customs house. The wharves and town were guarded by the firemen in full uniform by order of Mayor George W. Grover, and they acted as escort for the Federals to the custom house when the mayor delivered the key of the city to Captain Wainwright of "*The Harriet Lane*." When the flag was raised and saluted, the Federals returned on board the vessel. ⁷⁷ A force of two hundred and sixty men - Companies D, G, and I of the Forty-second Massachusetts Volunteers, under command of Colonel Isaac S. Burrell, were landed on December 25 and barricaded on Kuhn's wharf at the foot of Twentieth Street. It was intended to land them on Pelican Spit, where were the military barracks, but Commodore Renshaw, and Captains Law and Wainwright considered Kuhn's wharf and warehouse better, as they were directly under the guns of the fleet and in the city. ⁷⁸ Pickets were posted at the corners of the main streets and patrols were sent out through the city, while a lookout was kept from the cupola of the Hendley building, which overlooked the city and suburbs. At night, the pickets were withdrawn to the gangway leading to the wharf and the patrols were recalled. Confederate cavalry entered the town every night, coming by way of the Gulf beach where the sand dunes concealed them. They rendezvoused at Schmidt's garden, a picnic park, at Twenty-first Street and Avenues N-O, and left for Fort Eagle Grove and Virginia Point before daylight. ⁷⁹

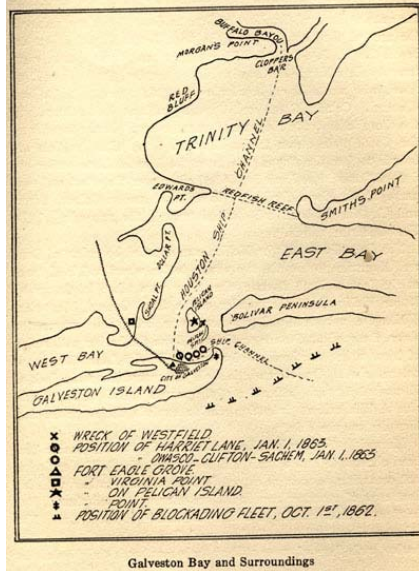
This fleet remained on guard and blockade duty until January 1, 1863, several times bombarding the city because of alarms of Confederate attacks. The alarms were mostly baseless and were due to the overstrained nerves of pickets, who had been imposed upon by so-called Union sympathizers. One instance is described thus by W. P. Doran. There was a well known character in Galveston, Tom Barnet - better known as "One-armed Tom" - who had lost his arm in the naval service of the Republic of Texas, and who was very bitter against the invaders. One dark night in December, 1862, Doran accompanied Tom to see the sights. Reaching Parry's Foundry near the wharf, two Federal sentinels hailed them. Tom drew and leveled his six-shooter. The

(Continued on following page)

Harriet Lane (continued from previous page)

sentinels fled toward the barricade, the drums beat the alarm, a signal rocket was fired, and the gunboat *Clifton*, anchored off the wharf, fired several broadsides into the city.⁸⁰

Though nominally in the hands of the United States forces, the city was practically free to the Confederate forces which were entrenched at Fort Eagle Grove, three miles west of the city and at Virginia Point, northwest of the city seven or eight miles at the mainland end of the railroad bridge. Food supplies were doled out by a committee of subsistence at Houston, and sent over, under a flag of truce from Virginia Point, as the citizens declared,⁸¹ very sparingly.



On the night of December 31, 1862, the *Harriet Lane* was anchored near the western end of the ship channel off Thirty-first Street, with the fires of her furnaces banked. The *Owasco*, *SACHEM*, and *Clifton* were anchored at intervals along the three miles of city front, with light heads of steam on in their boilers, sufficient to move them if necessary. The flagship *Westfield* was at the entrance to the harbor with full head of steam, ready for patrol duty, and on watch for any blockade runner that might attempt to enter the harbor.

There had been nothing unusual happening in several days, no intelligence of unusual activities among the Confederate garrisons; so no more than usual vigilance was being observed when at two o'clock next morning the signal lights began to flash and the crews were turned out of their hammocks to the alarm, "The enemy is approaching." There was none of the fleet, except the *Westfield*, with sufficient steam on to maneuver. The lights of the furnace fires of several vessels coming down the bay from the northward had been seen, and there was no doubt of their hostile character.

The *Westfield* left her station and started up Bolivar Channel intending to pass east and north of Pelican Island and thus place herself in the rear of the approaching vessels as they passed down the channel to the west of the island to enter the ship channel, where the other vessels of the fleet lay at anchor. The steersman miscalculated the force of the tide or trend of the channel, and she suddenly went hard aground off the east end of the island, about two miles from her station. It was then discovered that the Confederate vessels were in retreat, and were disappearing to the northward. The Federals decided that it had only been a reconnaissance, and their crews were ordered below to their hammocks.

Five miles away on the island a long gray column that had crept across the railroad trestle from the mainland and was slowly advancing to the city had halted in confusion. When things grew quiet again about the fleet, the advance was resumed. This was the Confederate force under General John B. Magruder which had been assembled at Houston and Virginia Point for the recapture of the city. So quietly was the advance made that the fort and the earthworks in and around the city were taken and manned by guns brought from Virginia Point, and batteries were posted along the waterfront to sweep the channel and barricades before the movement was discovered and reported by a Federal sentinel and verified by Captain Sherve of the Forty-second Massachusetts. This was between three and four o'clock in the morning of January 1.⁸²

At four o'clock, General Magruder personally fired the first gun at Twentieth and Strand. This was the signal, and all batteries and Fort Point opened fire upon the fleet and the troops' barricade. Meanwhile a force of five hundred infantry under command of Colonel J. J. Cook, with scaling ladders attacked the wharf; but after wading into the bay breast deep they found their ladders too short and had to retreat. The fleet responded with a galling fire, the distance not being over three hundred yards. After an hour, as the Confederate gunboats had not arrived and the land forces, without shelter except for stone buildings, had suffered heavily, Magruder gave the order to withdraw.⁸³ Before the order could be executed the Confederate vessels were seen coming down the western channel. They were the steamboat *Bayou City*, Captain Henry S. Lubbock, armed with a brass thirty-two-pound rifle cannon, served by Captain A. R. Weir, Lieutenant J. V. Riley, and twelve artillerymen from Company B, Cook's Regiment of the Arizona Brigade, and a force of some sixty riflemen sharpshooters of the same regiment under Colonel Tom Green; the steamboat *Neptune*, Captain William H. Sangster, armed with two twenty-four pounders, a force of artillerymen and sharpshooters from the company and regiment above mentioned; and the hospital boats and tenders - the steamer *John F. Carr* under Captain John Y. Lawless, and the *Lucy Gwinn* commanded by Major McKee. Both the *Bayou City* and the *Neptune* were barricaded with cotton bales. The *Bayou City's* gun burst at the fourth discharge, killing Captain Wier and wounding others of the gun crew; her only means of offense now was by ramming, while her sharpshooters enfiladed the decks as she approached.

The nearest vessel was the *Harriet Lane*, at anchor without steam enough to get under way. Striking her a glancing blow on the port quarter, the *Bayou City* scraped by. The *Neptune* approaching from the other side struck her on the starboard side aft the wheel, forcing her to swing around with head up channel. The *Bayou City* having come about, rammed again, striking the port wheel house, and, forcing her bow under the deck guard, became fast. This careened the *Harriet Lane* at such an angle that her guns were useless for close quarters. In the meantime her decks had been cleared of crew and officers by the murderous fire of the sharpshooters of the *Bayou City* and *Neptune*.

Commodore Leon Smith and Colonel Tom Green boarded her at the head of their men and found Commander John D. Wainright dead on the bridge, Lieutenant-Commander Edward Lea mortally wounded, and Acting Second Master W. F. Monroe wounded. They immediately hauled down her flag and turned such guns as they could handle upon the gunboat *Owasco*, which was coming to her aid. This with the rifle fire of the sharpshooters drove the *Owasco* back. All three vessels were seriously injured. The Confederate steamer *Neptune* was so badly torn that she sank on the edge of the channel, scarce two hundred feet away in an attempt to beach her. The plumper block of the *Harriet Lane* penetrated the deck of the *Bayou City*, locking both vessels together so that neither could move without the other. The *Harriet Lane's* wheel was broken and engine shaft driven out of its bearings, so that her engines could not be started.

⁸⁴ When day dawned, the *Harriet Lane* was boarded from the shore by an aide from General Magruder's staff, Major P. C. Tucker 2d,⁸⁵ to learn the result of the attack and the condition of the Confederate fleet - or rather he boarded the *Bayou City*,

(Continued on next page)

Harriet Lane (continued from previous page)

after sculling out in a skiff, and went on board the *Harriet Lane* to find Commodore Leon Smith.

Colonel Tom Green, and Captain Henry S. Lubbock, were at once sent down the harbor by Commodore Leon Smith, in one of the quarter boats of the *Harriet Lane* to demand the surrender of the rest of the fleet. Captain Lubbock found Captain Law on board the U.S. Gunboat *Clifton*, and agreed upon a two hours truce to allow him to confer with his commander, Commodore Renshaw, who was still on board the *Westfield* aground in Bolivar Channel. Colonel Green and Captain Lubbock then returned to the shore to report to the general commanding. In the meantime, the Confederate steam tender *John F. Carr*, after fruitless attempts to free the *Bayou City* from the *Harriet Lane*, under orders of Commodore Leon Smith had given over the effort and now conveyed him down the harbor to see what success Colonel Green and Captain Lubbock had attained towards the surrender of the United States vessels.⁸⁶

The *Lucy Gwinn*, [commanded by] Major McKee, was signaled by orders of General Magruder to tow the two vessels to the wharf and land them at the foot of Bath Avenue when they were taken in charge by Major Philip C. Tucker, under orders from General Magruder. While the wounded and prisoners were being removed to the shore, the gunboat *Owasco* on the way down the harbor with a flag of truce at her masthead, fired upon the *Harriet Lane* with shrapnel and shell. One eleven-inch shell just grazed the main deck as it crashed through both sides of the vessel, just above her magazines. The evident intention was to explode the magazine and thus destroy the ship.⁸⁷

Meanwhile, the flagship *Westfield*, aground down the harbor, had been abandoned and a train laid to her magazine. The explosion not occurring as soon as expected, Commodore Renshaw with his boat crew of seventeen men and three officers returned aboard, just in time to be overwhelmed by her destruction at 8:45 a.m. The other gunboats, *Clifton*, *Sachem*, and *Owasco* steamed out of the harbor with flags of truce still at their mastheads and headed for New Orleans. The Confederates had neither vessels nor guns with which to stop them.⁸⁸ Colonel Green and Captain Lubbock had returned aboard the *Clifton* to get Captain Law's answer to their earlier demands and narrowly escaped being carried to sea.⁸⁹

The loss of the Confederates was twenty-six killed and one hundred and seventeen wounded. The exact loss of the Federals is unknown, but as nearly as can be estimated from the several official reports, about seventeen officers and men were killed and forty or more were wounded, while between three and four hundred were taken prisoners.⁹⁰ The following report to General Magruder accounts for the crew of the *Harriet Lane*:

"In obedience to your special order, charging me to receive from Major Leon Smith the prisoners then on board the S. S. Harriet Lane, I executed said order on the first of January, 1863, and received from Major Smith one hundred and nine prisoners, of whom twelve men were officers, and ninety-five crew, one a slave found on board, and one who claimed to have been accidentally on board, a resident of Galveston. They were disposed of by sending to the hospital four of the crew sick, eleven wounded, and one a nurse, and acting second master Monroe, wounded, and by turning over to Colonel E. B. Nichols of your staff by your orders, eleven officers and eighty of the crew, also the slave Rife and the man, Quigley, found on board. I report herewith in detail, a correct muster roll thereof, with the necessary explanations included."

Respectfully, Philip C. Tucker, 2d. Galveston, January 4th, 1863.

Footnotes

72. Andrew Thompson, Deposition before Confederate Prize Commissioners, 25 Aug 1863. MS. in P. C. Tucker 3d Collection, Library of Texas State Historical Association.
73. Captain H. D. Smith, "The U. S. Revenue Cutter Service," *Century Magazine*, Vol. 33, 575 (February, 1898).
74. Frank Leslie's *Pictorial History of the Civil War*, 1861, 70.
75. Captain H. D. Smith, *loc. cit.*
76. D. S. Osborn, "Memoirs" in *Pearson's Magazine*, February, 1906.
77. Gussley, "Yankee Notebook," publ. in *Galveston News*, by W. P. Doran of Hempstead, Texas, under the pseudonym "Sioux."
78. Long to Houston, January 10, 1863, *Official Records, War of the Rebellion*, Ser. I, Vol. XV, 208. From all the information I can gather, a force was on this wharf from the first days of occupation in October.
79. Long to Houston, *loc. cit.*
80. *Galveston News*, July 5, 1891. I have heard the same story from P. J. Willis, of Galveston, and others.
81. Personal letters of N. D. Labadie, P. C. Tucker, W. P. Doran, et al. See, however, report of Col. I. S. Burrell, December 29, 1862, *Off. Recs.*, Ser. I, Vol. XV, 204.
82. Wm. P. Doran *et al.* In the report of W. S. Long to Houston. Time is fixed an hour earlier. *Off. Recs.*, Ser. I, Vol. XV, 208-210.
83. Magruder's Report to Cooper, *Off. Recs.*, Ser. I, Vol. XV, 211-220.
84. Magruder's Report, *loc. cit.*
85. When the name Philip C. Tucker appears in this compilation, whether preceded by the title of Major or Prize Commissioner, it is that of my father, Philip C. Tucker, who held both these positions under the Confederate State government. Him I usually designate as Philip C. Tucker 2nd. His father was Philip C. Tucker 1st, of Vermont, and I am the third bearing his name, and so sign myself. I deem this explanation necessary to prevent confusion.
86. H. S. Lubbock's Deposition before Prize Commissioners, 1863. MS. in P. C. Tucker Collection.
87. Statements of Jos. Aiken of Galveston, signal corps C. S. A., W. P. Doran, and P. C. Tucker 2d.
88. Magruder to Cooper, *Off. Recs.*, Ser. I, Vol. XV, 216.
89. H. S. Lubbock, Deposition before Prize Commission, 1863. MS. in Tucker Collection.
90. Reports of Davis, Long (Federals) and Magruder, *Off. Recs.*, Ser. I, Vol. XV, 207, 209, 216.

G.A.R. Membership Badge

Official Badge of the Grand Army of the Republic

The *Council of Administration*, after consulting with Mr. A. Demarest, of New York, recommended to the Special Session of the National Encampment in New York, October 27, 1869, the design [this is the 3rd and more or less final design as, there were two earlier designs dated 1866 and Oct. 1, 1868] which was described in circular No. 2, headquarters Washington, D.C., February 18, 1870, as -follows:



figures, "1861-Veteran-1866," commemorating the commencement and close of the rebellion, and also the organization of the Order.

Description of the Badge

The badge is of bronze, made from cannon captured in different decisive battles during the late rebellion, and in the form of a five-pointed star, similar in design to the two hundred medals of honor authorized by Act of Congress to be given to soldiers and sailors most distinguished for meritorious and gallant conduct during the late [civil] war. The design, as here given, and adopted by the *Grand Army of the Republic*, was arranged by General F.A. Starring, Inspector-General of the Order.

The Obverse

In the centre of the badge is a figure of the Goddess of Liberty, representing LOYALTY; on either side a soldier and a sailor clasping hands, representing FRATERNITY, and two children receiving benediction and assurance of protection from the comrades, representing CHARITY. On each side of the group is the National Flag, representing FREEDOM, and an Axe or Bundle of Rods, or Fasces, representing UNION. In each point of the star is the insignia of the various arms of the service, viz.; the BUGLE for Infantry, CROSS MUSKETS for the Marine, CROSS SWORDS for Cavalry, and the ANCHOR for Sailors. Over the central group are the words, "Grand Army of the Republic," and under, the word and

The Reverse Side

Represents a Branch of Laurel - the crown and glory of the brave - in each point of the star [a further change was made at the Encampment at San Francisco in 1886 by the replacement of 3 out of 5 of these "Branches of Laurel" by adding the corps' marks of Sheridan's and Wilson's Cavalry Corps, and of Hancock's First Veteran Corps to the points of the star and also; the addition of the "camp-fire" device on the clasp]. The National Shield in the centre, surrounded by the twenty-four recognized Corps' Badges, numerically arranged, each on a keystone, and all linked together, showing they are united, and will guard and protect the Shield of the Nation. Around the centre is a circle of stars, representing the States of the Union and the Departments composing the *Grand Army of the Republic*.

The Clasp

Is composed of the figure of an Eagle, with Cross Cannon and Ammunition, representing DEFENSE; the Eagle with drawn sword hovering over and always ready to protect from insult or dishonor the National Flag [in the form of an embroidered silk ribbon connecting the Eagle clasp with the pendant star below], which is also the Emblem and Ribbon of the Order"; 1) because this Eagle was a fac-simile of the Eagle on the "Medal of Honor" and the shape of the star being nearly identical to it also, a change was made, during the administration of Commander-in-Chief Earnshaw [1880], in the form of the Eagle with wing-tips now pointing slightly more downward and the shape of the star being made more symmetrical and; 2) addition of the "camp-fire" device to the reverse side in 1886 as noted above.

Materials and Manufacture of Badge

For several years prior to 1884, the metal used in the manufacture of these badges was obtained from guns purchased of various societies to whom they had been donated by Congress for monumental purposes; since then captured cannon have been used, which were purchased direct from the government, and selected from the guns stored at Governors Island, New York. These guns were made by: Noble Brothers of Rome, Georgia; Quimby & Robinson of Memphis, Tennessee; John Clark of New Orleans, Louisiana; and A.B.R. Bros. of Vicksburg, Tennessee. Three are presumably of English make, being better finished and free from iron or lead.

To prepare this metal for the manufacture of badges, the gun is first adjusted in a lathe and cut into sections, these pieces are melted and cast into small pigs, and again re-melted to remove iron or lead, the presence of which is a source of much trouble. Twenty percent of copper and zinc is then added to reduce the hazard of breakage in the subsequent operations. The rough form of the star is again cast in sand, this blank freed from sand is again annealed and the fire coating removed by acid baths. The pieces are then thoroughly rinsed to remove all traces of the acids, which would otherwise speedily destroy the dies. The piece is then placed between steel dies and subjected to an enormous pressure, equal to about 200 tons, on a press especially designed and made for this work. This must be repeated four or five times, the piece being annealed and cleaned after each operation. The

(Continued on next page)

G.A.R. Membership Badge *(continued from previous page)*

edges, which have expanded under the heavy blows, are trimmed by machinery and the piece is again placed in the press to bring all parts of the design into relief. The outline is then perfected by special machinery, the edges are filed by hand, the swivels inserted, the star numbered, and the initial of the Commander-in-Chief for that term added. The badge is then ready for the final finish by a special process, adapted to the quality of metal in each gun. The eagle is subjected to the same general process, but requiring, of course, much less pressure in stamping.

...submitted by Brother Dale H. Leach

(Source: History of the Grand Army of the Republic - pgs.654-658, by Robert B. Beath, published in 1888 by Bryan, Taylor & Co., N.Y. This book was once owned by Private Sylvester Leach, 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry (1841-1928). Private Leach was a very active member of the Ohio G.A.R. James Bradley Post 194 - Michigan. The book is currently owned by his great-great-grandson, Brother Dale H. Leach, who transcribed in July 1988.

The G.A.R. was founded in Decatur, Illinois on April 6, 1866 by Benjamin F. Stephenson. Membership was limited to honorably discharged veterans of the Union Army, Navy, Marine Corps or the Revenue Cutter Service who had served between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865. The veterans initially joined together for camaraderie and then for political power. By 1890, G.A.R. had grown to 409,489 members. Annual National Encampments of the *Grand Army of the Republic* were presided over by a Commander-in-Chief who was elected in political events which rivaled national political party conventions. The Encampments were elaborate multi-day events which often included camping out, formal dinners, and memorial events.

The G.A.R. also worked to found soldiers' homes, was active in relief work and in pension legislation. Five members were elected President of the United States and, for a time, it was impossible to be nominated on the Republican ticket without the endorsement of the G.A.R. voting block. In 1868, Commander-in-Chief John A. Logan issued General Order No. 11 calling for all Departments and Posts to set aside the 30th of May as a day for remembering the sacrifices of fallen comrades, thereby beginning the celebration of *Decoration Day* (which later became *Memorial Day*).

With membership limited strictly to "veterans of the late unpleasantness," the G.A.R. encouraged the formation of Allied Orders to aid them in its various works. Numerous male organizations jostled for the backing of the G.A.R. and the political battles became quite severe. The G.A.R. finally endorsed the *Sons of Veterans of the United States of America* (later to become the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*) as its heir.

The final Encampment of the *Grand Army of the Republic* was held in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1949 and the last member, Albert Woolson, died in 1956 at age 109.

...source: <http://www.suvcw.org/gar.htm>

Sons of Veterans Reserve

The *Department of Texas* is forming a new *Sons of Veterans Reserve* unit. Membership is open to all SUVCW members, Regular or Associate. For those who are unfamiliar with the SVR, the organization is one of the five allied orders formed by the GAR back in the 19th century. Originally it was intended to function as an actual reserve militia unit. Several hundred SVR members actually mobilized and fought as a unit during the *Spanish American War*. Since WWII, the SVR has served as a ceremonial and commemorative organization. If you log on to the SUVCW website and then click on the link to the SVR you can read a lot more about the organization's history and activities.

The cost to be a member is \$3.00 per year. Membership is on a year-to-year basis. Each year, every member has to send in an application form for the next year. Everyone is assigned a rank within the organization. The *Unit Commander* is elected by the members of the unit. The Commander's rank is determined by the number of people in the unit. By combining members from both the Houston and Dallas Camps we will have enough members so the *Unit Commander* will be appointed a 1st Lieutenant, and the Adjutant will be a 2nd Lieutenant. There will also be a 1st Sergeant, a Sergeant, and four Corporals, all appointed by the *Unit Commander*. Everyone else will be a Private.

Unlike the SUVCW, members of the SVR are required to obtain a period uniform appropriate to their rank. The unit we are forming will be an infantry unit since for an artillery unit we would have to actually have one or more cannons, and for a cavalry unit at least six of the members must have horses. Technically, everyone must have a uniform appropriate to the unit's branch of service; however the *Department Commander* has decided that, for this year at least, all uniforms, no matter what branch, will be acceptable. So, if you only have an artillery or cavalry uniform, that will be acceptable. You won't have to go out and buy another uniform. If you don't have a uniform, we can tell you where to buy a basic uniform for a reasonable price.

...submitted by Camp Cmdr. Stephen Schulze

The formation of the Texas SVR unit was finalized during the Camp meeting on May 8, 2007. I am pleased to report that **Brother David K. LaBrot** was elected as unit Commander. He then appointed me as 1st Sgt. I am looking forward to the challenge of this position and would like to express my gratitude for the confidence shown in me by the new Commander. We are dedicated to working hard make this SVR unit one of the best in the country. It will take the collective efforts and ideas of each of us to get the job done. Although the task seems formidable, it should prove to be fun and very rewarding!

Yours in F, C & L,
Jim Hackett - SVC

Houston National Cemetery - Houston, Texas - 28 May 2007



L-R: Cmdr. Stephen D. Schulze; JVC David K. LaBrot; Samuel F. Hampton; Scott D. Shuster; William D. Burdett; SVC James S. Hackett; Stevenson T. Holmes; Dale H. Leach; and Secr./Treas. Gary E. White.

I have never been able to think of the day as one of mourning; I have never quite been able to feel that half-masted flags were appropriate on Decoration Day. I have rather felt that the flag should be at the peak, because those whose dying we commemorate rejoiced in seeing it where their valor placed it. We honor them in a joyous, thankful, triumphant commemoration of what they did.

- Benjamin Harrison -
23rd President of the United State (1833 - 1901)