

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

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



Harriet Lane

Winter 2008 Volume 15 Number 4

From the Commander's Tent

Thank you all for making my first year so gratifying. During the year, we had many talented speakers present interesting topics at our monthly meetings. My hope is to continue and expand on these efforts in the upcoming year.

The *Civil War Weekend* event at Liendo Plantation was very good for us this year. Our Camp was well represented on the battlefield and our fundraising efforts were very successful. Many thanks go out to all who volunteered their services – especially to David and Linda LaBrot for their special efforts on behalf of the Camp. Their donation of a fundraising quilt put a tidy sum into our Camp's coffers!

The *Sarah Emma Seelye #1 Ladies Auxiliary* to the Camp continues to be very active. They have been doing much good work in the community and always add color and spice to our events! They even assisted with 'manning' the Camp table at Liendo Plantation. Thank you ladies!

Now is when we turn our attention to our annual *Battle of Galveston Commemoration* ceremonies scheduled for January 10, 2009. This is our major event of the year so my hope is that all members will either attend or participate in the activities. We need your support and ideas. With your help, I am looking forward to a strong showing this year.

On behalf of the membership of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea USN Camp #2, SUVCW*, I want to extend our deepest heartfelt sympathy to Susan Salm, President of the *Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4, DUVCW*, and her family for the recent loss of her husband, Michael Salm.

We have all lived through trying times in recent months. I hope and pray all of you come through OK.
GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS.

Yours in F. C. & L.

James S. Hackett

Camp Commander

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Membership Muster

Camp Member

Mr. James S. Hackett – Commander
Mr. David K. LaBrot – Sr. Vice-Commander
Mr. Samuel F. Hampton – Jr. Vice-Commander
Mr. Gary White - Secretary/Treasurer ~ **
Mr. Robert Lockwood - Patriotic Instructor
Mr. Clifford Dale Cates - Chaplain ^^
Mr. Dale H. Leach - Camp Historian
 Mr. Mark H. Andrus
 Mr. Patrick W. Anthony
 Mr. Michael Boyd
Mr. William C. Boyd ++
 Mr. William D. Burdette
 Mr. William D. Campbell **
 Capt. Chadwick E. Chester
 Mr. Patrick R. Conley
 Mr. Thomas M. Eishen
 Mr. Stephen D. Forman **
 Mr. Maurice Foster
 Mr. David M. Garrett
 Mr. Daniel A. Gillaspia
 Mr. Glenn C. Gillaspia III
 Dr. Albert E. Gunn
 Mr. Rick L. Hammer
 Mr. Kenneth H. Harrington
 Mr. Steve M. Hart
 Mr. Harrold Henck Jr. ~ **
 Mr. Henry G. Herford Jr.
 Dr. Stevenson T. Holmes
 Mr. Thomas A. Jackson
 Mr. Thomas I. Jackson
 Mr. Robert Julian ~ **
 Mr. Michael L. Lance
 Mr. Jared S. Lenes
 Mr. Jeffrey S. Lenes
 Mr. John P. Lenes
 Mr. Dean Letzring **
 Mr. Kurt A. Letzring
 Mr. Randall S. McDaniel
 Mr. Kelly P. McNamara
 Mr. Harrison G. Moore IV ~ **
 Mr. Thomas H. Penney
 Mr. James R. Perry
 Mr. Peter V. Pederson
 Mr. Jay M. Peterson
 Mr. Zachery K. Powers
 Mr. Randall D. Scallan - Chaplain
 Mr. John E. Schneider Sr.
 Mr. John E. Schneider Jr.
 Mr. Michael Schneider
 Mr. Stephen D. Schulze **
 Mr. Jeffrey R. Schurwon
 Dr. Harold E. Secor
 Mr. Scott D. Shuster
 Mr. Bartley N. Stockton
 Mr. Stephen W. Tanner
 Mr. Chapman P. Traylor
 Mr. Nash S. Traylor
 Mr. Kenneth W. Vaughn
 Mr. Glenn A. Webber
 Mr. Charles B. White
 Mr. Robert E. Wickman
Mr. Edward D. Yoakum ++
 Mr. Patrick M. Young
 Mr. Edward Cotham - Author ##
 Mr. Charles Mitchell - Camp Web Master ##

Civil War Ancestor

Cpl. Thadeus Hendrickson
 Hosp. Steward Louis LaBoret
 Pvt. Samuel Pate Hampton
 Commissary Sgt. William Judson
 Pvt. Chauncey A. Lockwood **
 Pvt. Sylvester Leach
 Pvt. Matthew Barth
 Pvt. Jesse Landrum
 Pvt. Thomas Howey
Pvt. Lyndon Boyd
 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. David Montgomery
 Pvt. Martin V. B. Leonard
 Pvt. Martin V. B. Leonard
 Pvt. Edward Gunn
 Pvt. Thomas M. Hammer
 Pvt. James Morfed Aston
 Pvt. Robert Milton Hart
 Pvt. Philip Jacob Appfel
 Master at Arms Edwd S. Herford
 Pvt. Warren W. White
 Sgt. Isaac Newton Stubblefield
 Sgt. Isaac Newton Stubblefield
 Pvt. John Walter Stoker
 Pvt. Finas Euen Lance
 Pvt. Wilson Keffer
 Pvt. Wilson Keffer
 Pvt. Wilson Keffer
 Pvt. Alexander McLain
 Pvt. Alexander McLain
 Pvt. Fernando Cortez Nichols
 Pvt. Henry Hilton Wood
 Pvt. William Moore
 Cpl. Thomas Penney
 Pvt. James R. Cook
 1st Lt. Royal B. Decker
 Pvt. William Herbert Trull
 Pvt. Wilson Keffer
 Chaplain Francis M. Byrd
 Lt. Col. Casper Carl Schneider
 Lt. Col. Casper Carl Schneider
 Lt. Col. Casper Carl Schneider
 Pvt. Henry Ludwig Schulze
 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
Sgt. Perry Webb
 Pvt. William Young

Service Unit

4th Kentucky Mounted Infantry
 Co E, 12th-Co L, 5th MO State Milit. Cav
 Co. G, 47th Missouri Infantry
 Co. D, 1st New York Mounted Rifles
 Co. H, 14th Wisconsin Infantry **
 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry
 Co. B, 52nd Illinois Infantry
 Co. D, 118th Illinois Infantry
 Co. A, 38th Illinois Infantry
Co. F, 144th Reg., Indiana Vol. Inf.
 Co. H, 122nd New York Volunteer Inf.
 Co. I, 12th Illinois Infantry
 Indep Co Trumbull Guards, Ohio Inf.
 Co. A, 126th West Virginia Militia
 Co. F, 4th Missouri Infantry
 Co. C, 20th Indiana Infantry
 Co. C, 2nd Illinois Light Infantry
 Co. K, 83rd Indiana Vol. Infantry
 Shields' 19th Indep Batt Ohio Lt Arty.
 Shields' 19th Indep Batt Ohio Lt Arty.
 Co. C, 74th NY Inf & Co. G, 40th NY Inf.
 Co. K, 2nd Missouri Light Artillery
 Co. C, 4th Tennessee Volunteer Inf.
 Co. K, 7th Illinois Infantry
 Co. A, 46th Iowa Volunteer Inf.
 U.S.N.
 Co. K, 44th U.S. Colored Infantry
 2nd Regiment Texas Cavalry
 2nd Regiment Texas Cavalry
 54th Indiana Infantry
 Co. F, 12th IN Inf. - Co. E, 59th IN Inf.
 Co. B, 8th West Virginia Infantry
 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. E, 121st New York Infantry
 Co. K, 63rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry
 Co. G, 8th Illinois Cavalry
 Co. C, 3rd Wisconsin Infantry
 Co. B, 20th Maine Infantry
 Co. D, 26th Massachusetts Infantry
 Co. B, 8th West Virginia Infantry
 184th Ohio Infantry
 103rd New York Infantry
 103rd New York Infantry
 103rd New York Infantry
 Co. D, 9th Illinois Volunteers
 Shields' 19th Indep Batt Ohio Lt Arty.
 Co. D, 28th Massachusetts
 Co. F, 171st Pennsylvania Infantry
 Co F, 74th NY Inf., Co H, 40th NY Inf.
 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. D, Bracketts Btn, Minn. Cavalry
Co. K, 9th Reg. Tennessee Cavalry
 30th Regiment Pennsylvania Militia

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

Editor's Message

Since the cooler weather of Fall has arrived, the outdoor activities of the Camp have also increased. And, so far, this Fall has been a blast – literally! I had the opportunity to participate in the *Veterans Day* ceremonies in downtown Houston and also attended one day of the *Civil War Weekend* at Liendo Plantation near Hempstead, Texas. On both occasions, I had the pleasure of donning the blue and 'blasting' my musket – once as a salute for Veterans – and many more times in a running, walking, kneeling, retreating, and standing skirmish with the boys in gray at Liendo!

As I have mentioned before, those of you who have not participated in these types of outings, are really missing out on a lot of fun! The camaraderie of speaking and rubbing shoulders with like-minded hobbyists, the learning experience, and the physical exercise and fresh air, are priceless. Afterwards, the drudgery of cleaning a much-fired musket and the massaging of sore usually unused muscles, were more than counterbalanced by the joy of honoring and acknowledging the efforts and sacrifices of our Civil War ancestors! So once again, I encourage and invite you to stick your toe in - and give it a try – join us. You will be glad you did!

In F. C. & L,

Michael L. Lance

Editor

Corrections for Vol. 15, No. 3, Fall 2008:

- 1) *Page 6, the caption under the photo of Samuel Hampton, his middle initial should be F. instead of K.*
- 2) *Page 9, paragraph 1, the date of David LaBrot's message should be 6 Jun 2008, instead of 6 Sep 2008.*
- 3) *Page 9, last paragraph, the date of the Houston Chronicle obituary should be 31 Aug 2008, instead of 31 Jul 2003.*

Camp Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
9 Dec 2008	Monthly Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Topic: Historical Item Show & Tell	Spaghetti Warehouse, Houston, TX
10 Jan 2009	Battle of Galveston Commemoration: 10:00 a.m. Monthly Meeting: 1:00 p.m. Installation of 2009 Camp Officers	Episcopal Cemetery, Galveston, TX The Golden Corral Restaurant, Seawall, Galveston, TX
10 Feb 2009	Monthly Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Speakers: Dale Leach & Bob Lockwood Topic: Gettysburg Adventure	Spaghetti Warehouse, Houston, TX
10 Mar 2009	Monthly Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Speaker: Dave Burdett Topic: Sanitary Commission	Spaghetti Warehouse, Houston, TX

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Camp Commander – Mr. James S. Hackett
Senior Vice-Commander – Mr. David K. LaBrot
Junior Vice-Commander – Mr. Samuel F. Hampton
Secretary/Treasurer – Mr. Gary E. White
SUVCW Edward Lea Camp #2 website
SUVCW Department of Texas website
SUVCW National website
Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4 – *DUVCW*
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Sons of Veterans Reserve

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<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txseeduv>
<http://www.asuvcw.org>
<http://www.suvcw.org/svr/svr.htm>

New Members

Introducing: [William C. Boyd](#) – Brother Boyd joins the Camp based on the Civil War service of his ancestor, Lyndon Boyd. Private Boyd served with Company F, 144th Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

Introducing: [Steven Dale Yoakum](#) – Brother Yoakum joins the Camp based on the Civil War service of his gr-gr-grandfather, Perry Webb. Private Webb enlisted with Company K, 9th Regiment, Tennessee Cavalry and eventually attained the rank of Sergeant.

Ancestor Profile – Alonzo Bush

Alonzo S. Bush was born August 23, 1839 in the city of Wheeling in Ohio County, West Virginia. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bush. Alonzo's mother died when he was a young boy. In 1850, Alonzo was 9 years old and living in Evansville, Indiana with his father, his future step-mother, Irene Mills, and his 7 year old brother, Platoff Bush. In 1860, 21 year old Alonzo was still helping support the family by working as a clerk in Evansville while living with his father, stepmother, and little brother, Platoff.

The two Bush brothers soon enlisted with the Union army after the Civil War broke out. "Both boys were with the 1st Indiana Cavalry - but served with Stewart's Brigade which was detached from the 1st Cavalry throughout the war. They served as 'escort' to several different Generals. At Gettysburg they rode escort for Gen. Oliver O. Howard. However, by that time, Alonzo had sustained a groin injury and could not ride astride so his immediate commanding officer, Capt. Abram Sharra, promoted him to Sgt. and put him with the quartermaster. During the war, both brothers were wounded twice - in different battles. Alonzo was shot in the back of the head in one battle and in the neck in another. And, there was the unfortunate incident of his horse falling on him just outside Falls Church, Virginia. That one pretty much messed him up for life and sent him back to the Armory Hospital in Washington, D.C."¹

While recuperating at the Armory Hospital, Alonzo met poet Walt Whitman and correspondence was later exchanged between the two. "Alonzo was at several civil war battles and injured at just as many. I guess his claim to fame was corresponding with Walt Whitman. We have copies of Alonzo's letters and the originals are at the *Walt Whitman Archives*. A Gay Rights activist used Alonzo's letters as proof he and Whitman were lovers. Guess that would have been OK except the fact Alonzo was married for 20+ years until his wife's death from typhoid fever. Alonzo died at a veteran's hospital in Illinois. Poor thing had multiple physical problems - not the least of which was from falling on his horse horn and injuring his groin so severely it plagued him the rest of his life."²

In 1870, Alonzo Bush was a 30 year old railroad conductor living again in Evansville, Indiana. He was living with his 28 year old wife, Elizabeth, and their 2 young daughters - Eva and Mandal Bush. By 1880, forty year old Alonzo was working in real estate and still living in Evansville with his 40 year old wife, 'Libbie', and their 2 children - Eva and Willie Bush - daughter Mandel having previously died young.

On January 26, 1888, Alonzo Bush unfortunately married Kate Williams³ as his 2nd wife. That marriage proved to be a rocky one and they reportedly separated on February 15, 1895. She later successfully gained access to a portion of his meager military pension. Alonzo was eventually reduced to working as a day laborer and boarded with his married son, William Bush, in Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Alonzo passed away in Evansville, Indiana on March 11, 1922 at age 82.

"He is buried at Oak Hill cemetery in Evansville next to his first wife - the only woman he loved and considered himself married to. In his papers to the government regarding his pension, he states his second wife only married him for his pension and he tried to prevent her getting any of it. She, of course, sued for it and won. And his pension was halved. She received her half until her death.

When reading both of their records [brothers Alonzo and Platof Bush], one is struck by the sadness of it all. The government did their level best to deny the pensioners. They were required to provide proof they served, were wounded, affidavits from people that knew them and could swear they were disabled, names of their commanding officers and the doctors that treated them - and it went on and on. If they couldn't provide one piece of the required info, they were put into government limbo. Both men went through several lawyers just trying to get their measly 10 or 12 dollars a month. If they were granted their pensions they had to re-apply every 10 years or so to get their increases of 1 or 2 dollars a month! Alonzo was blind and incontinent in his eighties and STILL begging for his pension. I suppose justice was served, in a way, when, after Alonzo's greedy 2nd wife died, the government found her children had still been receiving half of his pension and they were made to pay it back. And then Alonzo, once again, began receiving the entire amount. Small comfort though, I'm thinking. He was in and out of the

(Continued on next page)

veteran's hospital in Danville, Illinois but died in Evansville and was buried there. The so called 'gay' letters really made me burn. If you've read them, you can see that they are really just chatty, friendly letters. But the gay advocates turn them to their own purposes. And the references to their friend who is about to lose his leg being a 'gay boy' and having a 'gay time' are used in the context of the day. Homosexuals weren't even referred to as GAY until the 1960s for Pete's sake!"⁴ Alonzo's 1922 newspaper obituary states: "Alonzo S. Bush - The funeral of Alonzo S. Bush, age 82 years, Civil War veteran, 505 Edgar Street, who died at the Deaconess Hospital Saturday will be held from Johann's Chapel at 2:30 o'clock Tuesday afternoon with burial in Oak Hill cemetery - He leaves a son, William Bush of St. Louis, and two half brothers, Charles T. and Mike Bush of this city."⁵.

1-2. *Researcher and cousin, Sharon O'Brien, 12 May 2005.*

...Submitted by great-grandnephew Michael L. Lance

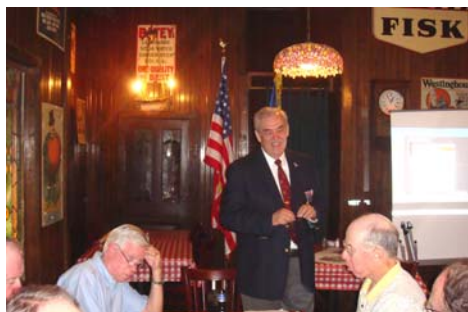
3. *Posey County, Indiana Marriages, book C-10, page 60.*

4. *Researcher and cousin, Joyce Elaine Bernardi, Pennngrove, CA, 1 Aug 2006.*

5. *Newspaper obituary, Evansville Courier, Evansville, Indiana, 4 Mar 1922.*

Camp Meeting – 9 Sep 2008

At 7:00 p.m., the September monthly Camp meeting was once again called to order at the *Spaghetti Warehouse Restaurant* in downtown Houston. Cmdr. Jim Hackett then called on Patriotic Instructor Bob Lockwood to lead the *Pledge of Allegiance* and then Brother Dale Leach to offer an opening prayer. These actions were followed by a moment of silence for the late Lois Schulze, mother of Dept. Cmdr./PCC, Stephen Schulze. The silence was also observed by: SVC LaBrot, JVC Hampton, Sec/Treas White, PCC Schulze, and Brothers Chester, Shuster, Burdett, Schneider, Holmes, and Lance. Guests Bill Boyd, Jim Robbins, Bill Pollard, Mark Pike and *Ladies Auxilliary* members: President Vali Reyes, Secretary Jana Marsh, Treasurer Norma Pollard, and Betty Hampton were also present.



Cmdr. Hackett offered up the minutes from the previous meeting for discussion and called for a motion to accept them as written. Secretary White then followed with a review of the Camp's financial report. Both items were approved by a voice vote. A report from the *Monument Committee* was deferred until later and Cmdr. Hackett, representing the *Speakers Committee*, reported that a full slate of speakers was scheduled for several months in advance.

Cmdr. Hackett conducts the meeting - Sec. White (hand at forehead) takes notes.

Discussion then turned to the issue of our weather-damaged tent canopy. The idea of purchasing a new canopy, rather than restoring the damaged one, was proposed and received a positive response. A call for volunteers to man the Camp booth at Liendo Plantation during the November 21-23 *Civil War Weekend* was voiced by Cmdr. Hackett. Several Brothers stepped forward. The goal this year is to arrive at the site early in order to claim a prime spot near the entrance gate for our tent and tables. The wives of SVC LaBrot and Shuster are working on fundraising quilts. The *Ladies Auxilliary* also plans to join the Camp at the booth to assist with recruiting and fundraising activities. Sec. White prepared a roster for all three days at Liendo – and it looks to be sufficiently staffed! Brother Leach then announced that a new reenactment being sponsored and planned by *Co. A, 13th Reg. U.S. Infantry* is scheduled for April 2009. He will follow-up with more details. Cmdr. Hackett then informed the Camp about a letter he received from Diana Campbell, *UDC*, inviting the Camp to participate in a Confederate marker dedication in Galveston on September 20. Next, the time and location for the November Camp meeting was changed due to it being *Veterans Day*. Several Brothers would already be downtown for the ceremonies and parade earlier that day.

The new membership application for Steven Yoakum was reviewed, discussed, and voted on – affirmative! PCC and Dept. Cmdr. Stephen Schulze then gave a detailed briefing on the 2008 National Encampment in Peabody, Maine. He learned a lot about the National organization and reported that new Departments had been formed in Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina. National leaders also expressed interest in building a new HQ building. Brother LaBrot noted the passing of Capt. Bob Lowe, Adjutant, *Sons of Veterans Reserve*, California. *Auxilliary* President Reyes reported that the ladies have a busy Fall planned, including: a bake sale, a sock drive, and a fashion show tea. Brother Schneider mentioned an effort to revive a local MOLLUS Commandary, already having 12 members. The meeting was adjourned by Cmdr. Hackett at 7:50 after Brother Leach offered a closing benediction.

Brother Holmes, as guest speaker, then gave a wonderful talk about: his introduction to the *SUVCW*; his ancestor, Warren White; the *Buffalo Soldiers* – their dress, duties, and hardships; and his annual *Warren White Memorial Ceremony*. He used a video presentation and several story-boards to illustrate his moving and interesting story.

...Respectfully submitted by Michael Lance

The October business meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Cmdr. Hackett. Also mustering were: SVC David LaBrot, JVC Sam Hampton, Sec/Treas Gary White, PCC Stephen Schulze, and Brothers John Lenes, Dave Burdett, Michael Lance, Harrison Moore IV., Stephen Holmes, Bob Lockwood, and Dale Leach. Attending guests included: Betty Hampton of the *Ladies Auxiliary*, Bill Boyd, Linda LaBrot, and Sue Lenes.

The Minutes from the previous meeting and the financial report were quickly reviewed and approved. The various committee reports were also unusually brief this time. Discussion quickly turned to planning for upcoming events, including: the *Civil War Weekend* at Liendo Plantation, the *Veteran's Day* ceremonies and parade, and the *Battle of Galveston* commemoration. Volunteers for each of the three days at *Liendo Plantation* were confirmed and volunteers also indicated willingness to participate in the downtown *Veteran's Day* activities.

Hurricane Ike affected plans for our annual *Battle of Galveston* event to be held in January. It was agreed to keep the ceremonies rather low-key this time in order to not interfere with the city's hurricane recovery efforts. Saturday, January 10th was selected as the best day for the ceremonies with the monthly Camp meeting to immediately follow at the *Golden Corral* restaurant on the seawall. Discussion then focused on deciding which organizations and persons to receive invitations.

With 2009 quickly approaching, Camp officers will soon need to be elected. Brothers Bob Lockwood, Dale Leach, and Harrison Moore IV volunteered to work as a Nominating Committee.

An announcement was then given about a ceremony scheduled for October 25, 2008 at Shepherd Cemetery in Newton County, Texas. The re-dedication of markers for two Confederate veterans buried there will take place that day. Of interest to our Camp is the fact that the grave marker of a Union Veteran was found in the same cemetery. Volunteers were solicited to attend the event to give a Federal presence. SVC David LaBrot and Brother Dale Leach volunteered to attend.

SVC LaBrot, also acting as Commander of *Co. A, 8th Reg. U.S. Infantry – Sons of Veterans Reserve*, then reported that the state-wide unit will muster at *Liendo Plantation* on Saturday, November 22. Members were advised to wear their membership medals. Brother Burdett mentioned that *SVR* belts and cartridge box plates are now available. He was hoping to generate enough interest to place a bulk order for these items.

A new member application was then brought forward by Cmdr. Hackett. After reviewing the paperwork and some discussion, a vote was taken to approve the application of William C. Boyd. The "Ayes" carried the day! Welcome to the Camp, Brother Boyd!

Betty Hampton, representing the *Sarah Emma Seelye #1 Auxiliary*, reported that ladies plan to deliver socks to the *Veterans Home* soon. A firm date had not yet been established due to a few members still being displaced by Hurricane *Ike*.

Brother Holmes then gave a brief recap of the recent *Boonville Days* event he attended held near Bryan, Texas.

Cmdr. Hackett followed by talking about an article entitled: "What a Re-enactor Is".

SVC LaBrot and his wife, Linda, displayed the large quilt she made and donated to the Camp as a fundraising item for the *Civil War Weekend* at Liendo Plantation in November.

Brother Leach in front of the LaBrot donation quilt



After a closing prayer by Brother Leach, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m. just as dinner was being served.

During a brief intermission, Brother Michael Lance arranged his notes, displays, and video equipment to act as guest speaker for the evening. After all members had again regained their seats, he began his program. It featured a PowerPoint presentation entitled: *Women of the G.A.R. And their Membership Badges* (story on page 15).

...Respectfully submitted by Michael L. Lance

The morning had dawned clean and bright with a persistent fog still hanging - suspended, as if a silken vail - over the rolling land here on the Redding Farm just 4 miles north of a place on the map named Gettysburg in western Pennsylvania. The previous two days had been quite different, as we had fought fierce and desperate battles with the determined enemy in unusually warm and humid weather that tormented us with mists and driving, incessant rain.

Such miserable conditions lent an almost surreal quality to these killing fields as the acrid smoke of continual gun fire mixed with the damp mist that hung like a shroud over us. We could aptly be described as ghostly silhouettes - both friend and foe alike - painted indistinctly as apparitions upon this awful canvass of war.

Such unearthly and God-forsaken conditions had not gone without complaint because it seemed to us, of the 4th Co., 83rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry (P.V.I.), 2nd Battalion, of Birney's 1st Division, that our patience had been sorely tried these past two days with abject misery caused, not only from battles themselves, but also the indignities of camp life. Intolerant conditions such as sleeping in rain soaked and inadequate tents, meager rations, and the long walk that was required to fill our canteens or to gather pre-cut wood.



Dale Leach

Yes, with our sorely tested morale born of such conditions as these, grumbling, coupled with occasional profanities, were oft repeated among our tired ranks. Yet this bright, Sunday morning seemed somehow hopeful with the promise of dryer conditions as our company commander, Capt. Pauley Baltzer, came round with orders to attend a camp-fire church service at 9:30 sharp.

Many of us gathered here on this bright morn were also saddened to note that this day would be our final one for us who had traveled so far to pay homage to these deeply honored fields of glory to participate with 15,000 other re-enactors in the 145th Battle Anniversary of Gettysburg. Yes, fully nine of us from Co. A of the 13th U.S. Infantry Regiment - 1st Sgt. Tom Whitesides, Curtis Lewis, Howard Story, Bob Lockwood, Rick Stauffer, Howard Rose, Matt Strommer, myself - Dale Leach, and even a rebel spy - Mark Pike - had traveled over 1700 miles from Houston, Texas for the privilege of honoring all those who had fought and died here on these blood-soaked fields some 145 years before.

Yet all was not pleasant these past 2½ days for us contemporary arm-chair soldiers, because we often complained, as stated before, about wet tents and bedding; the drudgery of walking so far for 'the call of nature'; or to gather water or pre-cut firewood. Some of us modern day 'conquerors' also had the audacity to complain about the 'dance' that was required to avoid the occasional 'road-apple' left perilously in our pathways by the many horses of the cavalry as we made our way to fetch water. However: our petty complaints were utter sacrilege in comparison to the real hardships endured by our forefathers those many long years before, who had also marched upon this same hallowed ground of Gettysburg.

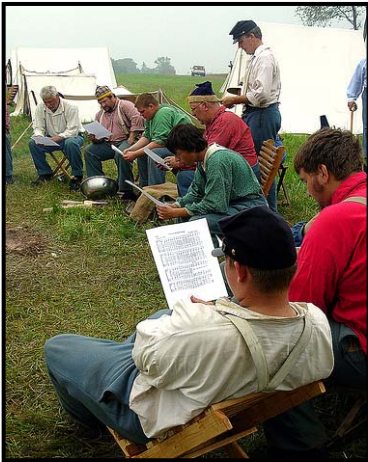
Yes, 'sacrilege' it was to complain about little inconveniences such as marching to the 'battleground' each day when our forefathers had marched 20 or 30 miles each day for weeks only to be formed into battle formation once the site of battle was finally reached! Sacrilege it was to complain about walking a few yards for pre-cut firewood when these same forefathers had to forage and then cut & split their own wood. This list of inconsistencies is almost endless. But they would eventually all be brought into sharp perspective for many of us there on July 6th, 2008. They were all brought into focus by one such soldier of old, Pvt. John Davis, who had come to these same fields of Gettysburg in 1863.

It was with sober reflection about such inconsistencies that caused many of us feel positively unworthy by comparison, on that July 6th, 2008 Sunday morning, as we gathered around the campfire for our 83rd PVI church service. With the regimental Chaplain officiating and 1st Lt. David Strichko assisting, we began with the apt 1869 hymn: *Rescue The Perishing*.

And so it was that I also had come here to fulfill the previous request of Valire Reyes, a good friend and member of the *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary, S.U.V.C.W.* and *D.U.V.C.W.* member in Houston, to read a treasured prayer written by one of her Civil War ancestors, Pvt. John Davis, in 1863. This seemed a most perfect opportunity to connect our 'present' with their 'past'. Perhaps 'perfect opportunity' is not even an apt term for this touching

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prayer. As expressed by others afterwards, the poem was very relevant to our worship service. The mood grew appropriately solemn as I introduced this soldier of 1863 – John Davis – and the circumstances for which he penned his humble prayer and sent it back home to his mother, Anna Jane Davis: (*spelling & punctuation preserved from original*)



Prayer

*May Peace and happiness dwell
Over our land
May the Soldier Rest in Peace and
God be with us all
My Prayers and my Whole heart
Is With you
Hoping that the God of Battle
And of the armies
Be With us all to the End*

Though he would go on serving his Regiment, the 5th PA Reserve Corps of the 34th PA Vols., for another few months after the *Battle of Gettysburg* in July 1863, Pvt. John Davis was to die an untimely death. He died from what was probably camp fever the following December 19th, 1863.

And so, both Pvt. John Davis' proud service, coupled with the life he also gave for his country, was reverently memorialized around our modern day campfire service on that bright, Sunday morning of July 6th, 2008. May God rest his soul and the 53,000 other souls who gave their lives at Gettysburg – 145 years distant – and we, those 'modern warriors' of the 13th U.S. & the 83rd PA, are indeed thankful for the opportunity to have honored those who passed before us on that 'Road Twice Marched'.
...Submitted by Camp Historian Dale Leach

Veteran's Day – 11 Nov 2008

November 11, 2008 was Veteran's Day. It dawned dark and rainy that morning. In fact, it rained most of the preceding night. And the weather outlook for the rest of the day was bleak. This was very disappointing because I had been looking forward to this day for some time. I planned on making the drive downtown to participate in the *Veteran's Day* ceremonies at City Hall and then marching in the parade to follow. My uniform, musket, and accoutrements were all assembled and ready to go! However, I delayed my departure and pondered the wisdom of my missing work to drive the relatively long distance to a possibly rained-out event. I finally decided that the idea of missing the event was worse than a long possibly-futile drive. So, I loaded up and headed downtown – hoping for the best!

As I traveled, I noticed that the dark rain clouds began to thin out. By the time I reached the downtown area, the skies were mostly blue. It seemed I had made a wise decision after all! After circling City Hall and Tranquility Park a couple times – trying to negotiate the aggravating one-way downtown streets, I finally found the entrance to the parking garage. It was nearly time for the ceremonies to begin. In fact, I had seen the company of Union soldiers already assembled on the City Hall grounds on one of my circling passes! After parking and putting on the balance of my uniform, I grabbed my musket and hurried to join that Federal unit.

The throng of spectators at City Hall was sparser than in previous years, most likely due to the threat of poor weather. However, nine faithful boys in blue – elements of *Co. A, 13th U.S. Infantry Regiment* and our *Edward Lea Camp #2*, were in their places waiting for the show to begin. The men present for muster with weapons included: Tom Whitesides, Howard Rose, Bobby Gant and Patrick Gant from the *13th U.S. Regiment*; and Cmdr. Jim Hackett, JVC Sam Hampton, and myself (Michael Lance) from our *Camp*. The Color bearers were Lanny Low of the *13th U.S.* and Bob Lockwood, a member of both the *13th U.S.* and the *Edward Lea Camp*.

A multitude of speeches were to take place before our unit was called to action. We patiently waited as: the Colors were presented by the *Korean War Veterans Association – Texas Lone Star Chapter*; an invocation was given by Rabbi Todd Thalblum; the *National Anthem* was sung by Josh Flynn – USMC; the *Pledge of Allegiance* was led by David McNerney – Medal of Honor Recipient; the posting of the Colors by the *Korean War Veterans*; remarks by Mayor Bill White; a *Veteran's Day* prayer by Father Don Schwarting – Cmdr. USN, retired; a speech by keynote speaker Major General James Williams – 4th Marine Division; music by bagpiper Ian Martin – *Houston Highlander Pipe Band*; a POW/MIA ceremony by Stoney Stone – USAF; a benediction by Pastor Charles Stuart;

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Congressional remarks by Sheila Jackson Lee; and closing remarks by Abe Stice.

As the speechifying was nearing its conclusion, our unit commander, Sgt. Tom Whitesides, ordered those of us with muskets to form-up in a single line – shoulder-to-shoulder. Our 2 Color bearers were directed to form-up at the center of our rear. We were then ordered to double-charge our weapons and ram the cartridge paper home. Powdered colored chalk was then added to the barrels of several of our muskets – either blue or red. We were ready!

Union Honor Guard



We held our position as the first salute volley was fired off to our right by the *VFW District 4 Ceremonial Detail*. Their M1's sounded in unison with a resounding bang. Now it was our turn! Sgt. Whitesides barked the commands out loudly and our unit fired as one - with expert precision. The double-charges caused a thunderous explosion resulting in a red, white and blue cloud of smoke. A startled youngster somewhere behind us began crying loudly. Meanwhile, each man held his bayoneted weapon elevated for a brief moment - until Sgt. Whitesides ordered them lowered. I was very proud of how coordinated our unit performed! We continued to hold our line as the *VFW Detail* fired the 3rd volley – again in fine fashion. Taps was sounded. At that point, our Federal company marched by twos from the lawn of the City Hall grounds onto the streets. Several blocks later, we arrived and reassembled at our parade entry point. While waiting 'at ease' in our marching formation, we observed a multitude of military organizations, veterans groups, school marching bands, fire trucks, military vehicles, cadet organizations, and many others – entering the long parade. The atmosphere was definitely festive!



Union Honor Guard – Downtown Houston

Finally, it was our turn to enter the parade. "Company – Forward – March" was shouted by Sgt. Whitesides over the din of the marching bands and assorted vehicles. We entered the procession by performing a creditable right wheel turn! The ensuing line of march took us along several spectator-lined downtown city blocks. All along the route, people were clapping, cheering, taking photos, and waving small American flags. The clicking of the taps on our shoes and the clinking of our accoutrements added a touch of flavor to our advance. The parade announcer identified our company by name as we marched past the reviewing stand. We returned the salute by dipping the Regimental Colors and turning our heads to face the stands as we passed. Sgt. Whitesides ordered changes in how we carried our weapons several times along the route. And, we did our level best at keeping in step - which at times was difficult due to the noise and the constantly changing speeds of the march.

After reaching the end of the parade route, our unit broke off to rest and wait. We took a position about a half block away and stacked our arms. Adjacent to our position was a table under a canopy well stocked with cases of bottled water. While resting, we enjoyed watching the balance of the long parade pass along. After about twenty minutes or so, our unit dispersed to make our individual ways to the *Market Street Grill* for our monthly business meeting. Cpl. Sam Hampton and I decided to march on foot. He and I first walked a few blocks back to City Hall to rendezvous with Mrs. Hampton. We three then marched through *Tranquility Park*, took a few photos, and proceeded to the parking garage to relieve ourselves of our weapons and accoutrements. The three of us then continued our march to the restaurant. The 2-3 block march we intended to take actually turned out to be a very steamy 10-12 block hike! As we huffed and puffed along, we marveled at how our ancestors were compelled to perform marches of vastly greater distances, under hostile conditions, and then possibly fight a life-or-death battle with the enemy! Our only enemy that day was a hot sun and our own obviously out-of-shape over-age bodies! ... *Respectfully submitted by Michael Lance*



Cpls Lance & Hampton

Camp Meeting – 11 Nov 2008

On Tuesday, November 11, 2008, the Camp business meeting was conducted at the *Market Street Grill* in downtown Houston at 1:00 p.m. The change in venue was due to ongoing Hurricane *Ike* repairs at our usual meeting location. Eight Brothers made the muster. Five of the eight had participated in the *Veterans Day* ceremonies and parade earlier in the day. On hand were: Cmdr. Jim Hackett, SVC David LaBrot, JVC Sam Hampton, Sec/Treas Gary White, PCC Stephen Schulze, and Brothers Bob Lockwood, Michael Lance, and Stephen Holmes. They were joined by 4 guests – Tom Whitesides and Lanny Low of *Co. A, 13th Reg. U.S. Infantry*, Betty Hampton of the *Ladies Auxiliary*, and Pam Low. Most of the Brothers had driven to the restaurant from the parade area. But at least 2 of them (Lance and Hampton) had hiked to the meeting on foot – not knowing exactly how distant the restaurant was! The meeting was very brief due to the extremely noisy atmosphere. Instead, attention was focused on camaraderie, good food, and refreshing drinks! In fact, this writer was sitting opposite of the business end of the long meeting table and heard nary a word! An enjoyable time was had by all!



L-R: S. Hampton, B. Hampton, Lockwood, Hackett & White



L-R: L. Low, Lance, S. Hampton, & Holmes



L-R: Holmes, S. Hampton, B. Hampton, Hackett, & White



L-R: LaBrot, Schulze, Whitesides, P. Low & L. Low

Trivia - Mascots

Despite orders to the contrary, many soldiers kept pets with them, including dogs, cats, squirrels, raccoons, and other wildlife. One regiment from Wisconsin even had a pet eagle that was carried on its own perch next to the regimental flags. General Lee was purported to have had a pet chicken that faithfully delivered a fresh egg for the general everyday! By far the most popular pets appears to have been dogs and their presence with a master in camp or on the march was often overlooked by high commanders. Many officers, including Gen. George Armstrong Custer who kept a number of dogs around his headquarters, favored the hardiness of these loyal companions and their companionship was, as one soldier put it, a "soothing connection" with home. Both the 11th Pennsylvania Infantry and the 1st Maryland Infantry (CSA) had singular dogs that followed the men through the most difficult campaigns including Gettysburg. Sallie, the 11th Pennsylvania's unofficial mascot, is remembered in a bronze likeness on the regimental monument at Gettysburg and symbolized there for its loyalty to the dead of the regiment. The canine that accompanied the 1st Maryland was regrettably killed in action on July 3rd at Culp's Hill, after having participated in the charge of the regiment. So struck by the animal's gallantry and loyalty to its human companions, a Union officer ordered the animal be given a proper burial alongside the dead of 1st Maryland.

... (source: <http://www.nps.gov/archive/gett/soldierlife/cwarmy.htm>)

Images of *Civil War Weekend*

Liendo Plantation, November 22, 2008 – The *Edward Lea Camp* was well represented at the *Civil War Weekend* festivities and re-enactment at the old plantation. The following photos, courtesy of David and Linda LaBrot, show some of the living history displays and portions of the hot battle action:



L-R: SVC David LaBrot, PCC Stephen Schulze, and Sec/Trea. Gary White – at the Edward Lea Camp #2 tent.

President Vali Reyes and Secretary Jana Marsh of the Ladies Auxiliary assist at the Camp tent.



A quilt maker demonstrates her skills.

Two cotton spinning wheels in action.



The fundraising quilt donated by Linda LaBrot on display.

A banjo picker entertains.



A blacksmith is hard at work keeping his fire hot while fashioning iron implements.

Intrigue begins as a Union force appears at the front of the plantation and demands its surrender!



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Shots are fired as a Rebel company attacks from around the side of the building in an attempt to rescue their women and retake the plantation.

The surprised Union force is quickly routed. The Union soldier in the foreground attempts to reload as other survivors are taken prisoner.



At the left, an unfortunate Union casualty suffers the thrust of Rebel steel.

The Rebels now control the field while Union casualties litter the grounds.



The mopping up continues. More Union prisoners are marched forward with their musket barrels pointed down or their hands held high.

An angry Rebel woman flushes a Union officer from the building and shoots him in the back as he attempts to escape.



The Federals do not take defeat lightly. A regiment of re-enforcements march quickly to the scene.

The infantry is supported by a fine Union Cavalry unit.



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More infantry moves forward to enter the fray – including a contingent of red-clad Zouaves.



A company of Union Cavalry rides through the smoke to the aid of the faltering Federal Infantry line.



A battery of Union cannon answers the call for support.

An ambulance driver steadies his horse while his grim cargo – wounded soldiers – are unloaded at the field medical tent.



Hospital Steward David LaBrot examines the chest wound of a blue-clad soldier who arrived by stretcher. The soldier in the left background did not arrive in time.

A blood splattered medical team applies more ether to a suffering patient after amputating his hand.



A Federal gun crew has been decimated and the gun silenced!

The entire Union battery is a scene of carnage.



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Rebel Cavalry mops up. There is no escape for the Union soldier with white pants on the far right.

Without support, the Union infantry is forced into a hasty retreat. The Rebels are close at their heels – and ultimately took the day!



Many thanks and a *Tip of the Kepi* goes out to David and Linda LaBrot for providing the photos shown in this article. These are just a few of the hundreds of fine photos they captured while attending the Liendo Plantation event.

Besides acting as photographers, Brother LaBrot and wife were also active in other areas during the weekend, including volunteering at the Camp tent to assist with fundraising and recruiting. The fine handmade fundraising quilt, donated by Mrs. LaBrot, proved to be a popular attraction and provided much needed funds for the Camp. The LaBrots were also active in educating schoolchildren and adults about Civil War medical procedures and other period knowledge. Brother LaBrot also participated in the battle re-enactment action as a busy Hospital Steward.

SVC David LaBrot, as a Hospital Steward, and his wife Linda LaBrot.

... Respectfully submitted by Michael L. Lance

The Signal Corps – A Vital Arm (continued from Vol. 5, No. 2, Summer 2008)

When Petersburg fell, field flag-work began again, and the first Union messages from Richmond were sent from the roof of the Confederate Capitol. In the field, the final order of importance flagged by the corps was as follows: "Farmville, April 7, 1865. General Meade: Order Fifth Corps to follow the Twenty-fourth at 6 a.m. up the Lynchburg road. The Second and Sixth to follow the enemy north of the river. U.S. Grant, Lieutenant-General."

It must not be inferred that all distinguished signal work was confined to the Union army, for the Confederates were first in the field, and ever after held their own. Captain (afterward General) E. P. Alexander, a former pupil in the Union army under Myer, was the first signal officer of an army, that of Northern Virginia. He greatly distinguished himself in the first battle of Bull Run, where he worked for several hours under fire, communicating to his commanding general the movements of opposing forces, for which he was highly commended. At a critical moment he detected a hostile advance, and saved a Confederate division from being flanked by a signal message, "Look out for your left. Your position is turned."

Alexander's assignment as chief of artillery left the corps under Captain (later Colonel) William Norris. Attached to the Adjutant-General's Department, under the act of April 19, 1862, the corps consisted of one major, ten each of captains, first and second lieutenants, and twenty sergeants, the field-force being supplemented by details from the line of the army. Signaling, telegraphy, and secret-service work were all done by the corps, which proved to be a potent factor in the efficient operations of the various armies.

It was at Island No. 10; it was active with Early in the Valley; it was with Kirby Smith in the Trans-Mississippi, and aided Sidney Johnston at Shiloh. It kept pace with wondrous "Stonewall" Jackson in the Valley, withdrew defiantly with Johnston toward Atlanta, and followed impetuous Hood in the Nashville campaign. It served ably in the trenches of beleaguered Vicksburg, and clung fast to the dismantled battlements of Fort Sumter. Jackson clamored for it until Lee gave a corps to him, Jackson saying, "The enemy's signals give him a great advantage over me."

...from: *The Photographic History of the Civil War – pgs 338-340, The Review of Review Co., New York, 1911*

The following presentation was offered by Michael Lance at the October 2008 Camp meeting at the Spaghetti Warehouse Restaurant in Houston. The goal of the talk was to highlight a little history about three of the major women's groups associated with the Grand Army of the Republic and to show examples of their membership badges.

Many women were very active in aiding and comforting the sick and wounded soldiers during the Civil War. After the war ended, a great number of these ladies continued their patriotic and charitable efforts. In fact, their dedication to the veterans and to the memory of those that fell during the war grew even stronger as years went by. The ladies usually organized into localized aid societies – some of which eventually developed into national organizations. By going national, they were better able to: coordinate their efforts; gain more influence; and become more effective with accomplishing their goals. The three major women's organizations were: the *Women's Relief Corps*; the *Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic*; and the *Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War*.

The *Women's Relief Corps* was the largest and most popular of the ladies organizations – and it was the 'official' auxiliary to the *G.A.R.* The earliest origin of the *WRC* - in conjunction with the *G.A.R.* - goes back to a local aid society in Portland, Maine. It was 1869. They were known as the *Bosworth Relief corps*. They were the auxiliary to *Bosworth Post* of the *G.A.R.* in Portland. These ladies were basically the wives of some of the veterans of the Post - and they focused on assisting the needy. At the same time, women in many other localities were forming similar independent aid societies. In 1879 – about ten years later – several of these local societies got together at Fitchburg, Massachusetts and organized on a state level. They became the fledgling *Women's Relief Corps*.

For a number of years, various women's relief societies sought to be officially recognized by the *G.A.R.* But, those efforts always came to naught. That is – until 1881. At the *G.A.R.* National Encampment in Indianapolis that year, Chaplain-in-Chief Joseph Lovering became a supporter and sponsor of the idea of an 'official' *Ladies Auxiliary*. He proposed the following resolutions - which were ultimately adopted: Resolved: that we approve the project of organizing a *National Women's Relief Corp.*; Resolved: that such *Women's Relief Corp* may use under such title the words, *Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic*, by special endorsement of the National Encampment of the *Grand Army of the Republic*. So, with that encouragement, the ladies organizations continued to grow. Anticipation about the prospect of being officially recognized by the *G.A.R.* was strong.

Two years later - in 1883 - C-in-C Paul Vander Voort invited the various ladies organizations around the country to send representatives to the National Encampment in Denver. They were called to consult – and, as it turns out - to compete for the honor of becoming the 'official' *Auxiliary of the G.A.R.* The *Women's Relief Corps* ultimately won the title. C-in-C Vander Voort later acknowledged that he considered his successful efforts in uniting the *G.A.R.* and the *Women's Relief Corps* as the crowning act of his administration. He was also named the 1st Honorary Member.

Not only did the *WRC* organize the wives, daughters, mothers and sisters of the Union veterans, it also has the distinction of being the only patriotic organization that included in its membership all loyal women, whether related to members of the *G.A.R.* or not. Therefore, it allowed any woman to render patriotic service to her country. So even though women did not gain the right to vote until 1920, the *WRC* gave them a voice with which to express their patriotism. Their motto is the same as the *G.A.R.*'s - *Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty*. The associations at the local level were called *Corps* – the state associations were called *Departments* - and the national meetings were called *Conventions*. The express purpose of the *Women's Relief Corps* was to perpetuate the memory of the *G.A.R.* Some of their other worthy goals were: to make sure the veterans received their deserved and needed benefits from the government; to assist the ex-soldiers in the maintenance of their organizations; to decorate veteran's graves on *Decoration Day*; for caring for the disabled veterans; and for seeing to the needs of the widows and orphans of the Union soldiers. In subsequent years, the *Women's Relief Corps* undertook additional projects that ranged from: financial relief; to the creation and maintenance of *Soldiers Homes*; and a national home to accommodate army nurses, veterans, and dependent relatives. The *Women's Relief Corps* was incorporated by Congress in 1962. The 1st president was Mrs. E. Florence Barker. They maintain a national headquarters and museum in Springfield, Illinois. It currently has 2,360 members in 18 *Departments*, 7 *Detached Corps*, and 15 *Members-at-Large* chapters.

By regulation, all *WRC* members were required to wear their membership badges at all *Corps* meetings and *Conventions*. And the officers were required to turn in their badges when they left office. But, they could then turn around and purchase an appropriate past-officers badge if they wanted to. In 1934, the price for one of the badges was about 40 cents.

WRC membership badge



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The *Women's Relief Corps* also issued Recognition Pins. These pins were small Maltese crosses made of copper bronze and were worn on the lapel. The pins were used as a means of recognition among members. The *Woman's Relief Corps* also placed commemorative plaques at graves of *WRC* members. These plaques were very vulnerable to theft since people could simply walk into a cemetery and grab them. Stolen plaques often wound up on the market for sale. Sometimes they are found on cemetery trash heaps where a caretaker may have dumped them - sometimes broken. Obviously, this type of item needs to remain in its proper place - to honor the person laid to rest there.

The *National Woman's Relief Corps Red Book* is a publication which contains their Constitution, Rules and Regulations. It was adopted by the 23rd National Convention in Denver in 1906 and revised several times before this issue (*on-hand copy displayed*) was printed in 1934. What makes this book interesting is that it is filled from front to back with questions about rules, etc. - followed by a corresponding answer or decision (*a few examples were read from the book*). Judging from the examples cited, The *Woman's Relief Corps* was apparently fairly lenient with membership and admitted women of all stripes. But at the same time, it was pretty strict and regimented. Those ladies really meant business! They had a lot of formal rules, regulations, and procedures.

[The Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic](#) is the oldest women's hereditary organization in the U.S. It's original objectives included promotion of patriotism and loyalty to the Union and participation in community service - especially for the aid of the veterans and their dependants. It was also the 'unofficial' women's auxiliary of the *G.A.R.* Like those pioneering ladies of the *Women's Relief Corp*, the early members of the *Ladies of the G.A.R.* were also active in caring for the fighting "Boy's in Blue". After the war, many of these women also continued their patriotic and charitable work. While these ladies were often found operating in close proximity to *G.A.R.* posts, they organized *independently* of those posts. The members were usually the wives and blood relatives of the veterans - their daughters, mothers, and sisters.

In November 1881, an executive committee of five ladies met at Trenton, New Jersey to organize a *State Department of Aid Societies*. They also formulated rules and regulations for their work in aiding the *G.A.R.* A second meeting was held a month later at Trenton to adopt a charter and to elect officers. At that time they adopted the name: *Loyal Ladies' League, Auxiliary to the G.A.R. Department of New Jersey*. At their first convention held in Camden, New Jersey in January 1883, 16 *Loyal Ladies Leagues* were up and running with a membership of 776.

Then, a few months later, when C-in-C Paul VanDer Voort issued the call for a hearing in Denver, for the purpose of adopting an *Auxiliary*, the *Loyal Ladies League* naturally sent representatives. At the opening of the hearing, the new *Loyal Ladies League* came in as the favorite for being considered as the *G.A.R.s Auxiliary*. Many expected them to receive the official recognition. No doubt, some of the veterans may have been at least a little bit influenced by their wives, daughters, mothers, and sisters!

Although there was general agreement about the purpose and functions of the new *Auxiliary*, a strenuous debate sprang up concerning membership eligibility requirements. As mentioned earlier, The *Woman's Relief Corps* wished to accept all loyal women - while the *Loyal Ladies League* wanted to limit membership only to wives and blood relatives. On the final vote, a small majority found in favor of the *Woman's Relief Corps*. So it was then decided that the membership of the *G.A.R. Auxiliary* would be open to all loyal women. And it also ensured that the *Woman's Relief Corps* would be the recognized *Auxiliary* to the *G.A.R.* So, while the *Loyal Ladies League* was out - it was not down! It continued to grow, and work, and strengthen.

Three years later, in November 1886, the various independent *Loyal Ladies League* groups got together at a convention in Chicago. They met for the purpose of forming a national organization. By the end of the first day at that convention, they all agreed to change their name to *Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic*. So, while not recognized as the official Auxiliary of the *G.A.R.*, their new name demonstrated where their hearts were! Their existing charter forms and general plan of operations were continued - and their motto was *Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty* - same as the *G.A.R.* The order organized locally in Circles - and Departments (on the state level). And they continued to admit only female hereditary descendants of the Union Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Revenue Cutter Service. However, membership eligibility was later expanded a bit to include legally adopted daughters of honorably discharged Union soldiers - age 10 or over; and also, curiously enough - to Ex-army nurses of the Civil War.



Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic membership badge.

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In 1886, the *Ladies of the G.A.R.* began with nothing in their treasury. In 1888, thanks to strong support from many of their G.A.R. comrades (which of course, would have been their husbands, fathers, sons and brothers), when they met in Columbus, Ohio: all their bills were paid; they had another large increase in membership; and enough funds on hand to begin the next year's work.

By 1910 when the first official history of the Order was written, the *Ladies of the G.A.R.* had Departments in 29 states – and their membership had grown to over 60,000. They had established widows and orphans homes in various states – and were spending \$30,000 annually for relief to veterans – which in today's dollars, would be about \$675,000. In 1959, the *Ladies of the G.A.R.* was one of the 5 remaining Allied Orders of the G.A.R. It was chartered as a national non-profit organization by the U.S. Congress that year and remains dedicated to their mission today.

Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War - On *Decoration Day* in 1885, five young ladies, aged 15 and 16, stood near a cemetery in Massillon, Ohio. They were observing the memorial services being held there that day. They watched as their fathers and members of the *Ohio Department of the G.A.R.* honored the men who had served the Union during the Civil War. They also noted with envy that their brothers, as members of *Sons of Veterans*, were included in the ceremonies which honored their fathers. The five teenagers spontaneously decided to join together so that they, as daughters of Union veterans – could also honor their fathers and other Union soldiers and sailors. So, they got together again about 4 days later at one of the girl's homes to begin planning what would eventually become known as *Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War*. However, the original name the girls adopted for their organization in 1885 was *The Massillon Daughters of Veterans*.

Later in the year, they incorporated in the State of Ohio with the assistance of President William McKinley. The young ladies named their local group, or *Tent*, the *Mrs. Major McKinley Tent No. 1* to show their appreciation to the President. Membership was open to females, 8 and older, who were direct, lineal descendants of Union Civil War soldiers and sailors - but *not* to adopted daughters. This fledgling group was a natural rival to the existing *Women's Relief Corps* and the *Ladies of the G.A.R.* The organization proved to be popular and it continued to grow and organize. Newly formed *Tents* were named for Army Nurses who served during the Civil War – or for other loyal women of the Civil War era - whose patriotic deeds during the war years were recorded. Their objectives were to perpetuate the memories of the loyalty and sacrifices of their Fathers and to keep their history alive.

A few months later - in April 1886, they changed their name from *The Massillon Daughters of Veterans* – to the *National Alliance, Daughters of Veterans of the U.S.A.* By 1890, tents had been organized in five middle-western states - Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas. And their first National Convention was held at Quincy, Illinois the following month. In September 1900, the ladies must have been extremely elated as their *National Alliance, Daughters of Veterans* was endorsed by the G.A.R. as an allied organization - at the G.A.R.'s 34th Annual Encampment at Chicago. Twenty-five years later, in September 1925, their name was changed to *Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War* - at their 35th National Convention held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. And at their 54th National Convention in Des Moines, Iowa in Sept., 1944, the DUV changed their name again slightly to the current *Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865*. The one thing the *DUV* did not have yet – was a Federal Charter. However, it did meet all the criteria for obtaining one - such as: being national in character; non-partisan; non-sectarian; and non-profit. So in December 1985, the *DUV* was - at last - granted it's Federal Charter.

Today, the *DUV* maintains a National Museum and Headquarters in Springfield, Illinois. This building was dedicated in April 1969. The headquarters also serves as the home for a resident officer who greets guests and maintains the records and mementos. The museum is open three days a week free to the public, but daily for *DUV* members. This museum preserves: Civil War artifacts; genealogical files; records of members and their Civil War ancestors; some military and regimental records; and G.A.R. historical records.

Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War membership badge

Meanwhile, back at the place of origin, the *McKinley Tent #1* has also developed a museum. It is located in the *American Legion Post* in Massillon, Ohio. That museum is devoted to: the Civil War; the G.A.R.; the founding and development of *DUVCW*; displaying historical artifacts; and a display devoted to President William McKinley. The members of the *McKinley Tent* have participated in *Memorial Day* services in Massillon continuously since 1886. And five members of this *Tent* have gone on to serve as National President of the *DUV*. Our local *DUV Tent* is named the *Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4* led by the current President, Martha Class.



2008 has been a productive year for the *Auxiliary*. We are excited that our membership has increased with 5 new members: Heather Clark, Marjorie Sue Lenes, Kelly Powers, Karlie Powers, and Kirsten Lenes. The *Auxiliary* would like to thank Commander Hackett and all Camp Brothers for their support of our activities throughout the year. The *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary* has had a busy few months.



Vali Reyes presents Certificate of Appreciation

In October, we held a very successful Sock Drive for the *Michael E. DeBakey Veteran's Hospital*. We provided approximately 500 pairs of socks for the patients. Vali, Jana, and Diana met with Elizabeth Nealy, Lead Recreation Therapist at the hospital and presented patients with handmade patriotic goodie-bags which included six pairs of socks and Halloween candy treat bags. President Vali Reyes presented *Certificates of Appreciation* to Wal-Mart Manager Shari Lanham in League City and also to Denny's Restaurant in League City, for their generous donations to the Sock Drive.



L-R: Diana Campbell, Jana Marsh, Elizabeth Nealy, & Vali Reyes with 'goodie bags'

The *Auxiliary* is currently collecting Christmas gifts for 38 Veterans in residence at Ward 2-A at *Michael E. DeBakey VA Hospital* in Houston. We will also be sending items collected during the Holidays for Christmas Care Packages to soldiers in Iraq. In addition, our Holiday Raffle is about to end. Our beautiful Raggedy Ann and Andy basket was hand-made by Jana Marsh. All proceeds will benefit future projects.

The *Auxiliary* held a *Bake Sale* in October at the League City Wal-Mart. Orders for "Sarah's Southern Banana Bread" and "Sarah's Tea Dainties" will be taken throughout the year as a fundraiser since the *Bake Sale* went over so well.



Norma Pollard at the Bake Sale display

Auxiliary members, in period dress, attended the *Victorian Lady's Tea and Fashion Show* in November. Brother Dale Leach was an escort for the models displaying their elegant attire to the audience. We were recognized and asked to show our dresses to those attending the *Tea*. It's always a pleasure to support anything that J'Neen Henderson, the "Victorian Lady," sponsors.



L-R: Jana Marsh, Norma Pollard, Dale Leach, and Vali Reyes

In remembrance of Veteran's Day, we honored 21 Veterans by placing flags on their graves at the Hypolite Cemetery in Hitchcock, TX. Members in attendance were Vali Reyes, Norma Pollard, and Jana Marsh. On November 22, 2008, Vali and Jana represented the *Auxiliary* at the Liendo Plantation *Civil War Weekend* event. While the Camp members were participating in the "Battle", the "Union Belles" sold raffle tickets and cockades. They also handed out *Auxiliary* flyers, cookies and had pictures taken with children. The weather was perfectly beautiful for the occasion.

Vali Reyes & Jana Marsh at Liendo Plantation



The *Ladies' Auxiliary* is working on upcoming events, which include assisting the *SUV* with the *Galveston Memorial Service* on January 10, 2009, and the *2nd Annual President's Tea* which will be held on April 18, 2009. The *Auxiliary* will also continue to work on Care Packages to send to our deployed Soldiers/Airmen. As 2009 approaches, the *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary* is looking forward to serving our country's Veterans, those soldiers currently serving, our community, and being of service to the *Edward Lea Camp*.

On September 30, 2008, Michael Salm passed away from complications of Parkinson's disease. Michael was the husband of Susan Salm, President of the *Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4, DUVCW*, Houston, Texas. The funeral services for Mr. Salm were held October 6, 2008 for family and close friends. His ashes will be taken to the Houston National Cemetery at a later date. Donations in his memory can be made to: *Parkinson Foundation of Harris County*, 7457 Harwin, Suite 308, Houston, Texas, 77036-2025.

Susan Salm subsequently resigned her position as Tent President. On November 15, 2008, a special election was held in which Martha Class, former Sr. Vice-President of the Tent, was elected to be the new President. In addition to assuming the position of President, Ms. Class also serves the Houston Tent as Registrar and Webmaster.

The next meeting of the Tent is scheduled for Saturday, January 10, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the *Robinson-Westchase Neighborhood Library* at 3223 Wilcrest in Houston. Light refreshments will be served. The guest speaker will be author and Honorary Member of the *Edward Lea Camp #2, SUVCW*, Edward Cotham Jr. His program will include an audio/visual presentation of his book: *Southern Journey of a Civil War Marine: The Illustrated Note-book of Henry O. Gusley*. Upon request, Mr. Cotham will also be autographing copies of any of his books.

Martha Class – newly elected Tent President



Caring for the Men – Civil War Medicine (Part 1)

When the war began, the United States Army medical staff consisted of only the surgeon general, 30 surgeons, and 83 assistant surgeons. Of these, 24 resigned to "go South," and 3 other assistant surgeons were promptly dropped for "disloyalty." Thus the medical corps began its war service with only 87 men. When the war ended in 1865, more than 11,000 doctors had served or were serving, many of these as acting assistant surgeons, uncommissioned and working under contract, often on a part-time basis. They could wear uniforms if they wished and were usually restricted to general hospitals away from the fighting front.



Surgeon General Thomas Lawson, an octogenarian, obligingly died only weeks after Fort Sumter. He was replaced by Clement A. Finley, the sexagenarian senior surgeon who had served since 1818 and was thoroughly imbued with Lawson's parsimonious values. Lawson had wanted to keep the Army Medical Department much as it had been throughout his career, which meant that the 87 surviving members of the medical corps had not had the kind of experience that would be needed in a major war. Yet now they were the senior surgeons of a rapidly expanding army.



Thomas Lawson
(1789 – 1861)

Clement Finley
(1797 - 1879)

Fortunately, immediately after the outbreak of war, there was a swarming of humanitarians of both sexes who wanted to be of help to the citizen soldiers. Among the most clamorous was the *Women's Central Association for Relief*, of New York, all of whose officers were men. Soon there was a strong demand for the creation of a United States sanitary commission, patterned on the *British Sanitary Commission*, which had been formed to clean up the filth of the Crimean War. The tentative United States commission elected officers; the two most important were the president, Henry W. Bellows, a prominent Unitarian minister, and the executive secretary, Frederick Law Olmsted, superintendent of Central Park. The commission asked for official recognition by the War Department stating that its purpose was to "advise and assist" that department.

Surgeon General Finley, just beginning his incumbency, had no desire for a sanitary commission, but when that body promised to confine its activities to the volunteer regiments and to leave the regular army alone, he withdrew his objections. Secretary of War Simon Cameron then named a commission of twelve members, of whom 3 were army doctors. *The United States Sanitary Commission* quickly extended itself to 2,500 communities throughout the North, the Chicago branch being especially proficient. The St. Louis people accomplished great things but insisted on remaining independent under the name of the *Western Sanitary Commission*. The women of the local branches kept busy making bandages, scraping lint, and sending culinary delicacies to army hospitals. The national organization maintained a traveling outpost with the *Army of the Potomac* to speed sanitary supplies to the field hospitals of that army. In 1862 and again in 1864 the commission provided and manned hospital ships to evacuate *Army of the Potomac* sick and wounded to general hospitals as far from the front as New York City.

....to be continued

(Excerpt from www.civilwarhome.com/medicinehistory.htm)



The Retreat

Amid smoke, dust, and confusion, a lone Cavalryman and an officer, sword in hand, leads the way as a Federal unit makes a strategic retreat – with tattered Colors flying – followed closely by a superior attacking Rebel force!



Union Troops pause for a photo.

L-R: Thomas Whitesides, Patrick Gant, and Howard Rose of Co. A, 13th Regiment U.S. Infantry and Robert Lockwood and Dale Leach of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2