

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

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



Harriet Lane

Mar 2015

Volume 21

Number 1

From the Commander's Tent

Honorable Brothers and Sisters of the Auxiliary - It has been rightfully said that no man is an island. Thus it is fitting, in this the first of quarterly messages, to express my enduring gratitude for the foundational work of past Camp Commanders. Their often innovative work, sacrifice of time and effort, and deep devotion to the Camp are the bulwark upon which I stand. I am humbly grateful and pragmatically enthusiastic for the year before us.

It remains my honor to serve the best interests of the members of the Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, U.S.N., Camp #2. The Brothers will be well served by the newly reinstalled 2015 Officer Corps: SVC Tom Coughlin, JVC Bill Pollard, and Secretary/Treasurer Gary White.

Additionally, the Camp Council has been affirmed: Past Dept. Cmdr. David LaBrot, Past Dept. Cmdr. Steve Schulze, and Past Camp Cmdr. Stephen Holmes. It is also understood that I, serving as Camp Cmdr., will continue the proud tradition of supporting and appreciating our dear Sisters of the Sarah Emma Seeley, Auxiliary.

I seize this public forum to not only thank the aforementioned officer corps, but specifically the service and counsel of two brothers: Gary White and David LaBrot. Brother White is among the Camp's charter members. He has selflessly served as both Camp Secretary and Treasurer – since anyone can recall. Brother White is one whom I rely upon for historical context, correct protocol, and his service is conscientious and thorough. Past Dept. Cmdr. LaBrot always willingly steps up to render "heavy lifting" for the good of the camp. Those of us who witnessed and participated in the staging of the tent at Liendo Plantation know that Brother LaBrot single-handedly loaded a U-Haul trailer full of gear – and had to unload it himself on Sunday evening at the designated storage facility in Humble. His knowledge and adherence to the 1890 G.A.R. pomp and circumstance, which continue to guide the structure of our monthly meetings, is only matched by his willingness to assist where needed and to provide welcome counsel when requested. I salute the good work of all members and officers, and particularly Brothers White and LaBrot.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty....

David Daniels - Camp Cmdr.



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Membership Muster

Camp Member

Mr. David M. Daniels – Commander
Mr. Thomas F. Coughlin – Sr. Vice-Commander
Mr. William A. Pollard – Jr. Vice-Commander
Mr. Gary White - Secretary/Treasurer ~ * ***

Mr. Mark H. Andrus
 Mr. Stephen P. Barrett
 Mr. Curtiss M. Beinhorn
 Mr. Ben C. Bonnett
 Mr. Michael T. Boyd
 Mr. William C. Boyd
 Mr. William E. Boyd ^
 Mr. Samuel R. Brasher
 Mr. William C. Buell
 Mr. William D. Burdette – *Color Bearer*
 Mr. John R. Burleigh
 Mr. Jon P. Calder
 Mr. Patrick D. Calder +
 Mr. William D. Campbell *
 Mr. Ricardo Cardona ^
 Mr. Percy T. Carl
 Mr. Sebastien Carl
 Mr. Lawrence K. Casey Jr. ***
 Mr. C. Dale Cates ^
 Mr. Mark T. Chemay
 Mr. Thor E. Chester
 Mr. Robert D. Clements +
 Mr. James A. Clifford +
 Mr. Walter G. Coffey
 Mr. William F. Cole ***
 Mr. Richard S. Colley
 Mr. Brandon K. Coons +
 Mr. Larry P. Coons +
 Mr. Steven G. Coons
 Mr. Stephen M. Crow
 Mr. Donald G. Deppe +
 Mr. Charles L. Duke
 Rev. Stephen F. Duncan - *Chaplain*
 Mr. Thomas M. Eishen – *Signals Officer, Webmaster*
 Mr. Evan M. Ellis +
 Mr. Karl R. Falken +
 Mr. Jacob L. Fetters ^^
 Mr. Kyle A. Fetters
 Mr. J. Maurice Foster
 Mr. Robert T. Giffin + ***
 Mr. Jerry D. Gipson
 Mr. James S. Hackett *
 Mr. Samuel F. Hampton *
 Mr. Kenneth H. Harrington
 Mr. Steve M. Hart
 Mr. Ronnie B. Hayward +
 Mr. Robert L. Heath
 Mr. Gregory K. Helm
 Mr. Alan D. Hess
 Mr. Harrold K. Henck Jr. ~ *
 Dr. Stevenson T. Holmes - *Council* *
 Mr. Zane F. Hooper ^
 Mr. Thomas A. Jackson
 Mr. Thomas I. Jackson
 Mr. Judd A. Jones
 Mr. Ernest C. Kobs IV
 Mr. David K. LaBrot - *Patriotic Instructor, Council* * **

 Mr. Douglas E. LaBrot
 Mr. Paul M. LaBrot
 Mr. Willard W. LaBrot
 Mr. Zachary C. LaBrot
 Mr. Michael L. Lance - *Historian, Newsletter Editor*

Civil War Ancestor

Cpl. Erzelon (Zeal) Russell Mason
 2nd Cpl. Henry A. Sauter
 **
 Commissary Sgt. William Judson
 Pvt. Andrew Wilson White

 Pvt. Matthew Barth
 Pvt. Enoch A. Barrett
 Pvt. John Lancaster
 Pvt. John Walker Daniels
 Pvt. Thomas Howey
 Pvt. Lyndon Boyd
 **
 Pvt. James Peden
 Pvt. Mathias Stonebrook
 Pvt. Nathan R. Price

 Pvt. Edward Dailey
 Pvt. Edward Dailey
 Cpl. William Moore Campbell
 **
 Pvt. David Carl
 Pvt. David Carl
 Chaplain Josiah Brown
 **

 Pvt. John A. Watts
 Cpl. Samuel McClain
 Pvt. William Kunst
 Pvt. Nicholas Almire
 Pvt. Jacob E. Brock
 Pvt. David Winn
 1st Lt. Loren Glazier Cowdrey
 1st Lt. Loren Glazier Cowdrey
 1st Lt. Loren Glazier Cowdrey

 Pvt. Lewis P. Moore
 Pvt. Joseph Allen
 Pvt. Isaac Duncan
 Pvt. Andreas Pfothenhauer
 Major Gen. James Abram Garfield
 Pvt. Jacob Lohrer
 Hospital Steward Louis LaBrot
 Hospital Steward Louis LaBrot
 Pvt. Xavier Henkel
 Pvt. Robert Newton Button
 Pvt. Peter B. Gipson
 Cpl. Thadeus Hendrickson
 Pvt. Samuel Pate Hampton
 Pvt. James Morfed Aston
 Pvt. Robert Milton Hart

 Pvt. Hiram T. Heath
 Pvt. Robert R. Campbell
 Pvt. Joseph Hess
 Pvt. Philip Jacob Apffel
 Pvt. Warren W. White
 **
 Sgt. Isaac Newton Stubblefield
 Sgt. Isaac Newton Stubblefield
 Pvt. John A. Watts
 Pvt. Robert V. Osteen
 Hosp. Steward Louis Laborot
 Pvt. Charles Edward 'Austin' Laborot
 Hosp. Steward Louis Laborot
 Hosp. Steward Louis Laborot
 Hosp. Steward Louis Laborot
 Hosp. Steward Louis Laborot
 Pvt. Finas Euen Lance

Service Unit

Co. I, 18th Regt. Michigan Infantry
 Co. A, 8th Battalion, DC Infantry
 **
 Co. D, 1st Regt. New York Mounted Rifles
 Co. L, 4th Regt. New York Heavy Artillery

 Co. B, 52nd Regt. Illinois Infantry
 Co. L, 50th Regt. New York Engineers
 Co. F, 50th Regt. Illinois Infantry
 Co. I, 6th Regt. PA Heavy Artillery
 Co. A, 38th Regt. Illinois Infantry
 Co. F, 144th Regt., Indiana Vol. Infantry
 **
 Co. B, 69th Regt. Indiana Infantry
 Co. F, 142nd Regt., Ohio Infantry
 Co. H, 122nd Regt. New York Vol. Infantry

 Co. I, 15th Regt. Massachusetts Infantry
 Co. I, 15th Regt. Massachusetts Infantry
 Co. I, 12th Regt. Illinois Infantry
 **
 Co. I, 26th US Colored Troops
 Co. I, 26th US Colored Troops
 15th Regt., Maine Infantry
 **
 Indep Co Trumbull Guards, Ohio Inf.
 Co. C, 203rd Regt. Pennsylvania Infantry
 Co. E, 1st US Regt. Reserve Corp, MO Inf.
 Co. E, 42nd Regt. Indiana Vol. Infantry
 85th Regt. New York Infantry
 Co. K, 59th Regt., Indiana, Infantry
 Co. G, 86th Regt. Indiana Infantry
 Co. G, 86th Regt. Indiana Infantry
 Co. G, 86th Regt. Indiana Infantry

 Co. K, 7th Regt. Illinois Infantry
 Co. D, 48th Regt. Illinois Vol. Infantry
 Co. M, 4th Missouri State Militia, Cav.
 Co. F, 4th Regt. Missouri Infantry
 --
 Co. L, 5th Regt. Pennsylvania Cavalry
 Co E, 12th-Co L, 5th MO State Milit. Cav.
 Co E, 12th-Co L, 5th MO State Milit. Cav.
 Co. C, 2nd Regt., Illinois Light Infantry
 Co. D, 13th Regt. Illinois Infantry
 Co. B, 1st AL & TN Indepen. Vidette Cav.
 4th Kentucky Mounted Infantry
 Co. G, 47th Regt. Missouri Infantry
 Co. C, 4th Regt. Tennessee Vol. Infantry
 Co. K, 7th Regt. Illinois Infantry

 Co. E, 12th Regt. New Hampshire Infantry
 Co. H, 11th Regt. West Virginia Infantry
 Co. C, 101st Regt. New York Infantry
 Co. A, 46th Regt. Iowa Vol. Infantry
 Co. K, 44th U.S. Colored Infantry
 **
 2nd Regt. Texas Cavalry
 2nd Regt. Texas Cavalry
 Independ. Co., Trumbull Guards, OH Inf.
 Co. B/F, 2nd Regt. NC Mounted Cavalry
 Co E, 12th-Co L, 5th MO State Milit. Cav.
 Co E, 12th-Co L, 5th MO State Milit. Cav.
 Co E, 12th-Co L, 5th MO State Milit. Cav.
 Co E, 12th-Co L, 5th MO State Milit. Cav.
 Co E, 12th-Co L, 5th MO State Milit. Cav.
 Co E, 12th-Co L, 5th MO State Milit. Cav.
 Co. F, 12th Regt IN Inf. - Co. E, 59th IN Inf.

...Continued on next page

Membership Muster (Continued)

<u>Camp Member</u>	<u>Civil War Ancestor</u>	<u>Service Unit</u>
Mr. Dale H. Leach	Pvt. Sylvester Leach	23 rd Regt. Ohio Volunteer Infantry
Mr. John P. Lenes - <i>Guide</i>	Pvt. Wilson Keffer	Co. B, 8 th Regt. West Virginia Infantry
Mr. Kurt A. Letzring	Pvt. Alexander McLain	Co. E, 7 th Regt. Michigan Cavalry
Mr. Robert L. Lockwood	Pvt. Chauncey A. Lockwood	Co. H, 14 th Regt. Wisconsin Infantry
Mr. George E. Loper +	Pvt. Frederick Lohmann	Co. H, 6 th Regt. West Virginia Infantry
Mr. John R. Loper +	Pvt. Frederick Lohmann	Co. H, 6 th Regt. West Virginia Infantry
Mr. Elliot S. Mason	Hosp. Steward Louis Laborot	Co E, 12 th -Co L, 5 th MO State Milit. Cav.
Mr. Riley L. Mason	Hosp. Steward Louis Laborot	Co E, 12 th -Co L, 5 th MO State Milit. Cav.
Mr. Randall S. McDaniel	Pvt. Fernando Cortez Nichols	Co. A, 7 th Regt. Indiana Infantry
Mr. Faber F. McMullen III	Pvt. Michael Lewis McMullen	Co. M, 13 th Regt. Indiana Cavalry
Mr. Lloyd B. Monroe Jr. +	Pvt. Harrison Monroe	Co. C, 2 nd KS Col Inf. (83 rd U.S. Col Inf.)
Mr. Harrison G. Moore IV ~ * ** ***	Pvt. William Moore	Co. K, 63 rd Regt. Ohio Vol. Infantry
Mr. Frank S. Moore ~	Pvt. William Moore	Co. K, 126 th Regt. Pennsylvania Inf.
Mr. Gene P. Munson	Pvt. Joseph Stoner	Co. G, 37 th US Colored Infantry
Mr. Melvin L. Myers	Pvt. Charles Bowden	Co. C, 15 th Regt. West Virginia Infantry
Mr. Steven L. Newman +	Pvt. Samuel Davis Hawkins	Co. D, 13 th Regt. Kentucky Infantry
Mr. Gary D. Nichols	Pvt. Thomas Nichols	Co. A, 53 rd Regt. Ohio Infantry
Mr. Jon T. Oliver	Pvt. James E. Petrie Jr.	6 th Missouri State Militia Cavalry
Mr. Donald H. Patrick Jr. ***	Sgt. Squire Merlin Harris	Co. C, 3 rd Regt. Wisconsin Infantry
Mr. James R. Perry	Pvt. James R. Cook	Co. D, 104 th Regt. Illinois Infantry
Mr. Herbert W. Powers Jr. +	Pvt. Lifee Holbrook Powers	**
Mr. William R. Pozzi ^	**	**
Mr. Michael D. Rappe	Pvt. David C. Murphy	Co. E, 11 th Regt. Pennsylvania Infantry
Mr. Sam J. Reed +	1 st Lt. Axel Hayford Reed	Co. K, 2 nd Regt. Minnesota Infantry
Mr. Randall D. Scallan - <i>Past Chaplain</i>	Chaplain Francis M. Byrd	184 th Regt. Ohio Infantry
Mr. John E. Schneider Jr.	Lt. Col. Casper Carl Schneider	103 rd Regt. New York Infantry
Mr. Stephen D. Schulze - <i>Council</i> * ** ***	Pvt. Henry Ludwig Schulze	Co. D, 9 th Regt. Illinois Volunteers
Mr. Jeffrey R. Schurwon	Pvt. Martin V. B. Leonard	Shields' 19 th Indep Batt. Ohio Light Arty.
Mr. Michael D. Seeber	Pvt. Lorenzo Seeber	Co. C, 10 th Regt. Illinois Infantry
Mr. Mark S. Shackelford	Pvt. Andrew Stevenson	Co. A, 88 th Regt. Ohio Infantry
Mr. Scott D. Shuster - <i>Dept. Secretary</i>	Pvt. John S. Darling	Co. F, 171 st Regt. Pennsylvania Infantry
Mr. James M. Sigler	Pvt. William Henry Sigler	Co. M, 3 rd Regt. New York Cavalry
		Co. F, 5 th Regt. Excelsior Brigade
Mr. Robert E. Smith +	Pvt. Flemon Trent	Co. H, 39 th Regt. Kentucky Infantry
Mr. Bartley N. Stockton	William R. Reck	Co. F, 74 th Regt. NY Inf., Co. H, 40 th NY
Mr. Terry T. Sutton	Pvt. Isaac Cherry Sutton	Co. G, 8 th Regt. Indiana Infantry
Mr. Jerry B. Taylor	Pvt. Robert A. Glover	Co. H, 84 th Regt. New York Infantry
Mr. Chapman P. Traylor	Cpl. John Anderson Laws	Battery B, 1 st Btn Tenn. Light Artillery
Mr. Nash S. Traylor	Cpl. John Anderson Laws	Battery B, 1 st Btn Tenn. Light Artillery
Mr. Joseph M. Tucker	Pvt. Joseph Henry Wells	Co. I, 3 rd Regt. Kentucky Cavalry
Mr. Robert C. Tumey Sr. ***		
Mr. John A. Wade		
Rev. Ross E. Waggoner	Capt. William Sharpe	3 rd Regt. Wisconsin Cavalry
Mr. James B. Weber +	Pvt. Frederick Crouse	Co. H, 22 nd Regt. Indiana Infantry
Mr. Samuel P. Wheeler ^	**	**
Mr. Robert E. Wickman	Pvt. Hugh Alexander Hoy	Co. D, Bracketts Btn, Minn. Cavalry
Mr. Lee H. Wilson	Pvt. Charles Wilson	Co. D, 22 nd Regt. New York Infantry
Mr. Patrick M. Young	Pvt. William Young	30 th Regt. Pennsylvania Militia
Mr. Edward Cotham # <i>Author</i>	**	**

Key: ~ *Charter Member*
+ *New Member*

* *Past Camp Commander*
^^ *Junior Member*

** *Past Dept. Commander*
^ *Associate Member*

*** *Life Member*
Honorary Member

The *Harriet Lane* newsletter is published quarterly (*March, June, September, and December*). Please send questions, letters, suggestions or corrections concerning the newsletter to: Michael L. Lance, 7707 Dane Hill Dr., Texas 77389. E-mail mlance@cruiseone.com. Content submission deadlines are: Mar issue - Feb 15th; Jun issue - May 15th; Sep issue - Aug 15th; Dec issue - Nov 15th.

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| * Secretary/Treasurer | Mr. Gary E. White | 281-890-7823 | gankintx@comcast.net |
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| * SUVCW Department of Texas website | | | http://www.txsuv.org |
| * SUVCW National website | | | http://www.suvcw.org |
| * Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4 - <i>DUVCW</i> | | | http://www.rootsweb.com/~txseeduv |
| * National Auxiliary to the <i>SUVCW</i> | | | http://www.asuvcw.org |



Greetings Brothers! After a year's hiatus, the *Harriet Lane* is back! This 1st quarter issue will attempt to catch up on some of the activities that took place involving the Camp during the last few months.

But first, I'm pleased to announce that an able volunteer has stepped forward to assist this editor with the ongoing field reporting and research for the *Harriet Lane*. Please welcome **Brother Walter Coffey** to the *Harriet Lane* staff. He brings skills and a different perspective on events to this newsletter that will enhance its quality and scope!

Also, I wish to extend a tip of the kepi to the several Brothers who have volunteered to present Jr. ROTC awards/medals to deserving high school cadets in Houston and the surrounding areas.

Another obvious change in this issue versus the last issue which was published in 2013, is the length of the Membership Roster. It now spans nearly two full pages of this newsletter and contains the names of 113 Brothers. It will take an issue or two to catch up with the introductions of all the new Brothers.

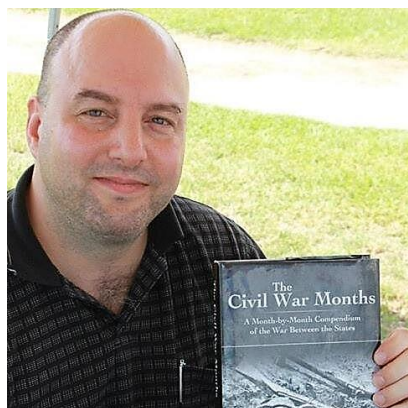
In F. C. & L,

Michael L. Lance

Editor

Meet the New Assistant Editor

Walter Coffey was born in Joliet, Illinois and is a graduate of Loyola University of Chicago. He is an award-winning author of both fiction and non-fiction, earning critical praise from *The Quincy Writers' Guild*, *ForeWord Reviews*, *Indie Excellence*, and *Readers' Favorite*.



For a quarter century, Walter has studied works exploring various events in American history, especially the Civil War. These include works by authors such as Jay Winik, Shelby Foote, Bruce Catton, David McCulloch, and Arthur Schlesinger. Fiction writers include John Jakes, Michael Shaara, and Owen Parry.

Walter's latest book is titled *The Reconstruction Years: The Tragic Aftermath of the War Between the States*. This is a comprehensive history of the post-Civil War years (1865-77) in a year-by-year summary. This is a follow-up to Walter's earlier work: *The Civil War Months: A Month-by-Month Compendium of the War Between the States*. This is a comprehensive history of the conflict presented in a monthly summary.

Both *The Civil War Months* and *The Reconstruction Years* are available at all major online bookstores, as well as Walter's website at www.WalterCoffey.com.

Currently residing in Texas, Walter was inducted as a member of the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea USN, Camp 2* in Houston, Texas in June 2013.

Walter's gr-gr-gr-grandfather was Nicholas Almire, a Prussian immigrant who served in Company E of the 42nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry from 1864-65. Private Almire's first march was to Nashville, Tennessee, and he was present at Goldsboro, North Carolina in April 1865. Private Almire was honorably discharged at Louisville, Kentucky on July 21, 1865.

Camp Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Tue 14 Apr 2015	Monthly Meeting: 7 pm Speaker: TBA Subject: TBA	Spaghetti Warehouse 901 Commerce St., Houston, TX
Sat 18 Apr 2015	8 th Annual President's Tea: 2:30 – 4:30 pm Hosted by Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary No. 1 Afternoon Tea, Music, and Reflections of the Era	First Baptist Church of Dickinson 2504 44 th St. Dickinson, TX 77539
Tue 12 May 2015	Monthly Meeting: 7 pm Speaker: TBA	Spaghetti Warehouse 901 Commerce St., Houston, TX
Tue 9 Jun 2015	Monthly Meeting: 7 pm Speaker: TBA	Spaghetti Warehouse 901 Commerce St., Houston, TX
Tue 14 Jul 2015	Monthly Meeting: 7 pm Speaker: TBA	Spaghetti Warehouse 901 Commerce St., Houston, TX

Jr. ROTC Award Presentations

The season has arrived for the presentation of JROTC Awards to deserving high school cadets. The Camp has received numerous requests from high schools all around Houston and the surrounding areas for SUVCW awards to be presented to their top achievers. This is an important element of our community service and outreach. These exemplary students deserve to be recognized by us for their outstanding record of achievement and citizenship.

As in past years, several Brothers from the Edward Lea Camp have volunteered to make these short but important presentations. Brothers Jackson, Coughlin, Holmes, Daniels, Pollard, LaBrot, and Chester have volunteered to visit a number of the high schools. But some high schools do not have a representative from our Camp lined up yet to present the honors.

So, if you would like to assist with these presentation efforts in a high school in your area, please contact JVC Bill Pollard at: 409-938-0052 or bpollard70@peoplepc.com.

New Members

Introducing: **Patrick Calder**

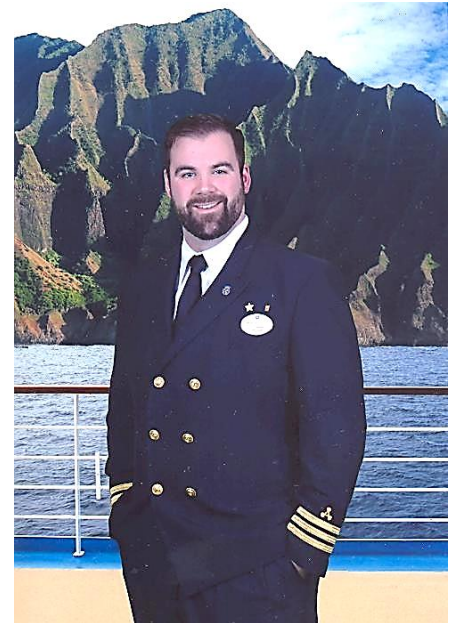
"I am pleased to introduce myself to the membership, and proud to join my father Captain Jon Calder amongst this brotherhood.

I have had an interest in Civil War history since I was a child, and as I learned about my own family's involvement, it has only stoked my interest further. This culminated in the summer of 2013 when I was able to visit the battlefield at Gettysburg, and found myself standing on the same ground where my ancestor's blood was shed. It was the most moving experience of my life.

I am the staff chief engineer on the only US flagged cruise ship in the world, and when I am not aboard ship I enjoy spending my time on a small boat at home, at the target range, or in the company of good friends with good conversation.

Besides history, my other love is politics and I am extremely politically active in my city, county, and state."

Editor's Note: Brother Calder became a member of the Camp in July 2014





***Introducing:* Lloyd Monroe**

Please join me in welcoming Lloyd B. Monroe, Jr. He joins the camp based upon the Civil War service of his ancestor, Pvt. Harrison Monroe, who served with Company C, 2nd Kansas Colored Infantry (later designated as the 83rd U.S. Colored Infantry—New Organization).

Lloyd was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri where he attended public schools. He graduated from Brown University in Providence, RI, where he earned baccalaureate and master's degrees in History. He then attended Indiana University School of Law, Indianapolis, and earned a juris doctor degree. Lloyd began the practice of law in the state and federal courts of Baltimore, Maryland; returned to Indianapolis and was appointed a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Marion County, Indiana, and then appointed as Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana. From that office he was appointed as a Special Attorney of the U.S. Department of Justice and assigned to the Organized Crime and Racketeering Section.

Upon retiring from Justice and the practice of law Lloyd taught school, served as an educational administrator, as an inter-governmental consultant, and was the executive director of a Rhode Island special commission dealing with police and community relations. Over the past ten years Lloyd has developed a securities and independent personal lines insurance brokerage.

Lloyd's interest in joining the SUVCW stems from his study of his ancestor's service in the war as well as his post war activities with a G.A.R. post in the Department of Kansas. Lloyd comes to Camp #2 from the *Winfield Scott Whitehurst Camp #1* and *General William T. Sherman-DMAL Camp #25* of the Department of Florida. While in Florida, among others things, Lloyd held the posts of Department Secretary, Department Counselor, and Department Coordinator of the DMAL Camp.

Lloyd is married to Alicia Denise Monroe; they are the proud parents of three adult children and one grandchild.

Editor's Note: Brother Monroe became a member of the Camp in February 2015

***Introducing:* Herbert W. Powers Jr.**

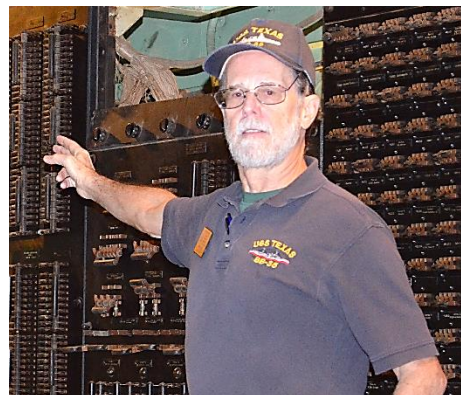
Herb Powers was born one week after D-Day Normandy in Pacific Grove, California. He grew up in that Monterey Bay community, and attended Monterey Peninsula College and the University of California, Berkeley, before joining the Vietnam era U.S. Air Force in 1967. Stationed at Williams AFB in Arizona, he continued his education at Arizona State University and received a BS degree in Geology.

Several years into the MS program, money ran out and he accepted the position of Geophysicist with Continental Oil Company in Ponca City, OK. Subsequently transferring to Houston, he worked on petroleum exploration projects in the Offshore Gulf of Mexico, Offshore California, Offshore East Coast, and Alaska –On and Offshore. He retired when Conoco was merged into Phillips Petroleum.

Mr. Powers lives in Katy where he, and his geologist wife Nancy Muir, brought up their two children, Leif and Kirsten. Both graduated from the University of Texas, Austin. Leif is a software engineer in Maryland and Kirsten is completing her PhD in Economics at the University of California, Berkeley.

True to the phrase "retired, too busy to work," Herb volunteers at the *Battleship Texas* in La Porte where he serves as a docent and does restoration and research. His interest in history is not limited to the magnificent technology of the USS Texas, but also encompasses railroads (such as the Texas Western Narrow Gauge), coastal defense artillery installations, WWII in Europe and, really, just about anything. Somewhat addicted to exercise, he competes in Olympic Archery, Track & Field, and teaches karate. Visiting family and going to competitions has allowed him to tour both Civil War and Revolutionary War sites. And, of course, this has fit in quite well with genealogical research covering both the Powers and Muir ancestry back to Colonial times.

Editor's Note: Brother Powers became a member of the Camp in February 2015



Introducing: Rev. Robert Todd Giffin

Robert Todd Giffin was born on 23 December 1970 in Indianapolis, Indiana. A cradle Anglican, he was baptized in April 1971 at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in McLean, Virginia, the parish of his grandparents. He graduated from Butler University in Indianapolis in December 1994 with a degree in Public and Corporate Communications.

After graduation while serving as a Sales Representative for Forest Pharmaceuticals in San Antonio, Texas, Robert met his future wife, the former Norma Jean Bustamante of San Antonio, where they were married in November 1998.

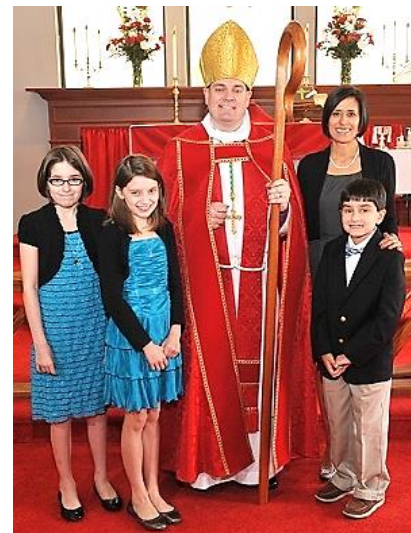
Rev. Giffin began attending Nashotah House in the fall of 1999 and graduated in May 2002 with a Masters of Divinity degree. He was elected in July 2012 as Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Mid-America and was consecrated on October 6, 2012 at the Anglican Church of St. Andrew the Evangelist in Merrillville, Indiana. Rev. Giffin was then elected in February 2013 as the Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Mid-America, and will succeed the current Bishop as Ordinary in July 2015.

Robert is a member of the *Society of the Cincinnati* (PA Society), the *St. Andrew's Society of the State of New York*, *St. Nicholas Society of the City of New York*, *Jamestowne Society*, *Sons of the Republic of Texas*, *First Families of Kentucky*, and many other hereditary and historical related societies. He is the past Deputy Chaplain General of the *General Society of Colonial Wars* and the past Chaplain General of the *Hereditary Order of Descendants of Colonial Governors*. He is an Honorary Kentucky Colonel.

In July 2006, he was appointed as a member of *The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem*, and in July 2013 was promoted to Officer. In May 2014, Rev. Giffin was appointed Ecumenical Canon of the Cathedral of the Diocese of Ruvuma, Anglican Church of Tanzania by the Rt. Rev. Maternus K. Kapinga, in order to foster strong bonds between the two traditionalist dioceses. In November 2013, he was granted a coat of arms by Colette O'Flaherty, Chief Herald of Ireland.

Rev. Giffin and Norma Jean have three children: Catherine Elizabeth, Maria Christina, and William Royall Giffin. His SUVCW ancestor is Private Robert Newton Button of Co. D, 13th Regiment, Illinois Infantry.

Editor's Note: Brother Giffin became a member of the Camp in September 2014



Introducing: John Loper

I was born in Houston, TX in 1951 and grew up in San Antonio. After graduating from Robert E. Lee High School in 1969, I enrolled in Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA where I received both a B.A. Degree in Applied Science and a B.S. Degree in Chemical Engineering.

I married Lorraine Elizabeth Dudley in 1973 and we will be celebrating our 42nd wedding anniversary this year. We have twin sons that were born in 1977. In 1974, we moved to Pittsburgh, PA where I attended graduate school at Carnegie Mellon University. But, in 1975, after one year, I left to work at FMC Corporation at a chemical plant in West Virginia.

I received a Masters Degree in Chemical Engineering from West Virginia College of Graduate Studies in 1979. Then, in 1980, I was promoted to Health and Safety Manager of FMC Chemical Group and moved to Philadelphia. I left FMC in 1986 to go into Environmental Consulting at Roux Associates, Inc.

In 1996, we moved back to Houston, TX. In 2002, I opened my own environmental consulting firm - The Loper Group, Inc. We have five grandchildren, are of the Lutheran religion, enjoy the outdoors (bicycling, hunting, and fishing), and spending time with family.

Editor's Note: Brother Loper became a member of the Camp in October 2014



***Introducing:* Donald Deppe**

I grew up in southern Illinois and went to college at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. I graduated in 1972 with a degree in chemistry. I worked in Illinois and New Jersey before getting a job working for an Engineering/Construction company in Houston in 1978. I moved into control systems engineering with a couple of different companies - all associated with the natural gas processing industry. When the industry collapsed in 1985, my last resort was to start my own company. With a few other co-workers, we formed a company and eventually built it up to a \$50 Million a year company. I retired in 2010, but still do consulting work for the company. My wife and I moved to our property near the little town Calvert in 2012, built a lake on 70 acres and a log home.

My interest in the Civil War started when I was ten years old. My mother grew up in the little town of Chesterfield, Macoupin County, IL. When we'd visit my grandmother there, she used to tell me that I had a great grandfather who had fought in the civil war. I thought it was interesting, and spent some time studying about the war in general, but never really tried to investigate my great grandfather's involvement. I even remember she had a picture of a civil war battle in her dining room (right next to the old crank up telephone). I sort of remembered that it was a battle in Altoona - I figured Altoona, PA.

Years later my wife was playing around on Ancestry.com. She asked me if I knew that I had a great grandfather that had fought in the civil war. I said that I vaguely remember my grandmother telling me that. Then a couple years later on a trip back to Chesterfield in 2011 to look for the graves of my grandmother and grandfather, my wife pointed out a headstone, remarking about what a shame it was that it had suffered from the elements - especially since it was a civil war veteran. I went over to it and suddenly realized that it was my great grandfather. The headstone listed his rank, company and regiment. I noted this information and sometime later, I googled Illinois 7th Regiment, Company K. The first thing that popped up was, in fact, a book by Daniel Ambrose written in the 1890's specifically about the 7th Regiment. The book included every detail from the day when the 7th was formed to the final muster out. With a quick scan of the book, I came across a battle that the 7th was involved it called Allatoona Pass. When I googled Allatoona Pass, the Wikipedia entry had a picture on it - the same one on my Grandmother's wall when I was ten. I was hooked.

Last October 5th was the 150th anniversary of the battle. We arranged to attend the re-enactment, where I met other brothers that suggested that I look into joining the SUVCW. The battle itself was probably one of the most unknown, non-decisive, yet important battles of the war. But there were so many unique facets about the battle, no less than three books have been written about the battle and countless notations in various combatants (from Sherman to mere privates) memoirs. There is enough information, that throughout the battle, my great grandfather's company's movements can be traced from start to finish. Now I feel connected with a relative I could never have known otherwise, and share in his contribution to the history of this country.

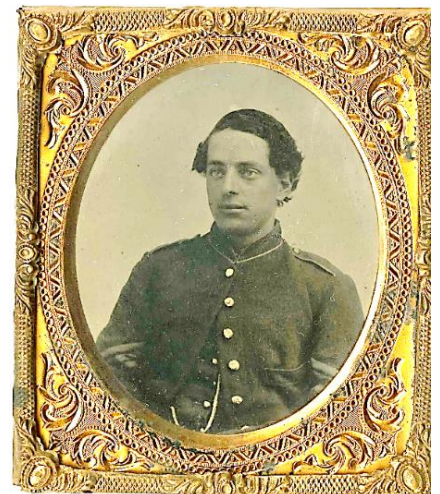
Editor's Note: Brother Deppe became a member of the Camp in February 2015

Ancestor Profile – Robert Newton Button

Robert Newton Button was born in New York City, NY, on 18 Aug 1840. He mustered into service at Dixon, Illinois for a 3 year enlistment on 24 May 1861 at the rank of Sergeant, Co. D, 13th Regiment, Illinois Infantry. He was promoted to the rank of 1st Sergeant in October of 1862.

By order of Major General Grant in May 1863, he was reduced to ranks due to his detached service as printer at the Headquarters of the Department of Tennessee, where he served for the remainder of his enlistment. He was mustered out on 21 June 1864. He participated in the battles of Chickasaw Bayou, Arkansas Post, Jackson and Siege of Vicksburg, where he is memorialized with other members of Co. D. in the Illinois monument located on the battlefield.

He died 20 March 1905 in Greenup, Cumberland Co., IL, and is buried in the Greenup Cemetery. He was a member of *Smeidell Post 257, GAR*, Greenup, IL, where his proceedings were held the 40th year, 1906. Prior to 1864, he removed from New York City to Chicago, IL, where he met and married Ms. Emilie Irene Johnson on 8 August 1864. They had 10 children.



...submitted by Brother Robert T. Giffin - descendant

December 13, 2014
Houston National Cemetery

After a long walk through the cemetery, I finally reached our traditional rendezvous location. Although I had participated in the annual *Wreaths Across America* event at the Houston National Cemetery several times, something did not look quite right this time. After satisfying myself that I was, indeed, at the correct location, I realized that the reason for my disorientation was because several of the large shade trees we unusually sheltered under, had been taken out.

Also, I did not see any blue uniforms of other Brothers of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea USN Camp #2 SUVCW* in the area. So, I focused my attention on the numerous children who wanted to pose for pictures with me and hear my explanations about my musket and other accoutrements. After a short while, I was joined by Brothers Michael Rappe, Gary White - who gave a very nice interview to a roving reporter - and then David LaBrot with his wife, Linda.



**A squadron of vintage aircraft
 Salute with a timely flyover.**

The crowd in, on, and around the hemi-circle grew to over 15,000 strong. Military uniforms of all types were seen everywhere. An large ensemble of bagpipers and drums performed a beautiful rendition of *Amazing Grace*.

During the several short speeches, everyone was respectful and patriotic. They were all anxiously anticipating the laying of the wreaths. Stacks of large cardboard boxes filled with evergreen wreaths which were decorated with red bows, were waiting in various places throughout the cemetery. A low-altitude flyover by a squadron of vintage aircraft deflected everyone's attention for a few moments. And later, a hovering helicopter in the near distance made it difficult to hear the speeches.

After the formalities - speeches, wreath dedications by each branch of the military, and a rifle salute, the throng dispersed in all directions to eventually lay over 45,000 wreaths - a new record! The *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp* had donated a sizeable number of wreaths, and carefully decorated graves with them.

As each wreath was placed at a grave, the deceased veterans name, rank, and service branch was called out by our 4-man unit.

Right: After laying a wreath at a grave, L-R: Brothers Michael Rappe, Gary White, Michael Lance, and PCC David LaBrot salute as Brother White calls out the name, rank, and service branch of the deceased veteran.



The laying of the massive number of wreaths was done solemnly and efficiently. The end result was truly inspiring visually. No doubt, most of the 15,000 participants will return next year to honor our fallen heroes once again...as will our dedicated cadre of Brothers!

Left: Brother Gary White gazing on decorated serenity.

.....Respectfully submitted by Michael Lance
.....All event photos submitted by Linda LaBrot

...Additional photos on next page



Decorated horizontal grave markers



Decorated upright grave markers



L-R: Lance, Rappe, LaBrot, White and youngsters



Group of teens pose with the Brothers



**Brother Karl Falken visits with the unit
L-R: Rappe, White, LaBrot, Falken, and Lance**



Sample dog tags produced by Brother Falken

November 21-23, 2014 – Civil War Weekend at Liendo Plantation has historically served as a primary recruitment and promotional venue for the Camp, and this year's event saw another strong showing for which all brothers and sisters may feel proud. The plantation was built in 1853, serving as a training hub for Confederate cavalry and infantry units and as an internment camp for Union POWs from the Battle of Galveston and other Texas skirmishes. General George Custer briefly headquartered at Liendo Plantation at the end of the war, and is credited with saving the plantation rather than carry out a burn order.

Brothers LaBrot, White, Daniels, and Coughlin arrived Thursday morning to erect the large tent serving as the Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, U.S.N., Camp #2 HQ for the duration. The staging and erecting represented a big job requiring a minimum of two-hours by all hands. To his good credit, Jr. Vice Cmdr. Pollard arrived – driving up from Dickinson, Texas – and was disappointed to learn the tent had by then been raised and completed.

The weather rapidly became windy, chill and rainy. But the tent proved a mighty fortress and sanctuary for all. The weather did not dampen the spirits of the attendees. Brother Coffee and his wife braved the elements nearby and offered his self-published book for sale. Brother Falken initiated a mini-fundraiser on behalf of the Camp by selling hand-stamped metal period dog tags. It was agreed that future efforts in this regard may yield greater proceeds. Thank you, Brother Falken!

The annual quilt raffle was a huge draw. I wish all camp members could have seen the stunningly beautiful hand-made creation donated by Sister Linda LaBrot. Moreover, the ever-popular infantry sword and sling was augmented with the fine addition of Brother White's kepi. The winners were ecstatic. Brothers White and LaBrot have the details on how much money was raised.

Sunday dawned clear, bright and warm and nicely dried the canvas tent. The battle reenactments of the weekend proceeded well. Participating Brothers on the battlefield included: Lockwood, Rappe, Falken, Leach, and Daniels. Brother Rappe and his lovely wife assisted Brothers LaBrot, White and Daniels in breaking camp and loading all gear into the U-Haul trailer. Brother LaBrot returned all gear to the storage facility in Humble.

.....After-action report submitted by Cmdr. David Daniels

As your humble field correspondent, I beg to report on the recent battle reenactment at Liendo Plantation over the weekend of Nov. 21-23, 2014.

Friday: was opened to students, who learned about life during the Civil War. Two tactical skirmishes took place for the students to witness.

Saturday: began with the officers' call on the front porch of the plantation house. Mounted cavalry and military drilling then took place on the battlefield. An artillery demonstration also took place on the battlefield. A deserter from a Federal camp was executed.

The ladies performed a fashion show behind the plantation house and a period wedding took place on the front lawn, beneath the canopy of sprawling trees.



Liendo Plantation House



The Saturday Base Ball game behind sutlers' row was canceled due to rain. However, a medical demonstration took place to display Civil War-era medicinal practices.

Left: Union troops march towards the 'front'

The battle reenactment featured sharp fighting - ending with a Union victory on Saturday and a Confederate victory on Sunday. The Confederate victory was marked by the Union's introduction of a Gatling gun to halt the pursuit.

....Continued on next page

After hours, the folks in period dress participated in a dinner at the plantation house and a ball.

Sunday: began with a church service on the plantation house front lawn.



Right: Union officer on the march with his company of Regulars and Zouaves.

Left: excellent image by our field correspondent from behind the Rebel line



Among the units present were: the Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Waul's Texas Legion, Sons of Confederate Veterans of the Civil War.

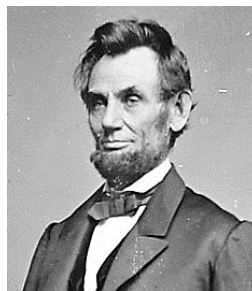
Right: Confederate cavalry

Authors on hand to sign their books included Douglas Graney, Walter Coffey, and Ken Massey. Other modern vendors included Mystic Angel Creations, Shawn's Custom Saddles, House of Casteel, Scentsy & Quilts, Bluebonnet Herb Farm, Stanley's Designs, Hodge Podge Enterprise, Jway Desinz, Old Vine Games, Esoteric, McBride's Civil War Novels, and D&M Flags and Flagpoles.



[...after-action report and photos submitted by Walter Coffey](#)

*"The mystic chords of memory, stretching from
Every battle-field, and patriot grave,
To every living heart and hearth-stone,
All over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union,
When again touched, as surely they will be,
By the better angels of our nature."*



Abraham Lincoln
(1809-1865)

16th U.S. President (1861-65)
As quoted in *THE RIVER OF WINGED DREAMS*
Photo by Matthew Brady

January 10, 2015 - 11 am
Trinity Episcopal Cemetery, Galveston, Texas

The day began cold and blustery. However, the turnout from the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2* was as large as ever. Brothers LaBrot, Daniels, White, Coughlin, Pollard, Leach, Rappe, Coffee, Duncan, Eishen, Lance, Bonnett, Henke, and Cooper were among those in attendance. Most of the men were assembled to form a Color Guard and an Honor Guard. Brother Duncan led the four person drum & fife unit.

In addition to the *SUVCW* contingent, units from several other heritage groups braved the cold overcast day, including: Sisters of the Camp's *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1*; an Honor Guard of the *John Bell Hood Camp SCVCW*; Masons from *Harmony Lodge* in Galveston; a Jr. ROTC Honor Guard; members of the *Daughters of the Confederacy*; and special guest, Department Commander Willis, *Dept. of Texas, SUVCW*.

Brother Pollard organized and formed the various groups into an impressive column on the central driveway of the cemetery a short distance away. Everyone was anxious for the order to begin the march through the cemetery rows to assemble near the grave marker of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea – the namesake of the Camp. An open tent with a speaker's podium and microphone stood adjacent to the gravesite.



The ceremonies began as a bagpiper sounded some airs. The long column of participants then lurched forward to the cadence established by the drum & fife unit. As the column reached Lea's grave site, the various units split off and moved to their assigned positions. The formal ceremonies then began.

First part of column: Bagpiper, Drum/Fife unit, Jr. ROTC Color Guard

Camp Commander Daniels welcomed the assembly. The ROTC Color Guard posted the Colors. Dept. Cmdr. Willis offered a few words, and Brothers Daniels and LaBrot related the story of the *Battle of Galveston* and the historical context of the event being commemorated. This was followed by short speeches from several others, including representatives of the Masons, the UDC, and SCVCW.

Brother LaBrot then summoned Brother Lance, as Officer of the Day, to step forward to receive the accoutrements of a soldier. Brother

Lance then solemnly adorned Lea's grave marker with a musket, haversack, and canteen. As part of the ritual, the SUV ladies *Auxiliary* then decorated Lea's grave with; rose petals, a wreath, a rose, and a Victory Wreath. Brother LaBrot also added a small American flag beside the marker (see photo on back page).

The *Harmony Lodge* Masons also conducted a short masonic ritual to honor Lt. Cmdr. Lea. Meanwhile the weather seemed to grow colder by the minute.

The combined SUV and SCV Honor Guards were soon called upon to fire a musket salute of three volleys. The guns fired in perfect unison. Then, bugler Dana Read once again offered a very well done rendition of *Taps*. At the conclusion of the formal ceremonies, as if right on cue, a light rain began to fall. All those assembled hurriedly packed up and dispersed.

Right: A portion of the Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp led by Cmdr. Daniels follows the Jr. ROTC unit through the cemetery towards the Lt. Cmdr. Lea gravesite.

....Respectfully submitted by Brother Michael Lance
....All event photos submitted by Linda LaBrot



Additional photos on next page

Battle of Galveston Commemoration Ceremony (continued)



The Drum & Fife unit sets the cadence, followed by the Jr. ROTC Color Guard.



Harmony Lodge Masons follow the UDC contingent. The John Bell Hood Camp, SCV, Honor Guard trails behind.



Four-person Jr. ROTC Color Guard posting the Colors in front of the speaker's podium and canopy. Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea grave marker is in the foreground.



L-R: Honor Guard Brothers Ben Bonnett, Dale Leach, Zane Cooper, Robert Lockwood, Walter Coffey, and Michael Lance, Bagpiper and Drum & Fife unit.



Brother Gene Willis, Cmdr. Of the Department of Texas at the podium flanked by SVC Thomas Coughlin on the left and Secretary/Treasurer Gary White on the right.



Camp Cmdr. David Daniels at the podium with JVC William Pollard on the far left.

2015 TEA PARTY - A CIVIL WAR EVENT

Hosted by

Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary No. 1

The 8th Annual President's Tea will be presented on Saturday, April 18th, 2015 at the First Baptist Church in Dickinson. The event will begin at 2:30 p.m. and will feature several informative speakers, period correct music, and era-correct tea and food tastings. In addition, the *Edward Lea Camp #2* will furnish Color and Honor Guard units to support our *Ladies Auxiliary* as we once again present this always extravagant and highly memorable affair.

Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1 President Vali Reyes

You and your friends are cordially invited to attend the Tea. It is always a highlight event of the year! While many of the speakers and others participating with the Tea will be dressed in 19th century clothing, casual dress is appropriate for guests and their friends. We hope you will join us in supporting our Ladies Auxiliary!**Editor**



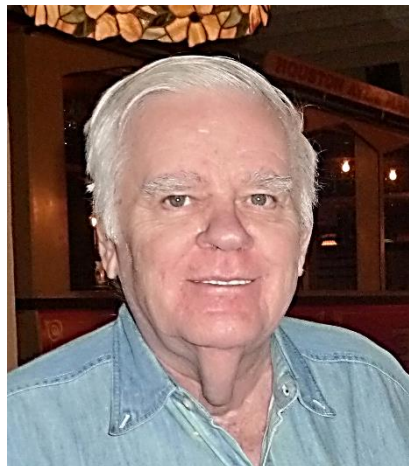
Final Tribute

Brother Robert Julian

It is with great sadness that I inform the Camp of the passing of Brother Robert Julian on Tuesday, June 11th, 2014. Brother Julian was a charter member of Lea Camp, joining in March, 1995 and served as its' Camp Commander in 1996-97 as well as holding numerous other Camp and Department offices. A U.S. Air Force veteran, Rob served in both Korea and Viet Nam. After retiring from Shell Oil, he worked for The United Way for several years. He leaves his wife, Ann and a grown daughter.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,
Gary White, PCC

Brother Dean Letzring



Brothers, our Order lost a leader and exceptional friend with the passing of Brother Dean Letzring on Sunday, October 12, 2014. He passed away quietly at his home. Brother Letzring was born in 1933 in Detroit, Michigan and received a BA in Geology at Wayne State University in Detroit. He was a veteran of the US Army. For 30 years, he was employed at the Department of Oceanography at Texas A&M University and traveled extensively during his professional life.

Brother Letzring was instrumental in researching and publishing two Civil War history books. He served as Commander of the Lt. Edward Lea Camp #2 and held that position when I joined the Camp in 2003. Brother Letzring also served as Commander of the Department of Texas, SUVCW.

Brother Dean Letzring PCC, PDC

Brother Letzring was generous with volunteering his service at numerous Camp functions as a speaker and/or a participant, both as a member and an Officer.

Whether visiting with high school students, presenting Jr. ROTC awards, volunteering at *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary* functions, grave marker commemorations, or numerous other Camp activities, Brother Letzring was always willing to give of his time and knowledge. At most events, he was seen wearing his elaborate Civil War officer's uniform, and always presented himself with perfect class and deportment.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Michael Lance

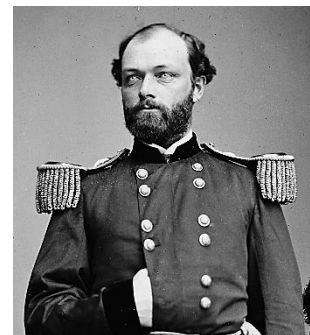
The following article is part one of a first-hand wartime account written by William S. Stryker, Adjutant-General of New Jersey. Part one sets the scene for the story about the gun used in firing on Charleston in 1863. Only minor punctuation editing has been added to improve clarity....editor.

The "Swamp Angel"

The Gun Used In Firing on Charleston, 1863

The entrance to the harbor of the city of Charleston is formed by Sullivan's Island on the north and Morris Island on the south. Morris Island is a low sandy reef, about three and three-quarter miles long, and varies from twenty-five to one thousand yards in width. Its area is some four hundred acres. The outer end of the Island - that nearest the bar, is separated from Folly Island, a sand reef of the same general character, by Light House Inlet.

Across this stream at daybreak, July 10, 1863, the successful bombardment and assault of the Confederate batteries was made by the Tenth Army Corps, under Major-General Quincy A. Gillmore. This fight secured to the Union forces about three-fourths of Morris Island; a half mile from the inner end of the island, Fort Wagner stretched from the sea-shore to Vincent's Creek, which with another sand fort, called Cummings' Point Battery, gave the Southern troops a foothold on the Island.



Gen. Quincy A. Gillmore

Let me remark in passing, that this last-mentioned battery is the one which fired upon the *Star of the West*, January 10, 1861, and all descriptions of the bombardment of Fort Sumter which followed that event, call it an iron-clad fort. During this campaign it was made simply of sand, more impregnable indeed than if covered with bars of railroad iron, or erected of the heaviest masonry. This point is exactly 6,616 yards, about three and three-quarter miles, from the wharves of Charleston.

Morris Island is made up of sand ridges, the highest thereof being twenty feet, while just in front of Fort Wagner, they are but two feet, and in the spring, the tide here breaks entirely across the reef. It is separated from James Island by deep and almost impassable marshes from one to three miles in width. Crooked and often very deep creeks or bayous traverse these marshes in every direction. Indeed, Morris Island, as well as the islands adjacent are but deposits of sand made by the sea and wind upon the surface of these salt marshes.

On the 16th day of July, 1863, General Gillmore directed Colonel Edward W. Serrell, First New York Engineers, now General Serrell, the distinguished civil engineer of New York City, and Lieutenant Peter S. Michie, United States Corps of Engineers, now Colonel Michie, a professor in the Military Academy at West Point, to examine these marshes to ascertain if a battery could be placed on our left front within range of the city of Charleston.



Gen. Edward W. Serrell

For several days they continued their reconnaissance, accompanied by Lieutenant Nathan M. Edwards, of Colonel Serrell's regiment, and they reported its feasibility. Soundings were made in the marsh with an iron rod thirty feet long and three-quarters of an inch in diameter. They found the mud about twenty feet deep, the weight of the rod carrying it one-half the distance, and it was easily pushed the remainder of the way with one hand. The bottom of the marsh was apparently sand, while the top was covered with wild grass and reeds some four feet high, but with such little root as to furnish no sustaining power whatever. Two men standing on a plank on the surface of the mud, and throwing their weight from side to side, made waves of mud, vibrating like jelly for many yards around.

Several trials of the sustaining power of this mud were made. A platform was erected and loaded with sand-bags. It sustained about six hundred pounds to the square foot, but on increasing this weight to nine hundred pounds, the pile upset and most of the sand bags vanished in the mud. A man of one hundred and fifty pounds' weight sank in the marsh eighteen inches at every step, if he moved rapidly. A witty officer, when ordered to do some work in this swamp, sent in his requisition to Colonel Serrell, asking for a detail of "twenty men eighteen feet long for duty in fifteen feet of mud".

It was decided to locate the battery about half-way between Morris and James Islands, at a place in the marsh where a deep creek flowed in front and to the left side. It was just 7,000 yards to the lower end, and 7,410 yards, or nearly four and a quarter miles, to the heart of the city of Charleston. It was in easy range of [Confederate] Forts Hascall, Simkins, and Cheves, and indeed of all the batteries on James Island. This made it necessary, of course, that the work should be done at night.

...Continued on next page

An estimate of the labor required in the construction of the battery was made on the morning of the 2d of August, and the order was immediately issued for its erection. Large working parties commenced felling trees on Folly Island, and men were employed day and night making and filling sandbags. A pile-driver could not be used, had one been at hand.

Two platforms were at first placed on the surface of the marsh. The log to be driven into the mud, sharpened at one end, was fastened crosswise to a long pole by taking a bight thereto with a rope. The short end of the pole was then attached to one of the platforms which had been loaded with sand-bags, and five men on the other platform pulling at a rope adjusted to the long end of the pole, pressed the log down to the solid substratum of sand. As soon as enough piling to make sufficient standing room had thus been driven down in two places on opposite sides of the proposed battery, the log was attached to the center of the pole, and then parties on each end thereof pressed the pile down as before.

Cheerfully, with great enthusiasm and very rapidly, the men worked, exposed every moment to shelling from the rebel batteries. When the foundation was thus constructed, cross-beams, or, to speak technically, a grillage of large yellow pine logs was bolted together strongly thereon. Thirteen thousand sand-bags, more than eight hundred tons in weight, were then carried by the soldiers from the Engineer camp, over a mile and a half distant, and a parapet, with a return, or epaulement, constructed in form like one-half of a hexagon.

A road two and a half miles long, made of logs and sand-bags, was also built from this place to our left batteries in the approaches to Fort Wagner, and another around the left flank to the edge of the creek before alluded to. Over these roads, the entire armament of the battery was carried.

About this time, August 12, boats armed with naval bow-howitzers commenced to picket the streams leading to James Island and Charleston, and heavy log booms were fastened across the streams a little distance from the battery, to obstruct, if possible, the approach of the enemy from the harbor. A mock battery was also built by the soldiers of boards and sand-bags, to draw the fire of the James Island batteries, and in this it was to some extent successful.

An eight-inch Parrott rifle-gun, 200-pounder, was, on the 17th of August, ordered by the commanding general to be mounted in the battery. This gun, I may add, is often confounded with the great 300-pounder which battered the walls of Fort Sumter. The gun erected in the swamp never fired at Fort Sumter, [and] the ten-inch rifle, or 300-pounder, the only one of that caliber at this time in the department, never fired into Charleston.

The latter gun was in position at Fort Strong, on our left batteries, and the muzzle was blown off by the premature explosion of a shell. It threw nineteen thousand pounds of metal at the Gorge wall of Fort Sumter. The gun in the marsh was manned by a detachment of the Eleventh Regiment Maine Volunteers, Lieutenant Charles Sellmer commanding, who is now a first lieutenant of the Third United States Artillery.



On all official papers, it is spoken of as the “Marsh Battery,” but the soldiers called it the “Swamp Angel,” and I have also heard it referred to by them as the “Marsh Croaker” and the “Mud Lark.”

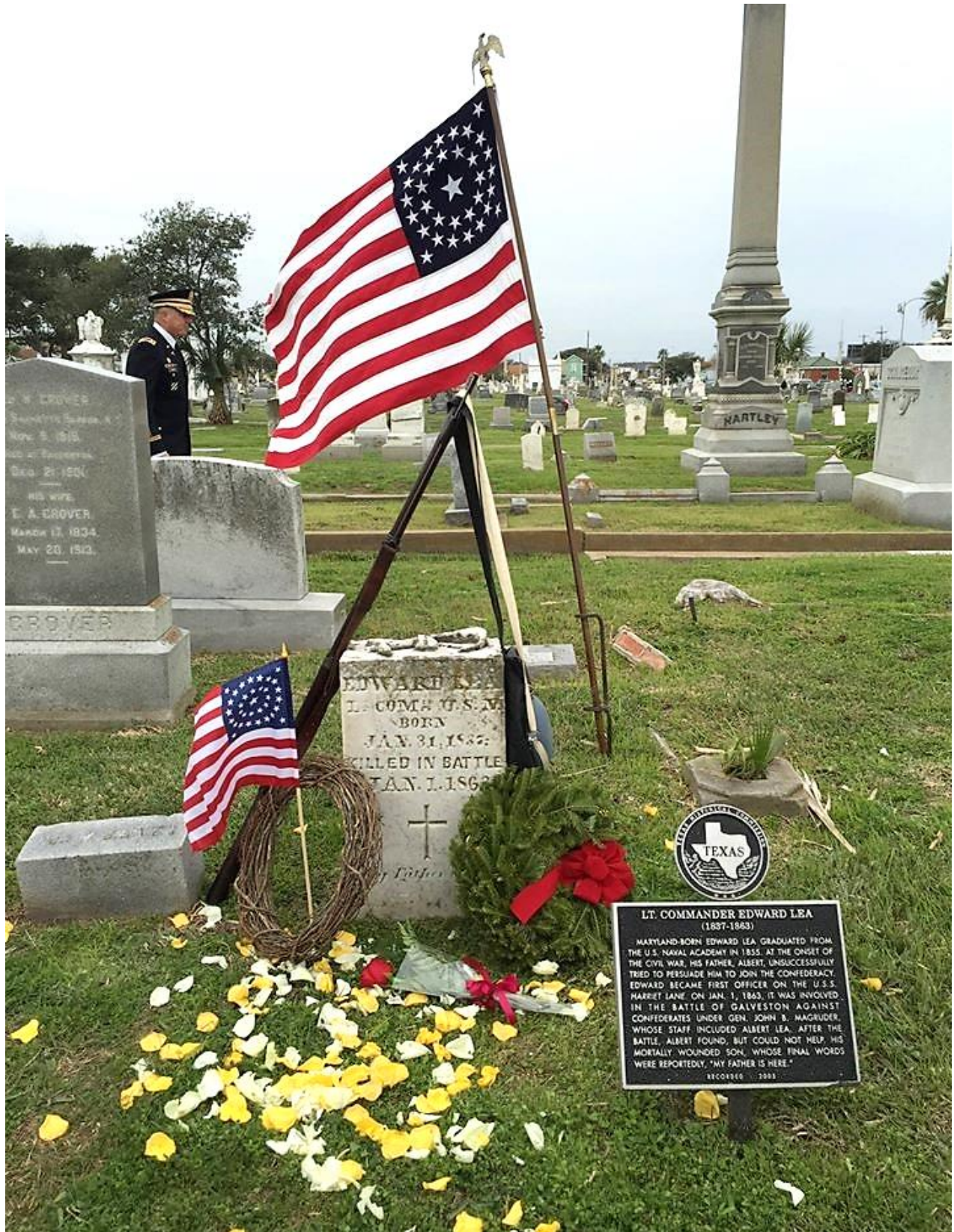
Lt. Charles Sellmer

At nine o'clock on the morning of the 21st of August, a communication was sent by General Gillmore to General Beauregard, commanding the Confederate forces at Charleston, demanding the surrender of Fort Wagner, and assuring him that unless it was done, the city would be bombarded from batteries “established within easy and effective range of the heart of the city.”

Of course, General Beauregard laughed at General Gillmore’s presumption, and took no heed thereto. That night, the order of General Gillmore reached Lieutenant Sellmer, and the “Swamp Angel” was ranged for the steeple of St. Michael’s Church, in Charleston. Heavy woods on James Island, near Fort Simkins, hid the city from the view of the men in the Marsh Battery. An elevation of 31 (degrees) 30’ was given the gun, sixteen pounds of powder was the charge, and one hundred and fifty pounds the weight of the projectile. At half-past one on the morning of the 22nd, the firing commenced.

...to be continued

Source: Magazine of American History Illustrated, pages 553-560, December 1886, edited by Mrs. Martha J. Lamb



**Decorated Grave Marker of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea USN
Trinity Episcopal Cemetery – Galveston, Texas
January 10, 2015**