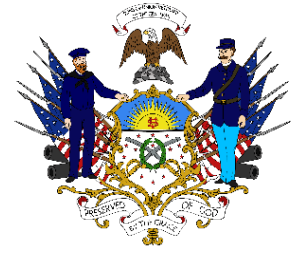




THE HARRIET LANE

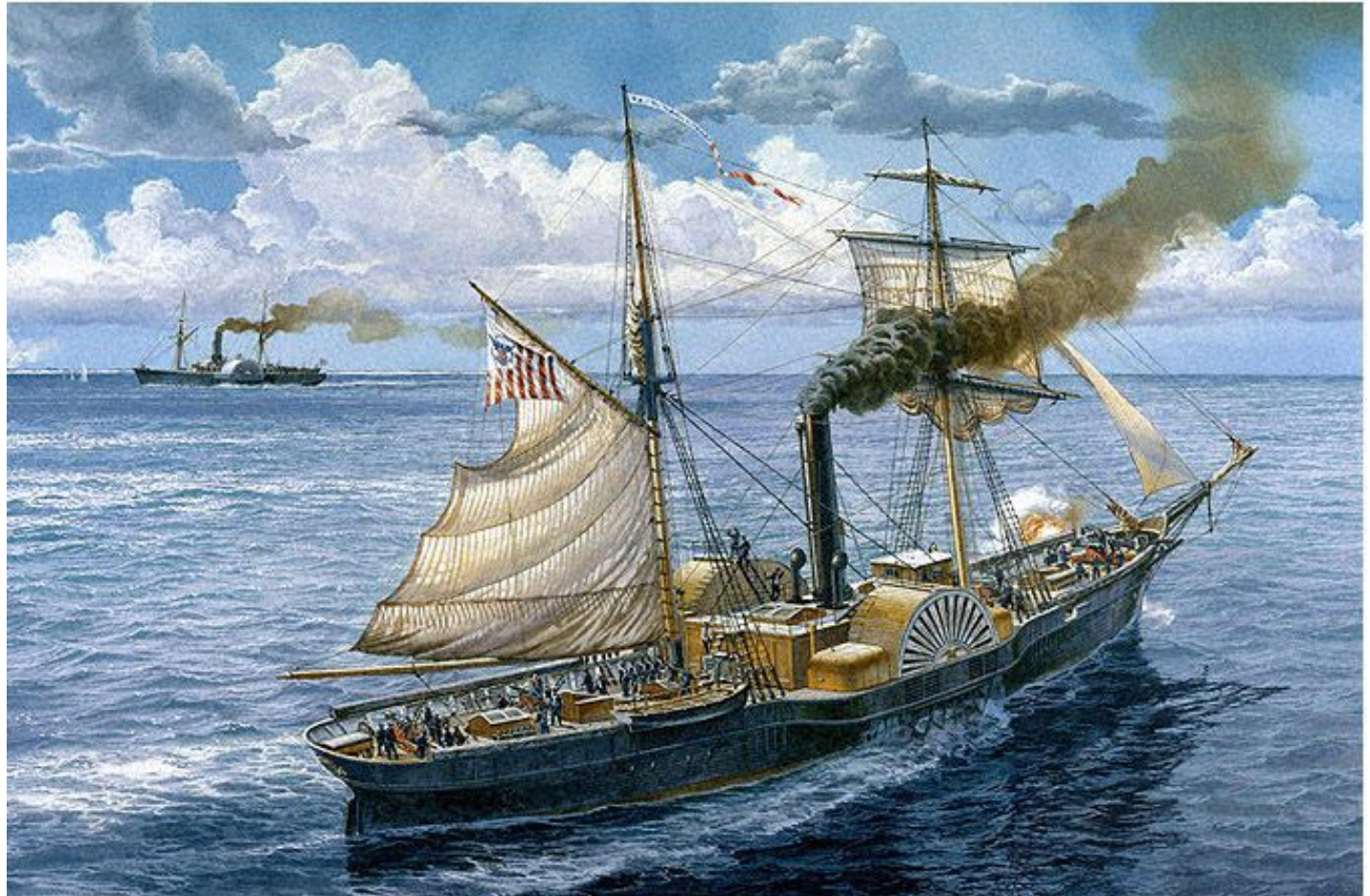


The Official Newsletter of
Lt. Commander Edward Lea U.S.N. - Camp No. 2 - Houston
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

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To the Bitter End – And Then Some

In early October 1864, the merchant ship *Sea King*, slipped away from England under false papers. With no more than a newly-recruited skeleton crew, she headed for a remote cove in the Madeira Islands off the northwest coast of Africa. Her commander, Lt. James Waddell, was charged with converting *Sea King* into a fighting man-of-war. The crew was purposely kept ignorant of their true mission.



Sea King first needed weapons and a fighting crew. A sailing vessel of her size needed at least 100 men to operate safely - and roughly another 50 or so more to handle cannons and to form boarding parties. The conversion also included the need to cut gun ports into the sides of the ship.

Lt. James Waddell

At Madeira, *Sea King* anchored and was lashed to a supply ship. Provisions and equipment, including six heavy cannons, were transferred onboard. Cutting the gunports took longer than desired - because only one experienced carpenter was available.

To make matters worse, while mounting the big guns, it was discovered that no tackle had been supplied. If they were fired without tackle, the recoil would launch them backward - causing possible damage and injury. Since the cannons could not be safely fired, it was hoped that the mere sight of them would provide a sufficient threat to any ship they approached. Of course, that threat would only be a bluff. To perform successfully as a warship, Lt. Waddell needed to find the necessary heavy tackle – as well as more crewmen.

When finally ready to leave Madeira, Waddell, wearing a Confederate uniform, assembled the crewmen on deck and declared that the ship now belonged to the Confederate Navy - and would soon set out to destroy Union merchant vessels. He urged the men to join him in the cause, offering two months extra pay and a signing bonus of 10 pounds. His offer was met with near silence – with only a cabin boy and a fireman signing on.

So, Lt. Waddell upped the ante - increasing the monthly wages and raising the signing bounty to 15 pounds. Ultimately, only 22 of the assembled 55 sailors joined up. A large Confederate ensign was then unfurled over *Sea King* – she was now the *CSS Shenandoah*.

However, except for small arms, the ship was mostly defenseless. There were barely enough men to man the engine room and work the sails. After consulting with his officers, Lt. Waddell decided to head for the open sea anyway to carry out their mission – *The destruction of the New England whaling fleet in the northern Pacific*. He expected to scare and bully his targets into surrendering – and to acquire more men from the captured crews.

In late October, the rebel raider captured her first victim - the *Alina* out of Maine. Of the *Alina's* 12-man crew, half agreed to join the Confederates. Everything else of use was removed from the captured ship - including a large quantity of cotton canvas for sails and enough ropes and tackle to make *Shenandoah's* big guns serviceable. The *Alina* was then scuttled.

The next morning, *Shenandoah* captured *Charter Oak*, a smaller vessel out of Boston. The booty included a supply of much-needed canned goods. The *Charter Oak* was then set ablaze. A few days later, the Boston-based bark *D.G. Godfrey* was captured, looted, and set on fire. Of the ten sailors aboard the *Godfrey*, six agreed to serve as crewmen on the *Shenandoah*. The rest, along with previous captives, were transferred onto a passing Danish ship. During the next month, the Confederate raider seized several more merchant ships – and continued to strengthen her crew.

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To the Bitter End – And Then Some (Continued)

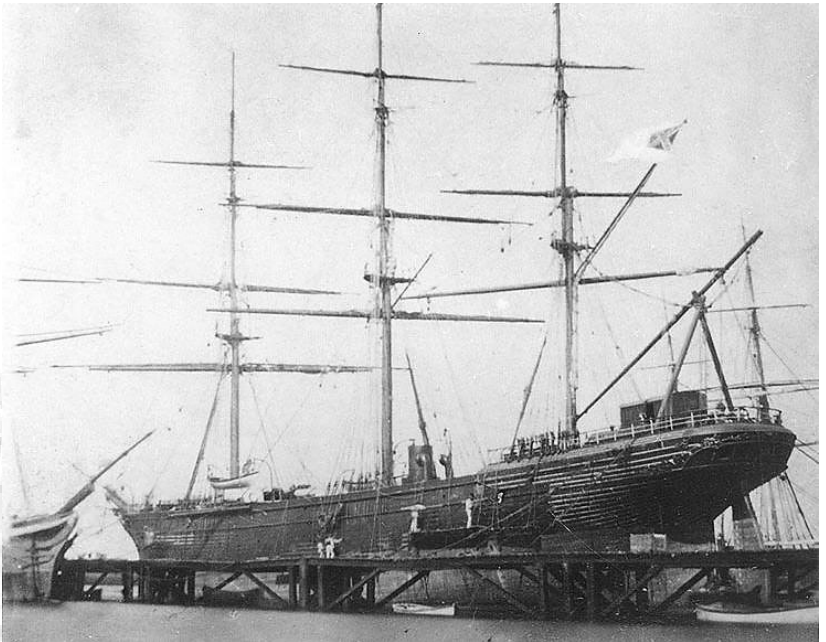
In early December 1864, *Shenandoah* captured her first U.S. whaler – the *Edward* out of New Bedford, Massachusetts. The crewmen on *Edward* were so busy cutting up and hoisting a whale carcass, they didn't notice the approach of the Confederate raider until within cannon range. The unsuspecting victim was easily captured and stripped of anything useful - and then set ablaze. With 26 new prisoners, the *Shenandoah* was again overcrowded. A brief halt was made at Tristan de Cunha, a small British protectorate island in the South Atlantic between South America and Africa. The prisoners were paroled to the island.

The destructive activities of *CSS Shenandoah* soon attracted the attention of U.S. authorities. The *USS Iroquois* was dispatched to track down and neutralize the Confederate raider. Three weeks after the *Shenandoah* sailed away from tiny Tristan de Cunha, *USS Iroquois* arrived at that port - looking for the Confederate vessel. But the *Shenandoah* was already well on her way to Melbourne, Australia for repairs and reprovisioning. Lt. Waddell figured that Melbourne would be the last place a searching Union ship would expect him to be. The gamble succeeded - because the captain of the *Iroquois* guessed wrong on the *Shenandoah's* next move – and sailed instead to the Island of Bali near Indonesia.

Melbourne proved to be a safe harbor for *Shenandoah* – almost. The American consul there did everything he could to oppose their stay - arguing that it violated neutrality agreements. He also sent word to British-controlled Hong Kong - urging that a naval cruiser be quickly sent to Melbourne to attack the Rebel ship. The needed repairs kept *Shenandoah* in port for 23 days – days filled with verbal battles between pro-Union and pro-Confederate sympathizers.

CSS *Shenandoah* in dry dock – Williamstown, Australia

At high tide on February 15, 1865 - after being loaded with coal and supplies - *Shenandoah* was towed out of dry dock and headed for the open sea. She sailed north freely without any sign of Union warships. The federal Navy had assumed that *Shenandoah* would instead head south for the coast of Chili - *guessing wrong once again!*



Lt. Waddell had received word that American whalers were operating north of Australia among the islands of Micronesia. *Shenandoah* set off in hot pursuit. As she approached the remote island of Pohnpei, whalers flying Hawaiian and U.S. colors were spotted in the harbor. The whalers assumed the approaching *Shenandoah* was a British survey vessel – due to the British colors that Waddell had hoisted.

Shenandoah dropped anchor just inside the harbor entrance, blocking any exit for the whalers. She then fired a signal gun and raised the Confederate flag to replace the British colors. Four small boats filled with well-armed boarding parties were then lowered – resulting in four whaling vessels being seized in the harbor - then plundered and torched. Of even greater value to Lt. Waddell, were the charts found among the seized vessels showing the courses taken by American whaling ships during the harvest season.

On April 13, 1865, *Shenandoah* steamed north-northwest towards Siberia. By May 20th, ice was forming in patches around her as she reached the Sea of Okhotsk. *Shenandoah* then encountered torrential rains, heavy seas, and much colder weather. She was forced to steer around large icebergs.

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To the Bitter End – And Then Some (Continued)

On May 27, 1865, lookouts spotted a whaler on the other side of an ice flow. It was the *Abigail*, out of New Bedford, Massachusetts. Lt. Waddell hoisted Russian colors to move in closer and - at 500 yards - fired a salvo across *Abigail*'s bow. The whaler quickly capitulated. The raiders boarded and carried off 36 prisoners and other valuables. *Abigail* was then burned.

On June 21, 1865, *Shenandoah* sailed into the Bering Sea. The unarmed, unsuspecting New Bedford whaling fleet was hunting gray whales in the vicinity. The crew of the *Shenandoah* knew they were approaching their prey because the waters became increasingly littered with whale meat and blubber. The following morning, whaling ships were sighted by lookouts. Boarding parties were readied.

The first targets were the *William Thompson* – which was hampered by having a whale lashed to her side – and the *Euphrates*. The *Euphrates* wasn't concerned by the approaching raider since it was again flying the Russian flag. When the captain of the *William Thompson* found out what was really happening - he insisted to Waddell that *the war was over*. Waddell, assuming that Smith was simply trying to save his ship - had both vessels set ablaze. Three more whaling ships were also overtaken, captured, looted, and summarily burned. Finally, the whaling ship *Milo* was captured. The captain of the *Milo* also told Waddell that *the war was over*. Again, Waddell dismissed the story as a ruse.

On June 26, 1865, *Shenandoah* continued to damage the U.S. whaling fleet, capturing six more vessels. Two days later, she *really* stepped up her game of destruction. Eleven whalers were seized on that day alone. More than \$500,000 worth of Federal shipping was destroyed or bonded. As a result, the price of lamp oil along the U.S. Eastern Seaboard skyrocketed for nearly a year - and the whaling industry *never fully recovered*.

The whaling crews were naturally furious. They knew the war was over. But Waddell refused to believe it - *he didn't want to believe it*. He knew that if the war was really over - *he ran the risk of being charged with piracy*. The whaling crews could not provide absolute evidence that all of the Confederate Armies in the field had surrendered. Even when shown a month-old newspaper recounting Lee's surrender, Waddell noted that in the article, President Davis had said the South was determined to fight on.

Whale Hunting Grounds – Sea of Okhotsk and Bering Sea

On June 29, 1865, Waddell sailed *Shenandoah* further north through the Bering Strait. As he sailed into the Arctic Ocean, Siberia was visible on his port side, and Alaska was in sight starboard. He was proceeding north on a rumor that 60 whaling vessels had passed through the strait - and he was looking for them.

But the ice soon closed in, becoming 15 to 30 feet thick, blocking further progress. The ship was also battered by winds, icy rain, and snow. Sheets of ice froze in the rigging. Extra rations of grog and hot coffee were dispensed to help keep the crew warm. Waddell became concerned about being locked in the Arctic Ocean. And since no whalers were found, he decided to turn around and steam back southward towards the Bering Sea.

The *Shenandoah* slipped through the Aleutian Islands below Alaska and continued south towards the west coast of the United States. Waddell realized that the three ships he had released earlier on bond loaded with prisoners were already well on their way to California. He knew his destructive activities would soon be reported – and was in a dilemma over what to do next.



...Continued on next page

To the Bitter End – And Then Some (Continued)

On August 2, 1865, Waddell again received news of the war's end from the British bark *Barracouta*. The English vessel had departed San Francisco 13 days earlier and was steaming for her homeport at Liverpool. While in San Francisco, she had picked up newspapers which detailed the end of the war. When Waddell's Executive Officer asked the British captain for news about the war – the captain asked, "What war?" The officer replied: "The war between the United States and the Confederate States." The astonished Englishman declared that the war had ended in April. Waddell was warned that Federal warships were combing the seas for his now-outlawed Rebel vessel. The San Francisco newspapers finally gave solid proof that *the war had, in fact, ended*.

It was recorded in *Shenandoah's* log that "Having received... the sad intelligence of the overthrow of the Confederate Government, all attempts to destroy shipping or property of the United States will cease from this date..." The men on the *Shenandoah* knew that if they returned to a U.S. port, they risked being tried and hanged as pirates. Commerce raiders were not included in the reconciliation and amnesty that Confederate soldiers were given. Waddell decided to sail for the nearest British port – in Sydney, Australia – to surrender his ship to Her Majesty's authorities.

The next day, however, Waddell changed his mind. He believed they would receive better treatment if they surrendered instead at Liverpool, England. The *Shenandoah* then underwent a physical alteration. Her guns were dismantled and placed in the hold. The gun ports were sealed and her hull was painted to look like an ordinary merchant vessel. She sailed down the western coast of Mexico and looped around Cape Horn at the southern tip of South America. When her coal supplies became dangerously low, she traveled mostly under sail. Union warships were in pursuit the entire way – but *Shenandoah* was never caught.

Finally, on November 5, 1865, *Shenandoah* reached the waters near Liverpool. But she had to wait at anchor for favorable tides before she could safely enter the River Mersey. The next morning, a pilot arrived to guide her up the fog-shrouded river. Since *Shenandoah* was not flying any flag, the pilot at first refused to take her into Liverpool until one was raised. So, the large Confederate ensign was once again unfurled. It was Nov. 6, 1864. The city of Liverpool was barely visible on approach. Only the spire of St. Nicholas - the 'Sailors Church' - could be seen above the fog.



The Rebel commerce raider finally came to a halt in the middle of the Mersey - dropping anchor behind *HMS Donegal*. Captain James Paynter of the *Donegal* accepted the formal surrender at 10:00 a.m.

CSS Shenandoah – U.S. Navy photo

Fortunately for *Shenandoah's* crew, the British government decided that the raider had not violated the rules of war - and the men could not be held as prisoners. The officers and crew were

unconditionally released - but the ship itself was turned over to the U.S. government.

Shenandoah was then sold to the Sultan of Zanzibar who renamed her after himself, *El Majidi*. During a hurricane on April 15, 1872, the former *CSS Shenandoah* was blown on shore in Zanzibar and damaged beyond repair.

It is generally accepted that the last battle of the Civil War was fought May 13, 1865 at Palmito Ranch near Brownsville, Texas. However, Lt. Waddell and his command, the *CSS Shenandoah*, was involved in Confederate hostilities against the U.S. federal government as late as June 28, 1865. His final attack on the whaling fleet in the Bering Sea was undertaken six weeks *after* the battle at Palmito Ranch!

Note: story is excerpted from 'How the Rebels Saved the Whales' – a PowerPoint presentation by Michael L. Lance.

Veterans Day 2021

Veterans Day Nov 11, 2021 – Houston, Texas

At 10:00 a.m. on Veterans Day, the city of Houston, Texas paid tribute to military men and women at the annual *Houston Salutes American Heroes Veterans Day Celebration*. The official ceremonies were followed by the traditional parade through downtown Houston. The celebration honored the brave men and women who fought and sacrificed for our liberty and freedom. Houston reportedly has the second largest veteran population in the country - with more than 250,000 veterans living in the area.

City Hall in Houston

The event officially began on the steps of Houston's City Hall. Many veterans were in attendance, along with a number of politicians and civic leaders. Several of the politicians greeted the crowd and gave speeches, including Houston mayor Sylvester Turner, Senator Ted Cruz, and Representative Sheila Jackson Lee. A moment of silence was observed during the program to commemorate the 101st anniversary of the signing of the *Armistice* agreement which ended World War I on the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.



Some of the earliest arrivals on the scene at City Hall this day were dressed in Civil War uniforms. They carried black powder muskets, haversacks, and canteens. An impressive Honor guard of twelve riflemen was soon formed in the grassy area beside the Hermann Square Reflection Pond. The unit consisted of elements of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN Camp 2 and Co. A, 13th Regt. U.S. Infantry/Texas Rifles*. They were expertly commanded by Captain Don Tucker of the *Texas Rifles*. Two stacks of muskets were set up in the grass to be ready for the traditional 3-volley rifle salute.

On cue, Captain Tucker commanded the unit through the 3 volleys – the first one with double-charged weapons. The



Above L-R: **Howard Rose**, spectator, **Steve Corey**, **John Scott**, **Daniel B. Pourceau**, **Joey Almia**, **Michael D. Rappe**, **Roy Eanes**, and **Michael L. Lance**. Unit members not pictured include: **Rion Braddock**, **Curtis Lewis**, **Kerry Manning**, and **Capt. Don Tucker**.

resulting blast reverberated through the tall downtown buildings - and immediately captured the full attention of all spectators! The shock of the shot must have also rattled the very skilled military bugler a little, because he began sounding *Taps* as the unit was re-loading to fire volley number two! Instead of firing the second round, the Honor Guard came to *PRESENT ARMS* until *Taps* was finished. Then, two more 'normal' volleys were fired in precise unison.

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Veterans Day 2021 (Continued)

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the slightly embarrassed bugler approached the Honor Guard to apologize for his error. However, since the bugler performed *Taps* so well, and since the musket volleys were so impressive, the spectators probably thought everything happened exactly to plan! *All well and good!*

The crowd then mostly dispersed to secure positions along the parade route – which would begin about 11:30 a.m. Meanwhile, many organizations and marching units were queuing up at designated parade staging areas. The Federal Honor Guard first obtained the U.S. Colors and the Regimental Flag from one of their parked vehicles, then advanced a few blocks to ease into their #17 parade slot.

Two of the riflemen, Steve Corey and John Scott of the 13th U.S. Infantry – now sans rifles – would carry the Colors in the parade. At the staging area, the unit reassembled into two ranks – six men in the front rank, and four men in the rear rank – then waited for the parade to begin.



Rear Rank L-R: **Michael Lance** (not pictured), **Joey Almia**, **Michael D. Rappe**, and **Daniel B. Pourreau**



Front rank L-R: **Lewis Curtis**, **Roy Eanes**, **Steve Corey**, **John Scott**, (and not pictured) **Rion Braddock** and **Howard Rose**. Commanded from the front by **Captain Don Tucker** (also not shown)

The Honor Guard marched tightly, shoulder-to-shoulder, nicely executing ‘wheel’ turns at street corners. Their weapons were alternately carried at *SHOULDER ARMS*, *RIGHT SHOULDER SHIFT*, or *SUPPORT ARMS*, as commanded by Captain Tucker. As the unit passed before the parade reviewing stand near the end of the route, the Regimental flag was dipped in salute. The riflemen came smartly to *PRESENT ARMS* and turned their heads to face the stand as they marched past. The spectators along the parade route seemed to appreciate the display of the Honor Guard. They cheered, saluted, and waved small U.S. flags as the unit marched past.

After-action report submitted by Michael L. Lance, Cmdr., Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2, SUVCW

Voices of South Texas

November 6, 2021 was a pleasantly cool sunny day, perfect for a leisurely drive from Houston to Corpus Christi, Texas. The destination was the historic Old Bayview Cemetery near downtown Corpus Christi. Dating from 1845, Old Bayview is the oldest federal military cemetery in Texas - and is the final resting place of many prominent area citizens. Veterans of many wars, including the War of 1812, the Texas War for Independence, the Mexican War, Indian campaigns, the Civil War, and other later conflicts are buried on the grounds. On this day, some of those veterans and memorable citizens seemed to come to life during the 12th annual *Voices of South Texas* event!

Old Bayview Cemetery Sign

John Vander Meulen and Michael Lance arrived on the scene to find it alive with many visitors – giving the burial grounds a festive atmosphere. Reenactors dressed in period-correct outfits were giving interesting oral presentations to small gaggles of attentive onlookers near many of the graves. Each presenter strived to accurately portray the notable person buried at his/her post, relating stories and circumstances of long-ago lives.



L-R: Thor Chester, Daniel Poureau, Steven Coons, Judy Turner-Chester, Michael Lance, and John Vander Meulen

As mentioned above, among the cemetery's permanent residents are several veterans of the Civil War. Members of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN Camp 2* have attended this event for the last several years to honor one of those heroes each time. This year, the focus was on the grave of Cpl. Andrew W. Hyndman, who served with *Co. J, 10th U.S. Infantry*.

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Voices of South Texas (Continued)

Besides John Vander Meulen and Michael Lance, the other members of the Camp who attended the event were Thor Chester, Steven Coons, Daniel Pourreau, Frank 'Nick' Nichols, and Robert Yeager. Judy Turner-Chester of the *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1* also attended to serve as display and ceremony script coordinator. Brother Pourreau and Michael Lance were dressed in Civil War uniforms and carried muskets. Brother Nichols provided the photos included in this report, and Brother Yeager, wearing a Confederate uniform, demonstrated and fired a cannon.

Our graveside ceremony was to take place later in the morning – immediately after the cannon demonstration. In the meantime, we had plenty of time to wander throughout the cemetery to enjoy the presentations given by the varied assortment of reenactors. Interesting conversations with inquisitive event visitors was also a treat.



Daniel Pourreau with a lady reenactor



Michael Lance with prospective recruit

The Captain of the Confederate cannon was our own Robert Yeager. As usual, a large crowd of spectators gathered to hear him give a rousing demonstration about the operations of the big gun. The crowd was awed by several volleys - which shook the ground!

After the first cannon shot, a wailing siren was heard in the distance. Soon, we saw a rescue vehicle approaching with its lights flashing. The vehicle seemed to be searching for the source of the blast as it circled the near neighborhood. It finally arrived on the street beside the cemetery – in front of and below the business end of the cannon – *just as another volley was fired!* The crowd was amused by the spectacle!



Making the ground shake!

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Voices of South Texas (Continued)

As Brother Yeager concluded his cannon demonstration, he directed his crowd towards our position. As the visitors drifted over and gathered around us, we began our ceremony for Cpl. Hyndman.



Brothers John Vander Meulen and Thor Chester loudly offered the ceremony script and a bio of the soldier, Steven Coons laid a wreath at the grave, and Daniel Pourreau and Michael Lance served as an armed Honor Guard. At the appropriate moment, the Guard marched forward, offered a 3-volley musket salute, and then *PRESENTED ARMS* as a recorded version of *Taps* was sounded. The presentation was well received, and everyone was looking forward to the 13th annual version of *Voices of South Texas* in 2022!

Left: Honor Guard salutes – Michael L. Lance and Daniel B. Pourreau

... Report submitted by Michael L. Lance

Trivia – Star of the West

The civilian merchant steamship, *Star of the West*, a 2-deck, side-wheel vessel, had a colorful service record during the Civil War. She was hired by President Franklin Buchanan's administration in early January 1861 to resupply Fort Sumter. Her speed and maneuverability were counted on to accomplish her important mission. Having sailed almost immediately under sealed orders, the *Star of the West* reached Charleston harbor before dawn on January 9. As day broke, cadets of the Citadel Military Institute spotted the ship and opened fire, preventing her from completing her mission.

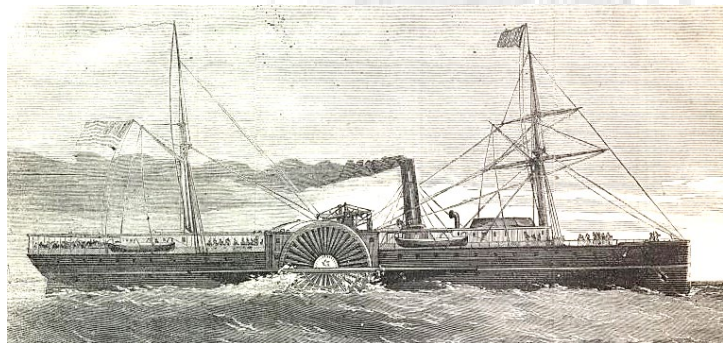


Illustration of *Star of the West* - Harper's Weekly

In April 1861, after successful voyages as a hired Federal troop transport, *Star of the West* was anchored off Pass Caballo bar leading into Matagorda Bay, close to the shore of Texas. The vessel was unexpectedly boarded and captured by Confederate Col. Earl Van Dorn with two militia units from Galveston, the *Wigfall Guards* and the *Island City Rifles*. Her name was changed to *CSS St.*

Philip, and she was sent to New Orleans, where she served as a Confederate naval station and hospital ship.

In April 1862, when Union Adm. David Farragut captured New Orleans, the *Star of the West* escaped recapture, transporting millions in gold, silver, and paper currency to Vicksburg – and then continued on to Yazoo City, Mississippi.

In March 1863, two Union ironclads and five smaller vessels passed through Yazoo Pass into the Tallahatchie River to attack Vicksburg from the rear. But they encountered an obstacle - Confederate Maj. Gen. William W. Loring had ordered the *Star of the West* sunk broadside in the Tallahatchie near Greenwood to block the Union flotilla – thus ending the vessel's colorful wartime service. After the war, the *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* used snagboats to remove obstructions from shallow rivers and waterways, which included the wreck of the *Star of the West*.

A *Star of the West* medal is awarded annually to the 'best drilled cadet' at *The Citadel*, the military college in South Carolina. A small piece of oak salvaged from the *Star of the West* is reportedly attached to the medals.

... submitted by Michael L. Lance

Wreaths Across America

The annual Wreaths Across America event took place at the Houston National Cemetery on Saturday, December 18, 2021 under the threat of heavy thunderstorms. The clouds were dark and low during the morning, but the grounds remained dry until the 11 a.m. start of the formal ceremony. In order to finish the program before the rains came, a few of the agenda elements were cancelled – including the anticipated flyover by the *Commemorative Air Force's Flying WWII War Birds*.

Daniel B. Pourreau, John C. Vander Meulen, and Michael L. Lance, representing the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp*, assembled earlier in the morning just outside the cemetery Hemicycle structure. They wore Civil War uniforms and carried muskets.

Daniel Pourreau, John Vander Meulen, & Michael Lance

Before the official ceremony began, the trio interacted with the continuously growing number of visitors. The viewing areas within the Hemicycle steadily filled to capacity with the crowd eventually overflowing out at the main entrance.

During this time, several families requested to have their children photographed with the uniformed men – and were graciously accommodated.



Along with posing for photos, the Brothers enjoyed sharing information about their weapons and uniforms with the adults and children. The youngsters were attentive and eager to learn. The parents were brought into the discussions by being asked about their possible ancestral connections to the Civil War.

Left: A Cub Scout proudly poses for a photo

During these interactions, the Brothers met members of *Cub Scout Pack 1202* and *Boy Scout Troops 1202* and *512*, led by Scout Master Robert Courtemanche. The Scouts volunteered to assist the Brothers with the laying of wreaths after the ceremony.

At the beginning of the ceremony, while the opening invocation was being offered by Reverend Jim Flagg of First United Methodist Church of Humble, the podium microphone unexpectedly failed. Without missing a beat, the Reverend continued speaking. The large crowd remained very quiet, straining to hear his unamplified words. Fortunately, a technician was able to restore the sound system before the end of the invocation.

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Wreaths Across America (Continued)



Left: A Navy JROTC Officer poses for a photo with Brothers Pourreau and Lance

Right: Daniel Pourreau lent his musket and kepi to a Cub Scout for this image



The Navy JROTC unit from Kingwood High School presented the Colors. Later during the ceremony, wreaths were placed on stands by representatives from each of the 8 branches of service – including the U.S. Space Force. Near the end of the ceremony, the *Semper Fi #3 Memorial Honor Detail* fired a 3-volley salute, followed by a bugler sounding Taps. Brothers Pourreau, Vander Meulen, and Lance had positioned themselves at the edge of the demonstration area opposite to and facing the *Semper Fi* squad - presenting arms in unison with them to honor of the multitude of veterans buried in the cemetery.



As the official ceremony in the Hemicycle ended, the *Lea Camp* Brothers marched across the demonstration grounds to pose for photos in front of the ceremonial service wreaths.

Before the Wreaths

Afterward, the unit exited the Hemicycle to lay wreaths at veteran's graves. Stacks of boxes placed within the cemetery contained over 47,000 wreaths.

The Brothers were assisted by the Scouts of Pack and Troop 1202. Approximately two dozen wreaths were obtained by the group before they moved to a row of not-yet-decorated upright grave markers. The graves in the row were then addressed one at a time, with the youngsters taking turns placing the wreaths. Each wreath-laying Scout then stepped back into line to salute with the *Lea Camp* members. The name

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Wreaths Across America (Continued)

and service unit of each buried veteran was spoken aloud by Brother John Vander Meulen.

After most of the wreaths were placed and salutes given, the rain began in earnest. It soon became a downpour - accompanied by thunder, lightning, and high winds. The last half dozen or so wreaths were hastily laid followed by a brief memorial statement by Brother Vander Meulen. Then everyone moved quickly to find shelter. Brothers Lance and Vander Meulen found refuge in the Hemicycle. Brother Pourreau headed for his car. After about 30 minutes, the rain slowed, allowing most of the soaking wet visitors to make their way towards their vehicles to depart.



Left: Before the ceremony, Daniel B. Pourreau demonstrated loading and firing procedures with his vintage Civil War-era British Enfield musket.

Right: Michael L. Lance lets a Scout experience holding a later model bayoneted Enfield as the Scout master observes.



Left: Shortly before the light rain turned into a torrential downpour, a Scout steps forward to lay a wreath at the grave of the next veteran to be remembered.

While the event was moving and memorable, the havoc caused by the thunderstorm resulted in many unladen wreaths. Volunteers were requested to return the next day to lay the wreaths still remaining in the shipping boxes on the grounds. The *Wreaths Across America* is a worthy event and presents the *Camp* with a great opportunity to honor our veterans - and to interact with the public. Hopefully, the 2022 version will have increased participation by the *Camp* - and better weather conditions!

... Report submitted by Michael Lance, Camp Cmdr.

Ancestor Profile - Pvt. Julius Krag

Service for the Union during the Civil War

Name: Julius Krag

Enlisted: 30 Jun 1863 in Buffalo, New York

Branch: Artillery

Regiment: 2nd Brigade, 22nd Army Corps - renamed 15th New York Heavy Artillery

Commander: Lt. Col. Louis Schirmer (*Enlisting Officer*)

Company: G

Mustered out: 22 Aug 1865 at end of war

PERSONAL STORY –Julius Oluf Waldemar Petersen was born in Copenhagen, Denmark on July 21, 1837, the son of Sophie Hedevig Krag and Peter Larsen Petersen. The father, Peter, served in the Danish military from the age of 15 to 32 - first as a bugler attached to an artillery unit in Skanderborg, and then as a light infantryman.

Julius was only 12 when his father died following a short illness, leaving his mother and six siblings behind. Julius, like his father, joined the Danish military as a musician at the tender age of 12. He remained in the Danish army for eight years before enlisting with the Bremen military on February 3, 1862. His service in the Bremen military probably made him “persona non grata” in his home country, as they were about to enter war with the Prussians over the disputed Duchy of Schleswig, in southern Jutland.

A year later, with tensions mounting between the Danes and the Prussians, the six-foot ¾-inch, blond-haired, blue-eyed musician and soldier was released from duty and promptly boarded the 3-mast sailing ship, *John J. Boyd*, bound for America. Julius arrived at Ellis Island on May 29, 1863 after a 29-day voyage. He then took a train to Buffalo, New York. Why he chose this destination is unclear, but a month later, on June 30th, Julius enlisted as a Musician/Private with *Co. G, 15th Regiment, New York Heavy Artillery*, using his mother’s maiden surname, Krag.

As soon as it was organized, *Co. G* joined the rest of the regiment already on duty at Fort Lyon, Virginia. Fort Lyon (*usually recorded as Camp Lyon in Northern records*) was a timber and earthwork fortification constructed south of Alexandria, Virginia as part of the defenses of Washington, D.C. Built in the weeks following the Union defeat at Bull Run, Fort Lyon was situated on one of the highest points south of Alexandria. The fort overlooked Telegraph Road, the Columbia Turnpike, the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, the Little River Turnpike, and the southern approaches to the city of Alexandria, the largest settlement in Union-occupied Northern Virginia.

The regiment performed garrison duty until March 1864, when it joined the *Army of the Potomac’s 5th Corps* at the front, assigned to Ayres' (2nd) division. The regiment took part in the engagements of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, the North Anna, Totopotomoy, Cold Harbor, White Oak swamp, the first assault on Petersburg, Weldon railroad, Poplar Grove Church, Hicksford raid, Hatcher's run, and the Appomattox campaign, including actions at Five Forks, the fall of Petersburg and Appomattox Court House. Throughout this series of battles, the regiment was conspicuous for its steadiness and bravery - and sustained severe losses.

On June 9, 1863, several men were accidentally killed by the explosion of a magazine at Fort Lyon, Virginia, a couple weeks before Julius’ arrival. At Spotsylvania, its casualties were 160 in killed, wounded, and missing. In the assault on the works of Petersburg in June 1864, it lost 85 killed and wounded; at the Weldon railroad, 14 killed, 75 wounded and 5 missing; at White Oak Road, 18 killed, 81 wounded and 11 missing. The regiment also lost heavily in the trenches before Petersburg from the constant and deadly firing which prevailed there, having 83 men killed, wounded, and missing.



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Ancestor Profile-Pvt. Julius Krag (Continued)



The 15th Regiment, New York Heavy Artillery lost by death during service 8 officers and 148 men killed and mortally wounded, plus 5 officers and 225 men of disease and other causes – for a total loss of 13 officers and 373 men - with 63 of those men dying while in the hands of the enemy.

Brig. Gen. Romeyn Ayres, Cmdr. 2nd Div., V Corps, Army of the Potomac

Julius Krag made it through unscathed until the battle of Cold Harbor, fought near Richmond, Virginia from May 31 to June 12, 1864. The most significant fighting occurred on June 3rd. The massive assault on that day ended with Union soldiers using cups, bayonets, and their hands and feet to dig out rudimentary protection under the mouths of the Confederate guns. These were quickly developed into more elaborate entrenchments. In some places, the opposing lines were less than 75 yards apart. Sharpshooting was particularly fierce for days. Ulysses S. Grant, perhaps unwilling to admit defeat, delayed the process of requesting the formal truce that was needed to gather the several hundred wounded men that were trapped between the lines.

It was not until June 7th that the terms were arranged, and Union soldiers ventured into no-man's-land to recover their comrades. Most of them had already died. One Federal remembered that *"I saw no live man lying on this ground. The wounded must have suffered horribly before death relieved them, lying there exposed to the blazing southern sun o' days, and being eaten alive by beetles o'nights."*

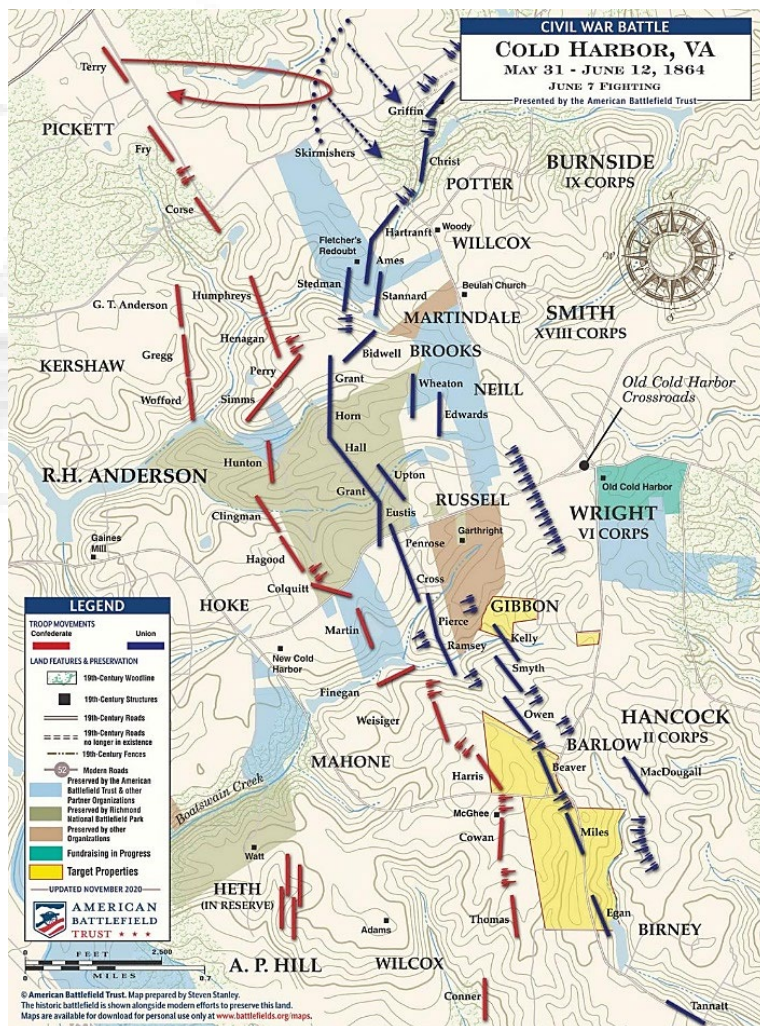
Cold Harbor Battle Map, 7 June 1864

It was one of the final battles of Union Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's Overland Campaign, and is remembered as one of American history's bloodiest, most lopsided battles. Thirteen thousand Union soldiers were killed or wounded in a hopeless frontal assault against the fortified positions of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's army.

At some point during the battle, Julius suffered a gunshot wound to the throat, and was captured on June 7th at Bottoms Bridge, a few miles south of the main battlefield. The same day, he was transferred to a hospital in Richmond, where he was treated for his injury.

A month later, on July 9, 1864, Julius was released to prisoners' quarters and, on August 13th, exchanged for Confederate soldiers at a location called Aiken's Landing on the James River. Aiken's Landing was also known as the Varina Farms Plantation established in the 17th century. It was one of two major exchange locations for soldiers during the civil war. It was connected to the south bank of

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Ancestor Profile-Pvt. Julius Krag (Continued)

the James River by a military pontoon bridge. Two days later, Julius was admitted to a convalescent hospital in Annapolis, Maryland.

MEMORANDUM FROM PRISONER OF WAR RECORDS.						No. _____					
(This blank to be used only to the arrangement of said records.)											
NAME	RANK	ORGANIZATION				INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM—					
		No. of Reg't.	State.	Arms of Service.	Co.	Records of—	Vol.	Page.	Vol.	Page.	
Krag Julius	Pvt.	15	W. Va.	Newly	G. Va.	59	76	21	96	35	89
Captured at <u>White House</u> , 1864, confined at Richmond, Va., <u>Jan 14</u> , 1864.											
Admitted to Hospital at <u>Richmond Va July 7, 64</u> , with <u>V.S. returned to</u>											
where he died <u>August July 9, 1864</u> , of <u>Admitted to Convalescent Hospital</u>											
Paroled at <u>W. Va. Sanding Va Aug 12, 1864</u> , reported at Camp Parole, Md., <u>1864</u> .											
<u>Hand Co. C. Aug. 19. Oct. 28. 64.</u>											
						Copied by <u>over</u>					



Aikens' Landing with prisoners waiting to be exchanged

On December 2, 1864, Julius Krag was granted a 30-day furlough. Now fully recovered, he used this free time to marry Anna, the 17-year-old nurses aid who cared for him at the hospital at Camp Parole.

On January 15, 1865, Julius rejoined his unit, which was besieging Petersburg, Virginia. Petersburg was a highly industrialized city of 18,000 people - and a vital railroad artery for the Confederates. Supplies arrived here from all over the South via one of the five railroads or the various plank roads. Northern forces had already cut off many of the other supply lines leading into Richmond. Petersburg was the last major outpost, and without it, Richmond, and possibly the entire Confederacy, would be lost.

On April 1, 1865, Grant forced Lee's forces out of their fortifications by attacking their supply line at Five Forks, south of Petersburg. The resounding Union triumph heralded the end of the stalemate outside Petersburg and set the stage

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Ancestor Profile-Pvt. Julius Krag (Continued)

for the breakthrough that followed the next day. On April 2, 1865, Lee informed Jefferson Davis that Petersburg and Richmond would have to be evacuated. Lee surrendered to Grant only seven days later at the Appomattox Courthouse.

At 9:00 a.m. on a bright sunny May 23rd, a single shot was fired by a signal gun. Maj. Gen. George Gordon Meade, the victor of Gettysburg, then led an estimated 80,000 men of *Army of the Potomac* down the streets of Washington, DC from Capitol Hill down Pennsylvania Avenue past crowds that numbered into the thousands. The infantry marched with 12 men across the road, followed by the divisional and corps artillery, including Julius' 15th NY Heavy Artillery Regiment. A following array of cavalry regiments stretched for another seven miles.

The mood was one of gaiety and celebration. The crowds and soldiers frequently engaged in singing patriotic songs as the procession of victorious soldiers snaked its way towards the reviewing stand in front of the White House. President Andrew Johnson, Commanding General Ulysses S. Grant, senior military leaders, the Cabinet, and leading government officials awaited in the stand. Meade dismounted when he arrived at the reviewing stand and joined the dignitaries to salute his passing men. The procession took over six hours to pass by. Julius' regiment, now under the command of Maj. Dieckman, was finally mustered out at Washington, D.C. on August 22, 1865.

Julius and Anna's Krag's first daughter, Emma, was born in Annapolis in August 1865. The Krag's eventually settled in Rome, in Northeast Georgia near the Alabama border. They raised two sons and five daughters. Julius worked as an upholsterer until his death in November 1906 at age 68. He is buried at the Myrtle Hill Cemetery in Rome, although the exact location of his grave is unknown.

K	15 H. Art'y.	N. Y.
<i>Julius Krag</i>		
Pri., Co. G., 15 Reg't N. Y. Heavy Art'y.		
Appears on Co. Muster-out Roll, dated		
<i>Washington, D.C., Aug 22, 1865</i>		
Muster-out to date		
<i>Aug 22, 1865</i>		
Last paid to		
<i>June 30, 1865</i>		
Clothing account:		
Last settled....., 186 ; drawn since \$.....100		
Due soldier \$ <i>10.25</i> 100; due U. S. \$.....100		
Am't for cloth'g in kind or money adv'd \$.....100		
Due U. S. for arms, equipments, &c., \$.....100		
Bounty paid \$ <i>25</i> 100; due \$ <i>75</i> 100		
Remarks:.....		
.....		
.....		
Book mark: <i>10334-A-25168-1865</i>		
<i>(over)</i>		
<i>J. Brown</i>		
(361)	Copyist.	



Brother Frank 'Nick' Nichols Jr. is the gr-grandson of Pvt. Julius Krag. He is also member of the *Sons of the American Revolution (Patriot #P-175603, Capt. Stephen Harriman, Jr. - b. 1727 - d. 1804)*, and is himself a decorated Navy Veteran.

Frank 'Nick' Nichols Jr.

Nick contributed most of the details and documents about his ancestor, Julius Krag, for this profile. Through his extensive research on Ancestry.com and excellent personal research through Danish contacts, details were uncovered, and other details confirmed.

Stories of other ancestors will be profiled in future issues of the *Harriet Lane*. If you would like to have your ancestor featured, please contact me at pourreaud@yahoo.com. If needed, I will be happy to help you piece their story together to put it into historical context as it relates to the greater Civil War conflict.

... submitted by Daniel B. Pourreau, Asst. Newsletter Editor



Weapons of War – The Parrott Rifle

WEAPON PROFILE

- **Type:** Rifled field and siege gun
- **In Service With:**
 - U.S. Army
 - C.S. Army (*Copies & captured pieces*)
- **Purpose:** Reducing fortifications, siege operations
- **Invented By:** Robert Parker Parrott

MANUFACTURING

- **U.S. casting foundry:** West Point Foundry, Cold Spring, NY
- **C.S. casting foundries:** Tredegar Iron Works, Richmond, VA
- **Manufactured:** 1861 to 1866
- **Tube composition:** Cast iron with a wrought iron breech band
- **Purchase price in 1861:** \$520 (U.S.)
- **Number purchased during the Civil War:** 391
- **Variants:** Lighter Navy version with shorter 96.8 inch long bore

SPECIFICATIONS

- **Bore diameter:** 4.2 inches
- **Tube length:** 131.5 inches
- **Tube weight:** 4,200 lbs. (2.1 tons)
- **Rifling type:** 5 grooves, 1.3" wide, right hand gain twist, 1 turn in 24'
- **Carriage type:** No. 2 siege carriage (2,300 lbs.)
- **Total weight (gun and carriage):** 6,500 lbs. (3.25 tons)
- **Horses required to pull:** 10
- **Number of crewmen to serve:** 9

AMMUNITION

- **Standard powder charge:** 3¼ lbs. cannon-grade black powder
- **Projectile weights:** 24 lb. bolts and 24 to 29 lb. shells

PERFORMANCE

- **Rate of Fire:** 1 round per minute
- **Muzzle Velocity:** 1,155 ft./sec.
- **Effective Range (at 15°):** Using a shell ... up to 4,800 yards (2.7 miles)
- **Projectile Flight Time (at 15°):** Using a shell ... 17⅞ seconds
- **Max Effective Range (at 25°):** Using a shell ... up to 6,700 yards (3.8 miles)
- **Projectile Flight Time (at 25°):** Using a shell ... 27 seconds
- **Max Range (at 35°):** Using a bolt ... 8,453 yards (4.8 miles)



20-pounder Parrott Rifle



Rifling inside the barrel of a Parrott Gun

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Weapons of War – The Parrott Rifle *(Continued)*

In recognition of Pvt. Julius Krag's service in the 15th New York Heavy Artillery Regiment, we are featuring one of their main battlefield weapons in this issue of the *Harriet Lane* - the 30-pounder (4.2 inch) Parrott Rifle.

The 30-pounder Parrott was the largest cannon that was both mass-produced and light enough to be horse-drawn onto the battlefield to support the troops. Lighter cannons such as the 12-pounder smooth-bore Napoleon were the most common weapon of light artillery regiments, but the 30-pounder rifled Parrott provided superior firepower, distance, and accuracy.

The story of the 30-pounder starts before the war with the development of Robert P. Parrott's system for rifled guns. The 10-pounder was developed first (and the 20-pounder actually followed the 30-pounder). While the 10-pounder, with its 2.9-inch bore, was sufficient for field duty, the Army needed larger calibers for siege and garrison roles. Parrott chose the standard 9-pounder-sized bore, which was then a dormant caliber in the Army's system, with a 4.2-inch diameter.



Left: A 30-pounder speaks at Fort Pulaski

The gun was invented by Captain Robert Parker Parrott, a West Point graduate. He was an American soldier and inventor of military ordnance. He resigned from the service in 1836 and became the superintendent of the West Point Foundry in Cold Spring, New York. He created the first Parrott rifle (and corresponding projectile) in 1860 and patented it in 1861.

Just as rifling revolutionized small arms with the 1853 pattern British Enfield, it did the same for artillery. By rotating the projectile as it travelled down the barrel, the rifling stabilized the shell and greatly improved its ballistics. The projectiles thus travelled straighter and farther than they could from smooth-bored cannons. After the Crimean War in Europe, the American Civil War became the second conflict where these new weapons of war proved their deadly accuracy and destructive power.

Parrotts were manufactured with a combination of cast and wrought iron. The cast iron made for an accurate gun, but was brittle and could suffer fractures. Hence, a large wrought-iron reinforcing band was overlaid on the breech to give it additional strength. There were prior cannons designed this way, but the method of securing this band was the innovation that allowed the Parrott to overcome the deficiencies of these earlier models. It was applied to the gun red-hot and then the gun was turned while pouring water down the muzzle, allowing the band to attach uniformly. By the end of the Civil War, both sides were using this type of gun extensively.



Reinforced Breech on the Parrott

Parrott rifles were manufactured in different sizes, from the 10-pounder Parrott rifle up to the rare 300-pounder. In the field, the 10 and 20-pounders were used by both armies. The 20-pounder Parrott rifle was the largest field gun used during the war, with the barrel alone weighing over 1,800 pounds.

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Weapons of War – The Parrott Rifle (Continued)

The smaller size was much more prevalent; it came in two bore sizes: 2.9 inch (74 mm) and 3.0-in (76 mm). Confederate forces used both bore sizes during the war, which added to the complication of supplying the appropriate ammunition to its batteries. Until 1864, Union batteries used only the 2.9-inch. The M1863, with a 3-in bore, had firing characteristics similar to the earlier model; it can be recognized by its straight barrel, without muzzle-swell. Its range was up to 2,000 yards (1,800 m) with a trained crew.

The 30-pounders featured a 19-inch band over the breech. The band added 550 pounds to the cannon's weight. The gun tube itself was 131.5 inches long, with a 120-inch-deep bore. Scaling up from the 10-pounder, the 30-pounder utilized five groove rifling, 1.3-inches wide. As with all genuine Parrotts, the rifling was right-hand gain twist, increasing in pitch closer to the muzzle. Overall, the 30-pounder rifle weighed 4,200 pounds.

At a pace that suggests normal bureaucracy may have been sidestepped, the Army rushed the larger Parrott into service. In April 1861, the War Department ordered the first six 30-pounders from the West Point Foundry in New York. In June 1861, in an odd arrangement, Parrott, who designed the rifle and supervised the production, also inspected and accepted the weapons on behalf of the Army.

The following month, one of that first batch, with a crew directed by Lt. Peter Hains, fired the first shot at First Manassas. The Federals were unable to get "Long Tom," as the gun came to be called, off the field and the Confederates took possession. The Confederate ordnance manual of 1862 provided ample detail of the piece, listing the weight as 4,190 pounds.



The 4.2-inch (30-pounder) rifles were the most widely used of the Parrott siege guns. It was mounted on a conventional siege carriage. The early pattern guns had the elevating screw under the breech, while newer pattern gun had a long screw running through the cascabel. The long elevating screws of the newer models were subject to breaking. The 4.2-inch Parrott rifles were preferred over the 4.5-inch siege rifles by some gunners because of the superiority of Parrott shells over the various shells available for the 4.5-inch siege rifle. Additionally, Union 30-pounder Parrott rifles did not have as many severe problems with bursting as was commonly found with larger Parrott rifles. However, the Confederate Tredegar's 30-pounder Parrott copies were not nearly as reliable.



Solid 30-lb Bolt for Parrott Rifle

At Fredericksburg, the effect of two Confederate Tredegar 30-pounder Parrotts was devastating to Union attackers, but both guns burst during the battle - one on the 39th round, the other on the 54th round. Lee, Longstreet, and other high Confederate officers were standing near one of the cannons when it exploded, but miraculously all escaped injury*.

During the siege of Petersburg, 44 Union 4.2-inch Parrott rifles fired 12,209 rounds. Only one gun burst when a shell detonated before clearing the muzzle. One 4.2-inch Parrott rifle also burst during the campaign against Charleston harbor, but only after it had fired 4,606 rounds. The 30-pounder was credited with phenomenal (for its day) ranges during operations around Charleston, South Carolina in particular. In his report of operations on Morris Island, Gen.

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Weapons of War – The Parrott Rifle (Continued)

Quincy Gilmore noted the ranges for the 30-pounder firing 29-pound shells as 4,800 yards at 15 degrees, and 6,700 yards at 25 degrees. For hollow shot, the range was 7,180 yards at 25 degrees and 8,453 yards at 35 degrees! **

Confederate occupiers of Fort Pulaski, at the mouth of the Savannah River, were on the receiving end of 30-pound Parrott solid bolts during the opening days of the Civil War. The defenders had laughed out loud at those pathetic Yankees putting up artillery positions way out of range of smoothbore cannon. The first solid bolt fired from a 30-pounder rifle smacked into the masonry - that Robert E. Lee had supervised the laying of - with a thump, sending a shower of broken brick raining into the moat. There was nothing for the defenders to do but keep their heads down until a breach was formed - and they could surrender with honor.



The corner of Fort Pulaski where the breach occurred was rebuilt without embrasures for lower tier cannon.

The big 30-pounders served the Army through the end of the Civil War, and into the last decade of the 19th century. Along with the 4.5-inch siege rifle, the 30-pounder Parrott was considered the heaviest weapon that could follow the field armies on campaign. With a far more useful payload than its 20-pounder cousin, the 30-pounder was highly regarded for siege operations.

From firing the first shots of great battles to reducing fortifications at great ranges, the 30-pounder Parrotts more than proved themselves during the war. I suspect that Julius Krag would have shared this sentiment.



30-pounder Parrott on No. 2 Aluminum Siege Carriage – Fort Pulaski, GA

* *Charles B. Dew, Ironmaker to the Confederacy: Joseph R. Anderson and the Tredegar Iron Works, Richmond, Library of Virginia, 1999, pg. 187*

** *Gilmore, Engineer and Artillery Operations Against the Defenses of Charleston Harbor, pg. 83.*

... submitted by Daniel B. Poureau, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2, SUVCW

Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 23)

The *Medal of Honor* is the USA's highest military honor, awarded for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty. It was first awarded during the Civil War after President Lincoln signed a bill on December 21, 1861 containing a provision for the medal for the Navy. It was "to be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landsmen, and Marines as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry and other seamanlike qualities during the present war."

Left: Navy Version of the original Medal of Honor (1862)

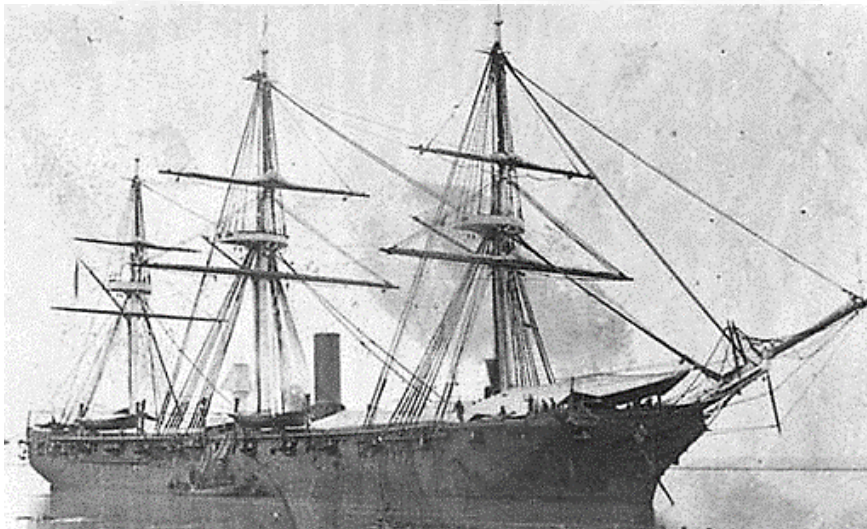
Editor: With this issue of the Harriet Lane, in honor of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN - the namesake of our Camp, I am continuing to present a review of the recipients of the Medal of Honor who served in the U.S. Navy during the Civil War.



- **Nicholas Irwin – Seaman** – Nicholas Irwin was born in Denmark in 1833. He immigrated to the United States and was living in New York when he joined the U.S. Navy. He served during the Civil War as a seaman on the *USS Brooklyn*. At the Battle of Mobile Bay on August 5, 1864, he "fought his gun with skill and courage" despite heavy fire. For this action, he was awarded the Medal of Honor 4 months later. Irwin died April 19, 1896 at age 62 or 63, and was buried at Marion National Cemetery in Marion, Indiana. His Medal of Honor citation reads:

On board the U.S.S. Brooklyn during action against rebel forts and gunboats and with the ram Tennessee, in Mobile Bay, 5 August 1864. Despite severe damage to his ship and the loss of several men on board as enemy fire raked her decks from stem to stern, Irwin fought his gun with skill and courage throughout the furious battle which resulted in the surrender of the prize rebel ram Tennessee and in the damaging and destruction of batteries at Fort Morgan.

- **John H. James – Captain of the Top** – John H. James was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1835. He was still living in that city when he joined the U.S. Navy. He served during the Civil War as a Captain of the Top and gun captain on the *USS Richmond*. At the Battle of Mobile Bay on August 5, 1864, he "fought his gun with skill and courage" despite heavy fire. For this action, he was awarded the Medal of Honor 4 months later. James died in 1914 at age 78 or 79, and was buried at Dayton National Cemetery in Dayton, Ohio. His Medal of Honor citation reads:



USS Richmond

As captain of a gun on board the U.S.S. Richmond during action against rebel forts and gunboats and with the ram Tennessee in Mobile Bay, 5 August 1864. Despite damage to his ship and the loss of several men on board as enemy fire raked her decks, James fought his gun with skill and courage throughout a furious 2-hour battle which resulted in the surrender of the rebel ram Tennessee and in the damaging and destruction of batteries at Fort Morgan.

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Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients (Part 23 continued)

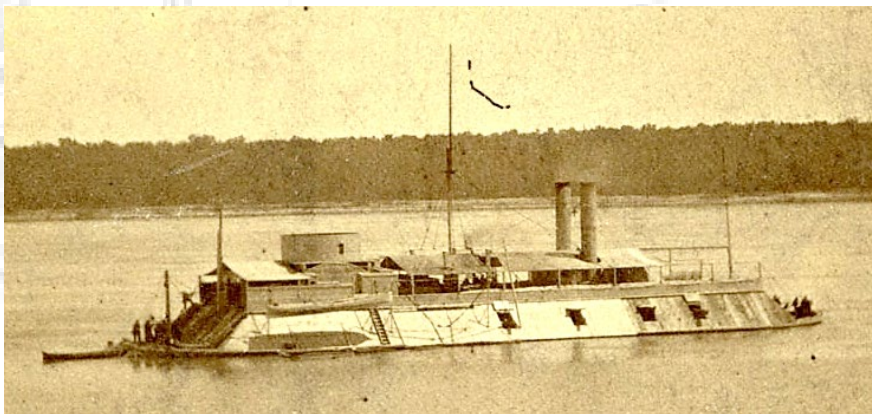
- **Thomas Jenkins – Seaman** – Thomas Jenkins was born in Australia in 1831. He later immigrated to the United States, enlisting in the U.S. Navy from New York in 1861. During the Civil War, Jenkins served as a Seaman on the ironclad *USS Cincinnati*. On May 27, 1863, during the Siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi, the *Cincinnati* was ordered to steam down the Mississippi River and destroy 2 Confederate artillery guns which were impeding the advance of Gen. Sherman's right flank. Between the *Cincinnati* and the two guns was a Confederate 11-piece heavy artillery battery which, from its position atop a bluff, had command over that entire stretch of the river. The Union forces had been aware of the battery, but, shortly before the *Cincinnati* received its orders, the battery had disappeared and was assumed to have been moved elsewhere. In fact, the battery's guns had been removed from view by simply lowering them from their carriages, both to protect them from the fire of ships on the river and to deceive the Union forces. The commander of the battery had discovered the Union signal code, and when he intercepted a message describing the *Cincinnati's* mission, he had the guns re-assembled during the night and concealed them with brush.

On the morning of May 27, the *Cincinnati* headed downstream and reached its target - the 2 Confederate artillery guns. Just as the iron-clad fired its first shots, the hidden battery on the bluff also opened fire, completely surprising the Union ship. The first Confederate shell scored a direct hit, passing through *Cincinnati's* magazine and exiting through the bottom of the ship. Another shell disabled the ship's steering mechanism. The *Cincinnati's* own guns could not be elevated enough to return fire on the high battery. Knowing his ship was doomed, Commander, Lt. George Bache, headed the *Cincinnati* full-steam back up the river in search of a place on which to beach the ship.

A suitable spot being found, the *Cincinnati* was run aground, a hawser was tied to a tree, and a gangplank was laid out. Before all the men could evacuate the vessel, the hawser came loose and the ship slipped from the bank out into the river, where it began to sink in about 18 feet of water. Many of the crewmen, including the Commander, could not swim; those who could swim, including Jenkins, began to abandon ship. Still under intense fire, Jenkins and 3 others swam back and forth, helping their crewmates to shore. They then reboarded the *Cincinnati*, hastily repaired a small boat which had been damaged by Confederate fire, and loaded it with men who were too badly wounded to be dragged through the water. After the commander also climbed into the boat, it was towed to the safety of a Union flotilla.

USS Cincinnati

For these actions, Thomas Jenkins was awarded the Medal of Honor 45 days later. The other 3 swimmers, and 2



more *Cincinnati* crewmen also received the medal for their part in the action. Jenkins was medically discharged on Christmas Day, 1863. On August 21, 2009, the FBI donated Jenkins' medal to the *Congressional Medal of Honor Museum*, located on the museum ship, *USS Yorktown*, at Patriot's Point, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. The FBI came into possession of the medal when it was confiscated during an investigation into stolen and counterfeit Medals of Honor. Jenkins' Medal of Honor citation reads:

Served on board the U.S.S. Cincinnati during the attack on the Vicksburg batteries and at the time of her sinking, 27 May 1863. Engaging the enemy in a fierce battle, the Cincinnati, amidst an incessant fire of shot and shell, continued to fire her guns to the last, though so penetrated by shell fire that her fate was sealed. Serving bravely during this action, Jenkins was conspicuously cool under the fire of the enemy, never ceasing to fight until this proud ship went down, "her colors nailed to the mast".

... to be continued next issue with Part 24

Upcoming Camp Activities

Jan 8, 2022	Battle of Galveston Commemoration Ceremony Episcopal Church Cemetery 4001 Ave. K at Broadway in Galveston, Texas 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	
Feb 2022	Battle for the Powder Mill Heritage Day at Spring Creek Park 15012 Brown Rd., Tomball, Texas	EVENT CANCELLED FOR 2022
Mar 2022	Homestead Heritage Day Jesse Jones Park 20634 Kenswick Dr., Humble, Texas	EVENT TENTATIVE FOR 2022
May 30, 2022	Memorial Day Ceremony Houston National Cemetery 10410 Veterans Memorial Dr., Houston, Texas	
	Memorial Day Ceremony Washington/Glenwood Cemeteries 2911 Washington Ave., Houston, Texas	

2021 Camp Officers, Staff, and Social Media Links

Commander	Michael L. Lance	mlance387@gmail.com	Camp Council	Gary E. White
Sr. Vice-Commander	Ben Bonnett	benelect@gmail.com	Camp Council	Stevenson T. Holmes
Jr. Vice-Commander	Michael D. Rappe	mrappe@comcast.net	Camp Council	Thomas F. Coughlin
Secy./Treas.	Steve D. Schulze	sdsms@swbell.net		
Chaplain	Stephen F. Duncan		Civil War Mem. Off.	Harrison G. Moore IV
Patriotic Instructor	Charles L. Duke		Facebook Mgr.	John C. Vander Meulen
Historian	Michael L. Lance		Webmaster	Thomas M. Eishen
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Website – Dept. of Texas	http://www.txsvu.org/
Website – National SUVCW	http://www.suvcw.org/
Facebook – Houston Camp	https://www.facebook.com/LtCmdrEdwardLeaCamp2HoustonSUVCW/
Facebook – Dept. of Texas	https://www.facebook.com/SUVCW.TX.LA/

The *Harriet Lane* newsletter is published quarterly (March, June, September, and December). Send questions or comments concerning the newsletter to the Editor at: mlance387@gmail.com



Saluting a U.S. Veteran – Houston National Cemetery

*“Union can achieve everything when sustained by
gallant hearts and correct principles,
while anarchy and insubordination must fail in the
achievement of everything beneficial and glorious to mankind.”*

1837 quote by

Sam Houston

(b. 1793 – d. 1863)

U.S. Representative from Tennessee	1823 - 1827
6 th Governor of Tennessee	1827 - 1829
Texas House of Representatives	1839 - 1841
1 st & 3 rd President of the Republic of Texas	1841 - 1844
U.S. Senator from Texas	1846 - 1859
Governor of Texas	1859 - 1861