

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Lt. Commander Edward Lea U.S.N. – Camp No. 2

Harriet Lane

Mar 2021

Volume 27

No. 1

From the Commander's Tent



Greetings Brothers!

As we move into the second quarter of 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect our outside activities, meetings, and events. Even so, the Camp hosted a very moving *Battle of Galveston Commemoration* ceremony in Galveston on January 9th. That signature event proved to be a resounding success - even though the number of organizations and participants attending were a bit less than usual. Many thanks and a tip of the kepi to all the individuals who played a role in making it happen!

As you probably know, because of the pandemic, we integrated the Zoom platform into our monthly Camp meetings. That change produced positive results by increasing meeting attendance. Brothers living at a distance, or otherwise unable to attend our meetings in person, were able to join us virtually. It has been a pleasure to see and interact with Brothers we had not seen in a while. Their virtual participation in the business of the Camp is most welcome. Since we are expecting to continue incorporating Zoom into our meetings from now on, much attention has been given to upgrading the quality of the audio and video experience of our Zoom attendees. We have made good progress to that end! A special "thank you" goes out to Brother Vander Meulen for his excellent work in administering the Zoom platform!

The Camp also conducted another virtual *Round Table* discussion and a *Strategic Planning* meeting via Zoom during the first quarter. Again, these online meetings are an excellent way to involve more Brothers in the operations and direction of the Camp. Everyone's voice is important, so I invite you to join us for the next Zoom session.

Our Camp *Facebook Group* page continues to gain momentum as several Brothers have posted interesting, entertaining, and educational items. So far, thirty-two members of the Camp are engaged with the page.

Finally, I invite each of you to consider what service you individually can offer the Camp as a volunteer. Your contribution, no matter how seemingly insignificant, will benefit us all – *and make our Camp and our Order stronger!*

Yours always in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Michael Lance - Camp Commander

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Membership Muster

Camp Member

Mr. Michael L. Lance - *Cmdr., Historian, Editor*
Mr. Ben C. Bonnett - *SVC, Eagle Scout Coord.*
Mr. Michael D. Rappe - *JVC*
Mr. Stephen D. Schulze * ** *** *Secr./Treas.*
 Mr. Robert P. Anderson
 Mr. Mark H. Andrus
 Mr. John E. W. Baay II
 Mr. Stephen P. Barrett
 Mr. Curtiss M. Beinhorn
 Mr. Michael E. Bierman
 Mr. Willie E. B. Blackmon
 Mr. Michael T. Boyd
 Mr. William C. Boyd
 Mr. William C. Buell
 Mr. Lawrence K. Casey Jr. ***
 Mr. C. Dale Cates ^
 Mr. Mark T. Chemay
 Mr. Thor E. Chester
 Mr. James F. Clay III
 Mr. Tommy D. Clay
 Mr. Robert D. Clements
 Mr. Walter G. Coffey
 Mr. William F. Cole ***
 Michael T. Collins
 Mr. Steven G. Coons
 Mr. Thomas F. Coughlin * **
 Mr. Donald G. Deppe
 Mr. Grady J. Driver
 Mr. Jonathan M. Driver
 Mr. Terry E. Dudley
 Mr. Charles L. Duke – *Patriotic Instructor*
 Rev. Stephen F. Duncan - *Chaplain*
 Mr. Thomas M. Eishen – *Signals Off., Web Mstr.*
 Mr. Karl R. Falken
 Mr. Robert T. Giffin ***
 Mr. Jerry D. Gipson
 Mr. Daniel W. Goldberg
 Mr. Thomas L. Gorham
 Mr. James S. Hackett * - *Council*
 Mr. William F. Haenn III
 Mr. Henry D. Hall Jr.
 Mr. Randy L. Hall
 Mr. Samuel F. Hampton *
 Mr. Kenneth H. Harrington
 Mr. Steve M. Hart
 Mr. Robert L. Heath
 Mr. Alan D. Hess
 Mr. Harrold K. Henck Jr. ~ *
 Mr. Matthew Hoffart
 Dr. Stevenson T. Holmes * ** - *Council*
 Mr. Zane F. Hooper ^ - *Color Bearer*
 Mr. Bruce G. Hunsperger
 Mr. Thomas I. Jackson
 Mr. Judd A. Jones
 Mr. Ford H. Kinsley, Jr.
 Mr. Ernest C. Kobs IV

Civil War Ancestor

Pvt. Finas Euen Lance
 Pvt. John Walker Daniels
 Pvt. David C. Murphy
 Pvt. Henry Ludwig Schulze
 1st Sgt. Hiram Lorenzo Pierce
 Pvt. Matthew Barth
 Cpl. James R. Middlebrook
 Pvt. Enoch A. Barrett
 Pvt. John Lancaster
 Pvt. Peter E. Fry
 Pvt. John Glover Sr.
 Pvt. Thomas Howey
 Pvt. Lyndon Boyd
 Pvt. Mathias Stonebrook
 Chaplain Josiah Brown
 --
 Pvt. Isaiah Paxton Watts
 Pvt. John A. Watts
 Cpl. Dred W. Tucker
 Cpl. Dred W. Tucker
 Cpl. Samuel McClain
 Pvt. Nicholas Almire
 Pvt. Jacob E. Brock
 Pvt. Cephas Henry Collins
 1st Lt. Loren Glazier Cowdrey
 2nd Cpl. Henry A. Sauter
 Pvt. Lewis P. Moore
 Pvt. David Anderson Dunn
 Pvt. David Anderson Dunn
 Cpl. Adam Mehling
 Pvt. Joseph Allen
 Pvt. Isaac Duncan
 Pvt. Andreas Pfothenauer
 Pvt. Jacob Lohrer
 Pvt. Robert Newton Button
 Pvt. Peter B. Gipson
 Pvt. Michael Comer
 Pvt. George William Gorham
 Cpl. Thadeus Hendrickson
 Sgt. William F. Grumbine
 Pvt. William Mullinax
 Pvt. Henry Huffman
 Pvt. Samuel Pate Hampton
 Pvt. James Morfed Aston
 Pvt. Robert Milton Hart
 Pvt. Hiram T. Heath
 Pvt. Joseph Hess
 Pvt. Phillip Jacob Appfel
 Sgt. William Bell Jones
 Pvt. Warren W. White
 --
 Pvt. Peter Hunsperger
 Sgt. Isaac Newton Stubblefield
 Pvt. John A. Watts
 Cpl. John Kinsley
 Pvt. Robert V. Osteen

Service Unit

Co F, 12th Reg't, Ind. Inf. & Co E, 59th Reg't, Ind. Inf.
 Co. I, 6th Regiment, Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery
 Co. E, 11th Regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry
 Co. D, 9th Regiment, Illinois Volunteers
 Co. G, 106th Regiment, Illinois Infantry
 Co. B, 52nd Regiment, Illinois Infantry
 Co D, 17th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
 Co. L, 50th Regiment, New York Engineers
 Co. F, 50th Regiment, Illinois Infantry
 Co. D, 5th Pennsylvania Cavalry
 Co. C, 85th U.S. Colored Troops
 Co. A, 38th Regiment, Illinois Infantry
 Co. F, 144th Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry
 Co. F, 142nd Regiment, Ohio Infantry
 15th Regiment, Maine Infantry
 --
 Co. H, 84th Regiment, Indiana Infantry
 Independent Co., Trumbull Guards, Ohio Infantry
 Co. H, 107th U.S. Colored Troops
 Co. H, 107th U.S. Colored Troops
 Co. C, 203rd Regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry
 Co. E, 42nd Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry
 85th Regiment, New York Infantry
 Co. F, 38th Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry
 Co. G, 86th Regiment, Indiana Infantry
 Co. A, 8th Battalion, District of Columbia Infantry
 Co. K, 7th Regiment, Illinois Infantry
 Co. F, 48th Regiment, Kentucky Volunteers
 Co. F, 48th Regiment, Kentucky Volunteers
 Co. K, 1st Regiment, Michigan Light Artillery
 Co. D, 48th Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry
 Co. M, 4th Missouri State Militia Cavalry
 Co. F, 4th Regiment, Missouri Infantry
 Co. L, 5th Regiment, Pennsylvania Cavalry
 Co. D, 13th Regiment, Illinois Infantry
 Co B, 1st Alabama & Tennessee Independ. Vidette Cav.
 Co. C, 6th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry
 Co. B, 153rd Ohio Infantry
 4th Kentucky Mounted Infantry
 Co. D, 93rd Regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry
 Co. E, 6th Illinois Cavalry
 4th Michigan Reorganized Infantry
 Co. G, 47th Regiment, Missouri Infantry
 Co. C, 4th Regiment, Tennessee Volunteer Infantry
 Co. K, 7th Regiment, Illinois Infantry
 Co. E, 12th Regiment, New Hampshire Infantry
 Co. C, 101st Regiment, New York Infantry
 Co. A, 46th Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry
 Co. B, 1st Regiment, Alabama Cavalry
 Co. K, 44th U.S. Colored Infantry
 --
 Co C, 9th Regiment, Missouri State Militia Cavalry
 2nd Regiment, Texas Cavalry
 Independent Co., Trumbull Guards, Ohio Infantry
 Co. K, 58th Regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry
 Co. B & F, 2nd Reg't, North Carolina Mounted Infantry

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Membership Muster *(continued)*

Camp Member

Mr. James A. Koontz
 Mr. David K. LaBrot * **

 Mr. Brian S. Lang
 Mr. George R. Lang
 Mr. John P. Lenes - *Guide*
 Mr. Kurt A. Letzring
 Dr. Craig A. Livingston ^
 Mr. Robert L. Lockwood
 Mr. George E. Loper
 Mr. John R. Loper
 Mr. Larry W. Lockett
 Mr. Justin W. Martin
 Mr. William W. Martin
 Mr. Randall S. McDaniel
 Mr. Faber F. McMullen III
 Mr. Michael R. McVey
 Mr. John Miles ^
 Mr. Lloyd B. Monroe Jr.
 Mr. Harrison G. Moore IV * ~ ** *** Mem. Off.
 Mr. Gene P. Munson
 Mr. Frank S. Nichols Jr.
 Mr. Larry D. Nuckels
 Mr. Samuel A. Packer
 Mr. Donald H. Patrick Jr. ***
 Mr. David L. Peavy
 Mr. James R. Perry
 Mr. William A. Pollard *
 Mr. Daniel B. Pourreau
 Mr. Herbert W. Powers Jr.
Mr. Charles F. Reed +
 Mr. Sam J. Reed
 Mr. Sanford C. Reed
 Mr. Stephen C. Rogers
 Mr. Michael P. Satterfield
 Mr. John E. Schneider Jr.
 Mr. Jeffrey R. Schurwon
 Mr. Harry D. Scott
 Mr. Jeremy Searls
 Mr. Michael D. Seeber
 Mr. Mark S. Shackelford
 Mr. Scott D. Shuster
 Mr. James M. Sigler
 Mr. James P. Smith
 Mr. William S. Smith
 Mr. David M. Staggs
 Mr. Terry T. Sutton
 Mr. Jerry B. Taylor
 Mr. Nelson E. Thibault ***
 Mr. Chapman P. Traylor
 Mr. Nash S. Traylor
 Mr. Joseph M. Tucker
 Mr. Robert C. Tumey Sr. ***
 Mr. John C. Vander Meulen
 Mr. John A. Wade
 Rev. Ross E. Waggoner
 Mr. Lee R. Wallace

Civil War Ancestor

Pvt. Michael M. Bean
 Hosp. Stew. Louis Laborot
 Pvt. Chas Edward Laborot
 Pvt. Isaac Samuel Lang
 Pvt. Robert White Lang
 Pvt. Wilson Keffer
 Pvt. Alexander McLain
 --
 Pvt. Chauncey A. Lockwood
 Pvt. Fredrick Lohmann
 Pvt. Frederick Lohmann
 Pvt. Merrill J. Stearns
 Sgt. William Asbury Keck
 Sgt. William Asbury Keck
 Pvt. Fernando Cortez Nichols
 Pvt. Michael Lewis McMullen
 Pvt. Jeffrey Bentley
 --
 Pvt. Harrison Monroe
 Pvt. William Moore
 Pvt. Joseph Stoner
 Musician/Pvt. Julius Oluf Krag
 Pvt. John B. Nuckels
 Pvt. Michael Henry Finnegan
 Sgt. Squire Merlin Harris
 Coal Heaver Terence F. Smith
 Pvt. James R. Cook
 Sgt. Jacob P. Kinney
 Pvt. Aaron Ruple Porter
 Pvt. Lief Holbrook Powers
Pvt. Samuel King Reed
 1st Lt. Axel Hingford Reed
 Pvt. Jacob Wise
 Capt. George Augustus Knight
 Sgt. Jacob H. Welsh
 Lt. Col. Casper Carl Schneider
 Pvt. Martin V. B. Leonard
 Pvt. William W. Williams
 Cpl. Abram Madison McCollum
 Pvt. Lorenzo Seeber
 Pvt. Andrew Stevenson
 Pvt. John S. Darling
 Pvt. William Henry Sigler
 Pvt. Aaron Hendrickson
 Pvt. Dayton E. Smith
 Cpt. George Henry York
 Pvt. Isaac Cherry Sutton
 Pvt. Robert A. Glover
 Pvt. John J. Long
 Cpl. John Anderson Laws
 Cpl. John Anderson Laws
 Pvt. Joseph Henry Wells
 --
 Pvt. Frederick Ferdinand Sewart
 Pvt. William Elgie Woodcock
 Capt. William Sharpe
 Cpl. Andrew Wallace

Service Unit

Co. A, 2nd Regiment, Arkansas Infantry
 Co E, 12th & Co L, 5th Missouri State Militia Cavalry
 Co E, 12th & Co L, 5th Missouri State Militia Cavalry
 Scotts Guard, 6th Indiana State Militia
 Co I, 12th Regiment, Tennessee Calvary
 Co. B, 8th Regiment, West Virginia Infantry
 Co. E, 7th Regiment, Michigan Cavalry
 --
 Co. H, 14th Regiment, Wisconsin Infantry
 Co. H, 6th Regiment, West Virginia Infantry
 Co. H, 6th Regiment, West Virginia Infantry
 Co. E, 37th Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry
 Co. G, 145th Regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry
 Co. G, 145th Regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry
 Co. A, 7th Regiment, Indiana Infantry
 Co. M, 13th Regiment, Indiana Cavalry
 Co. C, 126th Regiment, Illinois Infantry
 --
 Co. C, 2nd Kansas Colored Inf. (83rd U.S. Colored Inf.)
 Co. K, 63rd Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry
 Co. K, 126th Regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry
 Co. G, 15th Regiment, New York Heavy Artillery
 Co. B, 8th Tennessee Cavalry
 Co. G, 2nd Arkansas Cavalry
 6th Missouri State Militia Cavalry
USS North Carolina and USS Wyandotte
 Co. C, 3rd Regiment, Wisconsin Infantry
 Co. E, 77th Regiment, Ohio Infantry
 Co. E, 1st Michigan Vol. Engineer Regiment
 Co. D, 104th Regiment, Illinois Infantry
Co. F, 1st Arkansas Cavalry
 Co. K, 2nd Regiment, Minnesota Infantry
 Co. I, 101st Regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry
 Co. A & H, 188th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry
 Co. G, 21st Pennsylvania Cavalry
 103rd Regiment, New York Infantry
 Shields' 19th Independent Battery Ohio Light Artillery
 Co. C, 2nd Regiment, Missouri Infantry
 Co. F, 8th New York Heavy Artillery
 Co. C, 10th Regiment, Illinois Infantry
 Co. A. 88th Regiment, Ohio Infantry
 Co. F, 171st Regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry
 Co. M, 3rd Reg't NY Cav. & Co F, 5th Reg't Excelsior Brig.
 Co. F, 55th Regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry
 Co. D, 134th Regiment, Ohio Infantry
 Co. B, 5th Regiment California Infantry
 Co. G, 8th Regiment, Indiana Infantry
 Co. H, 84th Regiment, New York Infantry
 Co. C, 139th Regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry
 Battery B, 1st Battalion, Tennessee Light Artillery
 Battery B, 1st Battalion, Tennessee Light Artillery
 Co. I, 3rd Regiment, Kentucky Cavalry
 --
 Co. K, 143rd Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry
 Co. F, 1st Tennessee Mounted Infantry
 3rd Regiment, Wisconsin Cavalry
 Co. C, 14th Kentucky Cavalry

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Membership Muster *(continued)*

Camp Member

Mr. Tracy I. Wallace - *Guard*
 Mr. Samuel P. Wheeler ^
 Mr. Bruce D. White
 Mr. Gary White * ~ *** *Council*

Mr. Dustin Whittenburg
 Mr. Nathaniel D. Wilburn
 Mr. Roy A. Willis
 Mr. Lee H. Wilson
 Mr. Robert A. Yeager Sr.
 Mr. Patrick M. Young
 Mr. Edward Cotham # *Author*

Civil War Ancestor

Cpl. Andrew Wallace
 --
 Pvt. Addison H. White
 Commissary Sgt. William Judson
 Pvt. Andrew Wilson White
 Pvt. George Burkhart Whittenburg
 Pvt. Josephus Ruel King
 Pvt. Joseph C. Upson
 Pvt. Charles Wilson
 Pvt. Daniel Yeager
 Pvt. William Young
 --

Service Unit

Co. C, 14th Kentucky Cavalry
 --
 Co. A, 13th Tennessee Cavalry, Bradford's Battalion
 Co. D, 1st Regiment, New York Mounted Rifles
 Co. L, 4th Regiment, New York Heavy Artillery
 Co. F, 23rd Regiment, Missouri Infantry
 Co. K, 17th Regiment, Indiana Infantry
 Co A, 48th Reg't IN Inf & 5th Inf. Reg't, US Vet Res Corps
 Co. D, 22nd Regiment, New York Infantry
 Co. B, 205th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry
 30th Regiment, Pennsylvania Militia
 --

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

* *Past Camp Cmdr.*
 ^^ *Junior Member*

** *Past Dept. Cmdr.*
 ^ *Associate Member*

*** *Life Member*
 # *Honorary Member*

Camp Calendar

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Tue	Apr 13	Monthly Meeting – 7:00 p.m. Speaker: Michael Lance	Trini Mendenhall Community Center 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, TX
Tue	May 11	Monthly Meeting – 7:00 p.m. Speaker: TBA	Trini Mendenhall Community Center 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, TX
Sat	May 22	Camp Roundtable meeting – 10:00 a.m.	Online Zoom meeting
Mon	May 31	Memorial Day Ceremony – 9:30 a.m. Cannon Firing, Wreath Placement, Musket Salute <u>Alternate location:</u> Memorial Day Ceremony – 10:00 a.m.	Houston National Cemetery 10410 Veterans Memorial Dr., Houston, TX Glenwood Cemetery, Sec H-3, Lot 43, GAR plot 2525 Washington Ave., Houston, TX
Tue	Jun 8	Monthly Meeting - 6:30 pm Speaker: TBA	Trini Mendenhall Community Center 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, TX
Tue	Jul 13	Monthly Meeting - 6:30 pm Speaker: TBA	Trini Mendenhall Community Center 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, TX
Tue	Aug 10	No monthly Camp meeting in August	--

Volunteer Opportunities

This is a new feature that will continue to be included in future issues of the *Harriet Lane*. If you wish to volunteer service to the Camp, this section will describe the current opportunities available.

- * **Assistant webmaster** – a back-up webmaster is needed to learn how to edit and update the Camp website.
- * **Assistant newsletter editor** – entails assisting the current Editor by writing after-action reports, submitting photos of activities, and writing articles of interest for the quarterly Camp newsletter.
- * **Welfare Committee volunteer** – entails assisting the committee Chair with contacting Brothers of the Camp and other related assignments as needed.
- * **Treasurer trainee** – a volunteer is needed to learn the various responsibilities of Camp Treasurer. The volunteer must be willing to assume the position full-time upon the retirement of the current Treasurer.

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Camp Cmdr. Michael Lance.

2021 Camp Officers and Staff



Michael Lance
Commander



Ben Bonnett
Sr. Vice-Comdr.



Michael Rappe
Jr. Vice-Comdr.



Steve Schulze
Secretary/Treasurer



Stephen Duncan
Chaplain



Stevenson Holmes
Camp Council



Thomas Coughlin
Camp Council



Gary White
Camp Council



Charles Duke
Patriotic Instructor



Harrison Moore
Civil War Mem. Officer



Michael Lance
Historian



Zane Hooper
Color Bearer



Ben Bonnett
Eagle Scout Coordinator



Tracy Wallace
Guard



William Pollard
Guide

The *Harriet Lane* is published quarterly (March, June, September, and December). Send questions, suggestions or corrections concerning the newsletter to mlance@cruseone.com

Cmdr. Michael L. Lance
Sr. Vice-Comdr. Ben Bonnett
Jr. Vice-Comdr. Michael Rappe
Secretary/Treas. Stephen Schulze

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Lt. Comdr. Edward Lea Camp USN Camp #2 website <https://www.camplea.org/>
Lt. Comdr. Edward Lea Camp Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3342856272607059>
SUVCW Department of Texas including Louisiana <http://www.txsv.org/>
SUVCW National Headquarters <http://www.suvcw.org/>

New Members

Introducing: Charles F. Reed

Greetings, I am very glad to have been able to join the *SUVCW* and to participate in honoring our veteran ancestors. I am looking forward to doing my part to foster appreciation for the sacrifices they made.

My name is Charles Reed, and I am a Houstonian born and raised - having even stayed in town for college at Rice University. I am a high school calculus teacher in the Spring Branch ISD. I am also involved in my Presbyterian Church (PCA). I look forward to meeting the rest of you as we do the work of our organization.

Editor: Brother Reed joins the Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2 based on the Civil War service of his 3rd great-grandfather, Samuel King Reed, who served with Co. F, 1st Arkansas Cavalry. Welcome, Brother Reed!



Trivia: Self-Service Meals

While failures in the distribution system were corrected to some degree in areas close to home, the changing nature of the war altered the commissary's protocol. As the armies of the South and North began to move across contested territories, it became less practical to rely on central mess tents. With men sometimes in camp, sometimes scattered across the landscape at posts they could not leave, it was more practical for soldiers to carry their own rations. Certainly, company kitchens were used throughout the war, but the majority of soldiers soon became responsible for much of their own cooking.

Often, this suited them just fine. Once the armies began to be mobile, the quality of the central mess tents' cooking declined, and the men preferred to be responsible for their own victuals. The administrative officers found this to be an acceptable solution for they were now accountable only for the delivery of food, not for its preparation.

Every few days or so, various rations would be distributed to individuals. Small groups of men would take responsibility for their own meals and form their own 'mess', often consisting of six to eight soldiers who had rotating responsibilities around the campfire.

Well into the war, however, there was a fundamental disconnection between the promised supply of food and what was actually delivered. The utopian ambitions did not even come close to the desperate reality. In 1862, the *Commissary of Subsistence Volunteers* published a cookbook by Captain James M. Sanderson that was distributed to the Union soldiers, offering 'Culinary Hints for the Soldier.' It included an introduction:

"No Army in the world is so well provided for in the shape of food, either as to quantity or quality, as the army of the United States and very little attention on the part of the cook will enable him to lay up a liberal amount weekly. To the credit of the company [indecipherable], no one man can consume his daily ration although many waste it."

Overly confident of the supply department's ability to provide rations, Captain Sanderson also offered recipes for Brazilian Stew, Pork Soup with Vegetables, Pea Soup, and Corned Beef with Cabbage. In his optimism, he even recommended dishes that could be made from leftovers, such as 'Bubble and Squeak':

"This is an old and favorite mode of getting rid of bits of corned beef among good housewives at home, and can be advantageously introduced into camps. Any pieces of cold corned or salt beef that may be on hand should be cut into slices and sprinkled with pepper; then put them in a pan, with a little grease or fat, and fry them slightly. Boil some cabbage and squeeze it quite dry; then cut it up very fine, and serve a piece of beef with a spoonful of cabbage, first seasoning it with pepper, salt, and vinegar."

....source: 'Beyond the Battlefield', pgs. 131-133, edited by David Madden, 2000

Ancestor Profile – Julius Oluf Krag

My great-grandfather was born in Copenhagen, Denmark on July 21, 1837 and given the name of Oluf Julius Waldemar Petersen. He was baptized at the Citadelkirken in Copenhagen, Denmark on December 29, 1837. At age 12, he joined the Danish military as a musician and is believed to have been an oboe player like his father. Young Oluf served in the 12th Depot Company, 17th Brigade.

About 1861, at age 24, Oluf was released from the Danish military. On February 3, 1862, he joined the infantry of the Hanesestadt in Bremen, Germany. His enlistment documents describe him as Protestant and a bachelor. Physically, he was described as being 6' $\frac{3}{4}$ " tall, slim, with blond hair and blue eyes. His nose and mouth were ordinary, and he had a blond beard. His chin was broad, and his face was oval without special features.

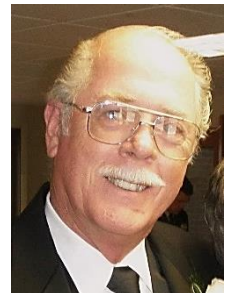
His German military service did not last long. On April 3, 1863, he was deported (reason unknown) and put on a ship for Denmark. But somehow, he never made it to Denmark. He arrived in New York aboard the sailing ship *John J. Boyd* on May 30, 1863. Oluf was a civilian for only a very short time as he enlisted in the U.S. Army on June 30, 1863 in Buffalo, New York as a musician. He was assigned to the 15th New York Heavy Artillery, Company G. He gave his name as Julius Krag. For reasons that have never been found, he took on his mother's maiden name of Krag and dropped the Oluf Waldemar after arriving in the U.S.

Julius Krag's military service record shows he was wounded and captured as a prisoner of war on June 7, 1864 at Bottoms Bridge, Virginia suffering from a *Vulnus Sclopeticum* (Latin for 'gunshot wound to the throat') and hospitalized in Richmond, Virginia. He returned to quarters on July 19, 1864 and was paroled August 13, 1864 at Aiken's Landing, Virginia. He was then admitted to the convalescent hospital at Camp Parole in Annapolis, Maryland on August 15, 1864. He was then furloughed December 2, 1864 for 30 days at Annapolis and is believed to have married Anna Christina Gock during that time. He returned to duty with the 15th New York Heavy Artillery on January 14, 1865. According to his pension application, he stated he contracted varicose veins during the forced march to Appomattox Courthouse and was there for the surrender of General Lee to General Grant. He was also a participant in the Grand Review in Washington, D.C. and was mustered out of service on August 22, 1865 in Washington, D.C.

Julius Krag's first child was born in Maryland, his second child was born in New York, his third in Richmond, Virginia, his fourth in Selma, Alabama, and his last three children were all born in Rome, Georgia. His wife passed away in Rome, Georgia in 1882 and Julius passed away November 12, 1906. Both are buried in the Myrtle Hill Cemetery in Rome, Georgia.

Julius Krag's sixth child was my grandmother, Anna Helga Krag. She married Frank Jonathan Nichols in Rome, Georgia on February 26, 1902. Frank J. was a telegrapher for the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis railroad. They had two children, Frank S. Nichols and Marion Nichols. Frank S. married Alma Albertha Reinike in Harrison County, Mississippi on April 19, 1932. They had six children. I was child number five, born September 16, 1942 in Gulfport, Mississippi.

....submitted by Brother Frank S. Nichols



Gift - Commander's Cannon

Brother Frank Nichols gifted an impressive scale model cannon to Camp Cmdr. Michael Lance. It is a replica 12-pounder Napoleon. The inscription on the base frame states: "PRESENTED TO THE CAMP COMMANDER – Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War – Department of Texas with Louisiana – LCDR Edward Lea, USN Camp #2, Houston, Texas".

Cmdr. Lance has declared that he will pass the cannon on to the next Lea Camp Commander, and hopes that the 'passing of the cannon' will start a new tradition that will continue in the future. Thank you, Brother Nichols!



Battle of Galveston Commemoration

Saturday, January 9, 2021 – Episcopal Church Cemetery, Galveston, Texas

At 11:00 a.m., the 2021 annual *Battle of Galveston Commemoration* ceremony began. The opening procession marched to the cadence of drums and music. It was led by a *J.R.O.T.C.* Color Guard unit and musicians from Galveston's Ball High School. The students were followed by officers of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp No. 2, SUVCW*, Sisters of both the *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary No. 1* and *Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War*, and a combined Federal Honor Guard consisting of members of the *Lt. Edward Lea Camp*, the *13th Regiment U.S. Infantry*, and the *Texas Rifles*. The participants marched into the ceremonial area and halted at their assigned positions around the grave of *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN*.



The opening procession advances

Camp Cmdr. Michael Lance moved to the podium and offered a few comments, and then called for the Divine Blessing. The call was answered by Camp Chaplain, Stephen Duncan.

Following the Divine Blessing, the *J.R.O.T.C.* Color Guard advanced with the U.S. and Camp Colors and held in place. Camp Patriotic Instructor, Charles Duke, then led the *Pledge of Allegiance* - and Bugler, Dana Read, played the National Anthem. The Color Guard then finished the opening ritual by posting the Colors. Everyone remained respectfully at attention throughout.



A portion of the Honor Guard at 'Present Arms' during the National Anthem

Cmdr. Lance then welcomed everyone, recognizing the guests and the various participating organizations. Extra spacing between participants and face masks were the order of the day to observe COVID-19 precautions.

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Battle of Galveston Commemoration (continued)



Camp SVC Michael Rappe



Camp JVC Ben Bonnett (red face mask)

The keynote speech was offered by Camp Civil War Memorials Officer, Harrison Moore IV. Brother Moore also represented the *Loyal Legion of the United States* (MOLLUS) at the event.



Keynote Speaker Harrison Moore at the podium.

Cmdr. Lance is on the far side of the podium. A portion of the Federal Honor Guard is visible at 'Parade Rest' in the right background. The end of the line of the Ball High School J.R.O.T.C. Color Guard and musicians is on the far left.

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Battle of Galveston Commemoration *(continued)*

Following the keynote speech, Cmdr. Lance moved back to the podium to speak about the events of the January 1, 1863 battle of Galveston, a confrontation that occurred both on land and in Galveston Bay.



Camp Cmdr. Michael Lance at the podium

**On the right L-R: Camp Patriotic Instructor Charles Duke, Brother John Vander Meulen,
Officer of the Day William Pollard (DJVC/PCC), and Camp Guard Lee Wallace**

Left background: a portion of Galveston's Ball High School J.R.O.T.C. Color Guard and musicians



Norma Pollard of the Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary No. 1 at the podium greets the assembly

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Battle of Galveston Commemoration *(continued)*

After Officer of the Day, William Pollard, placed the 'Tools of the Soldier' at the grave, he posted Brother Lee Wallace as a Guard beside it. Then an evergreen wreath, a red rose, and a grapevine wreath were placed at the grave. Cmdr. Lance then moved to place a small U.S. flag at the grave, followed by a hand salute. Chaplain Stephen Duncan offered a few appropriate words from the podium during the salute.



Camp Chaplain Stephen Duncan *(sitting)* waiting to speak

With backs turned L-R: Guard Lee Wallace, Brother John Vander Meulen, Patriotic Instructor Charles Duke, Dept. Chaplain Stephen Schulze (PDC, PCC), and Brother Samuel Hampton (PCC)

As Brother Vander Meulen began playing some emotive recorded music, Brothers Thomas Coughlin (*PDC/PCC*) and Samuel Hampton (*PCC*) escorted Sisters Norma Pollard and Betty Hampton (*Auxiliary*) along the cemetery paths to place roses on the Union monument at the far side of the cemetery. While they were moving away, Cmdr. Lance explained the monument and the purpose for the visit to it by the Sisters. A beautiful large wreath on a stand had been placed at the monument prior to the beginning of the ceremony. After the explanation, the Cmdr., followed by Brother Schulze, moved to join the ranks of the Federal Color Guard, collecting their muskets along the way.

While waiting for the Sisters and their escorts to return from the Union monument, Brother John Vander Meulen moved to the podium and read the poem: *The Unknown Dead*. He was followed by Sister Susan Barry (*DUVCW*) who read aloud the names of the Union casualties from the January 1, 1863 battle. After each name was spoken, Brother Vander Meulen rang the ceremonial bell.

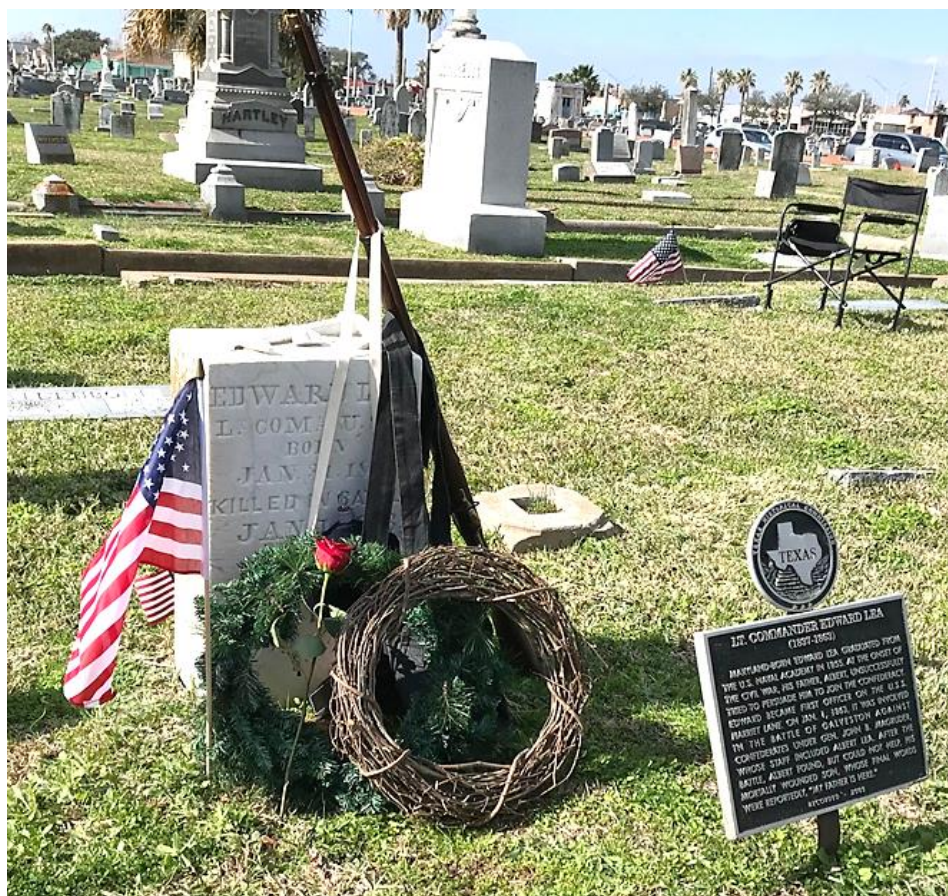
After the last toll of the bell faded, Officer of the Day William Pollard directed the Honor Guard to commence a 3-volley musket salute to the Union casualties. *Taps* was then sounded by Bugler Dana Read. Cmdr. Lance then moved to the podium to offer closing remarks before giving the order to retire of the Colors. All bowed their heads as Chaplain Duncan gave the closing benediction. After Cmdr. Lance dismissed the Camp, the Color and Honor Guards retired, filing out in step to the sound of marching music.

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Battle of Galveston Commemoration



The rear rank of the Federal Honor Guard fires a salute volley



Decorated grave of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN

....respectfully submitted by Michael Lance

Tribute to Sarah Emma Edmonds-Seelye

Saturday, March 27, 2021 – Washington Cemetery, Houston, Texas

Members of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 and Auxiliary #1 gathered at 10 a.m. at the gravesite of Sarah Emma Seelye at Washington Cemetery in Houston, Texas. They awaited the arrival of Dorothy Wright, a member of the *Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War* from New Jersey. Sister Wright was visiting Houston, and a stop at the Seelye grave was on her agenda. After Sister Wright arrived, the group visited for a few minutes and took photos. Sister Wright brought along an impressive replica flag of the 2nd Regiment, Michigan Infantry as a tribute to Sarah Emma Seelye, aka. Pvt. Franklin Thompson (see next article for Seelye's story). 'Franklin Thomas' served with that Michigan unit, so the flag was a fitting element for the event. Brothers Bill Pollard, John Vander Meulen, Michael Lance, Charles Reed, and Auxiliary Sister Norma Pollard participated in the ceremony.

Sister Wright began the ceremony by offering some words of respect and remembrance of Seelye. Then, with the sound of emotive background music, Brother Vander Meulen offered a moving speech honoring Seelye and both the Michigan and U.S. Colors. Camp Cmdr. Lance then stepped forward to lay a red rose at the grave and offer a salute, which was followed by the playing of *Taps*. It was a nice ceremony and the time together was enjoyed by everyone.



Clockwise from upper left:
Norma Pollard (Sarah Emma Seelye Aux.)
William Pollard (DSVC, Edw. Lea Camp)
Dorothy Wright (DUVCW of New Jersey)
Charles Reed (Edw. Lea Camp)
Michael Lance (Edw. Lea Camp Cmdr.)
John Vander Meulen (Edw. Lea Camp)

*....report submitted by Michael Lance;
photos submitted by William and Norma
Pollard*

additional photo on page 24



Sarah Emma Edmundson-Seelye – A Snapshot of her Life

Sarah Emma Seelye was born in 1841 as Sarah Emma Evelyn Edmundson in New Brunswick, Canada. As a young woman, she yearned to be a traveling missionary – an occupation that would combine her thirst for adventure with her love of God. However, when she was 17 years old, her father arranged for her to marry an elderly widower neighbor. Emma had absolutely no desire to marry anyone, so she devised a plan to escape the marital wishes of her stern father. She donned pants, cut her hair, and created a new identity - as Franklin Thompson. She, as Franklin, then replied to a job ad seeking a traveling Bible salesman.



Sarah Emma Edmundson - prior to becoming 'Franklin Thompson'

Emma landed the publisher's agent position and now had her perfect job. She was able to travel - thus avoiding her father finding her - enjoy some freedom, and was able to make money of her own. But first, she had to put some distance between herself and her father. Worried about being recognized, she traveled at night and slept in the woods during the day.

Emma/Franklin was tall for her era, strong and lithe from her years of hard labor on the family farm. Since she had a strong jaw and cheekbones, she was successful in passing herself off as 'Franklin Thompson'. People tended to like her, and she proved to be a great salesperson. She made enough money to get along rather well and spent her earnings on nice clothing and a fancy horse and buggy. And... she gained more than a few admirers! She took ladies to balls and drove them around in her carriage – as 'Franklin'. Life for her was actually pretty good!

But it was not to last. Emma/Franklin somehow lost all of her money and her carriage. She suddenly found herself with no way to continue working. Broke, she walked and hitched rides to Hartford, Connecticut and visited *Hurlburt and Company* - the firm that published the bibles she had been previously selling. She inquired about a job with the firm, as 'Franklin' of course, and was hired on to sell books.

Emma/Franklin then travelled back and forth between Canada and the United States selling books. Once again, she had great success as a salesperson, earning \$900 during a nine month span working in Nova Scotia. She soon earned back all of the money she had previously lost - and then some.

Her sales route eventually took her westward – to Detroit and then Flint, Michigan. That is where she was working when President Lincoln issued the call for arms in 1860. With the onset of the Civil War, Emma watched as many of her friends enlisted amidst a patriotic fervor. She found herself at a crossroads: since she was Canadian, and a woman, she wasn't required to serve in the army. But she believed in the Union, opposed slavery, and wanted to play a role in what she called "this great drama".

If she volunteered as a female nurse, she would need to give up her Frank Thompson persona. Since she had spent the best years of her life recently as Franklin, she would miss being him. On the other hand, if she enlisted as Franklin the soldier, she would be able see a lot more action during the war – and generally have much more freedom. As a devout Christian, she reportedly prayed on the whole Frank vs. Emma issue. At age 19, Emma finally decided it was God's will that she continue on as Franklin - so she enlisted!

"In passing a recruit, the medical officer is to examine him stripped; to see that he has free use of all his limbs; that his chest is ample; that his hearing, vision, and speech are perfect...." Many women who tried to join up as men failed to pass this initial exam – for obvious reasons. But, since so many men were rushing to join up, and because the army needed many bodies quickly, the initial exams sometimes only involved a few questions and some taps and bumps – with the recruits remaining clothed. The examiners were looking primarily for functioning eyes, some teeth, and enough fingers to pull a trigger.

When Emma's turn came, the doctor quickly looked her over and then wrapped his fingers around her wrist. Her small hands were one of her surest giveaways, being delicate and without farm-labor calluses. The doctor looked at her and

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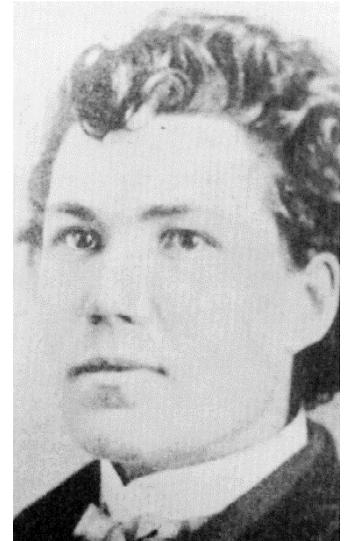
Sarah Emma Edmundson-Seelye – A Snapshot of her Life *(continued)*

asked, “*what sort of living has this hand earned?*” Emma replied, “*that hand has been chiefly engaged in getting an education.*” And that was it! ‘Franklin’ then became a member of the 2nd Regiment, Michigan Infantry. In June 1861, she headed off to Washington City for basic training.

Life in Washington was loud and hectic. The city was bursting with soldiers - mostly green. They lodged in 7x7 tents made for two to four men. Many women soldiers ended up getting caught at this point, failing to pass muster under such close quarters and scrutiny. Since men typically didn’t know how to mend ripped pants, wash a dish, or do laundry, any soldier who demonstrated knowledge to perform those tasks drew suspicion. Emma knew to dumb down her skills as much as possible, since she had had years of practice being Frank Thompson. She was used to, and enjoyed, hard work, and thus avoided unwanted notice.

Sarah Emma Edmundson as ‘Franklin Thompson’

Life as a recruit meant rising at 5:00 a.m. Fortunately for Emma, soldiers during that era tended to sleep in their clothing. After breakfast, the day continued with endless drilling and dress parades in the streets. Since it was a civilian army, rather than a professional one, some commanders would not let the recruits train with live ammunition - fearing that the trainees would end up killing each other. Emma/Franklin performed better than average - she could march for days, ride like a pro, and was skilled with a musket.



Emma as ‘Frank’ was fortunate that her deception was not discovered while in camp. Her buddies jokingly called her ‘*our woman*’ because of her voice and her small feet. Regulation army boots did not fit her. Fortunately, her tent mate, Damon Stewart of Flint Michigan, took ‘Frank’ under his wing. He assumed ‘Frank’ had lied about his age to get into the army, hence his baby face and reluctance to swear. It also helped that Emma, as ‘Frank’, had a bit of a reputation as a lady’s man! But she likely had some difficulty totally fitting in since she was not eager to participate in the general chaos of army life - including the frequent visits to brothels, the drinking, and the prevalent debauchery.

Emma/Frank spent most of her time tending to the sick. Nearly 30% of the *Army of the Potomac* was debilitated by sickness before they even went into their first battle. Typhoid claimed soldiers left and right. She assisted the nurses with putting up awnings around the sick tents, planting evergreen trees around them, and trenching to funnel rainwater away from the patients.

Emma and her comrades waited anxiously for the arrival of marching orders. Finally, in July 1861, they came! With music and fanfare, the troops began a 33-mile march towards Manassas, Virginia. But it quickly became apparent that even after months of drilling, the army was still a big, disorganized mess. The men were prone to breaking ranks, wandering off to pick blackberries, and stopping frequently to take off their still-not-broken-in boots.

By the time the federal forces reached the field of battle, they were sunburned, parched, and tired. But the men were excited and anxious to see some action – not knowing at that point what they were in for. Spectators with picnic baskets came from miles around to watch the battle. Everyone thought the war would be over after one glorious battle. They all wanted to witness the ‘show’.

As the fighting began and intensified, Emma observed: “*Now the battle began to rage with terrible fury. Nothing could be heard save the thunder of artillery, the clash of steel, and the continuous roar of musketry.*” She saw men mown down, officers and privates alike, some with legs crushed, others with arms gone. With bullets whizzing around her, Emma rushed to bring water to the soldiers and helped carry the wounded to safer ground.

For a while, the federal forces seemed to be making headway, but the Confederates rallied. As the Union lines buckled, the green Union soldiers panicked, and the “Great Skedaddle” began. As fast as they could, the federal soldiers limped, ran, or drove stolen ambulances back to Washington. Emma became angry at seeing soldiers run away from their duty.

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Sarah Emma Edmundson-Seelye – A Snapshot of her Life *(continued)*

“Many that day who turned their backs upon the enemy and sought refuge in the woods some two miles distant, were found torn to pieces by shell, or mangled by cannon ball. A proper reward for those who, insensible to shame, duty for patriotism, desert their cause and comrades in the trying hour of battle, and skulk away cringing under the fear of death.”, she later wrote.

Emma didn't run. She fell back for supplies in Centreville, then made her way to a stone church where the wounded were being treated. She was horrified to see bodies and amputated limbs piled up high. The dying men had no water. She stayed with them as long as she could, hearing last words and confessions. Since she had no scissors, she tore away blood-soaked clothing from wounds with her teeth. Finally, she had to make a quick exit and hide in the bushes to avoid capture.

Emma managed to make it back to Washington. She must have become disillusioned from seeing all the death and dying there. The sick tents in Washington were in chaos with dysentery and typhoid fever running rampant. The sick wards were loud, disorganized and dirty. *“Oh, what an amount of suffering I am called to witness every hour and every moment,”* she wrote.

But after a while, the horror of the scene faded for her. *“There is no cessation, and yet it is strange that the sight of all this suffering and death does not affect me more. I am simply eyes, ears, hands and feet.”* She was also apparently disgusted with the moral fiber of the army: *“Every bar-room and groggery seemed filled to overflowing with officers and men,”* she said. *“...and military discipline was nearly, or quiet, forgotten for a time in the army of the Potomac.”*

It was during this time that Emma made a friend – Private Jerome Robbins. He also served with the 2nd Michigan Infantry, but in a different company. They met when he visited a wounded friend where Emma was working. During a lingering conversation, Emma and Jerome discovered that they had a lot in common. They both loved learning and debating, God, and General McClellan - and hated the immoral way so many of the soldiers in camp acted.

For Emma, there was something special about Jerome. Apparently, he was taken with her as well. He wrote in his diary about having pleasing conversations with Frank Thompson, and of being impressed by his nursing skills. *“He is an assistant in the hospital, and I think well able to win and repair the hearts of those about him,”* he wrote. But Jerome knew that there was something about Frank that he wasn't quite comprehending: *“A mystery seems to be connected with him. Hard to name.”*

Jerome made frequent visits to visit Emma at her work area - sometimes multiple times a day. By November, he became a steward at the hospital. He and Emma went to prayer meetings together in the evenings, talked for hours, took long walks together, and before long, even took naps together.

“I arose greatly refreshed after a good sound sleep on a couch with my friend Frank Thompson.” - Jerome Robbins

Emma longed to tell Jerome who she really was, but was afraid to do so. She did not want to risk losing his friendship. In addition, Jerome had a girlfriend back home, Anna, whom he openly talked about. Finally Emma decided she couldn't lie to him anymore. One day as she and Jerome walked together out onto Long Bridge, she told him everything, including about her flight from her father. Jerome did not take it well!

“My friend Frank is a female,” he noted in his diary. *“I won't say that it is not strange to me...How sad is the reaction which often occurs when we think we have friendship in exchange for friendship and find that friend differing so widely from our own natures...I learned that in friends we may be deceived”*. He wrote several pages, underlining many words, making it clear that he and Emma had had a heated exchange - and that they both left upset and angry. *“Perhaps a knowledge on her part that there is one in a Michigan home that I do regard with especial affection,”* he wrote, *“creates her disagreeable manner.”*

Fortunately for Emma, Jerome did not turn her in. From then on, he continued to refer to her in his writings as 'Frank'. It was dangerous knowledge for him to have and withhold – since men had been court martialed for helping women

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Sarah Emma Edmundson-Seelye – A Snapshot of her Life *(continued)*

disguise their sex. But he knew it was dangerous for her, too. His diary makes it clear he felt confused about his feelings about Emma. He later wrote about missing 'Frank' and wanting to talk to him; wishing that things between them weren't so strained. Emma kept busy with nursing at another hospital and tried her best to avoid him.

When the army mobilized in 1862, Col. Orlando Poe made 'Frank' his mail carrier. Poe said he made this assignment because 'Frank' was effeminate, and he didn't want to take any strong-looking soldiers from the fighting ranks.

Being a mail carrier was an important job during the Civil War. The only way to spread the word was by letter or by telegraph. Since most units did not have access to telegraph service, important information was usually carried to them by mail. Emma knew that *"It was nothing short of a calamity for a heavy mail to be captured by the enemy."* It was dangerous work. Mail carriers were often overtaken by the enemy and shot. But Emma excelled at riding and fared well with her assignment.

The federal army made its way down to the Virginia Peninsula by steamer boat and then marched through mud. Emma was tasked with riding out to neighboring farms and homesteads to forage for food for the army. It was during one of these foraging forays that she met with a bit of misadventure.

Arriving at a house, Emma was invited inside by the woman who answered the door. As the woman ambled around the house, supposedly collecting supplies, Emma suspected something was not quite right. *"I looked at her; she was trembling violently, and was as pale as death."* But the woman gave her the supplies, and Emma got on her horse to leave. At that point, the woman pulled out a pistol and shot at her, but missed! Emma instinctively drew her own pistol and shot the woman in the hand. The woman screamed and tried to run. But Emma caught her, tied her hands, and led her back to camp. Along the way, Emma told the woman that *"if she uttered another word or screamed she was a dead woman."* Ironically, it seems that Emma's captive later became a nurse for the Union army.

The Union's head detective, Allan Pinkerton, soon needed recruits for his spy network. One of his best men had recently been captured and he needed a man who could lie, pretend, be patient, and was cunning and discreet. It was also dangerous work, but Emma decided to volunteer. *"The subject of life and death was not weighted in the balance. I left that in the hands of my Creator, feeling assured that I was just as safe in passing the picket lines of the enemy, if it was good that I should go there, as I would be in the Federal camp. And if not, his will be done."*

In Washington, Emma was interviewed for the spy assignment by General McClellan. She was grilled with questions about her loyalty, her allegiance, and why she wanted to volunteer for such a dangerous job. She passed that test and then easily passed the firearms test. Luckily for her, the medical test consisted of only a phrenological exam - the feeling of one's head and reading its lumps! Emma's lumps apparently confirmed her abilities at secretiveness and combativeness. She officially became a spy.

Emma had only 3 days to prepare for her first mission – which was to sneak into Yorktown, Virginia. She decided to disguise herself as a black man. Apparently, it was a popular disguise. Spying was still in its infancy in the U.S. at the time. Men often dressed as women and white people pretended to be black - and it worked because people weren't really savvy to spies yet. Also, Emma knew that if she were discovered by other black folks, they were unlikely to report her – and would even be willing to assist her.

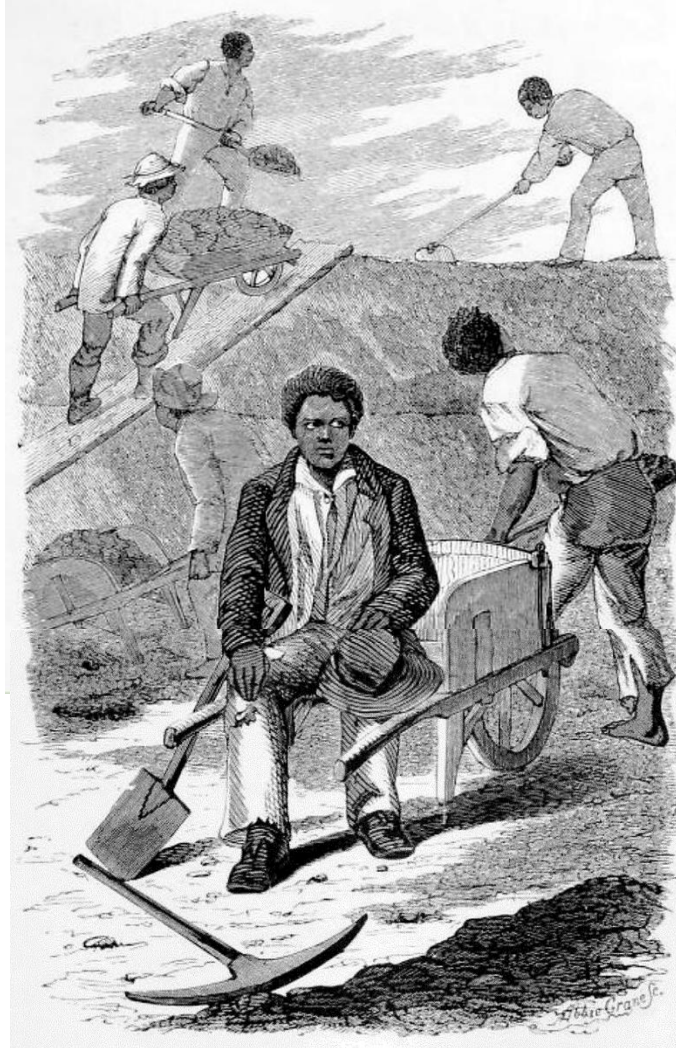
Emma: *"I purchased a contraband suit of clothing, real plantation style, and then I went to a barber and had my hair sheared close to my head."* Next, she obtained a wool wig and dyed her skin - head, face, neck, hands, and arms - with silver nitrate. No one in her camp recognized her. She thus became Ned the black man, looking for work!

Moving past the guard pickets, 'Ned' snuck out of camp at night and hid in the woods. The next morning, she managed to attach herself to a group of contrabands and worked her way with them into a Confederate camp, looking for work. She soon found herself working on a breastwork with about a 100 other black men. She wielded a pickaxe, a shovel,

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Sarah Emma Edmundson-Seelye – A Snapshot of her Life *(continued)*

and a wheelbarrow. Her hands became blistered and raw by the end of the workday. She worried that her labor would wear away the dye on her hands. So she talked another black man, a water carrier, into switching duties with her. This



new job allowed her to roam freely around the camp and listen in. For 2 days, she took notes and hid them in the heel of her boot.

Eventually, one of the other contrabands commented to a friend: *“Jim, I’ll be darned if that feller aint turnin’ white.”* Emma looked at her hands and saw that the dye was, in fact, fading. *Well, gem’in [gentlemen], I’s allers ‘spected to come white some time; my mudder’s a white woman.”* They all laughed!

Finally Emma had all the information she needed and had to find a way to get out. Fortunately for her, one night as she carried dinner out to the pickets, a Confederate sergeant stopped her. It seems one of his men had just been shot at his post and he needed an immediate replacement. He gave Emma a musket and said, *“Now, you black rascal, if you sleep on your post I’ll shoot you like a dog.”*

Emma as Ned the black man

The Confederate picket line was very close to the Federals and it was raining. Emma waited until no one was looking and then made a break for it. She successfully stole away into the rainy night with her musket. The pelting rain hastened the loss of her black dye disguise. Since she was afraid of being shot by the federals if she approached them in the dark, she decided to sleep in the undergrowth until daylight. The next morning, she convinced the Federal pickets to let her come into their camp and she was able to report her intelligence.

Regarding her recent harrowing experience, Emma had this to say: *“I am naturally fond of adventure, a little ambitious, and a good deal romantic, and this together with my devotion to the Federal cause...made me forget the unpleasant items and not only endure, but really enjoy, the privations connected with my perilous conditions.”*

During her time in the army, Emma went on several more spy missions in disguise – including as an Irish peddler woman and a Southern male civilian. Things were not always easy - one time she got lost in the swamps around the Chickahominy River and contracted malaria. She became weak from the illness and could only lay alone for days without food or proper shelter. *“There I was, all alone, surrounded by worse, yes, infinitely worse, than wild beasts - by bloodthirsty savages - who considered death far too good for those who were in the employment of the United States Government.”*

Emma was successful as a spy. On another occasion, she dressed as a southern civilian boy, going door to door to find eggs and butter for the Confederate army. Her real mission was to root out Confederate plans and locate guerilla cells. At one house, she found herself crashing a wedding. The bride was a widow whose husband had been killed a few months back. The groom was a Confederate captain. *“See here, my lad,”* he told her. *“I think the best thing you can do is enlist and join a company which is just forming here in the village and will leave in the morning. We are giving a bounty to all who freely enlist, and are conscripting those who refuse. Which do you propose to do?”*

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Sarah Emma Edmundson-Seelye – A Snapshot of her Life *(continued)*

The captain gave her 2 hours to make her decision, then placed her under guard so she couldn't run away. As luck would have it, those guards were pretty soused and loose-lipped. They willingly answered Emma's questions about their army's numbers and movements.

The next morning, they all rode off with Emma as their unwilling conscript. She needed to get away ASAP. Soon, they encountered a Union cavalry unit. During the ensuing skirmish, with guns firing and people yelling, the Union captain somehow recognized the 'southern civilian boy' as Emma and waved her over to their side. The Confederate captain was angry for having been duped. He raised his pistol at Emma, but her draw was quicker. She shot him in the face – putting a bullet hole through his nose. *"I was sorry,"* she wrote later. *"For the graceful curve of his mustache was sadly spoiled."*

When Emma wasn't spying, she was carrying mail or nursing on the battlefields. At one point, a mule on which she was riding slipped in the mud and threw her off into a ditch - and then rolled over her. When she got back to camp, she knew her leg was broken, but she wouldn't go to the doctor for fear of being discovered as a female. Instead, she *"silently endured the misery and the distress which the unfortunate accident entailed upon me, rather than to be sent away from the army UNDER GUARD like a criminal."*

In May 1862, during the *Battle of Gaines Mill*, as the federal army retreated, Emma rode to the nearby hospitals to try and help evacuate staff and patients before the Confederates could take them prisoner. Then, as the army marched to the outskirts of Fredericksburg, Virginia. Emma was charged with carrying mail between there and Washington.

After days of heavy fighting around Fredericksburg, Emma learned that Colonel Poe had lost his aide-de-camp. She volunteered for the job, which entailed wearing full military regalia. That position was a big deal in those days, in terms of rank and status. Emma successfully gained the assignment and, serving Col. Poe, she rushed up and down the lines carrying messages and dodging bullets.

A fellow soldier remarked that Emma acted *"with a fearlessness that attracted the attention and secured the commendation of field and general officers."* She also saw a lot of awful things - a man commit suicide on the field, another shoot his own leg so he could get out of fighting, and watching as thousands of soldiers rushed at Fredericksburg only to be cut down in rows - 3,000 soldiers were lost in the first hour alone!

Emma eventually grew tired of the army - the muddy marches and the rotating carousel of commanders. *"The weather department is in perfect keeping with the War Department, the policy being to make as many changes as possible, and everyone worse than the last."* In addition, the malaria from her time in the swamps returned to torment her. Many times she laid in her tent all day, suffering from fevers, cramps, and hallucinations. One day a shell exploded in camp and it turned her into, as she put it, a *"poor, cowardly, nervous, whining woman."*

She realized that she missed her home and family. *"I think I realized in those hours of feverish restlessness and pain, the heart yearning for the touch of a mother's cool hand upon my brow, which I had so often heard the poor sick and wounded soldiers speak of."*

Emma tried to get a medical furlough, but was denied. Her only option was to desert. In April 1863, 'Franklin Thompson' disappeared from the army. *"I never for a moment considered myself a deserter,"* she said. *"I left because I could hold out no longer."*

Her long-held secret apparently was discovered, and people began talking. *"We have been having quite a time at the expense of our brigade postmaster,"* soldier William Boston wrote. *"He turns out to be a girl, and has deserted when his lover, Inspector Read, and General Poe, resigned. She went by the name of Frank and was a pretty girl."*

Meanwhile, Emma, still posing as a man, made her way to Oberlin, Ohio to recover from her illness. In 1864, she wrote a memoir describing her wartime adventures: *Nurse and Spy in the Union Army*. She penned it with her own shortened name - Emma Edmonds. In the memoir, she did not name her male alias - most likely because the war was still raging and 'Frank Thompson' had, after all, deserted. She kept everyone in her memoir fairly anonymous.

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Sarah Emma Edmundson-Seelye – A Snapshot of her Life *(continued)*

Emma Edmonds's memoir sold like hotcakes. People were thrilled to read about a secret lady soldier! She was careful to describe her adventures in a clean, chaste, and patriotic light. All proceeds from the 175,000+ copies sold were given directly to the *Christian Commission* and the *Sanitary Commission* to help wounded and veteran soldiers.

Also in 1864, Emma rejoined the army as a female nurse. She served in that capacity through the end of the war. Afterwards, she went home to visit her family. Her parents were both then deceased, but she was able to see her sisters and her brother. Then, on the way back to Ohio to finish the college classes she'd begun there, she found Linus Seeley, a fellow Canadian she'd met during her time nursing at Harper's Ferry. He accepted Emma for who she was - even everything she'd done during the war.

Linus Seeley followed Emma to Ohio, and they wed in 1867. She wrote later: *"Well, you know how the census takers sum up all our employments with the too easily written words 'married woman'. That is what I became; and of course that tells the entire story."* After settling down, Emma remained quiet about her wartime exploits. She was proud of her nursing work, but she was apparently uncomfortable with the spying - which involved lying and scheming. It didn't seem to fit with her new life. So she did what many women soldiers did - left it behind.

Emma and Linus Seeley became the parents of 2 boys, both of which died young, and a daughter named Alice. By age 32, Emma's health was failing a bit - due in large part from the malaria and injuries she'd suffered as a soldier. But, as was her nature, she persevered. The couple adopted a couple orphans, and then moved to Louisiana to take up management of a home of 67 more. These were good years for Emma - she was always happiest when she was busy and giving back to others. But the humid climate of Louisiana aggravated her old war wounds, and before long, she didn't feel well again.

In 1880, daughter Alice died. Emma laid in a dark room for days, grieving for Alice. She and Linus then moved to Fort Scott, Kansas, for a fresh start. Many war veterans were living there, and many had health issues stemming from their service in the war. Before long, Emma learned that they were all getting pensions. She decided that she also deserved one. It was a gutsy idea because the government didn't want to even admit that any women had served as soldiers.

Emma had an uphill battle to prove that she had actually been a soldier in the Union Army. First, she had to prove that she was, in fact, Frank Thompson. Second, she had to get Frank's desertion charge scrubbed. And of course, because she was a woman, she also had to prove that her motives and behavior while in the army had been chaste and pure. Being a woman in camp, sleeping next to other soldiers, could just as easily indicate she was a prostitute, a deviant, or a spy - or all three. So she had to clear Frank's name as well as her own name!

She sent a letter to Michigan's adjutant general, John Robertson, asking for Frank Thompson's certificate of service. She told him that she and Frank were the same person. Robertson wrote back that he'd be glad to help, but she'd only used her initials in the letter, and that he'd need the writer's full name. So when Emma replied, she wrote freely for the first time. *"My full name is Sarah Emma Evelyn Seelye. I enlisted and served as Franklin Thomson in Co "F" 2nd Michigan Volunteers."*

Next, Emma needed statements from witnesses - persons who hadn't known her secret while she served. It would have been dicey and potentially scandalous, to provide statements from men who knew about her, and said nothing. So she asked Mr. Hulbert, the publisher friend who'd given her the book-selling job - and who published her memoir.

She also visited her old tentmate, Damon Stewart. She walked into his dry goods store in Flint, Michigan and asked if he could tell her where Frank Thompson was. *"Are you his mother?"* he asked. *"No."* she answered. *"His sister, perhaps?"* he inquired. Then, as someone approached them from behind, she picked up a pencil and wrote on a scrap of paper: *"Quiet! I am Frank Thompson."*

Damon was shocked, but delighted! He invited her to his house to meet his wife - and a reporter! The reporter subsequently wrote a story about Frank's wonderful and faithful service. Emma stayed with Damon's family for a week,

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Sarah Emma Edmundson-Seelye – A Snapshot of her Life *(continued)*

during which time many of their old war buddies came by to see her. To her good fortune, each one wrote a letter in favor of her pension.

More and more of Emma's old army buddies contacted her. They even formed a committee to help her win her pension. They invited her to a reunion of the 2nd Michigan, and though she was too sick to go, she was touched that they wanted to see her. *"My brief message to the boys is this,"* she wrote. *"Frank's heart beats just as warm and true as when it beat under a regulation blouse."*

Later that year, Emma was invited to another reunion where she encountered her old friend, Col. Orlando Poe. He was pleased to learn, after 20 years of wondering, what had happened to his favorite mail carrier. The Michigan boys at the reunion were all glad to see her. They clapped and yelled until she finally got up on the stage and said: *"Tears are in my eyes, but I shall never, ever forget your kindness to Frank Thompson. All I can say is that I am deeply grateful, and thank you."*

Finally, on March 28, 1884, the House of Representatives passed House Bill Number 5335, which stated: *"Truth is oftentimes stranger than fiction... That Franklin Thompson and Mrs. Sarah E.E. Seelye are one and the same person is established by abundance of proof and beyond a doubt. She submits a statement . . . and also the testimony of ten credible witnesses, men of intelligence, holding places of high honor and trust, who positively swear she is the identical Franklin Thompson..."*

A few years later, a special act of Congress granted Frank/Emma an honorable discharge from the army. She received her sign-up bonus and a veteran's pension of \$12 a month. Congress played up her nursing role and played down her soldiering service. They made sure to say that her nursing work *"rendered much more valuable aid to the cause nearest her heart than she could possibly have done as a soldier."*

Emma and Linus Seelye went on to build a new home in 1889. But they never had quite enough money to turn it into a home for indigent veterans as she had dreamed of doing. When Emma occasionally wore pants while working in her yard, her neighbors wrote it off as eccentric and endearing. The local kids were afraid of her because they'd heard she was a spy during the war. They even made up a game where they would try to get up close to her without her shooting off any of their mustaches!

In 1897, Emma became a member of the *Grand Army of the Republic*. No other woman claiming to be a soldier had previously been admitted. It was, to her, the greatest possible honor - legitimizing everything she'd risked and done for the army she loved.

Membership Badge of the Grand Army of the Republic

Malaria finally claimed Emma on September 5, 1898 at age 56. She was buried with full military honors in La Porte, Texas, but was later moved to Houston's Washington Cemetery.

In his address to the 2nd Michigan in 1901, Col. Frederick Schneider said: *"No war ever displayed so much bravery and devotion among women as did the great Civil War. But none of the many instances recorded have surpassed the record for pure, unselfish patriotism and zeal for the cause of humanity, daring bravery and heroic fortitude as that of Sarah Emma Edmonds... the whole world made better from her having lived in it."*



*....submitted by Michael Lance - based on multiple sources: including:
<https://www.theexploresspodcast.com/episodes/8/30/2018/sarah-emma-edmonds>*

Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy *(part 21)*

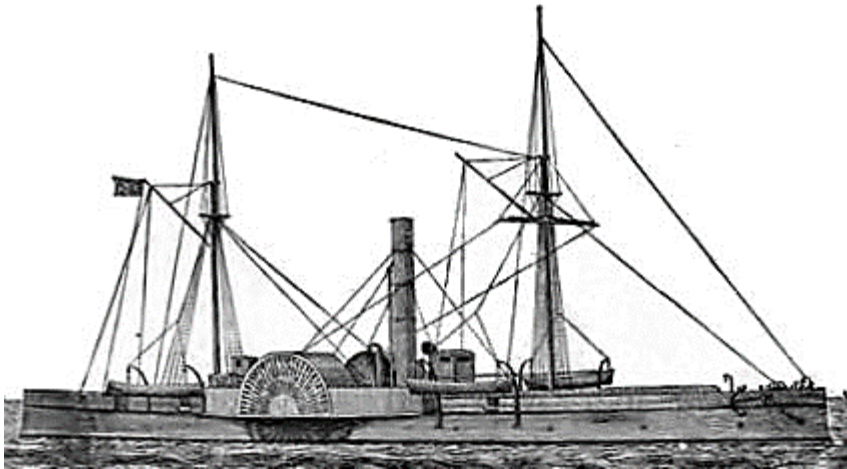
The *Medal of Honor* is the USA's highest military honor, awarded for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty. It was first awarded during the Civil War after President Lincoln signed a bill on December 21, 1861 containing a provision for the medal for the Navy. It was "*to be bestowed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

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.

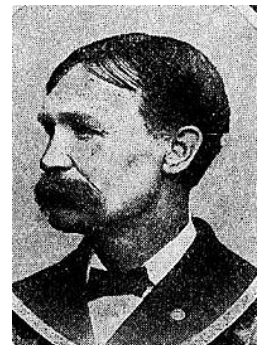


- **Michael C. Horgan – Landsman** – Michael Horgan was born in 1846 in Ireland. He immigrated to the United States at age five. In April 1863, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy from the state of New York and was assigned as a landsman to the *USS Tacony*. Horgan enlisted under an assumed name, Martin Howard, and his birth year is recorded as 1843 in his military records. In late October 1864, the *Tacony* steamed up the Roanoke River in North Carolina with a



squadron of Union ships tasked with capturing the city of Plymouth. The *CSS Albemarle* had been sunk days earlier, leaving no Confederate ships to oppose the attack. Finding the Roanoke obstructed by the wreckage of sunken vessels, the squadron turned up the Middle River, from which it could lob shells over a stretch of forest and into Plymouth. Fortifications along the river included a 9-inch artillery gun about 30 yards from the shore. Confederate soldiers would crawl out to the gun, load it, then retreat to the safety of a

bombproof shelter and, when Union ships came within range, fire the weapon by use of a long string. On October 31, Horgan and a small boat of men from the *Tacony* landed ashore and, under intense small arms fire, disabled the gun by "spiking" it, that is, by driving a metal spike into the touch hole. After exchanging heavy artillery fire with the squadron, the Confederates abandoned their positions and the city quickly fell. For his actions during the battle, Horgan was awarded the Medal of Honor two months later. The medal was issued to "Martin Howard", the alias under which Horgan had enlisted. Three other men from the gun-spiking group were also awarded the medal. In December 1864, Horgan participated in the First Battle of Fort Fisher, North Carolina. While clearing naval mines (then known as "torpedoes") to make way for Union ironclads, Horgan was lightly wounded by flying shards of wood when a Confederate artillery shell struck nearby. The next month, at the Second Battle of Fort Fisher, he was among a party from the *Tacony* which joined the January 15th assault against the fort. Wounded twice during this action, Horgan spent the next eight months in a hospital. He was discharged from the Navy in April 1868, having served two terms of enlistment. He died at age 64 and was buried at Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden, Massachusetts. His Medal of Honor citation reads:

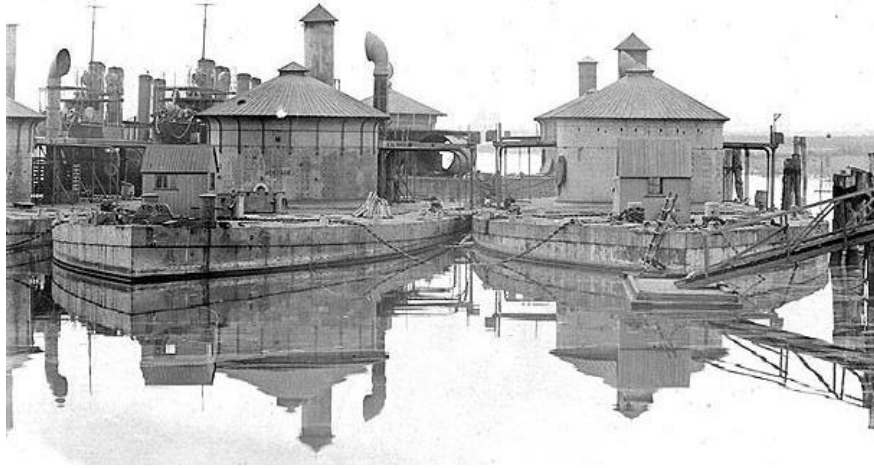


Michael C. Horgan

Served on board the U.S.S. Tacony during the taking of Plymouth, N.C., 31 October 1864. Carrying out his duties faithfully during the capture of Plymouth, Howard distinguished himself by a display of coolness when he participated in landing and spiking a 9-inch gun while under a devastating fire from enemy musketry.

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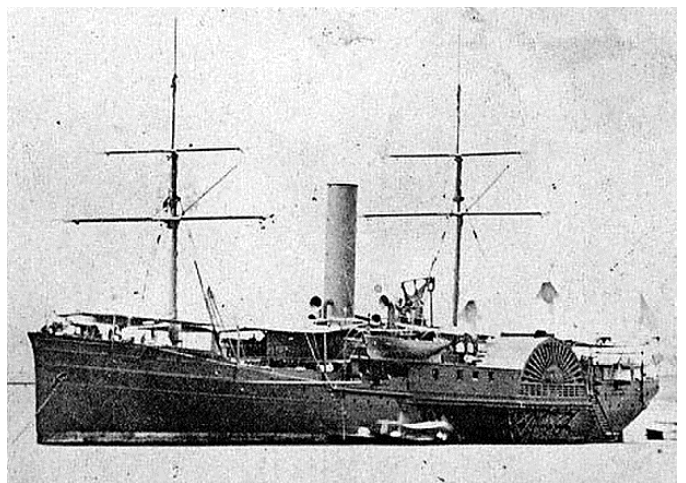
- **James J. Horton – Gunner's Mate** – James J. Horton served on the *USS Montauk* during the Civil War. During the night of September 21, 1864, when fire was discovered in the magazine lightroom of the vessel, causing a panic and demoralizing the crew, Horton rushed into the cabin, obtained the magazine keys, sprang into the lightroom and began passing out combustibles, including the box of signals in which the fire originated.



USS Montauk (left) alongside USS Lehigh in Philadelphia Navy Yard, circa 1902.

- **Lewis A. Horton – Seaman** – Lewis A. Horton served as a Seaman aboard the *USS Rhode Island*. During the Civil War, *Rhode Island* was employed as a supply ship, visiting various ports and ships with mail, paymasters officers stores, medicine, and other supplies. She departed New York on her first cruise on July 31, 1861. While cruising off Galveston, Texas, *Rhode Island*, captured the schooner *Venus* which was attempting to run the blockade with a cargo of lead, copper, tin, and wood. During the remainder of 1861 and 1862, *Rhode Island* continued her support duties. Departing Philadelphia in February 1862, *Rhode Island* supplied 98 vessels with various stores before returning to Hampton Roads, Virginia in March. On another trip from April 5 to May 20, 1862, she supplied 118 vessels. Then, while assigned to support the Gulf Blockading Squadron, *Rhode Island* chased and forced ashore the British schooner *Richard O'Bryan* near San Luis Pass on July 4, 1862.

Returning to the north, *Rhode Island's* next duties were towing the low-freeboard monitors *USS Monitor*, *USS Passaic*, *USS Montauk*, and *USS Weehawken* south from Hampton Roads to Beaufort, North Carolina, or Port Royal, South Carolina. On December 29, 1862, she departed Hampton Roads with the *Monitor* in tow and *Passaic* in company. As the ships rounded Cape Hatteras on the evening of December 30, they encountered a heavy storm. *Monitor's* pumps were unable to control flooding caused by underwater leaks. The order to abandon ship had to be given. Before *Monitor's* crew could be completely transferred to *Rhode Island*, the ironclad sank, taking 4 officers and 12 enlisted men down with her. *Rhode Island* remained as near as possible to the position in which *Monitor* sank so as to fix the location (about 20 miles south-southwest of Cape Hatteras) and to await daylight to search for a missing small boat. Seven *Rhode Island* crewman were awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions during the sinking, including Seaman Lewis A. Horton.



USS Rhode Island

....to be continued next issue



L-R: Michael Lance (Lea Camp Cmdr.), Norma Pollard (Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1), William Pollard (DSVC Dept. of Texas, Lea Camp), John Vander Meulen (Lea Camp), Dorothy Wright (DUVCW of New Jersey), and Charles Reed (Lea Camp)

Sarah Emma Edmonds-Seelye is the namesake of the SUVCW Auxiliary #1, Houston, Texas and also the namesake of the Houston area Tent of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. She served with the 2nd Regiment, Michigan Infantry and is buried at Washington Cemetery in Houston.

A Blockade Buster is Born

The frigate Merrimac has been raised and docked at an expense of \$6,000, and the necessary repairs to hull and machinery to place her in her former condition is estimated by experts at \$450,000. The vessel would then be in the river, and the blockade of the enemy's fleets and batteries rendered comparatively useless. It has, therefore, been determined to shield her completely with three-inch iron, placed at such angles as to render her ball-proof, to complete her on the earliest moment, to arm her with the heaviest ordnance, and to send her at once against the enemy's fleet. It is believed that thus prepared she will be able to contend successfully against the heaviest of the enemy's ships, and to drive them from Hampton Roads and the ports of Virginia.

Stephen Mallory

Confederate Secretary of the Navy
Richmond - 1861