



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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HOUSTON NATIONAL CEMETERY**
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Large: "Gunfight on the Roanoke," The gun crew of the *U.S.S. Miami* witnesses the sinking of the *U.S.S. Southfield* by the *C.S.S. Albemarle*, April 19, 1864 - art by Tom Freeman

Left Inset: A sea of decorated grave markers at the Houston National Cemetery on Memorial Day 2022.

Mid Inset: Stephen Duncan portraying Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger at Ashton Villa during Juneteenth Celebration.

Right Inset: Decorated grave marker of Civil War veteran, Henry Ludwig Schulze, in Worden, Illinois

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

Pre-Memorial Day 2022

Thursday, 26 May 2022 – Hitchcock, Texas

Four Sisters of the *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1* got an early start to decorating U.S. veteran's graves for Memorial Day. They assembled at Hypolite Cemetery in Hitchcock, Texas on Thursday, May 26th and set out U.S. flags at the headstones of 26 American heroes. The ladies were once again vigilant in honoring the service of our veterans.



L-R: Auxiliary President Vali Reyes and Sisters Norma Pollard and Jana Marsh



L-R: Auxiliary President Vali Reyes and Sisters Terry Spencer and Jana Marsh



In addition to decorating veteran's graves at Hypolite Cemetery, the Sisters visited Hayes-Grace Memorial Park Cemetery in Hitchcock. They paid their respects at the gravesite of William Pollard, who passed away last August while serving early in his term as Commander of the Department of Texas and Louisiana.

Left: Sister Norma Pollard visits the grave of her late husband, William A. Pollard



Right: William Allen Pollard, PDC

... submitted by Jana Marsh, Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary No. 1, SUVCW

Memorial Day 2022

Monday, 30 May 2022 – Houston, Texas

Two thunderous cannon shots signaled the start of the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Houston National Cemetery. One of the big guns was manned by members of the *Capt. Ike Turner Camp 1275, SCVCW* of Livingston, Texas, and the crew of the other gun were members of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2, SUVCW* of Houston. The Federal crewmen included Camp Cmdr. Ben Bonnett, Stephen D. Schulze, PDC, Michael Rappe, Thomas Coughlin, PDC, and Robert Riley.

A few dozen yards away, enjoying the shade of a large oak tree, was a 14-man Federal infantry unit. This unit consisted of a combination of members from the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2, Co. A, 13th U.S. Infantry*, and the *Texas Rifles*. The *Lea Camp* members were: JVC Daniel Pourreau, Michael L. Lance, PCC, and William Myers.

During the program, the commander of the Federal unit, Tommy Attaway, plus eight men from the Honor Guard marched smartly in the 'Parade of Remembrance' to the center of the Hemicycle – with muskets shouldered and Colors waving. The men marched in two ranks of 4, with the Cmdr. in front leading the way. Afterwards, the unit marched back out to the shade of the oak tree to wait for their next role in the ceremonies.



Above: Federal infantry unit marches into the Hemicycle during the 'Parade of Remembrance' to present the Colors.



Tommy Attaway, Cmdr.



JVC Daniel Pourreau



Michael Lance, PCC



William Myers

... continued on next page

Memorial Day 2022 *(continued)*

The program included a performance by bagpipers, a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter flyover, laying of wreaths, introduction of veterans of various conflicts, numerous speeches by political and military dignitaries, a POW/MIA ceremony, and the sounding of *Taps*. Just prior to *Taps*, the Federal Honor Guard assembled a 7-gun unit to provide a 21-gun salute – 3 volleys by 7 muskets. The unit was led into the Hemicycle by two officers and formed up in a single rank for the volleys. While the first shot was a bit ragged, the spectators were seemingly impressed by the precision of the unit. After firing, the Honor Guard unit went to 'Present Arms' for the sounding of *Taps*, then retired.



Federal Honor Guard fires a salute Volley

Right clockwise: **Joey Almia, Jared Garcia, Chris Strzelecki, John Silva, John Hasek, Roy Eanes, Rion Braddock, Jim Richardson, and Howard Rose.**



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Memorial Day 2022 (continued)



Federal Honor Guard

Front rank L-R: Tom Attaway, Rion Braddock, Roy Eanes, John Silva, Jared Garcia, Daniel Pourreau, Jim Richardson, and Chris Strzelecki

Rear rank L-R: Joey Almia, William Myers, John Hasek, Steve Silva, Howard Rose, Michael Lance, and cannon crewman Robert Riley.

To close the ceremony, the two cannons once again roared to life. Their simultaneous firing sounded like a single blast. It was a fitting end to a fine program – and a perfect salute to all our nation’s veterans.

... additional photo on page 22

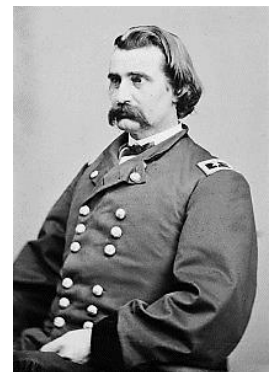
... report submitted by Michael L. Lance, PCC

Trivia – Decoration Day

The Civil War claimed more American lives than any other conflict in U.S. history up to that point. National cemeteries were established to honor the Union soldiers killed during the war. By the late 1860s, Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers. In May 1868, Gen. John A. Logan, Commander of the *Grand Army of the Republic*, called for a nationwide day of remembrance. “*The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land,*” he proclaimed. One reason he chose that particular date was because it wasn’t the anniversary of any specific battle.

Maj. General John A. Logan

On May 30, 1868, at the first Decoration Day, Gen. James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery. The five thousand or so participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Civil War soldiers. Today, national cemeteries have become national memorials to all U.S. veterans – and *Decoration Day* was later renamed as *Memorial Day*.



submitted by Michael L. Lance, PCC

Memorial Day 2022 (continued)

Monday, 30 May 2022 – Houston, Texas

On Memorial Day, Sr. Vice-Commander John Vander Meulen led a delegation from the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN, Camp #2*, to Washington Cemetery in Houston. They gathered at the *G.A.R.* plot within the cemetery to pay tribute to the Union veterans buried there. In partnership with the *Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War*, a formal memorial service was conducted.

During the program, the participants each took a turn in moving to one of the eleven Civil War markers, pausing to call out the name and unit of their chosen veteran, and then stepped forward to lay a rose on the headstone. They then placed a Civil War era Union flag beside the marker before stepping back to render a salute. *Hymn to the Fallen* sounded in the background. It was a very moving ceremony for all who participated.



Washington Cemetery, Houston, Texas

Front row L-R: Sr. Vice-President Becky Feaster, Gail Johnson, Fran Matchett, and President Sue Barry of Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4, DUVCW, Mary Anthony Startz of Clara Barton Detached Tent #3, DUVCW, friend Jackie Huckabay, and Brother Patrick Young

Back row L-R: Brothers John Vander Meulen, Herbert Powers, and Jason Hoffman

The 2nd grave marker from the left marks the final resting place of Sarah Emma Edmonds-Seelye, the namesake of both the local *DUVCW* Tent and the *Ladies Auxiliary* of *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2*

... submitted by John Vander Meulen, SVC

Memorial Day 2022 (continued)

Monday, 30 May 2022 – Riverton, Wyoming

During the morning of May 30, 2022, heavy rain fell in Riverton, Wyoming. Due to the inclement weather, the local Veterans Hall officially cancelled the Memorial Day Ceremony that was scheduled to take place at a local cemetery. However, despite the weather, about forty people showed up at Mountain View Cemetery to honor our departed veterans. Just as the originally scheduled start time for the ceremony neared, the rain lifted.

So in response, Warren Hess, Commander of *American Legion Post 19*, decided to proceed with a modified program anyway. After the attendees recited the *Pledge of Allegiance*, Cmdr. Hess gave a short speech, reminding the audience of the service and sacrifice given by those who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. In addition, he urged them to not only remember the past, but to pass on the traditions of service to future generations in order to help preserve our great republic.

During the abbreviated program, several short remembrance speeches were given, and two wreaths were placed on stands on either side of the *VFW* monument. Brother Karl Falken of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp* of Houston, representing the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*, placed one of the wreaths, and Jordan Yager, representing the *Sons of the American Revolution*, placed the other.

Both men were dressed in period uniforms patterned after the service of their ancestors. Brother Falken's impression was in honor of his 2nd great-grandfather, Pvt. Michael Bowers of the *87th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry*. Jordan Yager's impression was in honor of his ancestor, James Tucker, a teamster who served in Captain Moses Munson's teamster brigade out of Washington County.

Right: Karl Falken and Jordan Yager after placing wreaths

Since the scheduled rifle team did not attend due to the cancellation notice, Brother Falken obliged with a musket salute.

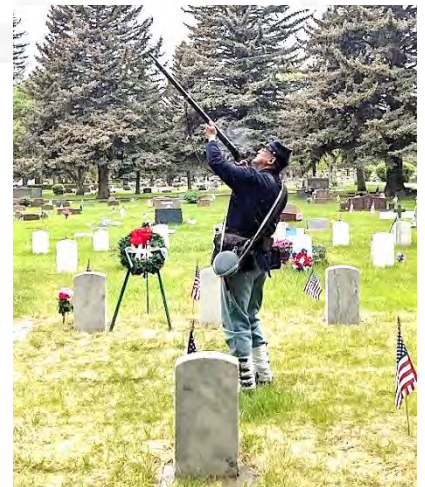


The volleys from his Springfield musket boomed over the cemetery. The shots were followed by *Taps*, sounded by bugler Doug Newlin.

Right: Karl Falken's musket salute

Left: Bugler Doug Newlin

The spectators were appreciative of the efforts made by the participants in honoring all U.S. veterans. Many of them took pictures to take home to share with friends and family members who could not attend the event.



... submitted by Brother Karl Falken

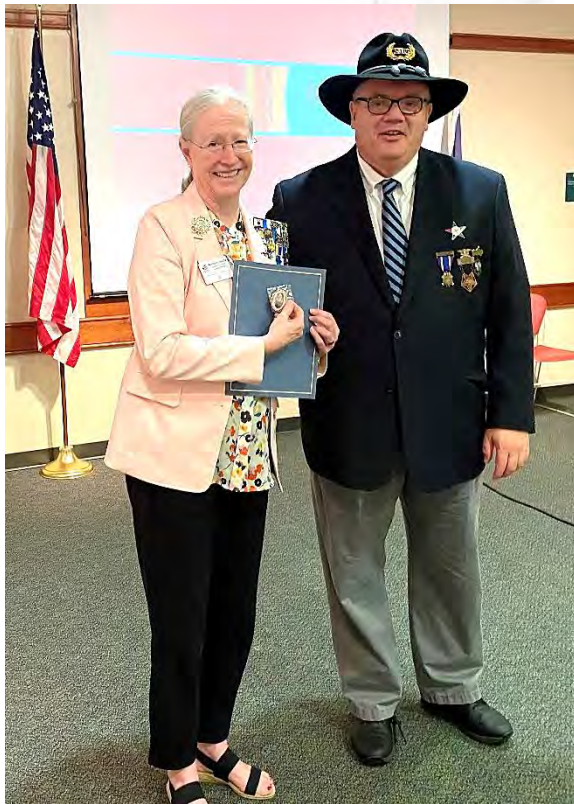
Ladies Appreciation Award Presented

Saturday – 18 Jun 2022 – Conroe, Texas

The *National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution* conducted a genealogy workshop in Conroe, Texas on June 18, 2022. John Vander Meulen, Sr. Vice-Commander of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp*, paid a special visit to the event. His mission was to present member Mary Anthony Startz with a *Clara Barton Ladies Appreciation Award*. The award was presented to her in recognition for her work with honoring her Union Civil War ancestor, and for being an outstanding guest speaker and friend of the *Lea Camp*.

Right: Mary Anthony Startz receives Ladies Appreciation Award certificate from SVC John Vander Meulen

Ms. Startz holds memberships in numerous prestigious heritage organizations, including: the *San Antonio Clara Barton Detached Tent #3, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War*; the *National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution* for thirty years; the *Hispanic Genealogical Society of Houston*; *Daughters of the American Colonists*; the *Continental Society Daughters of Indian Wars*; and the *National Society United Daughters of 1812*.



She volunteered as guest speaker at the *Lea Camp's* monthly business meeting in June. Her presentation portrayed the amazing story of her 2nd great-grandfather, William McNamara, who served with the 4th *U.S. Cavalry* during the Civil War, and later during the Indian Wars. He was also a Medal of Honor recipient.

Left: Mary Anthony Startz receives a Clara Barton Ladies Appreciation Award pin from SVC John Vander Meulen

Ms. Startz was not expecting Brother Vander Meulen's visit, and was surprised and moved by the gesture. Approximately thirty ladies attended the workshop. They were introduced to the important work being done by the *Daughters of the American Revolution*, and both the *Sons* and the *Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War* to preserve the legacy of our veteran ancestors.

Right: Clara Barton Ladies Appreciation Award pin



... submitted by Brother John C. Vander Meulen, SVC

Juneteenth Celebration 2022

Saturday – 18 Jun 2022 – Galveston, Texas

The 43rd Juneteenth holiday was celebrated on two separate days in Galveston, Texas this year. On June 18, the venue was the historic Ashton Villa on Broadway Boulevard. Brother Stephen Duncan once again portrayed Maj. General Gordon Granger at that event. On June 19, the venue moved over to the U.S. Customs House in Galveston. Once again, Brother Duncan attended to portray Maj. General Granger.



At Ashton Villa, Brothers Zane Hooper and Michael Lance attended to serve as a Union Guard. The ballroom of the mansion was filled with guests – and a line of photographers. All seats were taken, so late arrivers stood in the rear of the large room. The Union Guard posted in the back with them.

Left: Federal Guard – Cpl. Michael Lance and Pvt. Zane Hooper

To begin the ceremony, Brother Duncan, as Maj. Gen. Granger, rose from his chair and moved to the podium to briefly welcome the guests and spectators. After an opening prayer and the singing of *God Bless America* by an accomplished singer, several other speakers moved in turn to the podium. They included: Galveston Mayor Dr. Craig Brown; Galveston County Commissioner Stephen Holmes; Galveston NAACP president Mary Patrick; members of the late State Representative Al Edwards family; and U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee.

Dramatic entertainment was provided by Rebecca Jimerson, a Harriet Tubman reenactor. As she concluded her portrayal, Buffalo Soldier reenactor, Luis Padilla, moved to the stage to escort her along the center aisle to the rear of the ballroom.

Right: Retiring Harriet Tubman reenactor escorted by a Buffalo Soldier



Near the end of the program, the Union Guard stepped forward into the center aisle to form up with Maj. Gen. Granger. The unit then marched to the stage to read *General Order No. 3* – the order announcing the emancipation of slaves.

Left: Stephen Duncan, as Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger, stands between his guards before advancing to the stage.



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Juneteenth Celebration 2022 (continued)



Left: Attendees watch as the Union Guard escorts Stephen Duncan, portraying Maj. General Gordon Granger, to the stage to read General Order No. 3.

Right: Reading General Order No. 3 at Ashton Villa

2022 marked the first year that Juneteenth was celebrated as a national holiday. During the program, co-sponsor of the enabling legislation, Sheila Jackson Lee, provided a lengthy recount of the actions she and others had taken to bring the holiday into reality.

At the conclusion of the program, the Union men received many requests to stand for photos with attendees. The event was quite successful - both entertaining and informative.



Juneteenth celebrations continued on Sunday, June 19, 2022 at the U.S. Customs Building in Galveston. Brother Duncan, again portraying Maj. Gen. Granger, read *General Order No. 3* from the front steps of the building - after giving the context of the *Order*. He was again joined by Brother Hooper, who served as a Guard. The Customs Building was then christened as the *June Nineteenth Museum*, and is planned to be fully open to the public for Juneteenth 2023.

Right: Portraying Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger, Brother Stephen Duncan reads General Order No. 3 from the steps of the U.S. Customs House.

Afterward, Brother Duncan presented a copy of the *Order* to Miss Opal Lee, the recognized "grandmother of Juneteenth."



... report and photos submitted by Brothers Michael L. Lance, PCC, and Chaplain Stephen Duncan

Illinois Ancestors Memorialized

Saturday – 25 Jun 2022 – Worden, Illinois

A remembrance ceremony was held at the grave of my great-grandfather, Henry Ludwig Schulze, on Saturday, June 25th in the little village of Worden, Illinois. The ceremony was conducted by the *Col. Friedrich K. Hecker Camp #443, SUVCW*, which is based in Belleville, Illinois. They were assisted by the *Alton Jaeger Guards*, who portray the *9th Illinois Volunteer Infantry*, the regiment of my ancestor.

Additional ceremony participants included: members of *American Legion Post #564* of Worden, who provided the Honor Guard; members of the *114th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Reactivated*, who sounded 'Echo Taps'; and the Pastor of the Worden Lutheran Church. Henry Schulze and his family had been members of that same Church. The Pastor gave both the Invocation and the Benediction.

The remembrance ceremony actually honored two people – my great-grandfather, Henry Schulze, who was born in Prussia in 1840, and his younger brother, Frederick Schulze. They had immigrated to the United States just prior to the Civil War. The two brothers joined the *9th Illinois Volunteer Infantry* in August 1861. They participated in the assaults on Fort Heineman and Fort Donelson.

In April 1862, the regiment landed at Pittsburgh Landing in Mississippi and set up camp. On the morning of April 6th, the army was attacked by Confederate forces. The regiment held out for nine hours before being pushed back. At the start of the battle the regiment mustered 602 officers and men. At the end of the day, only 297 men answered the muster. My great-uncle, Frederick Schulze, was one of the fallen. Henry Schulze survived the war even though his regiment fought in many more battles.

In March 1863, the *9th Illinois* was converted to a 'mounted infantry' regiment, and thereafter often fought with the cavalry. Henry Schulze was captured twice. The first time was at the *Battle of Cherokee, Alabama*. He was held at Libby Prison for 18 days before being released on parole. In March 1864, after rejoining his regiment, he was captured a second time while scouting along the Flint River near Decatur, Georgia. This time he was sent to Andersonville Prison, and remained there until it was closed. Afterwards, he was transferred to a prison in Florence, South Carolina.

Henry Schulze was finally released from prison in May 1865 after the Confederacy surrendered. He returned to Illinois and married, with the family settling in Worden. He first labored as a farmer, and later became the owner of a general store. He died in 1910 and was buried in the Worden German Cemetery.

Frederick Schulze's remains were recovered from Shiloh after the war and were also reinterred in the Worden German Cemetery. In 1968, I located his headstone in the old cemetery. However, the headstone is now gone, and the exact location of his grave is no longer known for certain. A few years ago, a monument was erected in the town cemetery, which listed the civil war veterans buried there. But no one in Worden today is aware of either Henry or Frederick Schulze. I decided to change that.



I met with the Commander of *Col. Friedrich K. Hecker Camp #443* during the 2021 National Encampment in St. Louis. He offered to assist with putting together a ceremony to commemorate these two soldiers. The family paid to have a bronze plaque cast which describes the experiences of both men. The plaque was attached to the Schulze monument. I contacted the Veteran's Administration and requested a new headstone for great-uncle Frederick Schulze. Since we aren't sure exactly where the grave is located, we requested a Memorial Stone - which we installed adjacent to the Schulze monument.

Descendant Stephen D. Schulze speaks during the ceremony.

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Illinois Ancestors Memorialized *(continued)*

The remembrance ceremony was a resounding success. I invited as many of Henry's descendants as I could find. We had more than two dozen relatives in attendance. The ceremony included a bagpiper who played "The Minstrel Boy to the War Has Gone" as the Colors were paraded in, and later he played "Amazing Grace" as the Colors were retired. The ceremony included both a rifle and cannon salute, and the playing of "Echo Taps".

Right: Bagpiper Dan Jackson performing



Everyone who attended said they found the ceremony to be very moving. It was followed by a luncheon, where the Director of the *Madison County Historical Society* gave a presentation on the 9th Illinois and the battles they fought in.

Left: Schulze monument and decorated grave marker



Two additional small markers were placed at the Schulze grave - the G.A.R. star and the *SUVCW* emblem. I am determined that my Civil War ancestors, Henry and Frederick Schulze, will not be forgotten!

Below: Brother Stephen D. Schulze (in uniform) and other Schulze descendants at gravesite.



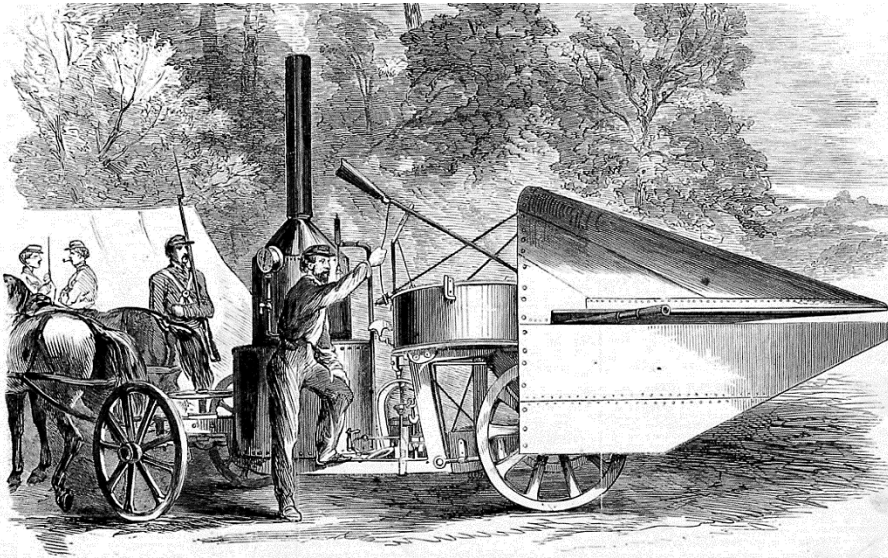
... submitted by Stephen D. Schulze, PDC/PCC

Weapons of War **The Winans Steam Gun**

In the wake of the April 19, 1861 clash between a pro-Southern mob and the 6th *Massachusetts Militia* in Baltimore, Maryland, readers of newspapers across the United States learned of a strange, and allegedly powerful steam powered weapon being deployed there. The new contraption was believed to be capable of fending off the expected rush of Union troops responding to President Lincoln's calls for volunteers, as they passed through the city enroute to Washington.

In the 1840s and 1850s, steam technology was in its infancy and many inventors were working feverishly to develop steam engines for railroads, riverboats, tractors, and other uses. One of those inventors was Charles Dickinson of Ohio. He initially created a hand-powered centrifugal gun, which was patented in 1858. He then turned his attention to harnessing steam for his weapon in order to increase its punch. In Boston in 1860, Dickinson found the funding he needed to build a unique steam-powered gun - the 'Winans Steam Gun'.

The 'Winans' employed centrifugal forces, rather than gunpowder, to propel projectiles. It was similar in size to a steam-powered fire engine of those days, and was pulled by horses or mules. A large boiler containing a 4-hp steam engine and smokestack was at the back of the carriage. A large drum was positioned further forward and was connected to the boiler by gears. The operator/loader stood in the small space between the boiler and the drum.



A large boiler containing a 4-hp steam engine and smokestack was at the back of the carriage. A large drum was positioned further forward and was connected to the boiler by gears. The operator/loader stood in the small space between the boiler and the drum.

Left: Winans Steam Gun – Frank Leslie's Illustrated, 1861

The gun's mechanism involved a shielded L-shaped barrel that rotated up to 250 times per minute. The operator dumped shot into the top of the barrel which rolled down into it. The balls were held back by a spring-

loaded gate. The gate opened to allow one shot to be flung out per revolution of the barrel. Thus, the firing rate was about 250 balls per minute – vastly superior in firing speed compared to the muskets carried by infantrymen. Not only was the contraption believed to be a terrifying killing machine, but it also had a menacing appearance thanks to a large shield that covered the front of the carriage.

In February 1861, Dickinson took his steam gun to Baltimore and demonstrated it for the City Council. The Council must have been impressed, because the gun was taken from Dickinson by the Baltimore City Police and ordered to be made ready, if needed. Apparently, the gun was taken to the railroad car house owned by Ross Winans for some work. Winans was a pioneering locomotive builder, and the inventor of an unorthodox class of steamships - the *Winans Cigar Ships*. He had also been hired by Baltimore's Board of Police to make pikes, shot and other munitions. His facility was a logical choice for servicing the equally unorthodox steam-powered gun. However, the gun was soon removed from Winans' facility and publicly displayed with other weapons being gathered by city authorities to fend off another Union 'invasion'.

Ross Winans was very wealthy and actively involved in states' rights politics in Maryland. With the munitions work being done at his factory for the city, the city defense appropriations, and the appearance of that menacing looking gun emerging from his factory, combined with rumors of southern secession, a lot of excitement and intrigue was in the air. The press was eager to trumpet, and naturally exaggerate, that excitement in newspapers across the country.

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Weapons of War

The Winans Steam Gun *(continued)*

After the excitement finally died down a bit, the steam gun was taken back to Winans' shop for additional repairs – at city expense. Then, for some reason, it was returned to Dickinson. He wasted no time in hiring teamsters to move his gun to Harper's Ferry. He hoped to sell the gun to the Confederates in Richmond, Virginia. Unfortunately for him, on May 11, 1861, Union forces captured the gun about 9½ miles west of Baltimore, near Ellicott Mills - and took it with them to their camp at Relay, Maryland.

Even though Ross Winans was not a party to the attempt to escape with the gun, newspaper accounts linked him to it. And, combined with his pro-states' rights politics, rumors of munitions making for the South, and the real munitions work he had undertaken for Baltimore authorities, Winans was arrested and briefly detained by Federal forces. After swearing that he would not take up arms against the government, he was released 48 hours later.

Following its capture, the Winans Steam Gun was tested by members of the 6th Massachusetts Infantry. It was then sent North, and was eventually presented to a mechanic's organization in Lowell, Massachusetts for further evaluation. Despite all the effort, money and time invested in the steam gun project, it was determined that the Winans Steam Gun was unable to match the accuracy or power of the gunpowder weaponry of the time. It was deemed to be effective only to a range of 80-100 yards. The gun was cumbersome, requiring horses to move it. Fuel and water was needed to

charge the boiler – which may be non-existent on a battlefield. Not to mention that it would be a sitting duck for opposing artillery. Thus, the project was abandoned.

The unusual, one-of-a-kind gun ultimately made no significant contribution to the war. It spent the rest of the conflict positioned to defend the Thomas Viaduct near Relay, Maryland.

Left: Thomas Viaduct near Relay, Maryland

Afterwards, the formidable-looking weapon remained little more than a curiosity, and was eventually scrapped.



In 1961, for the Centennial of the Civil War, a full-scale replica was built for a reenactment being held in Ellicott City, Maryland. Today, that replica is on outdoor display on the median of US Route 1 in Elkridge, Maryland.

Left: Remains of the 1961 full-scale replica of the Winans Steam Gun

... submitted by Michael L. Lance, PCC

Ashton Villa

Still standing at 24th and Broadway in Galveston, Texas, Ashton Villa was the first mansion built on this major Galveston thoroughfare. It is reportedly the first private home in Texas constructed of brick. Today, it is still as grand as it was when constructed in 1859 - over a century and a half ago. The home is a fine example of antebellum southern architecture.

The brick walls are 13 inches thick, designed to keep out the Gulf Coast humidity and to provide strength. There were coal burning fireplaces in every room and two *indoor* bathrooms. The home glowed at night from the light of gas chandeliers. No expense had been spared.



Ashton Villa

Ashton Villa was the center of the social scene in Galveston, including the annual New Year's Eve ball. Wealthy guests were accommodated with a red carpet laid down from their

carriages to the mansion's front door. Thus, their feet were shielded from the dirt and oyster shale of Broadway. The mansion was the heart of Galveston's identity as one of the richest and most vibrant cities in the country at that time.

The original owners, James and Rebecca Brown, were one of the most powerful families in Texas during the state's early years. The 3-story Victorian-style 'palace', with its elaborate iron veranda, is easily identified as a custom-built home of a man with an abundance of wealth. The home's original first-floor interior rooms, with their elegant architecture and gold filigree, had been the site of stylish entertainment since before the Civil War. The Brown family later added a spacious open ballroom in the 1920s.

James Moreau Brown was born in New York in 1821. He eventually became a slave owner as well as a shrewd businessman. In 1843, Galveston was a burgeoning port city when 23-year old Brown arrived. He recognized and met the needs of the booming shipping industry by opening the first hardware store in Galveston.



James Moreau Brown

By 1859, Brown had built a fortune from his hardware business and in banking - becoming the 5th richest man in Texas. He purchased 4 lots on Broadway for \$4,000 and built the Victorian-style house as a gift to his wife, Rebecca.

Ashton Villa was constructed using slave labor. Brown had purchased a slave named Alek, specifically because of his skill as a brick mason.

Rebecca Brown, born Rebecca Ashton in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1831, named the home in memory of one of her ancestors, Revolutionary War veteran, Lt. Isaac Ashton. It would remain in the Brown family for three generations.

Rebecca Ashton Brown



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Ashton Villa (continued)

During most of the Civil War, Ashton Villa was used either as a Confederate headquarters or a hospital. Due to the fortunes of war waxing and waning over Galveston, the mansion was also briefly used as a Union headquarters. In June 1865, Union General Gordon Granger marched on Galveston to announce the end of the war. His *General Order No. 3*, issued on June 19, 1865, informed the people of Galveston that all formerly enslaved people were now free. Some say he made this declaration from the ornate wrought iron balcony of Ashton Villa, although no definitive proof of this has been found.

In spite of their role in the war, the Brown family retained much of their wealth and influence after the war ended. Former Union General and U.S President Ulysses S. Grant visited Ashton Villa in 1880 and is said to have enjoyed brandy and cigars with James Brown in the home's Gold Room. It has also been said that this same Gold room hosted the formal surrender of the Confederate forces of the southwest.

On September 8, 1900, five years after James Brown died, the thick brick walls of Ashton Villa were severely tested as a massive hurricane roared ashore. The Brown family, along with some friends, rode out the storm on the 2nd floor of the sturdy mansion. The hurricane winds shattered the structure's windows and flood waters steadily crept up,



reaching the tenth step of the grand staircase. The younger Brown daughter, Mathilda Brown, is said to have sat at the top of the staircase, watching with wonder as the floodwater rose.

Galveston after the 1900 hurricane

But the Villa managed to survive – standing strong amid leveled buildings and homes all around it. Besides the shattered windows, the mansion suffered water damage to its basement and first floor. It was one of only a few buildings that remained intact. Between 6,000 and 8,000 citizens died during the storm, and Galveston was left nearly uninhabitable.

Since so much earth had been carried away by the storm, the grade of the city was raised 2-3 feet. Instead of raising Ashton Villa, the decision was made to simply fill in the basement. Today, you can still see the tops of the basement windows near the front steps. In addition, nearly half of the fence was buried - instead of being replaced – making it appear short today.

James and Rebecca Brown both eventually died in Ashton Villa. While their three sons had grown and moved elsewhere, their two daughters, Rebecca 'Bettie' Brown and Mathilda "Tilly" Brown-Sweeney, also died in the home. The younger daughter eventually came into possession of the old mansion. After she passed away in 1926, her daughter, Matilda Alice Sweeney-Jumonville, became the new owner. She eventually sold the house for use as a Masonic meeting hall and office building.

Mathilda 'Tilly' Brown-Sweeney



When Ashton Villa faced demolition in 1970, it was purchased by the *Galveston Historical Foundation*. In 1974, after four years of research and restoration work, it was opened to the public as a museum. The mansion today still appears much the way it did in 1859. However, restorations were needed to repair damage caused by Hurricane Ike in 2008. A Visitors Center is now located in the rear carriage house.

... submitted by Michael L. Lance, PCC

Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 25)

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."

Right: **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.



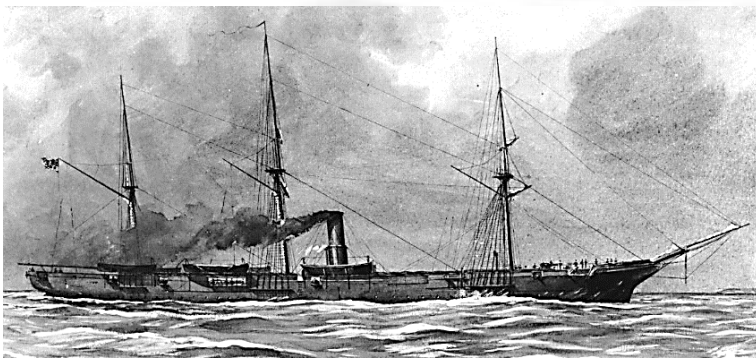
- **John Jones – Landsman** – John Jones was born in 1841 in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He served in the U.S. Navy as a Landsman on the *USS Rhode Island*. Jones assisted in the rescue of crewmen from the sinking ironclad, *USS Monitor*. His Medal of Honor citation reads:



Served on board the U.S.S. Rhode Island, which was engaged in saving the lives of the officers and crew of the Monitor, 30 December 1862. Participating in the hazardous rescue of the officers and crew of the sinking Monitor, Jones, after rescuing several of the men, became separated in a heavy gale with other members of the cutter that had set out from the Rhode Island, and spent many hours in the small boat at the mercy of the weather and high seas until finally picked up by a schooner 50 miles east of Cape Hatteras.

- **John E. Jones – Quartermaster** – John E. Jones was born in 1834 in New York City, and was still living there when he joined the U.S. Navy. He served during the Civil War as a Quartermaster on *USS Oneida* - a Mohican-class screw sloop-of-war. During the Civil War, she destroyed the *CSS Governor Moore* and served in blockade operations.

On August 5, 1864, Jones was stationed at the ship's wheel during the *Battle of Mobile Bay*. The wheel was eventually rendered useless when the ropes which connected it to the tiller were destroyed by hostile fire.



Left: **Sketch of USS Oneida**

Right: **Grave marker and memorial of John E. Jones**

Although wounded, Jones helped send and receive signals before

installing new wheel ropes. For this action, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. His citation reads:

Served as quartermaster on board the U.S.S. Oneida in the engagement at Mobile Bay, 5 August 1864. Stationed at the wheel during the fierce action, Jones, though wounded, carried out his duties gallantly by going to the poop to assist at the signals after the wheel ropes were shot away and remained there until ordered to reeve new wheel ropes.



... Continued on next page

Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy *(Part 25 continued)*

- **Thomas Jones – Coxswain** – Thomas Jones was born in 1820 in Baltimore Maryland. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy from Maryland in 1846. In 1862, Jones was assigned to the Union sloop-of-war *USS Ticonderoga*. On January 15, 1865, the North Carolina Confederate stronghold of Fort Fisher was taken by a combined Union storming party of



sailors, marines, and soldiers under the command of Admiral David Dixon Porter and General Alfred Terry. Coxswain Jones was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the engagement.

Left: USS Ticonderoga

Jones' Medal of Honor citation reads:

On board the U.S.S. Ticonderoga during attacks on Fort Fisher, North Carolina, 24 and 25 December 1864; and 13 to 15

January 1865. Despite heavy return fire by the enemy and the explosion of the 100-pounder Parrott rifle which killed eight men and wounded 12 more, Coxswain Jones, as Captain of a gun, performed his duties with skill and courage during the first two days of battle. As his ship again took position on the line on the 13th, he remained steadfast as the Ticonderoga maintained a well-placed fire upon the batteries on shore, and thereafter, as she materially lessened the power of guns on the mound which had been turned upon our assaulting columns. During this action the flag was planted on one side of the strongest fortifications possessed by the rebels.

Jones retired from the Navy in August 1885 and died in December 1892 at Annapolis, Maryland. He is buried at the United States Naval Academy Cemetery. His death notice in the *Baltimore Sun* newspaper reads:

"ANNAPOLIS, Dec. 11. - Thomas Jones, aged seventy-three years, for thirty-five years a sailor in the United States navy, died here this morning. Several years ago Jones was retired on a pension. He was a Baltimorean by birth, but has resided in Annapolis a number of years, having been stationed at the Naval Academy. During most of his long service in the Navy he held the rate of seaman."

- **William Jones – Captain of the Top** – William Jones was born in 1831 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 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 *USS Richmond*, a wooden steam sloop.

During the August 1864 *Battle of Mobile Bay*, *Richmond* was lashed to the starboard side of *USS Port Royal*, and proceeded with the fleet across the bar. Fort Morgan opened fire and the action was soon general. Fifteen minutes later, *USS Tecumseh* struck a moored "torpedo" and sank in seconds. Then *USS Brooklyn*, just ahead of *Richmond*, backed up against *Richmond's* bow in order to clear "a row of suspicious looking buoys." *Richmond* and *Port Royal* in turn went hard astern, causing the entire line of wooden ships to fall into disarray. Admiral Farragut on *USS Hartford* decided that a bold course through the torpedo fields was the only one possible and gave his famous command "Damn the torpedoes ... full speed ahead!" During the action, Jones "fought his gun with skill and courage" despite heavy fire. For this action, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. His citation reads:

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, Jones fought his gun with skill and courage throughout the prolonged 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 – U.S. Navy *(Part 25 continued)*

- **Robert Jordan – Coxswain** – Robert Jordan was born in New York, New York in 1826. He served in the Union Navy as Coxswain aboard the steamer *USS Mount Washington* during the Civil War. He earned his medal in action aboard *USS Mount Washington* on the Nansemond River, Virginia on April 14, 1863. Jordan died in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in December 1881 and is buried in Mount Moriah Cemetery in Philadelphia - where his surname is misspelled as "Jourdan". His Medal of Honor Citation reads:

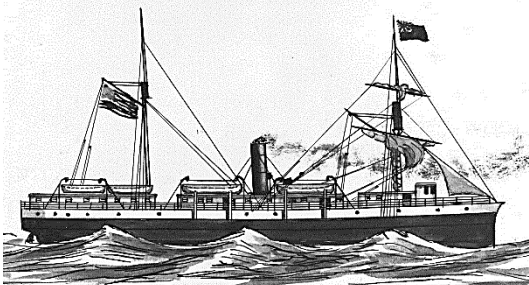
For extraordinary heroism in action while attached to the USS Minnesota and temporarily serving on the USS Mount Washington, during action against the enemy in the Nansemond River, Virginia, 14 April 1863. When the Mount Washington drifted against the bank following several successive hits which struck her boilers and stopped her engines, Coxswain Jordan boarded the stricken vessel and, for six hours as fierce artillery and musketry continued to rake her decks, calmly assisted in manning a 12-pound howitzer which had been mounted on the open hurricane deck.

- **Thomas H. Jordan – Quartermaster** – Thomas H. Jordan was born in April 1840 in Portsmouth, Virginia. He was living in Baltimore, Maryland when he joined the U.S. Navy. He served during the Civil War as a Quartermaster on *USS Galena*. At the *Battle of Mobile Bay* on August 5, 1864, he "performed his duties with skill and courage" as his ship assisted the disabled *USS Oneida* while under heavy fire. For this action, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. Jordan died in July 1930 at age 90 and was buried at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Chicago, Illinois. His official Medal of Honor citation reads:

On board the U.S.S. Galena during the attack on enemy forts at Mobile Bay, 5 August 1864. Securely lashed to the side of the Oneida which had suffered the loss of her steering apparatus and an explosion of her boiler from enemy fire, the Galena aided the stricken vessel past the enemy forts to safety. Despite heavy damage to his ship from raking enemy fire, Jordan performed his duties with skill and courage throughout the action.



- **Thomas Kane – Captain of the Hold** – Thomas Kane was born in 1841. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy from New Jersey in 1856 and was assigned to the Union steamer, *USS Nereus*. On January 15, 1865, the North Carolina Confederate stronghold of Fort Fisher was taken by a combined Union storming party of sailors, marines, and soldiers under the command of Admiral David Dixon Porter and General Alfred Terry. Kane received a Medal of Honor for his actions during the Second Battle of Fort Fisher on January 15, 1865.



Left: USS Nereus, converted to a merchant ship post-war and renamed Somerset

Kane's Medal of Honor citation reads:

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Captain of the Hold Thomas Kane, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving on board the U.S.S. Nereus during the attack on Fort Fisher, North Carolina, on 15 January 1865. Thomas Kane, as Captain of the Hold, displayed outstanding skill and courage as his ship maintained its well-directed fire against fortifications on shore despite the enemy's return fire. When a rebel steamer was discovered in the river back of the fort, the Nereus, with forward rifle guns trained, drove the ship off at the third fire. The gallant ship's participation contributed to the planting of the flag on one of the strongest fortifications possessed by the rebels.

... to be continued next issue with Part 26

Upcoming Camp Activities

Jul 12, 2022	<p>Camp Business Meeting Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, Texas – 7 p.m. <i>Guest Speaker:</i> Donald Frazier, Ph.D., author and Director of Texas Center at Schreiner University. Topic: “Conscription, Unionism, and Mayhem: The Civil War in the Texas Hill Country.”</p>
Aug 11-14, 2022	<p>2022 National Encampment DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 4747 28th St. SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan.</p>
Sep 13, 2022	<p>Camp Business Meeting Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, Texas – 7 p.m. <i>Guest Speaker:</i> Andrew Torget, Ph.D., author and historian of 19th century North America at the University of North Texas.</p>
Oct 11, 2022	<p>Camp Business Meeting Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, Texas – 7 p.m. <i>Guest Speaker:</i> Dr. Kevin Roberts, Ph.D., President of The Heritage Foundation.</p>
Nov 8, 2022	<p>Camp Business Meeting Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, Texas – 7 p.m. <i>Guest Speaker:</i> Richard B. McCaslin, author and professor of Texas and 19th century U.S. military history at the University of North Texas.</p>
Nov 21, 2022	<p>Veterans Day Houston City Hall, 901 Bagby St., Houston, Texas – 10 a.m. Musket Salute and Parade.</p>
Dec 13, 2022	<p>Camp Business Meeting Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, Texas – 7 p.m. <i>Guest Speaker:</i> Thomas K. Lindsay, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Higher Education at the Texas Public Policy Foundation. Topic: “Lincoln/Douglas debates”.</p>

2022 Camp Officers, Staff, and Social Media Links

Commander	Ben Bonnett	benelect@gmail.com	Camp Council	Gary E. White
Sr. Vice-Comdr.	John Vander Meulen	txsuvso@txsuv.org	Camp Council	Stevenson T. Holmes
Jr. Vice-Comdr.	Daniel B. Pourreau	joincamp2@txsuv.org	Camp Council	Thomas F. Coughlin
Secy./Treas.	Steve D. Schulze	sdsmcs@swbell.net		
Chaplain	Stephen F. Duncan		Civil War Mem. Off.	Harrison G. Moore IV
Patriotic Instructor	Charles L. Duke		Facebook Mgr.	John Vander Meulen
Historian	Michael L. Lance		Webmaster	Thomas M. Eishen
Color Bearer	Zane F. Hooper		Zoom Facilitator	John Vander Meulen
Guide	Thomas F. Coughlin		Newsletter Editor	Michael L. Lance
Guard	Tracy I. Wallace		Assist. Newsltr Edit.	Daniel B. Pourreau
Signals Officer	John Vander Meulen		Assistant Secretary	Lee R. Wallace
Eagle Scout Coord.	Ben Bonnett		Assistant Webmaster	Charles F. Reed
Website – Houston Camp	https://www.camplea.org/	Website – Dept. of Texas	http://www.txsuv.org/	
Facebook – Houston Camp	https://www.facebook.com/LtCmdrEdwardLeaCamp2HoustonSUVCW/			
Facebook – Dept. of Texas	https://www.facebook.com/SUVCW.TX.LA/			

Signature Photo (continued from page 6)



Memorial Day 2022
Houston National Cemetery
Federal cannon crew fires a round to begin the formal Memorial Day ceremonies
L-R: Michael Rappe, Thomas Coughlin, and Stephen Schulze
Crewmen not visible: Ben Bonnett and Robert Riley

*“Neither let us be slandered from our duty by false accusations against us,
nor frightened from it by menaces of destruction to the Government
nor of dungeons to ourselves.
Let us have faith that right makes might,
And in that faith, let us, to the end,
Dare to do our duty as we understand it.”*

Spoken by

Abraham Lincoln

16th President of the United States (1861-1865)

Cooper Union Address on 27 Feb 1860