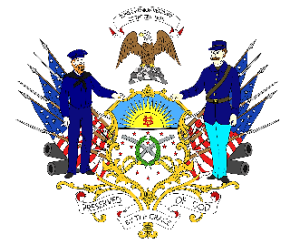




THE HARRIET LANE



The Official Newsletter of
Lt. Commander Edward Lea, USN, Camp No. 2 – Houston, Texas

30 SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Dec 2023

Volume 29

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Cover Image

"The Giant of Mobile Bay" – The *CSS Tennessee* challenges 17 Union vessels during the 1864 *Battle of Mobile Bay* – before surrendering. (Watercolor by Thomas Freeman, 1992)

The *Harriet Lane* is the official newsletter of the Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN Camp No. 2, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Houston, Texas. It is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December. Send questions or comments to the Editor at: mlance387@gmail.com

Boonville Days 2023

Saturday, 14 Oct 2023 - Bryan, Texas

A beautiful sunny morning greeted members of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp* in Bryan, Texas on October 14, 2023. Brothers Michael Rappe, Daniel Pourreau, and Michael Lance assembled on the grounds in front of the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History. They promptly set up an attractive recruiting tent display. The display was just one of dozens set up for the annual *Texas Heritage Festival 'Boonville Days'* living history event.

Ideally positioned beside the sidewalk to the main entrance of the museum, the blue-clad men attracted a lot of attention. The museum had supplied two tables, a tent canopy, and four chairs for the display. Two unneeded tables from an adjacent display were also added to the setup to facilitate the large number of Civil War uniform items, weapons, and accoutrements that were brought to show – mostly supplied by SVC Daniel Pourreau.



Display table for accoutrements and other gear.

(Notice the white canteen on the far left with the red lettering - supplied by Michael Lance).



Display table for uniform items depicting the various branches of the Union forces.

Numerous family groups and teenagers stopped at the tables to gaze at the display items and ask questions. Brother Pourreau was constantly at work entertaining and educating visitors about the different uniforms and weapons. Brothers Lance and Rappe also assisted with some demonstrations, while focusing primarily on recruiting activities. Camp newsletters, *SUVCW* brochures, Civil War relics, and photos were displayed for that purpose.

Overall, all three men had an enjoyable time working together on that pleasant fall morning. The interaction with an appreciative and receptive public was very positive - and also quite successful with promoting awareness of, and the mission of, the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*. All vowed to return to do it again in 2024!

... continued on next page

Boonville Days 2023 (continued)



Above far left:
Daniel Pourreau showing Minié balls and powder to enthralled youngsters.

Above center:
Daniel Pourreau demonstrating musket loading procedures.

Above far right:
Michael Rappe explaining Civil War relics and photos.

Left L-R:
Michael Lance, Daniel Pourreau, and Michael Rappe

... submitted by Michael L. Lance, DC/PCC

Headstone Cleaning

Saturday, 4 Nov 2023 – Washington Cemetery – Houston, Texas

On Saturday morning, November 4, 2023, several Brothers of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2* assembled at the *G.A.R.* plot in Houston's historic Washington Cemetery. Their mission was to clean the headstones of the ten Union veterans buried in the plot. Sarah Emma Seelye, the namesake of our *Auxiliary*, was one of the veterans buried there. Sister Norma Pollard of the *Auxiliary* joined *Lea Camp* Brothers Daniel B. Pourreau, Robert G. Riley, Herbert W. Powers, and Michael L. Lance for the cleaning project.

Several applications of D/2 Biological Solution were sprayed on each headstone, followed by gentle brushing, and then rinsing with clean water. The process was repeated on most of the headstones to eventually bring out the beautiful colors, patterns, and sparkle of the marble markers.

Right: **Michael Lance and Daniel Pourreau preparing the D/2 cleaning solution and rinse canisters.**

After the gravestones were cleaned, a small 35-star flag was placed beside each one. A decorative wreath was positioned behind the Seelye grave, followed by a short remembrance ceremony by the work crew.



Herbert Powers gently scrubs with a soft brush.



Norma Pollard applies some final touches.

... continued on next page

Headstone Cleaning (continued)



Robert Riley applying D/2 solution



**Sister Norma Pollard salutes
Union veteran Sarah Emma Seelye**

*... report submitted by Michael L. Lance, DC/PCC, photos submitted by Robert Riley and SVC Daniel Pourreau
Additional photo on page 20*

Veterans Day 2023

Saturday, 11 Nov 2023 - Houston, Texas

At 2:00 p.m. on Veterans Day, ten members of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp* met online via Zoom to honor our nation's military veterans. They were joined by Sisters Susan Barry and Mary Anthony Startz of the *Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War*. Sister Barry is a member of the local *DUVCW* Tent in Houston, and Sister Startz is a member of the *DUVCW* Tent in San Antonio.

After an invocation by Department Chaplain Stephen Schulze and the *Pledge of Allegiance*, Camp Commander John Vander Meulen called on Sister Barry to read the moving poem, "*When the Boys in Blue are Gone*". He then offered inspirational remarks about the importance of 'remembering' and honoring our ancestors. Each attendee was given a few minutes to call out the names of their military ancestors, both Civil War and later era servicemen, and give a brief description of their service.

Normally on Veterans Day, members of the *Lea Camp* would participate in the official ceremonies conducted on the grounds of Houston City Hall. After firing a 3-volley musket salute, they would then take their assigned position and march in the downtown parade. Those normal activities were cancelled by the City of Houston for 2023.

So, since inclement weather forced a cancellation of the 'normal' Veterans Day activities, the Brothers of the Camp sought an alternative method to honor our nation's heroes. Commander Vander Meulen put together a nicely crafted memorial program for the occasion, allowing the Camp to render honors virtually. He was joined by Brothers Stephen Schulze, PDC, Michael Lance, DC, Larry Nuckels, Robert Clements, JVC Jason Hoffman, Herb Powers, Michael Rappe, William 'Bill' Myers, and Robert Riley. All involved enjoyed the moving and inspirational memorial service.

... submitted by Michael Lance, DC/PCC



Grave Memorial

Wednesday, 15 Nov 2023 - Rome, Georgia

On page 6 of the December 2022 issue of the *Harriet Lane* Camp newsletter, I related how, after doing years of research on my great-grandfather, Julius Oluf Krag, I discovered that he was buried at Myrtle Hill Cemetery in Rome, Georgia. He had served as a Private with Co. G, 15th New York Heavy Artillery during the Civil War. I then began the process of ordering a new VA headstone for his grave.

First, I spoke with the Cemetery Director and learned that they did have a record of my ancestor's burial – but unfortunately, not his actual burial location. The cemetery also had a record of the burial of my ancestor's wife, but neither record indicates their actual plot location. But, it turned out that there was already an established location within the cemetery for Civil War veterans, both Union and Confederate, who were buried with and without headstones. So, I asked the Director if he would be receptive to placing a headstone for my ancestor in that area - if I provided one. The answer was 'yes', and that the installation would be done by the cemetery at no charge! So Private Krag would soon finally be memorialized with a VA military headstone.

After the new headstone was installed, I communicated with Patricia Millican at Myrtle Hill Cemetery and asked if she knew of anyone from a local *SUVCW* Camp who performed graveside honors. I wanted to have a wreath placed at Private Krag's grave during the upcoming *Wreaths Across America* Day in December. She did not know of any, but she did put me in contact with a Brother of the *Sons of Confederate Veterans of the Civil War*. After several e-mails back and forth with him, he did locate my ancestor's new headstone and placed an American Flag beside it.

Since there was no *SUVCW* Camp based in Rome, Georgia, I looked for one in the surrounding area. I discovered that the closest *SUVCW* Camp was *Kennesaw Mountain Camp #3* in Marietta, Georgia, about 90 miles away. I contacted them and asked if they planned to participate in the upcoming *Wreaths Across America* day. Brother Reither of that Camp confirmed that they did, but they already had plans to place wreaths in their local area.

After I told him about my ancestor's new VA gravestone in Rome, his response to my request for assistance was very positive. He said their Camp would be honored to travel to Myrtle Hill Cemetery in Rome on a day in November, locate my ancestor's headstone, place a wreath, and render honors.



Brother Reither also mentioned that he, on his own, purchases a lone wreath for a veteran who was laid to rest in a small private cemetery in Marietta that he takes care of. As a gesture of appreciation, I ordered an extra wreath for him to honor his veteran.

On November 15, 2023, Brothers Bryja and Born of the *SUVCW* Camp in Marietta went far and above what I expected in honoring my great-grandfather, Private Julius Oluf Krag. They performed a very nice ceremony during a wreath-laying. I can't thank them enough!

"Mission Accomplished!"



Brothers Born and Bryja render Honors to Pvt. Julius Oluf Krag

... submitted by F. S. (Nick) Nichols, Jr.

Christmas Social

9 Dec 2023 – Holy Cross Lutheran Church in West Houston

The December business meeting of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp* was special this year. Commander Vander Meulen had decided to invite the significant others of the Brothers to attend as guests, and to include a potluck dinner and social gathering afterward. After the Commander quickly dispensed with official Camp business, the gavel came down and a line formed at the food and desert tables. Drawings for several door prizes were made, with one lucky recipient awarded a coveted Clara Barton Ladies Appreciation brooch. Everyone had a great time socializing and reminiscing.



Cmdr. John C. Vander Meulen and his wife Kathryn



SVC Daniel B. Pourreau and his wife, Dianne



JVC Jason D. Hoffman



Secr./Treas. Stephen D. Schulze, PDC



Herbert W. Powers, Jr.

... event photos continued on next page

December Christmas Social *(continued)*



Ronald S. 'Steve' Brock and his wife, Joyce



Thomas F. Coughlin, PDC, and his wife, Kathryn



DC Michael L. Lance, PCC and Emma Valdes



Robert G. Riley and his wife, Lisa



Michael D. Rappe and his wife, Sarah



Mrs. Brock receives Barton brooch

... event photos continued on next page

December Christmas Social (continued)

Ladies of Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1



Secr./Treas. Jana Marsh



Norma Pollard



President Valencia Reyes



Susan Barry, DUVCW and her husband Bob.



The potluck food selections were amazing.

Many thanks go to the preparers of the various food and dessert dishes! And a tip of the Kepi goes to Brother Riley for organizing the raffle gift table and managing the drawings. The resulting overall sentiment for this type of December Camp 'meeting' was for it to become a regular tradition for the *Lea Camp*. Next December we look forward to even more Brothers and their significant others joining us!

... submitted by Michael L. Lance, DC/PCC

Ancestor Profile – Private William Long

The December 2020 issue of the *Harriet Lane* featured the profile of my great-grandfather, John J. Long, who served as a Private during the Civil War with *Co. C, 138th Pennsylvania Infantry*. I'm delighted to now present a profile of my great-granduncle, William Long, one of my great-grandfather's brothers.

This is a brief profile of a man who volunteered to serve in the Union Army during one of the most critical times in our nation's history. His decision would entail dire consequences and provide me with an intriguing mystery I've yet to solve. The courageous individual I am writing about is my great-granduncle, William Long.

William was born about 1838 in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania to Jacob and Elizabeth Long. Census data collected in 1860 indicates that William had six brothers and one sister. On September 1, 1862, William and three of his brothers (John, Robert, and Jacob) mustered into federal service at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They all enlisted for a term of three years with *Company C, 139th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment*.

In the ensuing months after William's enlistment, the regiment he served in would be involved in a number of significant battles. One of the most notable of those battles took place in the Summer of 1863 in and around a Pennsylvania town called Gettysburg.



Pvt. William Long

In the Spring of 1864, misfortune befell William's brother John (*my great-grandfather*). John was seriously wounded at the *Battle of Spotsylvania Court House* on May 12th. Shortly thereafter, his left leg was amputated during a battlefield surgery.

The following month, William's military service also ended in a dismal manner - less than two years after he mustered in. On June 3, 1864, he was killed in action at the *Battle of Cold Harbor*. That much is known from regimental records. What remains a mystery to this day is the whereabouts of William's gravesite.

William's body might well have been laid to rest at Cold Harbor National Cemetery in Mechanicsville, Virginia. The cemetery is the final resting place of over 1,000 unidentified Union soldiers who died at Cold Harbor and areas near there.

It's also possible that William's body was buried at Richmond National Cemetery. This is because some of the Union soldiers killed at Cold Harbor were taken there for burial. More than 5,000 unknown Union soldiers are among those buried at Richmond National Cemetery.



One reason why so many Union soldiers at these and other national cemeteries were not identified is that the Army did not issue identification tags (*aka. 'dog tags'*) during the Civil War. Even though some soldiers did have ID tags, they were unofficial in nature. One form of unofficial ID tag, for instance, was a small disc made of soft metal engraved with a soldier's name and other information. Some soldiers simply wrote their names on a piece of paper pinned to their clothing.

William may have been buried as an unknown soldier, but he is remembered in a number of ways. One of those ways is by two prominent stone monuments located on the Gettysburg battlefield that include the name of William's volunteer regiment. Another way that William is remembered is by the devoted efforts of the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*, whose members are dedicated to honoring Union veterans in ways that create a greater awareness of who they were - and what they did for their country.

*... submitted by descendant Nelson E. Thibault
1860's photo of Pvt. William Long courtesy of Carlisle Barracks.*



Patriotic Instructor Minute

Courage! What is it?

In order to understand what courage is, we must first define it. The dictionary defines courage as the ability to do something that frightens one strength in the face of pain or grief. It's the quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face difficulty, danger, or pain without fear. It's knowing full well that something will be dangerous or bad, but doing it anyway. Or to quote John Wayne, "*Courage means being afraid but saddling up anyway.*"

Everyone possesses a certain degree of courage. I've found that since I moved to the Houston area, it takes a certain amount of courage to even get on the freeway! But I want to talk about courage on the battlefield. In my opinion, the greatest display of courage occurred in 480 BC at a place in Northern Greece called Thermopylae. It was here that a Greek force of about 7,000 defended a narrow pass against an invading Persian army of what historians estimate to have been 300,000 men. The Greek force was commanded by King Leonidas of Sparta who brought with him about 300 Spartan soldiers. It was one of the few times in history that the Greek city-states banded together to fight a common foe.

As the battle progressed, things were going badly for the Persian king. It is estimated he lost anywhere from ten to twenty thousand soldiers during the first two days of battle. But then his luck changed. He was told of a path that ran behind Thermopylae pass. This route would allow him to send troops to attack the Greeks from the rear as well as the front. When Leonides learned of this, he ordered the bulk of the Greek army to retreat so that they could fight another day. He decided he and his 300 Spartans would remain behind. Now this may have been to cover the retreat, but I believe it was because he was adhering to the Spartan Warrior code which demanded "*you either win the battle or you die*". Either way, it was an exceptional act of courage knowing you were likely going to die.

What is often overlooked about this last stand is that 700 Thespians from the city of Thespieae and 400 warriors from Thebes also remained behind to fight and die with the Spartans. Why? No one knows. I've read that the 700 Thespians represented the city's entire army – so their sacrifice and courage had special meaning to Thespieae.

Jump forward to WWII. All those who stormed the beaches at Normandy showed great courage as they charged into German machine gun fire. And who can forget Texas native Audie Murphy's courageous exploits?

Go back to the Civil War and you find countless examples of courage displayed by both sides. William J. Johnston was a drummer boy in *Co. D, 3rd Vermont Infantry* when his division was routed at the *Seven Days Battles* during the Peninsula Campaign of June and July 1862. He was the only drummer to come away with his drum. His superiors considered this to be a meritorious feat as most men of the regiment threw away their guns and equipment to lighten their loads as they retreated. As a result, Johnston had the honor of drumming for the Division Parade, since he was the only drummer who brought his drum back from the field. In 1863, he was awarded the *Medal of Honor*. It was presented to him by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. At age 13, he remains the youngest recipient of that award. In 1916, the Department of War appointed a panel to review the circumstances of those who had received the *Medal of Honor* to determine whether any should be revoked for failing to meet eligibility criteria. Nine hundred and eleven *Medal of Honor* awards were revoked, but Johnston's was allowed to stand.

So what can we take away from all this? What does it mean? Well, it means that even the youngest person can display courage when faced with adversity or even defeat. It means courage is ageless and transcends the travails of time. Today, these stories of courage are not taught in schools or colleges. So it is up to us – *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* – and other similar organizations to teach our children and grandchildren these stories of courage – *to ensure they are never forgotten.*

... submitted by Camp Patriotic Instructor Ronald 'Steve' Brock



From the Chaplain's Desk

As I write this, we are about a week out from the 67th Annual Remembrance Day Parade in Gettysburg which celebrates and memorializes the founding of the National Cemetery there. It is a major event for the *Sons of Union Veterans* and the Allied Orders. Cemeteries honor the dead, and gathered in this one are more than 3,500 of the honored Union dead from this horrible battle.

Gettysburg National Cemetery was officially dedicated on November 19, 1863, less than six months after the battle was fought. If you have had the chance to visit, you know the profound effect this place has on everyone. The multitude of lives lost in the preservation of the Union and the elimination of slavery are starkly evident. It is a place to pray, to remember, and to hope never to see such destruction again.

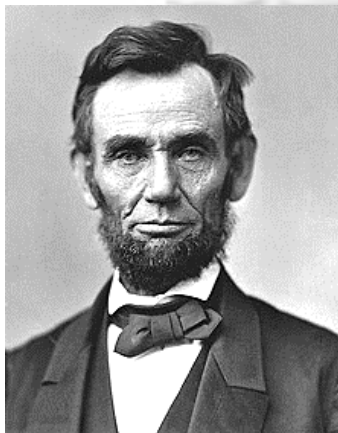
Soldiers National Monument, Gettysburg National Cemetery

When President Lincoln spoke there during the dedication, he was not the primary speaker. Another orator, Edward Everett, was the main attraction. Everett so admired what Lincoln said, that Lincoln made a copy of his immortal speech for him. This original copy now is in the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Seldom have words rung more clearly:



Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives, that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.



But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate, we can not consecrate we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here, have, thus far, so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

May God grant us the wisdom to continue this freedom for all!

... submitted by Rt. Rev. Stephen F. Duncan, Camp Chaplain



Prisoner of War Compound In Houston

Most Houstonians know Buffalo Bayou as a slow-moving body of water flowing through the city. In the early 1800's, it was a focal point for early settlement in Texas, giving rise to several communities, including Lynchburg, Harrisburg and of course, Houston. The original docks of Allen's Landing were built near Houston's Main St. and were followed by larger wharves and the development of the Port of Houston in the early 1840's. The city of Houston was a destination for small trading schooners and soon the banks of Buffalo Bayou were lined with the warehouses of merchants and traders.

One historic building built later along Buffalo Bayou was the iconic *Merchant and Manufacturer's Building*. It was erected in 1930 just above Allen's Landing. Today, most Houstonians would recognize the structure as the 'Main Building' of the *University of Houston* (top photo at right).

But what most Houstonian's don't know is that the current site of the University was previously occupied by cotton warehouses (bottom photo at right).

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, two of those warehouses were converted into a Confederate prisoner-of-war compound. In fact, it was the oldest prison camp in Texas – slightly older than *Camp Ford* near Tyler, and *Camp Groce* near Hempstead, Texas - which were both constructed in 1862.

Most of the prisoners held at the Houston prison were enlisted soldiers of the *42nd Massachusetts Infantry* who were captured on January 1, 1863 during the *Battle of Galveston*. The next day, 347 members of the *42nd Massachusetts* and the surviving crewmen of the *USS Harriet Lane* were loaded onto train cars and transported to Houston to be incarcerated. The enlisted men were housed in the converted cotton warehouses, and the federal officers were held across the bayou in the *Kennedy Building* at the corner of Travis and Congress Streets.

While imprisoned, the federal Officers were allowed to occasionally visit the enlisted men. Lt. William H. Cowdin of the *42nd Massachusetts* later related that from his visits, he learned that the enlisted federal prisoners received pretty much the same rations as both the Officers and Confederate soldiers received. The fare consisted of rice, hard cornbread called 'corn dodgers', corn meal, salted beef, sugar, coffee made by mixing burned corn with hot water, and small amounts of salt. However, he observed that the black prisoners were treated much more harshly. In his diary, he wrote:



... continued on next page

Prisoner of War Compound In Houston (continued)

"There were two black troops, Amos and Revaleon, captured with the Massachusetts regiment, as well as a small undetermined number of blacks who had served on the [federal gunboat USS] Harriet Lane. The Confederates sold Amos and Revaleon as slaves for five hundred dollars each. The blacks of the Harriet Lane served as convicts at the state penitentiary in Huntsville. Their treatment was harsh, and the Confederates did not release them until the conclusion of the war."

Since both the North and the South sought prisoner exchanges during the early years of the war, most of the POW's were not held for long. Rumors of an exchange circulated soon after the federal prisoners arrived in Houston.

Less than a month later, on January 22, 1863, all of the enlisted men and some of the Officers were paroled. Confederate General Magruder had at first planned to send the federal parolees to Vicksburg, Mississippi. But due to an outbreak of disease, he sent them instead by rail to Beaumont, Texas. A few months later, they were marched to Louisiana and released.

Lt. Benjamin Bartlett of the 42nd Regiment, Massachusetts Militia, was one of the Union officers that surrendered at the end of the *Battle of Galveston*. As a prisoner, he spent time in Houston and Huntsville before finally being sent to Camp Groce in Hempstead. Unfortunately, Lt. Bartlett died at Camp Groce during an outbreak of yellow fever, and would not live to see his parole.

Today, a state historical marker stands as a reminder of the long-gone Confederate Prison compound. It is located at 150 Girard St. in the small park next to the Jesse H. Jones Student Life Center, on the campus of the University of Houston-Downtown. The marker was placed in 1965, and without it, one would hardly guess that a Civil War prison camp once existed in the heart of the nation's fourth largest city!



Lt. Benjamin Bartlett

Left: **'Site of Confederate Prison Compound' - State Historical Marker**

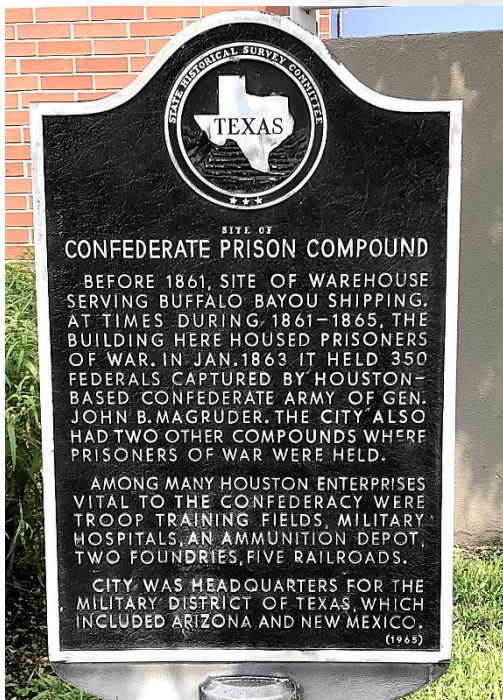
SITE OF CONFEDERATE PRISON COMPOUND

BEFORE 1861, SITE OF WAREHOUSE SERVING BUFFALO BAYOU SHIPPING. AT TIMES DURING 1861-1865, THE BUILDING HERE HOUSED PRISONERS OF WAR. IN JAN. 1863 IT HELD 350 FEDERALS CAPTURED BY HOUSTON-BASED CONFEDERATE ARMY OF GEN. JOHN B. MAGRUDER. THE CITY ALSO HAD TWO OTHER COMPOUNDS WHERE PRISONERS OF WAR WERE HELD.

AMONG MANY HOUSTON ENTERPRISES VITAL TO THE CONFEDERACY WERE TROOP TRAINING FIELDS, MILITARY HOSPITALS, AN AMMUNITION DEPOT, TWO FOUNDRIES, FIVE RAILROADS.

THE CITY WAS HEADQUARTERS FOR THE MILITARY DISTRICT OF TEXAS, WHICH INCLUDED ARIZONA AND NEW MEXICO.

... submitted by Michael L. Lance, DC/PCC



Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 31)

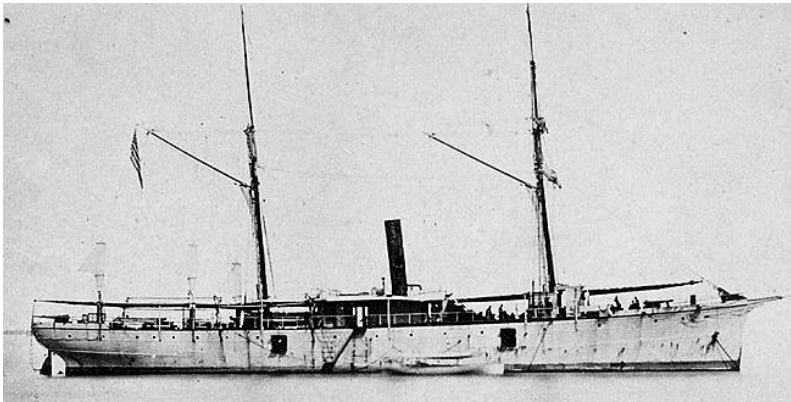
The *Medal of Honor* is the highest military honor awarded by the United States for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty. It was first awarded during the Civil War after President Lincoln signed a bill on December 21, 1861, containing a provision for the medal for the Navy. It was "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's note: 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 Mack - Seaman** - John Mack was born about 1843 in Brooksville, Maine as Michael Connelly. He joined the U.S. Navy from Maine and served under the name John Mack. In March, 1865, he was serving as a Seaman on the *USS Hendrick Hudson*, a schooner-rigged screw steamer. The *Hudson* was formerly named *Florida*, and had been captured in 1862 while operating as a blockade runner. Renamed, she became part of the federal *East Gulf Blockading Squadron*.



Left: **USS Hendrick Hudson**

On March 5th and 6th, 1865, Mack accompanied a Union Army force during the *Battle of Natural Bridge* near St. Marks, Florida. He helped transport and fire a naval howitzer throughout the engagement despite heavy Confederate fire. For this action, he was awarded the *Medal of Honor*. In June 1865, his medal was issued under the name 'John Mack'. He was one of six sailors to receive the medal for manning artillery pieces during that battle. His official citation reads:

"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Seaman John Mack, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action, serving as Seaman on board the U.S.S. Hendrick Hudson, St. Marks, Florida, 5 and 6 March 1865. Seaman Mack served with the Army in charge of Navy howitzers during the attack on St. Marks and, throughout this fierce engagement, made remarkable efforts in assisting transport of the gun. His coolness and determination in courageously standing by his gun while under the fire of the enemy were a credit to the service to which he belonged."

- **William Madden - Coal Heaver** - William Madden was born in 1843 in England. He joined the U.S. Navy from New York and served as a Coal Heaver on the *USS Brooklyn*. During the *Battle of Mobile Bay* in August 1864, Madden exhibited courage and steadfastness at his station while under heavy fire. His Medal of Honor citation states:

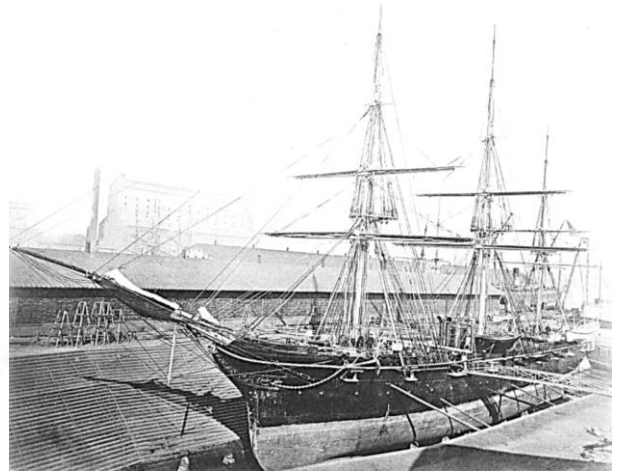
"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Coal Heaver William Madden, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving on board the U.S.S. Brooklyn during the successful attacks against Fort Morgan, rebel gunboats and the ram Tennessee in Mobile Bay, Alabama, on 5 August 1864. Stationed in the immediate vicinity of the shell whips, which were twice cleared of men by bursting shells, Coal Heaver Madden remained steadfast at his post and performed his duties in the powder division throughout the furious action which resulted in the surrender of the prize 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 31 continued)

- **Edward S. Martin - Quartermaster** - Edward (or Edwin) S. Martin was born in 1840 in Ireland. He immigrated to the United States and was living in Philadelphia when he joined the U.S. Navy. He served during the Civil War as a Quartermaster on the *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*. He died in 1901 in Brooklyn, New York. Martin's citation reads:

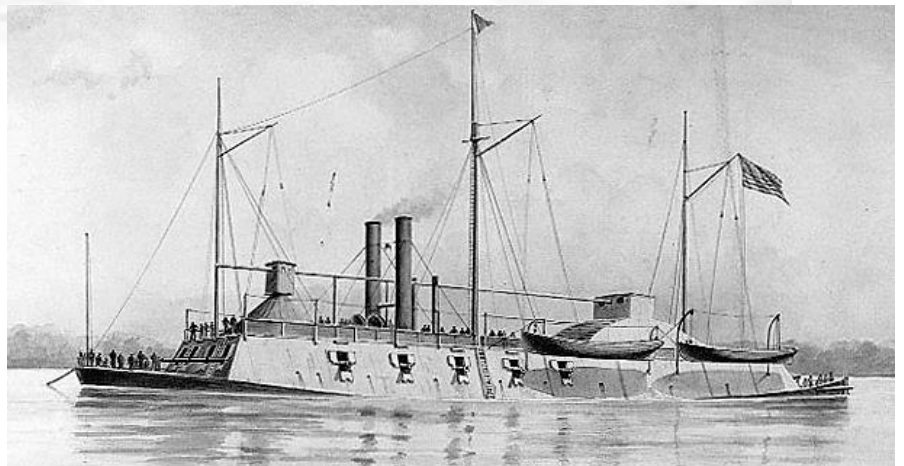
"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Quartermaster Edward S. Martin, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving on board the U.S.S. Galena during the attack on enemy forts at Mobile Bay, Alabama, 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, Quartermaster Martin performed his duties with skill and courage throughout the action."



USS Galena in drydock

- **William Martin - Boatswain's Mate** - William was born in 1835 in New York. He joined the U.S. Navy and served during the Civil War as a Boatswain's Mate and Master's Mate on the ironclad river gunboat, *USS Benton*. Martin served on the *Benton* throughout its service in the Western Theater during the war. On December 27, 1862, in an attack on Haines Bluff on the Yazoo River in Mississippi, Martin was noticed for his bravery throughout the 90-minute fight. For this action, he would be awarded the *Medal of Honor*. Martin served through to the end of the war and was discharged in 1865. In January 1887, he was 51 years old when he married a 49-year-old widowed mother of four in Alto Pass. They remained married until his death, twenty-seven years later in 1914. Martin's official *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 Boatswain's Mate William Martin, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving as Boatswain's Mate on board the U.S.S. Benton during the attack on Haines Bluff, Yazoo River, Mississippi, 27 December 1862. Taking part in the hour-and-a-half engagement with the enemy, who had the dead range of the vessel and was punishing her with heavy fire, Boatswain's Mate Martin served courageously throughout the battle until the Benton was ordered to withdraw."



USS Benton

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Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 31 continued)

- **William Martin - Seaman** - William Martin was born in 1839 in Ireland. He immigrated to the United States and was living in New York when he joined the U.S. Navy. He served during the Civil War as a Seaman on the screw steamer *USS Varuna*. At the *Battle of Forts Jackson and St. Philip* near New Orleans on April 24, 1862, *Varuna* was rammed twice by the Confederate steamer *CSS Governor Moore* (formerly known as the *Charles Morgan*) and eventually sunk. Martin acted as a gun captain and was "cool and courageous" throughout the close-range fight. For this action, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. His official citation reads:

"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Seaman William Martin, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action, serving as Captain of a gun on board the U.S.S. Varuna during an attack on Forts Jackson and St. Philip, Louisiana, 24 April 1862. His ship was taken under furious fire by the rebel Morgan and severely damaged by ramming. Steadfast at his station through the thickest of the fight, Seaman Martin inflicted damage on the enemy, remaining cool and courageous although the Varuna, so badly damaged that she was forced to beach, was finally sunk."

- **Matthew McClelland - First Class Fireman** – Matthew McClelland was born in November 1832 in Ireland. He enlisted with the U.S. Navy from Brooklyn, New York on July 12, 1861 for a 3-year term. He served on the *USS North Carolina* only until to July 27, 1861 as a 2nd-Class Fireman. He then served on the steamship *USS Richmond* from July 28, 1861 to August 29, 1864 as a First Class Fireman, and finally on the *USS Princeton*.

As a fireman, McClelland's duties were to tend to the ship's steam boilers. In the prelude to the siege of Port Hudson, Louisiana, Rear Admiral David Farragut attempted to move a flotilla of ships, including the *Richmond*, up the Mississippi River past the town of Port Hudson.

Right: Firemen of USS Richmond

On March 14, 1863, the flotilla reached that town and came under heavy fire from Confederate artillery batteries. The enemy guns inflicted severe damage on the Union flotilla, forcing most of the ships to turn back. During the battle, the *Richmond's* fireroom, which housed its boilers, was damaged by an enemy shell and began to fill with hot steam. McClelland and three other men, 'without concern for themselves, each man wrapped wet cloth around their faces and ran into the steam-filled room to put out the furnaces. The men relieved each other when they were overcome by heat and kept this up until the threat of explosion dissipated. Their actions saved the ship, which had to turn back and abort the mission. For their actions, all four Firemen were awarded the Medal of Honor. McClelland'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 First Class Fireman Mathew McClelland, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving on board the U.S.S. Richmond in the attack on Port Hudson, Louisiana, 14 March 1863. Damaged by a 6-inch solid rifle shot which shattered the starboard safety-valve chamber and also damaged the port safety-valve, the fireroom of the Richmond immediately became filled with steam to place it in an extremely critical condition. Acting courageously in this crisis, First Class Fireman McClelland persisted in penetrating the steam-filled room in order to haul the hot fires of the furnaces and continued this gallant action until the gravity of the situation had lessened."

... additional Medal of Honor recipients to be portrayed next issue with Part 32

Upcoming Camp Activities

Jan 6, 2024	Sat	Battle of Galveston Commemoration Ceremony – Signature Event of the <i>Lea Camp</i> – 10 a.m. Episcopal Church Cemetery, 4001 Ave K at Broadway, Galveston, Texas
Jan 6, 2024	Sat	Camp Business Meeting - 2024 Officer Installation Ceremony - 1 p.m. Golden Corral Restaurant, 6200 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, Texas
Jan 25, 2024	Thu	Lineage Society Fair – 12 p.m. -3 p.m. Montgomery County Public Library, 104 I-45 North, Conroe, Texas
Feb 17, 2023	Sat	Camp Business Meeting - 10 a.m. Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, Texas
Mar 16, 2023	Sat	Camp Business Meeting - 10 a.m. Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, Texas
Apr 20, 2023	Sat	Camp Business Meeting - 10 a.m. Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, Texas
May 4, 2024	Sat	Annual Encampment of the <i>Department of Texas and Louisiana</i> Dallas, Texas – hosted by <i>Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp 18</i>

2023 Camp Officers, Staff, and Social Media Links

Commander	John C. Vander Meulen	camp2commander@txsuv.org	Camp Council	Ben C. Bonnett
Sr. Vice-Cmdr.	Daniel B. Pourceau	camp2svc@txsuv.org	Camp Council	Stevenson T. Holmes
Jr. Vice-Cmdr.	Jason D. Hoffman	joincamp2@txsuv.org	Camp Council	Thomas F. Coughlin
Secy./Treas.	Stephen D. Schulze	camp2secretary@txsuv.org		

Chaplain	Stephen F. Duncan	Graves Regis. Officer	Terry T. Sutton
Patriotic Instructor	Ronald 'Steve' Brock	Civil War Mem. Officer	Terry T. Sutton
Historian	Michael L. Lance	G.A.R. Records Officer	Herbert W. Powers
Color Bearer	William D. Myers	Facebook Mgr.	John C. Vander Meulen
Guide	Thomas F. Coughlin	Zoom Facilitator	John C. Vander Meulen
Guard	Lee R. Wallace	Webmaster	Robert G. Riley
Signals Officer	John C. Vander Meulen	Newsletter Editor	Michael L. Lance
JROTC Coord.	Daniel B. Pourceau	Assist. Newsletter Edit.	Daniel B. Pourceau
Eagle Scout Coord.	Ben C. Bonnett		

Website – Houston Camp	https://www.camplea.org/
Website – Dept. of TX and LA	http://www.txsuv.org/
Facebook – Houston Camp	https://www.facebook.com/LtCmdrEdwardLeaCamp2HoustonSUVCW/
Facebook – Dept. of Texas	https://www.facebook.com/SUVCW.TX.LA/



**Even in shadow, the marble of the freshly cleaned Union veteran gravestones sparkle!
Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) plot in Washington Cemetery, Houston, Texas**

Proud of his Rifle

*“Our guns were issued to us the other day, beautiful pieces;
of the most improved pattern – the Springfield rifled musket.*

*Mine is behind me now, dark black walnut stock, well oiled, so that the beauty of the wood
is brought out, hollowed at the base, and smoothly fitted with steel, to correspond exactly
to the curve of the shoulder, against which I shall have to press it many and many a time.*

*The spring of the lock, just stiff and just limber enough; the eagle and stamp of the
Government pressed into the steel [lock] plate; barrel, long and glistening –
bound into its bed by gleaming rings - long and straight and so bright that when I present arms,
and bring it before my face, I can see the nose and spectacles and the heavy beard on lip and chin,
which already the camp is beginning to develop.*

*Then the bayonet, straight and tapering, dazzling under a sunray,
grooved delicately – as if it were meant to illustrate problems in conic sections –
smooth to the finger as a surface of glass, and coming to a point sharp as a needle.”*

Words written by

An unnamed Corporal in the 52nd Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry

23 Nov 1862