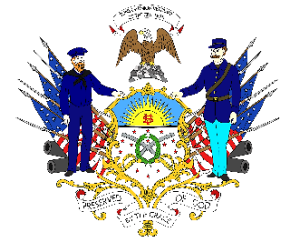




THE HARRIET LANE



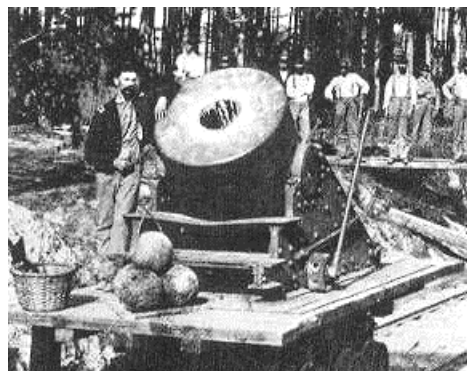
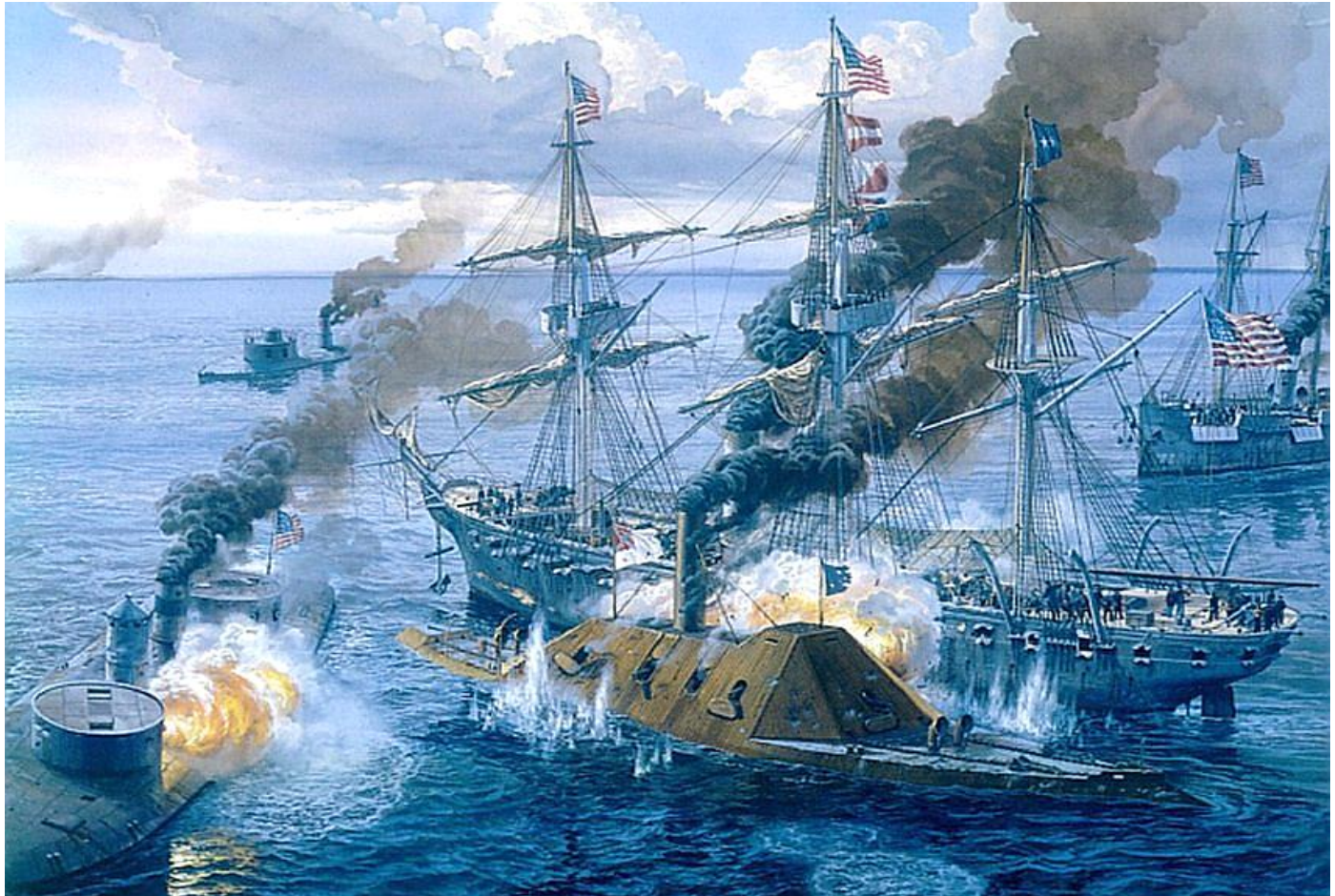
The Official Newsletter of
Lt. Commander Edward Lea, USN, Camp No. 2 – Houston, Texas

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

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Cover Image

"Point Blank" - The Battle of Mobile Bay, 5 Aug 1864. The Confederate ironclad *CSS Tennessee* does considerable damage to the sloop-of-war, *USS Oneida*. In the foreground, the dual-turreted monitor *USS Chickasaw* blasts away at the *Tennessee*. In the left rear, the monitor *USS Winnebago* rushes to give aid. Oil on canvas by Tom Freeman.

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

Dog Tags: Identifying our Dead

During the Civil War, death became a reality for thousands of soldiers who had no proper identification on their person at the time of their demise. During the early months of the war, as the number of casualties on both sides grew, soldiers and civilians were prompted to consider ways to identify fallen soldiers. In May 1862, New York City resident John Kennedy wrote to Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, proposing to manufacture and supply the U.S. Army with a metal 'name disc' for all officers and enlisted men. The War Department rejected Kennedy's proposal. Personal identification badges, aka. 'dog tags', were never *officially* issued by the armies of either side during the Civil War.

The wearing of some sort of identification by military personnel was not a new idea. The ancient Spartans wrote their names on sticks tied to their left wrists. Roman Legionnaires were provided with a 'signaculum', a lead disk carried in a leather or cloth pouch with a string to wear around their necks. The disk was engraved with the soldier's name and indication of which legion he belonged to.

Right: A Legionnaire's identification 'signaculum.'

As the Civil War dragged on, and the number of casualties continued to mount, the realization that the young dashing, adventurous volunteer might not make it back home, began to sink in. An understandable fear set in that if the worst happened, a soldier's family would never know what happened to their dashing hero, other than that he was missing in action. Further, it might not be possible to claim the body of their loved one in order to properly mourn and bury the remains. It became fairly common for the recruits, or one of their female family members, to sew their names on their uniforms.



Others, in a rush towards impending battle, might simply write their names on a piece of paper or a handkerchief and pin it to their blouses, kepis (caps), or sack coats. During the battle of Cold Harbor on June 3, 1864, soldiers, knowing they might be killed, wrote their names and military units on loose slips of paper, and pinned them to their kepis (caps) or sack coats, hoping someone would identify their remains after the battle.

Since the armies failed to provide 'dog tags', soldiers of both sides often made their own. If there was enough time, some men carved their names on a small round piece of wood or metal, pierced a hole through it, and hung it from their neck with a piece of string. Others stenciled their names on their knapsacks, or scratched it in the soft lead backing of their army belt buckles. Some soldiers even fashioned ID tags by grinding off one side of a coin and then etching their name on it. Even so, shockingly, only 58% of soldiers killed in action during the Civil War were positively identified. Older cemeteries today have thousands of grave sites marked with a single haunting word, "Unknown."

Eventually, merchants saw a booming business opportunity. Manufacturers began advertising their 'Identification Discs' or 'Soldiers Pins' in periodicals. Drowne & Moore Jewelers of New York City, placed an advertisement in *Harper's Weekly Magazine* proclaiming: "Attention Soldiers! Every soldier should have a badge with his name marked distinctly upon it ... a solid silver badge ... can be fastened to any garment." Since soldiers in the field rarely had access to periodicals, the items were usually introduced and peddled to the soldiers by itinerant civilian sutlers near the camps.



The sutlers generally sold cheaper, machine-stamped discs made of brass or lead. On one side, the disc was stamped with likenesses of Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, or an eagle with a shield. A motivational phrase was included, such as "War for the Union" or "Liberty, Union, and Equality". Since no one knew how long the war would last, one inscription version simply read "War of 1861'.

Left: Machine-stamped 'Identification Disc' with eagle

... continued on page 8

JROTC Award Presented

Thursday – 27 Apr 2023 – Galveston, Texas

On Thursday, April 27, 2023, Brother Stephen Duncan presented a *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War JROCT* award to Cadet Captain Davon Harris at Ball High School in Galveston. Cadet Harris received his certificate and badge at the school's annual Army JROTC Tornado Battalion Awards Ceremony.

Right: Cadet Capt. Davon Harris with his SUVCW award

"That young man makes me smile almost every day when I see him. He is a great young man."



... submitted by Camp Chaplain Stephen F. Duncan

Graves Decorated for Memorial Day

Saturday – 27 May 2023 – Galveston, Texas

This morning, I placed U.S. flags in the Episcopal Cemetery in Galveston. They were placed at the graves of Lt. Cmdr. Lee, namesake of the Camp, and 1st Lt. George Frank Robie, a Medal of Honor recipient. I also placed flags at the marble monument commemorating the Soldiers and Sailors lost during the the January 1, 1863 Battle of Galveston.



**Grave Marker of 1st Lt. George Frank Robie
Medal of Honor Recipient**



**Monument Honoring Union Casualties
from the 1863 Battle of Galveston**



**Grave marker of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN
Namesake of the Lea Camp**

Boy Scouts were also out putting flags on veterans' graves in the cemetery. The colors of the flags looked nice against the backdrop of the wildflowers that the city is allowing to grow throughout the cemetery. It was a beautiful sight.

... submitted by Camp Chaplain Stephen F. Duncan



Memorial Day 2023

Monday – 29 May 2023 – Houston, Texas

On Memorial Day 2023, several members of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lee Camp No. 2* gathered at the *G.A.R.* plot in Washington Cemetery to render honors to the Union veterans buried there. They were joined by members of the *Sarah Emma Seeley Auxiliary #1, SUVCW*, and the *Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4, DUVCW*.

Camp Cmdr. Vander Meulen opened the ceremony with remarks appropriate for the occasion, including: “As we render honors to these veterans today, may we do so while remembering how bravely they stood shoulder to shoulder on the bloody fields of battle fighting for liberty and the dear old Flag.” Then, in recognition that *Hail Columbia* was the national hymn these buried veterans would have been most familiar with, a rendition of that hymn was played while all attendees saluted the U.S. Flag.

Reading from their rituals book, members of the *Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4, DUVCW*, reminded everyone how much the buried veterans pledged to exercise the greatest Christian virtue, *Charity*. Past-President Susan Barry remarked, “Let each of us, like them, strive to exercise this virtue. May it be to us a guiding star urging us to strive to nobler acts of kindness and charity.”

Sister Gail Johnson then gave a biographical sketch of Sarah Emma Edmonds Seeley, one of the veterans buried in the *G.A.R.* plot. This reading was followed by the laying of two wreaths, one by Valerie Reyes, President of the *Auxiliary*, and the other by Rebecca Feaster, President of the *DUVCW* Tent. Brother Herbert Powers then provided a biographical sketch of another veteran, Ensign John Reagan, which was followed by the Navy Hymn, *Eternal Father Strong to Save*.

Those in attendance then proceeded to respectfully lay roses and small US flags at the graves of each veteran buried in the plot, while music, *Hymn to the Fallen*, played in the background. An Honor Guard, consisting of Brothers Stephen Schulze and Michael Rappe, then rendered a musket salute, which was immediately followed by *Echo Taps*.

Sister Feaster then read the poem, *When the Boys in Blue are Gone*. Afterwards, Cmdr. Vander Meulen offered his closing remarks and thanked everyone for participating in the special ceremony. He ended with the phrase, “Taps are sounded, lights are out, the soldiers sleep.” To see a video recording of the event, visit [SUVCW Houston](https://www.suvcw.org/houston).



**Members of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp No. 2*, and Sisters of both the *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary No. 2* and *Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent No. 4, DUVCW*
G.A.R. Plot, Washington Cemetery, Houston, Texas**

... submitted by John C. Vander Meulen, CC

Memorial Day 2023 (continued)

Monday – 29 May 2023 – Houston, Texas

Memorial Day ceremonies were conducted within the Hemicycle at Houston National Cemetery in Houston on Monday, May 29, 2023. Veterans of various wars, Scout Troops, JROTC units, veteran organizations of many stripes, dignitaries, politicians, and patriotic citizens gathered once again to celebrate and honor our fallen heroes.



Daniel B. Pourceau, Jason Hoffman, and Michael Lance of *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp No. 2* combined with members of *Co. A, 13th US Infantry Regiment* to form an impressive Color Guard and armed Honor Guard.

The Federal unit had the honor of signaling the start of the program by firing a single volley just outside the Hemicycle.

During the *Parade of Remembrance*, the 10-man Federal Color Guard unit was introduced and then marched in, led by Capt. Tommy Attaway, commanding. After saluting, the unit performed a right wheel maneuver and exited the grounds.

Left: Federal Color Guard Advances during the Parade of Remembrance Ritual

About midway through the program, the attention of the crowd was drawn to the sky as a flight of vintage warbirds passed overhead in ‘Missing Man’ formation. The aviators gave an aerial salute with one of the aircraft dramatically splitting off from the formation.

As the program drew to a close, the Federal unit converted into an Honor Guard. They assembled inside the Hemicycle at the edge of the parade grounds and, on cue, offered a 7-gun three volley salute.



Federal Honor Guard Fires a Volley



At PRESENT ARMS during Taps

From the top level of the Hemicycle, a pair of excellent buglers, one on each side, sounded ‘Echo Taps’ immediately after the 3rd volley. The blue-clad unit immediately went to *PRESENT ARMS* - before the smoke from their volleys had cleared. It was a solemn and fitting end to an excellent tribute to our Nation’s fallen servicemen and women.

Note: additional photo on page 20

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

Memorial Day 2023 (continued)

Monday, 29 May 2023 – Riverton, Wyoming

Beginning at 10 a.m. on Memorial Day, a formal service honoring our nation's fallen servicemen and women was conducted at Mountain View Cemetery in Riverton, Wyoming. Representatives of several patriotic and heritage organizations participated in the event.



Brother Karl Falken of the *Lt. Edward Lea Camp*, who currently resides in Riverton, attended in a full Civil War-era Cavalry uniform to represent the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*. He made a brief declaration of honor to our fallen heroes, then placed a wreath in commemoration.

Karl Falken advances with a wreath and places it on a display stand

Post 27 American Legion Riders had placed U.S. flags along the near roadways and around the grounds, including at most of the 2,300 veteran graves in the cemetery. Local veterans and dozens of members of the community had gathered to observe the ceremony.

.... submitted by Brother Karl Falken



Juneteenth Celebration 2023

Monday, 19 Jun 2013 – Galveston, Texas

The 44th Annual Al Edwards' Juneteenth Celebration was held once again at the historic Ashton Villa mansion on Broadway in Galveston, Texas. And once again, Brother Stephen Duncan ably portrayed Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger at the event. He was joined by Brothers Zane F. Hooper and Michael L. Lance, serving as his Federal armed guards.

Brother Duncan, as Maj. Gen. Granger, gave the welcoming address and then took a seat and observed the program with the guards. At the end of the program, he would return to the stage at the front of the crowded ballroom.

Right: Stephen Duncan, as Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger, waits to read General Order No. 3

After a number of city, state, and federal legislators and other dignitaries gave greetings and speeches, including Galveston Mayor Craig Brown and U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, guards Hooper and Lance escorted the Major back to the podium. The room was hushed as all attention was riveted on the reading of *General Order 3*. After the reading, the program ended as the three-man Union unit marched from the stage.



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

Dog Tags: Identifying our Dead *(continued from page 3)*

The reverse side of the ID disc usually showed the soldier's name and unit, and sometimes a list of battles in which he had participated. A hole was punched into the disc for a piece of string or cord to be passed through, enabling it to be worn around the soldier's neck.

Some versions of the stamped identification badges and tags were quite ornate in design.

Left: Identification Disc of William T. Bradley of Co. F, 6th Connecticut Volunteers, 10th Army Corps

Another 35 years would pass before the subject of identification tags was brought up again. During the Spanish-American War in the late 1890s, the U.S. Army and Navy finally began issuing metal identification tags to recruits.

The less-expensive machine-stamped discs from the Civil War-era are regarded as the forerunners of the later identification tags that would eventually assume the nickname of 'Dog Tags' during World War II.



Sadly, even though many Union soldiers purchased, and presumably wore, the sutler's ID tags, of the 325,230 federal soldiers who are buried in National cemeteries around the country, 148,883 are marked 'Unknown'.

Left: Pvt. Alvin B. Williams of New London, Vermont, who served with Co. F, 11th Regiment, New Hampshire Volunteers and ...

**His Civil War
Identification Tag.**



... submitted by Brother Stephen Schulze, PDC/PCC and edited by Brother Michael Lance, DC/PCC

Trivia: Coolness In Battle

Thomas Johnson served on the gun crew of a battery commanded by Captain Jenny, 3rd New York Artillery, and was wounded during action at Kinston, North Carolina. The wound was severe and Captain Jenny said to him, "Johnson, you had better move to the rear and have your wound dressed."

"No, Captain," he said, "I am going to work!" He continued to serve the piece until hit again - this time by a solid shot that took off his arm. He turned to Captain Jenny and said, "Now, Captain, I guess I'll quit!"

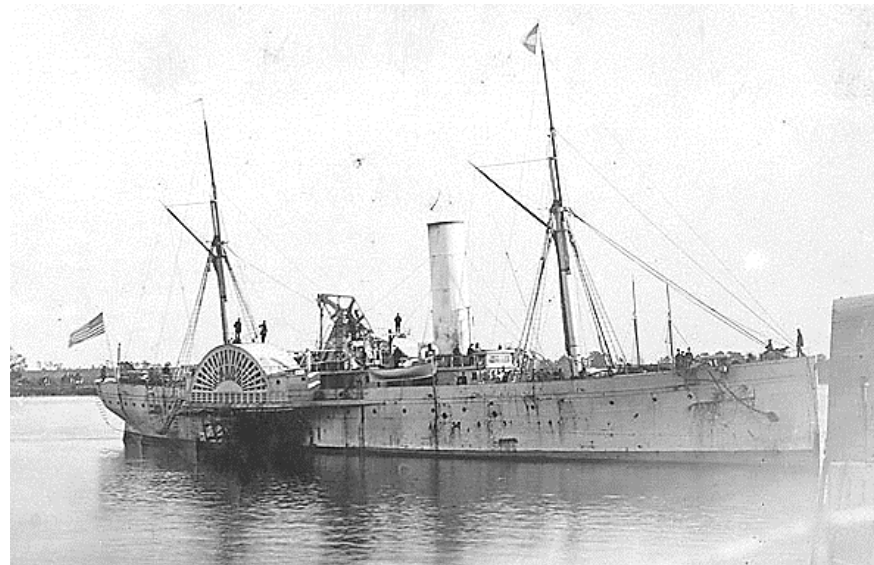
... source: The Soldier's Story – The American Civil War, pg. 102, by Hans Halberstadt, 2001

G.A.R. Veteran Buried in Houston, Texas

John J. Reagan Acting Ensign, U.S. Navy

John J. Reagan, a son of Irish parents, was born in March 1830 in Ireland. In November 1851, at age 21, he married Englishwoman Jane McQuade in Liverpool, England. In 1854, Reagan immigrated to the United States and settled with his wife in Brooklyn, New York. On the 1860 federal census for Brooklyn, his occupation was listed as 'Sailor'.

Midway through the Civil War, on February 27, 1863, John Reagan enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He was assigned to the wooden sidewheel steamer, *USS Fort Jackson*, and eventually attained the rank of Acting Ensign. At the time, the *USS Fort Jackson* was being converted from a merchant steamer to a military gunboat at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. She was



armed with eight 9" smoothbore cannons on the gun deck, with two 30-pounders and one 100-pound Parrott Rifle on the Main Deck. Ensign Reagan's duty station was on the Spar Deck, the uppermost deck of the ship.

Left: USS Fort Jackson, moored at Hampton Roads, VA, Dec 1864

The *USS Fort Jackson* was commissioned August 18, 1863. Her first mission was to participate in intercepting British arms shipments being smuggled by blockade runners from Bermuda to the Confederate port at Wilmington, North Carolina.

On July 8, 1864, after *Fort Jackson* captured a blockade runner, Ensign Reagan was detailed as 'Prize Master' and delivered the captured vessel to Boston. Unfortunately, he contracted bronchitis during that voyage and was subsequently confined for a time to recover his health.

By December 24, 1864, during the second bombardment of Confederate Fort Fisher in North Carolina, Ensign Reagan was back at his station on the Spar Deck. Prior to the action, in order to protect the captain's gig from blast damage, a command was given to swing the small boat inboard. Just as Reagan looked over the rail to ascertain if the captain's gig was safely inboard, the order was given to "Commence Fire." The resulting concussion from the cannon fire caused Reagan to stagger back, bleeding from his ears.

Ensign Reagan's wife, Jane, moved to Portsmouth, Virginia to be closer to her husband. She often visited him on his ship. She later commented that her husband had entered service as a vital and fit man, but soon turned into a 'partial wreck'. During his wartime service, he was in and out of the hospital often, suffering from a variety of maladies, including: failing hearing, a roaring in his ears which made sleep difficult; rheumatism; bleeding hemorrhoids; and heart palpitations. These health issues would plague him throughout his time in service.

Late in the war, the *USS Fort Jackson* was reassigned to the West Gulf Coast Blockading Squadron. She participated in the capture of two blockade runners in that arena. And, most importantly, in early June 1865, it was on *Fort Jackson* that Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith met with Union General Edward R. S. Canby in Galveston Bay to sign the formal surrender of the remaining Confederate forces in Texas.

Acting Ensign John J. Reagan was honorably discharged November 6, 1865 at Washington, DC. He then returned home to Brooklyn. In 1868, he and Jane welcomed their first child, James F. Reagan.

... continued on next page

G.A.R. Veteran Buried in Houston, Texas (continued)

In 1870, the Reagan family moved westward to Gatesville, Kansas where John took up farming. Three more children were born: John P. Reagan (1871), Mary Jane Reagan (1874), and Abigale Reagan (1881). However, John's health continued to decline. In time, he was unable to perform the hard physical labor of farming. In 1884, they migrated southward to Abilene, Texas. A few years later, in 1890, John applied for a military pension from Abilene, based on his Civil War service.

John Reagan had a strong work ethic, continuing to work despite his failing health. The family eventually moved further south, to Galveston, Texas, where he took up employment as a practicing lawyer. When the federal census was taken in June 1900, John and his family were living in Galveston. The Reagan household consisted of John and his wife Jane, their son, railroad conductor John P. Reagan, and their daughter Abigale with her husband, Albert Opperman. John's law office and home were located in downtown Galveston, at 2208 Mechanic St.

A couple months later, on September 8, 1900, the 'Great Storm' struck Galveston. The fury of the violent hurricane caused 8 to 15-foot tidal surges with winds of up to 145 mph. The island city was devastated. Galveston's commercial district was not spared. An estimated 6,000 to 12,000 persons lost their lives. John Reagan survived the storm, but the rest of his family did not. His wife Jane, daughter Abigale, son John P. Reagan, and son-in-law, Albert Opperman, all perished. The only body recovered was that of son John, which was buried in Galveston's Lakeview Cemetery.

The 1901, 1902 and 1905 Business Directories of Houston, Texas list the resilient John Reagan as a practicing lawyer and notary public. He passed away June 19, 1905 at age 75, and was buried in the Washington Cemetery G.A.R. plot, section G-26 in Houston.

Right: **Grave marker of Acting Ensign John J. Reagan**

Researched by Brother Herbert Powers. This biographical sketch was presented during Memorial Day ceremonies on May 29, 2023 beside the grave of John J. Reagan at Washington Cemetery, Houston, Texas.



Trivia: The 'Great Storm'



The massive hurricane that struck Galveston, Texas on September 8, 1900 had sustained winds estimated at 140 mph at landfall, with a 15-foot storm surge. By today's standards, it was a Category 4 storm.

The city was filled with vacationers at the time. Many people along the beach waited until it was too late to seek shelter in the large buildings downtown, away from the Gulf of Mexico.

The houses near the beach began falling first. The storm surge lifted debris from one row of buildings and hurled it against the next row, until two-thirds of the city, then the 4th largest in Texas, had been destroyed.

People trying to make their way through the howling wind and raging water to refuge were struck by hurtling bricks and lumber - and some were decapitated by flying slate from roofs. Between 6,000 and 12,000 people were killed. It was the deadliest natural disaster to ever strike the United States. The enormous loss of life can be partly attributed to the fact that officials for the Weather Bureau in Galveston brushed off reports of danger, not realizing the threat.

Ancestor Profile – Private Isaac C. Sutton

My 2nd great-grandfather, Isaac C. Sutton, was born in Deerfield, Indiana on November 14, 1844. He had five siblings - three brothers and two sisters. On September 5, 1861, Isaac enlisted with the Union Army and served as a Private in Co. G, 8th Indiana. All three of his brothers also enlisted with the Union army

The 8th Indiana was organized at Indianapolis between August 30 and September 5, 1861. It was commanded by William Plummer Benton. On September 10, 1861, the regiment was ordered to St Louis, Missouri. Traveling by train, the 8th Indiana arrived in St. Louis the following day, and was attached to Maj. Gen. John Charles Frémont's *Army of the West, Department of Missouri*.

At the time, Missouri was officially a neutral border state. But loyalties were divided between North and South. Many skirmishes flared between Union and Confederate troops. The secessionist Missouri State Guard was commanded by former Missouri Governor Sterling Price. The 8th Indiana saw action in many of these skirmishes, including Otterville, Blackwater Creek, Springfield, and Wilson's Creek.

The goal of the Union troops was to push the Confederates out of Missouri and into Arkansas. Isaac only saw action in Missouri. He was prone to camp sickness and spent time in hospitals. This camp sickness was best described by regimental surgeon James K. Bigelow in his *Abridged History of the 8th Indiana*:

"On the 22nd of September, we proceeded by rail to Syracuse, where we disembarked from the cars and on the 23rd, took up line to March to Georgetown, where we remained in camp suffering very much from dysentery and diarrhea. Within a few months, a vast number were sent to the hospital in St. Louis, where they remained till October 13th, 1861".

Private Isaac Sutton was one of those soldiers sent to the hospital in St. Louis.

However, by October 20, 1861, Isaac was healthy enough to march with the 8th Indiana to Springfield, Missouri, in pursuit of Gen. Price and his 13,000-man Rebel force. Price had anticipated that movement and had fled Springfield before the Union forces arrived. Only a few skirmishes occurred between the Confederates and the advancing Federals.

During the march to Springfield, a measles outbreak occurred within the Union ranks. Once again Isaac became sick. Regimental surgeon Bigelow later wrote that 140 soldiers of the 8th Indiana were loaded into wagons and transported back to camp in Otterville.

After Gen. Frémont's advance to Springfield, the *Army of the West* was reorganized. Frémont was removed as Commander and replaced by Maj. Gen. Henry Halleck. Gen. John Pope took command of the army forces in Otterville. Col. David Shunk now commanded the 8th Indiana, with Capt. W.H. Riley remaining in command of Co. G.

Right: Isaac C. Sutton and wife, Lovina, in later years

Private Sutton recovered from the measles in time to join the 8th Indiana for the skirmish of Blackwater Creek in Milford, Missouri. The skirmish was fought to stop Col. Franklin S. Robertson of the Missouri State Guard from recruiting men in southwest Missouri to serve for the Southern cause. Gen. Pope was determined to put an end to the Missouri State Guard, and defeated the Confederates at Blackwater Creek on December 19, 1861.

Federal casualties were exceedingly light at Blackwater Creek, with only two killed and eight wounded. Gen. Pope reported the capture of "1,300 men...three colonels



... continued on next page

Ancestor Profile – Private Isaac C. Sutton (continued)

(Robinson, Alexander, and Magoffin)...one lieutenant-colonel (Robinson), one major (Harris), and 51 commissioned company officers” and “About 500 horses and mules, 73 wagons heavily loaded with powder, lead, tents, subsistence stores, and supplies of various kinds...also 1,000 stands of arms.” However, these claims appear to be overstated as records indicate only “684 guardsmen and several civilians” eventually reached prison.

After Blackwater Creek, Private Sutton received a furlough in hopes he could recuperate from his frequent bouts of sickness. This would not be the case. After returning to duty in the spring of 1862, he spent three more stretches in the hospital. Finally, on August 9, 1862, he received a disability discharge from the service.

Isaac then returned to the family farm in Randolph County, Indiana. His three brothers also eventually returned home safely from the war. Isaac married Lovina Whipple on March 4, 1863 and the couple would become parents of four children. Sons Frank and Harry Sutton were born in Deerfield, Indiana.

In 1880 Isaac and his family moved to Minnesota. He received 160 acres of land through the *Homestead Act of 1862*. Their children Daisy and Jason Sutton were soon born in Harford, Minnesota. After the war, according to his pension records, Isaac suffered from frequent intestinal problems and hearing loss from measles.

An interesting story was that Harry Sutton, my great-grandfather, married the lady that lived on a neighboring farm. Her name was Minerva Sutton. My genealogical research shows no relation between the two Sutton lines, so it wasn't a cousin marriage. Minerva lived to be 97 years old and was the family historian. I remember her telling Civil War stories about my 2nd great-grandfather Isaac Sutton and her father Edward Sutton, both Union civil war soldiers from the Hoosier state!



Forever in search of opportunity, the Isaac Sutton family left Minnesota for Oregon in 1890. Isaac became a member of *Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick Post No. 10, Grand Army of the Republic* in Salem, Oregon. Like many other Union veterans, Isaac spent an enormous amount of time trying to get a military pension. He finally received a monthly invalid pension of \$12.

Left: Isaac Sutton's military grave marker. The inscription reads: ISAAC C. SUTTON – CO. G. – 8 IND. INF.

Isaac's wife, Lovina Sutton, died November 6, 1903. He died 12 years later on October at, 1915. He passed away at the home of his daughter, Daisy Sutton-Rodgers, in Hood River, Oregon. Both he and his wife are buried at City View Cemetery in Salem, Oregon.

G. A. R. Member Dies Here

Isaac C. Sutton, who was approaching his 72nd birthday and who was a member of the Grand Army, passed away here last Friday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. W. D. Rodgers, of the Heights. The body was shipped to Salem Friday afternoon, interment taking place the next day at the Grand Army cemetery in that city.

In addition to the daughter, Mrs. Rodgers, Mr. Sutton is survived by three sons: J. O. Sutton, of Astoria; Frank A. Sutton, of Salem, and Harry Sutton, who has been making his home in the east.

Right: Obituary for Isaac Sutton published in the historic Hood River Glacier newspaper in Hood River, Oregon on October 21, 1915, pg. 7

... submitted by descendant Terry T. Sutton, Camp GRO

Patriotic Instructor Minute



Memorial Day was just celebrated. As we know, it was the day set aside to honor and remember those Americans who gave their lives in defense of our country. This of course, includes the many Union soldiers who died during the Civil War.

Generally, the great battles that took place at Gettysburg, Shiloh and Antietam are well known. Many movies and books have been produced to cement those historical events in the minds of most Americans. However, I believe that overall, most people think the war was fought only on those few large battlefields, and that was it. While these large battles were important, I feel the war was actually won on the numerous small battlefields scattered throughout the nation.

For example, the state of Missouri was the scene of over 1,000 battles or skirmishes during the Civil War. It was the third most fought over state - behind Tennessee and Virginia. In fact, in 1861, 42% of all Civil War battles took place on Missouri soil. Even my hometown of Neosho, Missouri was the State Confederate Provisional Secessionist Capital for one day - October 28, 1861. Union troops almost immediately drove the Confederates out of the city.

It would be accurate to say that many of those Missouri engagements weren't really 'battles' in the true sense. Most were skirmishes and engagements fought by only a few hundred men, and in some cases by only a few dozen. They were fought in places like Cole Camp, Boonville, and Lexington. They were often fought against Confederate bushwhackers and Guerrilla bands led by men like William Clarke Quantrill, George Todd, and Bloody Bill Anderson - men who brought a new level of savagery to an already savage war.

My point being that the men who fought in these small engagements suffered no less than the men who fought in the giant battles of the East; and the men who were killed in these smaller engagements are no less dead. It is therefore our responsibility to remember and honor them as well.

Right: **Two Union soldiers with Spencer carbines and Colt revolvers**



Years ago, while working for the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, I was talking with a co-worker about World War II. I noticed she didn't seem to care much about the subject, so I asked her the reason for her lack of interest. She replied, "Because it was before my time". Let's hope we never get to the point in this country where everyone thinks remembering and honoring our fallen American heroes is "Before my time"!

Before moving to Texas last June, I had never heard of the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*. Since becoming a member, I have been able to witness firsthand how the organization honors the Union Veterans. I've attended graveside ceremonies and other activities where the show of respect and veneration for our ancestors is tangible. The Camp regularly participates in patriotic events such as Wreaths Across America, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day. These are just a few examples of how the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War strive to keep the legacy of our Civil War forefathers alive.

Most of us in the Camp are getting up in years, so it is our responsibility to continue to school our children and grandchildren in the importance of knowing our history and honoring our Union ancestors. Let's teach them to never forget the brave men who died in places like Carthage, Newtonia, and Dry Wood, Missouri. May God bless them, and may God bless the United States of America.



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

From the Chaplain's Desk

There were many “firsts” in the Union Army during the Civil War, not the least of which was the first female Chaplain, Elvira “Ella” Gibson. She had married Rev. John Hobart in 1861. Her husband, Rev. Hobart, became chaplain to the 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, the “Live Eagle Regiment.” Ella joined him with the unit and was constantly with the regiment, tending to the sick and wounded. The 8th with their War Eagle mascot, Old Abe, fought in the battles of Corinth, Vicksburg, Nashville, and the Red River Campaign, along with many other engagements of lesser note. Their mascot survived the war, even though he was carried into battle with the Color Guard. He is considered the inspiration for the “Screaming Eagle” insignia of the US Army 101st Airborne Division - a connection that continues from the Civil War to the modern era.



Left: ‘Old Abe’, mascot of the 8th Wisconsin Vol. Infantry

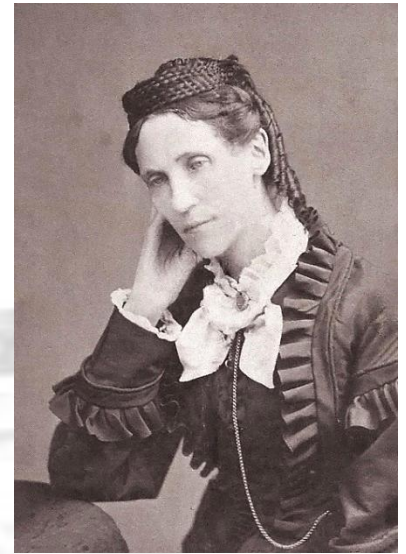
While serving with her husband’s unit, Ella wrote a piece called “The Soldier’s Gift.” This pamphlet was distributed to the troops and the proceeds from its sale were given to the Northwest Sanitary Commission. The commission worked to improve camp conditions and reduce disease, which caused more death during the war than did battle.

In 1864, Ella was ordained as a minister and was then recommended for appointment as Chaplain to the 1st Wisconsin Heavy Artillery by Wisconsin Governor Lewis (as well as other state officials). President Lincoln himself endorsed this appointment. However, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton refused her service, because she was a woman. Even without Stanton’s approval, she served at Fort Lyon, Alexandria, Virginia through the end of the war.

Right: Elvira Gibson – First U.S. Army female Chaplain

In 1869, by an act of the U.S. Congress, Ella’s pay for her wartime services was approved. But disbursement of her pay was delayed until 1876 - a full decade after the war. She received the sum of \$1,210.56, which she then donated to several charity causes.

During the war, Ella contracted malaria which disabled her as it had so many others. She and her husband divorced in 1868. She lived with her sister in Barre, Massachusetts and earned her living by writing. She was an advocate for women’s rights and other liberal issues.



Because Ella had never been officially mustered into the U.S. Army, she was ineligible for disability benefits. She only received her back pay some eleven years after the war.

Ella passed away in 1901. At her request, there was no funeral. Her remains were cremated and her ashes scattered.

In 2001, the 107th Congress posthumously granted Ella the grade of Captain in the Chaplains Corps of the U.S. Army.

Captain Elvira “Ella” Gibson, U.S. Army – a servant leader in every way.

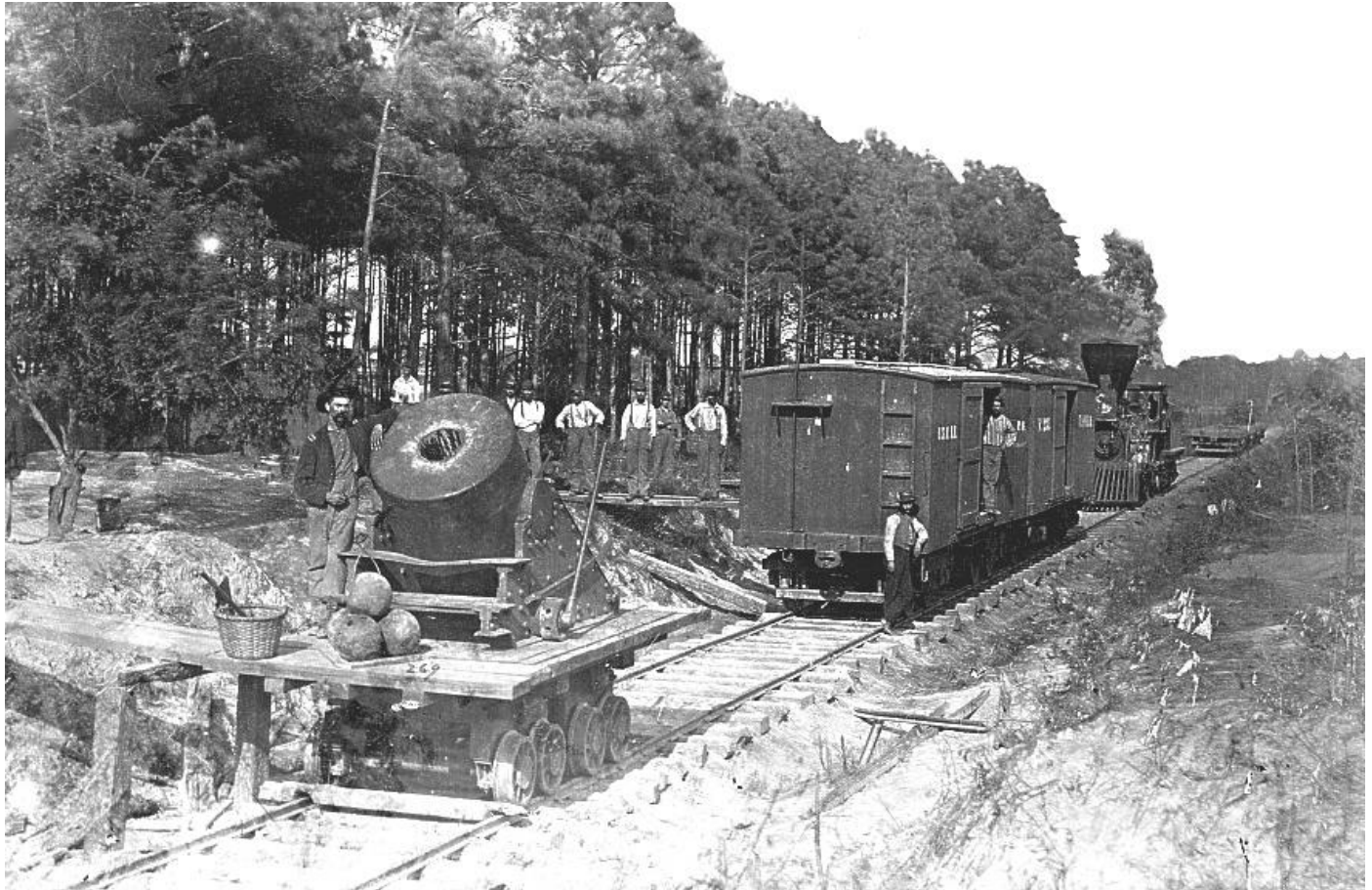


... submitted by Chaplain Stephen F. Duncan

Weapons of War - *The Dictator*

During the Civil War, seacoast defenses often included large mortars strategically placed in fixed fortifications. The largest mortar in the Federal arsenal was the 13-inch Seacoast Mortar. The weapon was so named because of the size of its bore. The huge mortars were also sometimes used in siege operations, such as the *Siege of Petersburg* in Virginia during the summer of 1864. In fact, the most well-known individual 13-inch mortar was the one employed during the Petersburg siege. Union soldiers nicknamed that huge weapon "The Dictator".

The Dictator was cast in a Pittsburgh foundry and weighed over eight and a half tons. A 20-pound gunpowder charge was needed to fire a massive 220-pound round shell. Since such behemoths were difficult to move, they were usually transported by rail.



13-inch Seacoast Mortar Being Transported by Rail

The range of the huge mortar was nearly two and a half miles. One of *The Dictator's* rounds was reported to have traveled 350 yards further than 2.5 miles! A formidable weapon, indeed!

Facing Petersburg, *The Dictator* was placed on a specially reinforced railroad flatcar and moved along a spur of the *City Point & Petersburg Railroad* to be positioned at strategic firing positions. The flatcar also served as the firing platform and recoiled ten to twelve feet each time the mortar was fired.

The Dictator went into action on July 9, 1864. It was manned by Co. G of the *1st Connecticut Heavy Artillery Regiment*. While some shells were lobbed directly into the city of Petersburg, the primary target for the huge mortar was a Confederate artillery battery across the Appomattox River.

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The Dictator (continued from page 3)

The regimental historian of the 1st Connecticut later wrote:

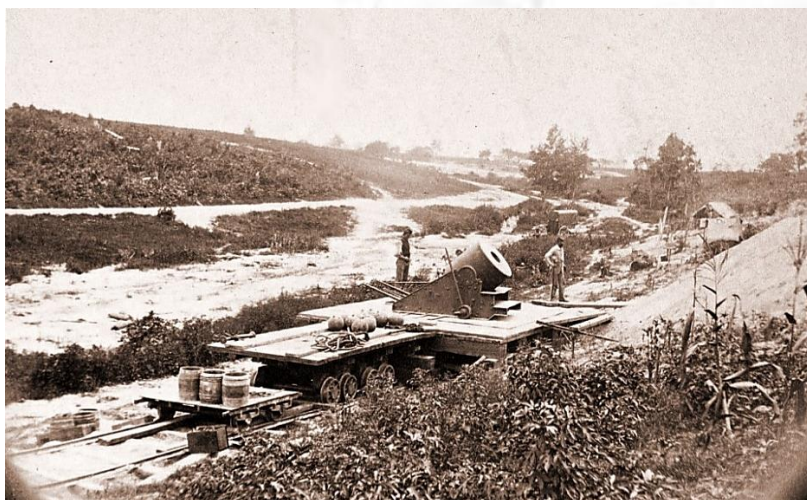
This 13 inch mortar was used principally against what was known as the 'Chesterfield Battery,' which from the left bank of [the] river, completely enfiladed our batteries on the right; all our direct fire seemed to have no effect. From this mortar was the only fire that seemed to hold the battery in check.



On July 11, 1864, even though the flatcar had been reinforced with iron rods and plates, it broke up after *The Dictator* fired five rounds. The car was hurriedly repaired and reinforced even more, and soon the big gun was back in action.

Left: Crew of *The Dictator* Poses for a Photo

Later in the month, during the *Battle of the Crater*, *The Dictator* fired nineteen rounds in support of a Union attack. One of the shells took out a cannon in the *Chesterfield Battery*, and another shell killed eight to ten men at the same location.



The Dictator remained in service at the *Siege of Petersburg* through September 1864, firing a total of 218 rounds.

Left: *The Dictator* in Position at Petersburg

The unusual sight of the huge mortar on a railroad flatcar was a favorite draw for the photographers covering the war at Petersburg. The resulting images of this particular mortar made it one of the more famous individual weapons of the war.



On September 28, 1864, *The Dictator* was returned to the ordnance depot at City Point, Virginia, and was never fired again during the Civil War.

Sadly, the final fate of the original *Dictator* is unknown. It was possibly sold as scrap iron after the war. Today, another similar Civil War-era 13" Seacoast Mortar is on display at *Petersburg National Battlefield*, occupying the spot where *The Dictator* once operated from during the *Siege of Petersburg*.

Left: *Dictator* Exhibit at Petersburg National Battlefield



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

Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 29)

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.

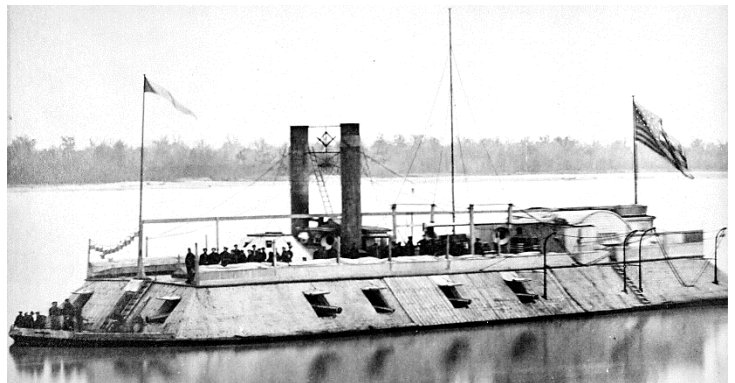


- **George W. Leland – Gunner's Mate** – George W. Leland was born in 1834 in Savannah, Georgia. He was still living in that city when he joined the US Navy, and was assigned to the *USS Lehigh*. On November 16, 1863, the *USS Lehigh* was in Charleston Harbor providing support for the Union troops on shore when the ship ran aground on a sand bar. It then came under heavy fire from Fort Moultrie. Despite intense Confederate artillery fire, Leland and fellow sailor Coxswain Thomas Irving twice rowed a small boat trailing a hawser from *Lehigh* to another Union ironclad, the *USS Nahant*. Both times, the cable snapped due to friction and hostile fire. Officers on the *Lehigh* were about to give an "abandon ship" order when three more sailors volunteered to make one more attempt. This last effort was successful and the *USS Nahant* was able to tow *Lehigh* off the sandbar to safety. For this action, all five sailors involved in the operation were awarded the Medal of Honor on April 16, 1864. Leland's official Medal of Honor citation reads:

Serving on board the U.S.S. Lehigh, Charleston Harbor, 16 November 1863, during the hazardous task of freeing the Lehigh, which had grounded, and was under heavy enemy fire from Fort Moultrie. Rowing the small boat which was used in the hazardous task of transferring hawsers from the Lehigh to the Nahant, Leland twice succeeded in making the trip, only to find that each had been in vain when the hawsers were cut by enemy fire and chaffing.

- **Pierre Leon – Captain of the Forecastle** – Pierre Leon was born in August 1838 in Nice, France. At age eleven, he stowed away on a ship bound to Philadelphia. He then served on several coastal steamers until 1860, when he became involved in the development of the *Alligator*, an experimental submarine. In August 1861, Leon joined the US Navy from Philadelphia. He served on no less than eight different ships during the war, including the *USS Baron De Kalb*. He was discharged exactly four years later. Pierre Leon's Medal of Honor citation reads:

Serving on board the U.S.S. Baron De Kalb, Yazoo River Expedition, 23 to 27 December 1862. Proceeding under orders up the Yazoo River, the U.S.S. Baron De Kalb, with the object of capturing or destroying the enemy's transports, came upon the steamers John Walsh, R. J. Locklan, Golden Age and the Scotland sunk on a bar where they were ordered fired. Continuing up the river, she was fired on, but upon returning the fire, caused the enemy's retreat. Returning down the Yazoo, she destroyed and captured larger quantities of enemy equipment and several prisoners. Serving bravely throughout this action, Leon, as captain of the forecastle, "distinguished himself in the various actions".



USS Baron DeKalb

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Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 29 continued)

- **Benjamin Lloyd - Coal Heaver** - Benjamin Lloyd was born in 1839 in Liverpool, England. He enlisted in the US Navy from Pennsylvania in January 1864 for a 1-year term. Lloyd was assigned to the double-ended, side-wheel steam gunboat *USS Wyalusing*. In May 1864, sailors from the *Wyalusing* attempted to sink *CCS Albemarle* with swimmer-delivered mines, but the mission failed. Lloyd's citation reads:

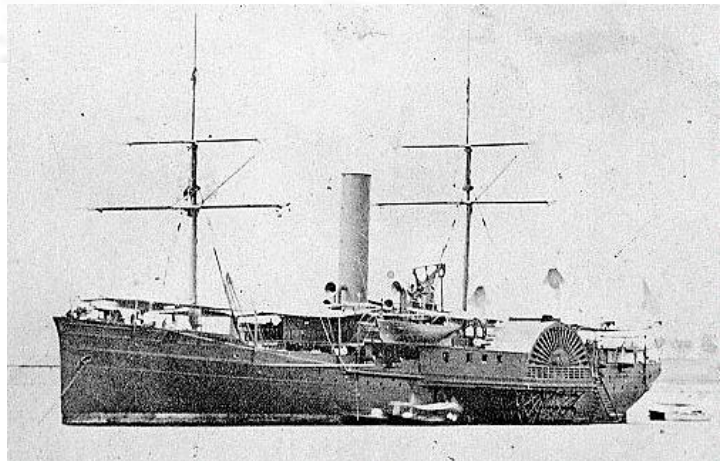
The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Coal Heaver Benjamin Lloyd, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while Serving on board the U.S.S. Wyalusing and participating in a plan to destroy the rebel ram Albemarle in Roanoke River, 25 May 1864. Volunteering for the hazardous mission, Lloyd participated in the transfer of two torpedoes across an island swamp. Serving as boat keeper, he aided in rescuing others of the party who had been detected before the plan could be completed, but who escaped, leaving detection of the plan impossible. By his skill and courage, Lloyd succeeded in returning to the mother ship after spending 24 hours of discomfort in the rain and swamp.

- **John W. Lloyd - Coxswain** - John W. Lloyd was born in 1831 in New York, New York. He joined the US Navy from his home state. He served as Coxswain on the double-ended, side-wheel steam gunboat *USS Wyalusing*. In May 1864, sailors from the *Wyalusing* attempted to sink *CSS Albemarle* with swimmer-delivered mines, but the mission failed. Lloyd'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 Coxswain John W. Lloyd, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving on board the U.S.S. Wyalusing during an attempt to destroy the rebel ram Albemarle in Roanoke River, 25 May 1864, Lloyd participated in this daring plan by swimming the Roanoke River heavily weighted with a line which was used for hauling torpedoes across. Thwarted by discovery just before the completion of the plan, Lloyd cut the torpedo guiding line to prevent detection of the plan by the enemy and again swam the river, narrowly escaping enemy musket fire and regaining the ship in safety.

- **Hugh Logan - Captain of the Afterguard** – Hugh Logan was born in 1834 in Scotland (or Ireland). He joined the US Navy from Boston in November 1862. He was assigned to the side-wheel steamer *USS Rhode Island*, and was serving as Captain of the Afterguard when the ship engaged in rescuing men from the stricken *USS Monitor* in Mobile Bay, on 30 December 1862. Logan was discharged in December 1863. His 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 Afterguard Hugh Logan, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving on board the U.S.S. Rhode Island which was engaged in saving the lives of the officers and crew of the U.S.S. Monitor near Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, 30 December 1862. Participating in the hazardous rescue of the officers and crew of the sinking Monitor, Captain of the Afterguard Logan, 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.



USS Rhode Island in 1866

... to be continued next issue with Part 30

Upcoming Camp Activities

Jul 8, 2023	Camp Business Meeting - 10 a.m. Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, Texas
Aug 3-6, 2023	2023 National Encampment - 142 nd National Encampment of the <i>SUVCW</i> and Allied Orders Courtyard by Marriott, 2200 Southwood Dr., Nashua, NH
Sep 16, 2023	Camp Business Meeting - 10 a.m. Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, Texas
Oct 21, 2023	Camp Business Meeting - 10 a.m. Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, Texas
Nov 18, 2023	Camp Business Meeting - 10 a.m. Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, Texas
Dec 16, 2023	Camp Business Meeting - 10 a.m. Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, Texas

2023 Camp Officers, Staff, and Social Media Links

Commander	John C. Vander Meulen	camp2commander@txsuv.org	Camp Council	Ben C. Bonnett
Sr. Vice-Comdr.	Daniel B. Pourreau	camp2svc@txsuv.org	Camp Council	Stevenson T. Holmes
Jr. Vice-Comdr.	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 S. Brock	Civil War Mem. Officer	Michael L. Lance
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	Webmaster	Thomas M. Eishen
Guard	Lee R. Wallace	Zoom Facilitator	John C. Vander Meulen
Signals Officer	John C. Vander Meulen	Newsletter Editor	Michael L. Lance
JROTC Coord.	Daniel B. Pourreau	Assist. Newsletter Edit.	Daniel B. Pourreau
Eagle Scout Coord.	Ben C. Bonnett	Assistant Webmaster	Robert G. Riley

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/

Signature Photo – Memorial Day *(continued from page 6)*



Memorial Day 2023

Federal Honor Guard Fires a Salute to Our Nation's Fallen Military Heroes

Within the Hemicycle at Houston National Cemetery, Houston, Texas

"We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue"

James A. Garfield

(1831 – 1881)

Lawyer, State Senator, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Ohio

Civil War Major General

20th President of the United States

From a speech given at Arlington National Cemetery on May 30, 1868