



The Harriet Lane



The Official Newsletter of

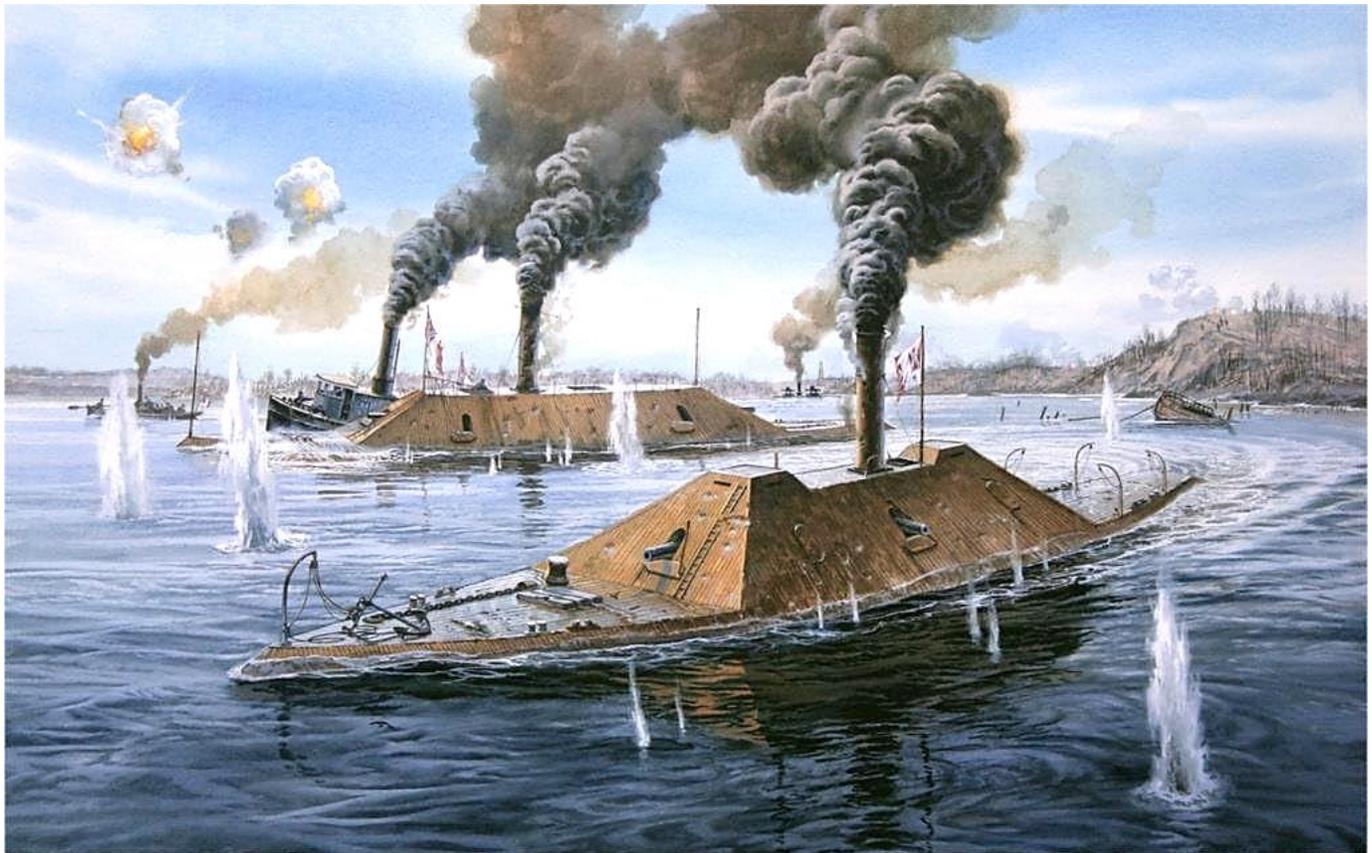
Lt. Commander Edward Lea, USN, Camp No. 2 – Houston, Texas

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Jun 2025

Volume 31

No. 2



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Cover Image

Ironclad Civil War Combat - by makeuseof - War art. Artist unknown

The Harriet Lane is the official newsletter of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN Camp No. 2

Sons of Union Veterans Of the Civil War, Houston, Texas

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Send questions or comments to the Editor at: mlance387@gmail.com

To view previous issues, visit: <https://www.camplea.org/camp-newsletter/>

JROTC AWARD PRESENTATION

Monday, April 14, 2025 – Houston, Texas

On Monday, April 14, 2025, Camp Commander Daniel B. Pourreau attended the Heights High School JROTC Ball in Houston and presented a *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* JROTC award certificate and badge to outstanding Cadet, Battalion Executive Officer, Scarlet Alcocer.



Left: JROTC Award badge

Right: Cmdr. Daniel Pourreau presenting the SUVCW JROTC Award to Cadet Scarlet Alcocer



... by Camp Cmdr. Daniel B. Pourreau

MEMORIAL DAY – 2025

Monday, May 26, 2025 – Houston, Texas

On Memorial Day, Camp Commander Daniel B. Pourreau and Past Camp Commander Michael L. Lance, both outfitted as Union Army Corporals, combined with men of *Co. A, 13th U.S. Infantry Regiment* to form an Honor Guard at Houston National Cemetery. The unit fired a coordinated and thunderous musket volley in the grassy area immediately outside the hemicycle to signal the opening of the Memorial Day program inside the structure.

After the opening shot, two members of the Honor Guard stowed their muskets and obtained the U.S. and Regimental Colors as the unit transformed from a Federal Honor Guard into a Federal Color Guard. They then moved into position #21 of the procession to wait for their turn to march onto the parade grounds inside the



hemicycle to salute with the Colors. As the unit was announced, they marched forward smartly, saluted, and then performed a right-wheel maneuver to march off the parade grounds.

Although their participation in the program was brief, the men were proud to demonstrate their gratitude and respect for our nation's fallen heroes.

*L-R: Tommy Attaway (Cmdg.)
Joey Almia, Roy Eanes
Michael Lance, Daniel Pourreau
Howard Rose*

... by Michael Lance, PDC

MEMORIAL DAY - 2025

Monday, 26 May 2025 – Houston, Texas

An elaborate and moving Memorial Day ceremony was conducted by the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp* in the *G.A.R.* lot at the historic Washington Cemetery in Houston. The Camp was assisted by Sisters of the *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1* of Houston, and the *Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4* of the *Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War*. Small U.S. flags were placed at each of the ten military headstones in the lot. Commander Pourreau directed the program, which included an inspirational address by PCC John Vander Meulen.

During the program, the Sisters called out the names and service units of each *G.A.R.* veteran, placed a red rose on his gravestone, and stepped back to salute. A ceremonial bell was tolled after each name was called. This year, a new element was added to the traditional program. Brothers Herbert Powers and Stephen Schulze were designated as ceremonial Sergeants - with one of them (*Schulze*) calling out the names of the other Civil War Veterans buried in the cemetery to the north of the *G.A.R.* lot, and the other Sergeant (*Powers*) calling out the names of the Civil War veterans who were buried south of the *G.A.R.* lot.

Beautiful wreaths were placed at the grave of Sarah Emma Edmonds/Seely by a Sister representing each of the Allied Orders – *Auxiliary* President Vali Reyes and Past-President Susan Barry of the *DUVCW*.



Herb Powers calls the names of vets to the south



Sisters Reyes and Barry saluting at Seelye grave



A three-volley musket salute then echoed across the cemetery – fired by Daniel Pourreau, Michael Rappe, and Michael Lance. They fired by the drum – the signal provided by drummer William Myers. The musket salute was followed by the sounding of *Taps*.

Musket Volley

L-R: Daniel Pourreau

Michael Rappe

Michael Lance

William Myers - drum

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MEMORIAL DAY - 2025 (CONTINUED)



**Susan Barry eloquently reciting the poem,
*When the Boys in Blue are Gone***



**Showing respect - PCC John C. Vander Meulen
and Stephen D. Schulze, PDC**



**L-R Back: Michael L. Lance, Michael D. Rappe, Daniel B. Poureau, Maryann Anthony, Herbert Powers,
Stephen D. Schulze, John C. Vander Meulen, Ronald 'Steve' Brock, and William D. Myers,
L-R Front: Sarah Rappe, Susan Barry, Jana Marsh, and Vali Reyes**

*... by Michael L. Lance, PDC
... additional photo on page 22*

MEMORIAL DAY - 2025

Monday, 26 May 2025 – Memorial Day Ceremony - Galveston, Texas

I put flowers on the graves of the Union veterans in the Episcopal Cemetery and New City Cemetery in Galveston this morning. May their memory be eternal.



**Decorated grave of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN
Namesake of the *Lea Camp*
Episcopal Cemetery**



**Decorated headstone
1st Lt. George Frank Robie
Medal of Honor recipient
New City Cemetery**



**Union Monument
Memorializing the Federal Casualties
of the January 1, 1863 *Battle of Galveston*
Episcopal Cemetery**

... by Chaplain Stephen F. Duncan



Juneteenth Celebration

Wednesday, 19 Jun 2025 – Ashton Villa, Galveston, Texas

Four members of *Lea Camp #2* participated in the Juneteenth celebration program at the historic Ashton Villa mansion in Galveston. Chaplain Stephen F. Duncan once again portrayed Maj. General Gordon Granger, and he was supported by guards, Zane F. Hooper, Herbert W. Powers, and Michael L. Lance. The ballroom of the mansion was filled to standing-room-only capacity. The Guard unit took a position on the stage.

Brother Duncan opened the program with a warm welcome, setting the stage for the speakers to follow. Near the end of the event, he again moved to the podium and invited a Buffalo Soldier reenactor from the crowd to join the Guard unit on the stage. He then read *General Order #3* – the order informing the people of Texas that all enslaved people were free, in accordance with the *Emancipation Proclamation*. The uniformed unit was well-received by the huge crowd and agreed to pose for numerous photos afterward.



Left L-R: **Herbert Powers, Buffalo Soldier, Michael Lance, and Zane Hooper.**

Right: **Stephen Duncan portraying Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger**



Standing Room Only!

... by Michael L. Lance

Patriotic Instructor Minute

The Boys in Blue

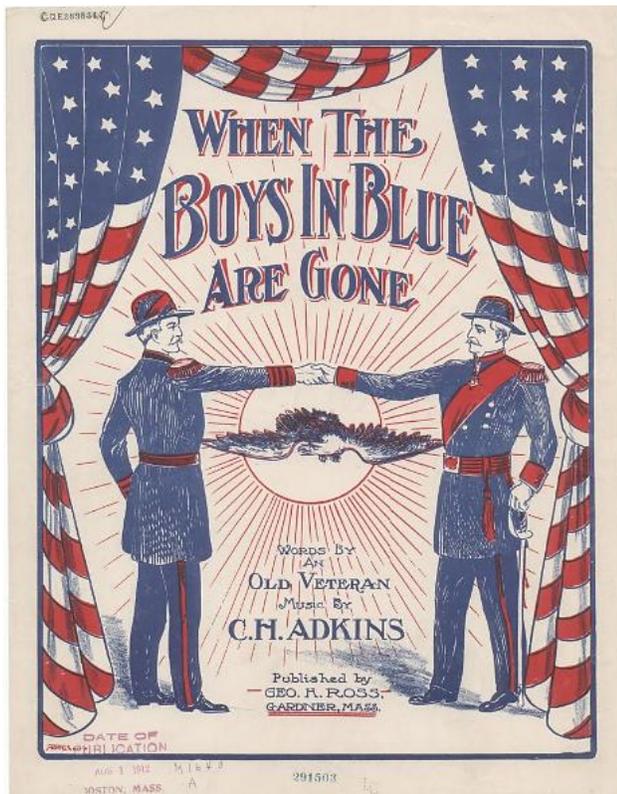
We are all familiar with the poem, 'When the Boys in Blue Are Gone'. It is recited at several of our events throughout the year. But just who were these 'Boys in Blue' and where did they come from?

Depending on what source you use, it is estimated at 20% of Civil War soldiers were 18 years old or younger. The other 80% ranged in age from 18 to 29 years old, with the average age being about 25. The Union soldier stood between 5' 6" to 5' 8" tall and weighed, on average, 143 pounds.

At the start of the Civil War, most of America was still a rural society with agriculture playing a significant role in the economy. A large number of men who enlisted in the Union army were farmers and small town clerks from Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. Most of these boys had never been more than 10 miles from home. So, for some of them, going off to war was viewed as an adventure. But most joined out of a sense of Patriotism. They had no idea the war would last four long bloody years!

But the 'Boys in Blue' also came from other walks of life. They were fishermen from the New England states. They were coal miners from Pennsylvania, and gold and silver miners from Colorado. They also came from as far away as California and New Mexico.

There were also Germans from Wisconsin, Ohio, and Missouri. These immigrants all shared a great sense of Patriotism and were eager to demonstrate their loyalty to their adopted country. Many also hoped it would help them earn U.S. citizenship. As the war progressed, young Black men were allowed to enlist in the Union army. They proved their mettle under harsh conditions and in several key battles.



The ages of Union officers varied. Some were in their 50's, and the youngest, Uriah G. Pennypacker, was just 20 when he was promoted to Brigadier General on February 18, 1865. Several high ranking officers had attended the service academies at West Point and Annapolis, and had seen action during the Mexican War. Some officers received battlefield promotions, and a large number were chosen from among the ranks of the individual companies and regiments in which they served.

Finally, let's not forget our own Civil War ancestors who came from varied backgrounds and enlisted out of a sense of Patriotism and duty, and who served with distinction.

Memorial Day is just around the corner and many solemn observances will take place. Let's continue to recite 'When the Boys in Blue Are Gone' at these events. Let's also remember to honor our Civil War ancestors and all the 'Boys in Blue' who fought and, in many instances, sacrificed their lives to help preserve the greatest nation the world has ever seen!



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

FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S DESK

Rabbi Jakob Frankel

Rabbi Frankel was a German-born Ashkenazi Reformed Jew. On September 18, 1862, he was appointed by President Lincoln as the first official Jewish Chaplain in the United States Armed Services.

Federal law up until then required a chaplain to be ordained by a "Christian denomination." After Rabbi Arnold Fischel was elected to serve as chaplain-designate for the 5th Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment, Secretary of War Simon Cameron (for whom the regiment was named, "Cameron's Dragoons") denied the request. This denial led to the *Board of Delegates of American Israelites* and Fischel to lobby to change the law. Fischel met with President Lincoln to help convince him of the need.

Right: **Dutch rabbi Arnold Fischel**

When the law was passed with those changes, Lincoln appointed Frankel as the first Jewish chaplain. Frankel spent the war working with the military hospitals of Philadelphia, a major center during the war. He held this post until his mustering out mid-1865.

Probably spoken in Hebrew, the following excerpts from *El Maleh Rachamim*, a well-known prayer for the dead in Jewish tradition. The phrase 'el maleh rachamim' translates to 'God full of compassion'. Rabbi Frankel certainly would have prayed this many times during the war, and then again after the war as veterans passed away.



Left: **Rabbi Jakob Frankel**

*"Oh God, full of compassion, who dwells on high,
grant true rest upon the wings of the Divine Presence,
in the exalted spheres of the holy and pure ...
Therefore, may the All-Merciful One
shelter him with the cover of His wings forever,
and bind his soul in the bond of life.
The Lord is his heritage,
may he rest in his resting-place in peace;
and let us say: Amen."*

For all those who went before us, we pray.

May their Memory be eternal.



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

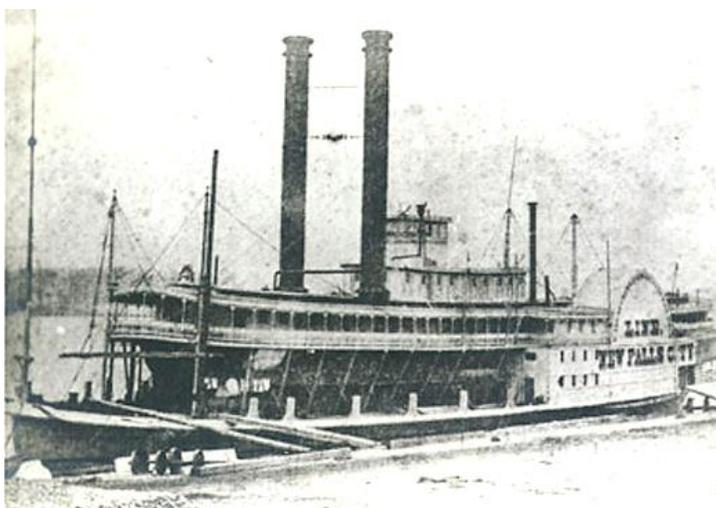
SPOTLIGHT ON A *G.A.R.* VETERAN - JAMES N. QUIN

James Norval Quin was born February 17, 1841, in Syracuse, Onondaga County, New York. His parents were John Harvey Quin and Hannah Eagles Osborne. John and Hannah began raising their family in New Jersey, her native state, where their first two children were born - in 1834 and 1836 respectively. Their next three children were born in New York between 1839 and 1843, including their fourth child, James Norval Quin.

By 1845, the Quin family had moved from central New York back to northern New Jersey, where two more children were born. In September 1850, the Quin's were living in Pequannock Township in Morris County, New Jersey. This historic township, which is located about 28 miles northwest of New York City, dates back to the 1700's. John Quin, now 37 years old, was supporting his wife and their seven children as a machinist. Five of those children, ranging in age from 2 to 16, were attending school, including 9-year-old James.

Sometime during the 1850's, the Quin family moved westward, crossing the Mississippi River to settle in St. Louis, Missouri. As a teenager during 1858 and part of 1859, James worked aboard three different passenger steamships which plied the Mississippi. He worked as a 'Striker', developing his skills as an engineer.

Right: Side-wheel steamboat Falls City – one of the three steamers on which young James Quin worked – and once piloted by Mark Twain before the Civil War.



By 1860, as James came of age, the country was on the verge of civil war. In June of that year, he was enumerated on the federal census as a 19-year-old unmarried clerk still living with his parents, two older brothers, and three younger sisters in St. Louis. His father was still employed as a machinist and his oldest brother was an engineer. James later claimed he worked in a St. Louis machine shop as a machinist in 1860, rather than as a clerk. At any rate, the Civil War broke out the following year.

In 1861, as the North and South clashed on battlefields across the land, James continued developing his skills as an engineer working in a St. Louis company that built boilers. The following year, in 1862, he was gainfully employed at "rifling & boring 12 pound brass cannons" with the Hughes & Marshall company in St. Louis, under a government contract. Soon he switched employers once again.

"I was employed by H. N. Kendall & Co. Steam Bakers as Engineer working on a government contract for army bread for Genl. Fremont's army, and in 1863, I was constantly employed by the government at Benton Barracks, a portion of the time as Post Detective in charge of all sentries at the different gates of the Barracks under orders of Capt. N. Constable, A. A. Q Master of the Post."

On March 16, 1864, at age 23, with the war raging in its third year, James was living with the A. E. Smith family in St. Louis County, Missouri. On that date, he applied for a commission as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. He successfully passed a knowledge examination administered by a Chief Engineer and then reported to a doctor in St. Louis for a physical, which he also passed. A month later, on April 20, 1864, he was commissioned as an Acting 3rd Assistant

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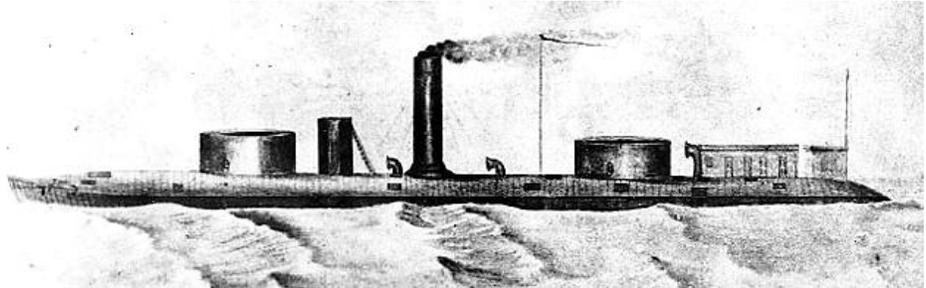
G.A.R. Veteran James N. Quin (continued)

Engineer and assigned to the *USS Winnebago*, a newly commissioned double-turreted river monitor.

Just two days after receiving his commission, on April 22, 1864, James married Laura Perdita Smith in St. Louis. Their time together following the marriage was likely brief and a honeymoon not possible - as James was dutybound to report for military service. But their marriage would endure for nearly four decades and produced nine children.

James' role as an engineer was critical to maintaining the steam-powered systems of the *Winnebago*. Ironclads like the *Winnebago* operated on the Mississippi River and its tributaries, helping protect that vital waterway for the Union forces. Their introduction during the Civil War represented a significant technological advancement in naval warfare.

Right: Primitive sketch of the USS Winnebago, ca. 1864-1865



On May 28, 1864, James sustained a serious head injury while on duty on the *Winnebago*.

He *“was severely injured by being struck on the head by the projecting edge of angle iron forming the frame of [the] baggage way through the bulk-head forward of the fire room while [he] was passing to his post of duty in a midnight call to General Quarters by the Officer of the Deck. That blow knocked [him] down in a senseless condition.”* His injury put him out of action for a week.

James recovered just in time to experience the excitement and horror of battle. Within a few days, in June 1864, after the *Winnebago* had descended down the Mississippi River, it successfully dueled with Confederate artillery along the banks in southern Louisiana. Following that action, the *Winnebago* was dispatched the rest of the way down the Mississippi to join Rear Admiral David Farragut's *West Gulf Blockading Squadron* which was standing off the coast of Alabama in the Gulf of Mexico. Farragut was preparing to attack the Confederate forts at Mobile.

On August 5, 1864, *Winnebago* got underway from her anchorage near Sand Island at the mouth of Mobile Bay and proceeded up into the bay, *“for the purpose of attacking the enemy.”* The Confederate defenses at Fort Morgan were strong, with many large shore guns and dangerous minefields in the waters. Despite the odds, the *Winnebago*, along with three other *“ironclad monitors and 14 wooden steamships boldly attacked”*. The role of the monitors was to *“draw the fire from the shore guns away from the wooden ships of Farragut's battle line”*, and *“to neutralize the fire of the Confederate guns.”*

The Union monitor which steamed immediately ahead of the *Winnebago* struck a ‘torpedo’ (*mine*) soon after the action began, and sank *“instantaneously”*. The *Winnebago* took on 10 survivors from the doomed vessel. Undaunted, the federal squadron continued on - and were soon attacked by the Confederate ironclad, *CSS Tennessee*, and three other wooden gunboats. The *CSS Tennessee* was eventually *“forced to surrender to the more powerful Union squadron”* and the rest of the small Confederate fleet was either sunk or dispersed.

During that naval clash, the *USS Winnebago* was struck 19 times, three shots penetrating the deck near her aft turret. But fortunately for James and his crewmates, no one onboard was killed. However, on August 15, 1864,

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G.A.R. Veteran James N. Quin (continued)

during the ensuing assault on Fort Morgan, a Confederate shell burst onboard near James. Shrapnel flung from the burst opened a 4-inch gash on his lower left leg. He returned to duty after being patched up by the ship's surgeon. The *Winnebago* remained in the Mobile Bay area, supporting the siege of Fort Morgan, which finally surrendered on August 24, 1864.

Before James enlisted in the Navy, he reportedly had suffered from a hernia in his groin area. Although he had worn a support 'truss' in the past, he had not worn it for over a year. On October 12, 1864, that old ailment was severely aggravated while he was working below deck in the engine room of the *Winnebago*.

"While Quin was assisting in repairing the machinery of the Winnebago, he caught and held up a large portion of the machinery to keep it from falling, which would have broken had it fallen; that this sudden and heavy strain was more than he could bear and he severely ruptured himself in this effort; that [he] suffered a great deal at the time..." It was nine days later before James was able to return to duty.

On July 27, 1865, with the war over, James was *"detached and granted leave of absence"*. Then on October 12, 1865, he was honorably discharged from the Navy. Years later, James Monroe, the Acting 1st Engineer on *USS Winnebago* testified that James *"was always prompt, faithful on duty and had no symptoms whatever of being ruptured in any manner or in any manner weak or sickly; but in the contrary [he] was accustomed to lift the heaviest weights without injury or complaint until he was so unfortunate as to receive the injuries..."* mentioned above.

While on leave, James returned to Missouri to reunite with his wife, Laura. Less than a year later, on September 15, 1866, the couple celebrated the birth of their first child, a daughter. Jessie Laura Quinn was born in the town of Rock Hill in St. Louis County, Missouri. A son, Charles C. Quin was born in Missouri the following year, on August 7, 1868.



James N. Quin

When the federal census was taken in July 1870, James was reportedly 26 years old and employed as a railroad engineer. He, with his 23-year-old wife, Laura, and their two young children, Jessie (age 4) and Charles (age 2) were lodging with Laura's parents, William and Annie Smith, in St. Louis. James was mistakenly noted on the census sheet as being born in Maryland, instead of New York. Laura and both children were listed as born in Missouri. By this time, the young couple had amassed a personal estate worth \$300. Their family would soon become a bit larger, as Laura was again with child.

On October 12, 1870, Laura gave birth to twins – Harvey and May Edna Quin. Then, on June 4, 1872, another daughter was born, Bertie L. Quin. Two years later, on July 27, 1874, baby Walter Edward Quin was welcomed into the family.

During the following month, August 1874, James experienced excruciating pain from his strangulated inguinal hernia. He sought medical assistance from his family physician, Dr. Walter Bailey, Sr. of New Orleans. With difficulty, the doctor was able to reduce the hernia, and advised James to wear a support truss continuously to

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G.A.R. Veteran James N. Quin (continued)

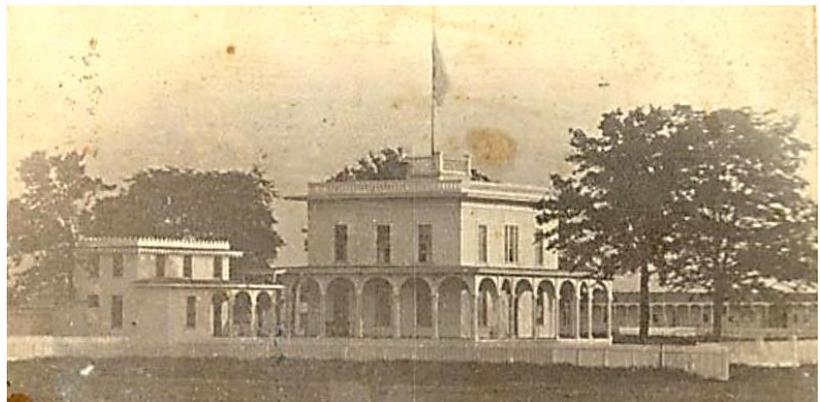
help avoid repeat incidents.

In 1878, James was living at 203 N. 5th Street in St. Louis. It was likely due to physical issues emanating from his war wounds, that he was compelled to apply for a Navy Invalid Pension. He wrote to Washington requesting a copy of his *Honorable Discharge*. In a letter dated May 27, 1878, received from Secretary of War R. W. Thomason, James was informed that copies of Discharges could not be issued, but that the response letter was proof enough. It certified *"that the records of this Department show that James N. Quin was appointed an Acting 3rd Assistant Engineer in the U.S. Navy on the 16th of March, 1864 and was honorably discharged on the 12th of October 1865."*

The young Quin family then migrated south to Louisiana, where James continued his quest for a pension. On April 29, 1879, another daughter, Fannie Isabelle Quin, was born in New Orleans.

On September 22, 1879, James was 37 years old when he appeared before a U.S. District Court Clerk in New Orleans to petition for a permanent and back pension. The Court Clerk described James as standing 5 feet, 5 inches tall with a fair, light complexion, brown hair, and blue eyes.

In presenting his case, James stated that: he was currently living at 86 Tchoupitoulas Street in New Orleans; he had enlisted March 16, 1864 as a 3rd Ass't. Engineer; that he was honorably discharged on October 12, 1865; that *"my Discharge was sent to St. Louis and forwarded to me at New Orleans where I was under waiting Orders"*; that he was employed *"for a short time prior to my enlistment in the Navy as a detective in 1862 on the part of Capt. N. Constable A.Q.M. at Benton Barracks in St. Louis"*; that after his discharge, he had lived in St. Louis and New Orleans; that his recent occupation was that of a Soliciting Agent; and he had *"never received or applied for a pension."*



Benton Barracks - St. Louis, Missouri

Regarding his wartime injury – the blow to his forehead in 1864 - James stated: *"I have ever since been affected having continuously fever in the head and am rendered totally incapable of performing any mental work and am advised by physicians not to attempt to exercise my brain at all."*

James also described the severity of his wartime groin rupture, stating, in part: the *"sudden strain caused a very painful and lasting rupture in my left groin and which has remained permanent to this day and has ever since totally disabled me from performing the duties of an Engineer or any exertion whatever."* He added that he was receiving medical care *"by physicians when I could afford it ever since, and at the present time am wearing a truss for the said rupture."*

To bolster his case, James presented an affidavit from his 68-year-old father, John H. Quin, testifying to James' exemplary pre-service health condition. It also noted the thoroughness of the physical examination given to James at the time of his enlistment in the Navy in 1864. But now, in 1879, James claimed he was *"totally"* disabled and unable to provide for his subsistence by manual labor, and thereby appointed Joseph H. Spearing of New Orleans as his attorney to prosecute his claim.

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G.A.R. Veteran James N. Quin (continued)

On June 3, 1880, James and Laura 'Quinn' were interviewed at their home at 1500 Tchoupitoulas Street in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana for the federal census. James was a 38-year-old gas fitter and she was 32 years old. Laura was tasked with managing a household that included their seven children - Jesse (*age 13*), Charles (*age 12*), May and Harvey (*both age 10*), Bertie (*age 9*), Walter (*age 6*), and toddler Fannie (*age 1*). She likely had a modicum of peace in the house during the weekdays - as the five older children attended school.

On July 6, 1880, seeking additional support for his pension application (*No. 6644*), James was examined again by a surgeon in New Orleans. The surgeon described James as 38 years old and standing 5 feet, 5½ inches tall, weighing 149 lbs., with a 'florid' complexion, and a pulse rate of 72. The surgeon's final determination was that James was permanently 'partially' disabled from his wartime injuries, which he described as:

"Rupture, or Hernia of left side. Intestine not down at time of examination. It is of 16 years standing. ... Wound of left temple, marks nearly obliterated. He states that the effects of wound produces fever, & also affects his mind, which would render him unfit to follow his profession of Engineer. ... There is also a mark of wound about 4 inches above ankle [sic] on outer side of left tibia from fragment of a shell which burst near him off Fort Morgan, Augst. 15th, 1864."

On September 11, 1880, James and Laura welcomed the birth of their eighth child. Baby John Harvey Quin was born in New Orleans.

In a lengthy letter dated December 13, 1880, James wrote from New Orleans to again petition for the granting of his Navy pension. The letter was addressed to O. P. Clarke, the Acting Commissioner of Pensions in Washington, DC. It detailed his employment history from 1858 through his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy in October in 1865. He was finally awarded a pension of \$2 per month.

The Quin family soon moved to Houston, Texas. *"For a number of years, he was manager in Houston for the National Oil Works and Mill Supply company."* The 1887-1888 Houston city directory listed James N. Quin as general manager of a branch office of *National Oil Works and Mill Supply Company* of New York located at 46 Franklin.

On April 27, 1888, James was 46 years old when he appeared before the acting Clerk of Harris County to swear that he was the pensioner receiving an allowance of \$2 per month based on injuries suffered while serving as an Engineer in the U.S. Navy onboard the monitor *Winnebago*. Two witnesses appeared with James to confirm his identity. He stood before the Clerk to request an increase in his pension amount. He was likely advised to appeal directly to the Pension Board in Washington to apply for the increase he was seeking.

On May 3, 1888, a declaration filed by James not only included his previously mentioned debilities, but added *"loss of hearing of left ear"* to his list of war service ailments.

In 1889, James' 47th birthday had passed by the time he was able to retain J. W. Morris, an attorney in Washington, DC, to represent him in petitioning for an increase in his military pension. Morris filled out and submitted the appropriate forms, indicating that the reason for the request for an increase was *"on account of an increased disability and his rate being unjustly and unreasonably low and disproportionate to the rate drawn by other pensioners for similar or equivalent disabilities."* James' pension was subsequently raised to \$5 per month, effective October 2, 1889.

FILED BY
J. W. MORRIS,
(Late Principal Examiner U. S. Pension Office,)
Attorney at Law,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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G.A.R. Veteran James N. Quin (continued)

On August 21, 1890, James appeared before a County Probate Court Clerk in Pulaski County, Arkansas to again declare for an increase to his Invalid Pension payments. He based his claim on the new Pension Act of June 27, 1890. He stated that: he was 49 years old; he was living at 23 Bell Street in Houston, Harris County, Texas; he had enlisted as an Engineer on the monitor *Winnebago* on March 16, 1864; was honorably discharged at New Orleans on October 12, 1865; that he was *"totally unable to earn a support by manual labor by reason of Rupture and Injury to head"*; and he was currently receiving a pension under Certificate No. 3291. James appointed *William Fitch & Co.* of Washington, DC as *"his true and lawful attorneys to prosecute his claim, and to receive therefor a fee of Ten Dollars."* Two long-time acquaintances, P. A. Ritter and Sam Wright – both of Little Rock, Arkansas, were present as witnesses to attest to the truthfulness of James' testimony.

James' pension of \$5 per month came to an end on August 25, 1890 - when a new higher rate began. The passage of the new Pension Act more than doubled his allowance. He began receiving \$12 per month *"from August 26, 1890 for injury of head and left inguinal hernia."*

Sometime after relocating to Houston, James became a member of *Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan Post No. 9, Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.)*. He apparently was not very active in the affairs of the *Post* as his name does not appear on the attendance rolls of the annual Department Encampments, or in contemporary newspaper accounts of *Post* activities during the 1890s. He was probably not physically able to devote much time to the *Post*. Evidence of his deteriorating physical condition is clearly noted in the medical reports found in his pension file.

The Eleventh Census of the United States was taken during the month of June 1890. In order to gather military service information from the surviving Union veterans of the Civil War - or their widows - a *Special Veterans Schedule* was created and added to the census. These extra sheets were filled out by the census enumerators in the field. Although most of the regular 1890 federal census records were destroyed by fire in 1921, most of the *Special Veterans Schedules* from the 1890 census from Texas survived. J. N. Quin's name is listed as living in Houston, Harris County, Texas, but for some reason - *without any military service information*.

Regarding any lingering disability resulting from his wartime service, the 1890 census enumerator wrote, *"none"*. It seems apparent that James was not personally interviewed by the enumerator. By June 1890, his deteriorating physical condition, based on medical examination reports found in his pension file, should have been readily apparent. In fact, two months later, James filed a declaration alleging *'permanent disability, not due to vicious habits, from rupture and injury of head.'*



James Norval Quin

In addition, on September 19, 1891, when Dr. James H. Blake was called upon to tend to James, he found him *"in bed suffering from hemiplegia of left side. He was brought home from the depot in a carriage in a helpless condition."* Dr. Blake kept him under constant observation and treatment until November 2, 1891. In the doctor's opinion, James' ailments were *"caused from a severe blow on the head"* rendering him *"unable to perform manual labor."* As previously mentioned, that blow to his head occurred in 1864 while James was on duty on the river ironclad, *USS Winnebago*.

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G.A.R. Veteran James N. Quin (continued)

On November 20, 1891, James and Laura Quin became the parents of their ninth and last child. Baby James Norval Quin, Jr., was born in Houston, Harris Co., Texas

On December 17, 1897, James was 56 years old and living at 1615 Summer Street in Houston when he again petitioned for an increase in the amount of his military pension payments. He had been receiving \$12 per month, but now wanted a bit more because *"his disability has greatly increased since his last medical examination. Injury to head has resulted in total paralysis of left side."* James also wanted his old rupture factored in when his pension stipend was reconsidered. He declared that he *"is now totally disabled both mental & physical."*

A decision on James' appeal for a pension rate increase was delayed for nearly two years. On September 5, 1899, the *Adjudication Division* of the Pension Office finally determined that there was no justification for reopening his file for reconsideration. They concluded his claim *"fails to show the existence of a disability from pensioned cause in excess of that covered by present rate"* ... and that ... *"left hemiplegia cannot be accepted as result of injury to head."*

On June 8, 1900, when the federal census enumerator visited the Quins, James was 59 years old and reportedly employed as a 'traveling salesman'. Laura was now 52 years old and the couple had been married for 35 years. Two of their unmarried and unemployed adult children were still living at home, Fannie (*age 22*) and Harvey (*age 19*). Harvey was reportedly also an invalid.

Based on his self-reported health condition, it is a wonder that James was able to work as a traveling salesman. But his situation was soon to change. In 1901, James and Laura moved north to Elmont, Franklin County, Missouri, *"for the benefit of his health"*. But the change in scenery apparently did not help much, because James passed away within months after arriving there. He died in Elmont on January 27, 1902 at age 60, and was buried locally the next day. Reverend Benjamin Sellers Hutton of Sullivan, Missouri acted as the officiating clergyman at his funeral.

Laura remained in Belmont for a while after James' death. She owned no real estate, but had *"household and kitchen furniture worth probably thirty dollars and her means of support since her husband's death has been from his Life Insurance in the Knights of Honor amounting to two thousand dollars."* Laura had no other source of income and depended on the insurance money to support herself, *"a daughter and an invalid son."* Laura quickly filed for a Widow's pension.

On March 18, 1902, she was 54 years old when she appeared before a Notary Public and stated that: she was living in Elmont, Franklin County, Missouri; that she was the widow of James N. Quin who had enlisted in the U.S. Navy on March 16, 1864 at St. Louis; the sailor entered service as an Acting 3rd Assistant Engineer, ranking with Midshipman, on the *USS Winnebago*, and was honorably discharged October 12, 1865; that her maiden name was Laura Smith; that she and James Quin were married April 22, 1864 by a Justice of the Peace at St. Louis; that neither of them had been previously married; and that James died January 27, 1902 at Elmont, Missouri. Two long-time acquaintances - M. B. Lane and James R. Clark, both of Sullivan, Missouri, were present to serve as witnesses to attest to the truthfulness of her testimony.



Laura Perdita Smith-Quin

Laura's Widow's Pension application was then duly filed four days later, on March 22, 1902. But obtaining approval for the pension would prove to be a difficult and time-consuming endeavor.

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G.A.R. Veteran James N. Quin (continued)

Over a year later, in a letter from the Commissioner of Pensions dated April 14, 1903, Laura was informed that she needed to provide a significant amount of additional documentation to support her claim, including: a copy of the sailor's death record; affidavits from two witnesses that neither James or Laura had been previously married; two credible witnesses that could vouch for their character, location and value of all their property – both real, personal, or mixed; the amount of her income and means of support; and the amount of the sailor's life insurance.

Several more months went by before the Commissioner went as far as sending a letter to the Postmaster of Belmont, Missouri requesting information about Laura. In the letter dated September 30, 1903, the Commissioner asked about Laura's financial condition – how she was supporting herself, the sources of her income, and "whether anyone else was legally bound for her support." Laura was finally awarded a monthly pension of \$8, with accrued back payments dating from the date of her filing, March 22, 1902.

James Quin was destined to soon return to his adopted city and state - Houston, Texas. In November 1903, his remains were exhumed in Elmont and carried to Houston. His wife, Laura, accompanied him on this final trip.



James was reinterred in the family plot in the Dawn Meadow section at Hollywood Cemetery (Lot 107, Space 5). His final destination reflected his enduring connection to the city he adopted as his home.

Left: VA-style gravestone of James Norval Quin – Hollywood Cemetery, Houston, Texas (in 2025).

Laura Quin took up residence at 2006 Crockett Street in Houston. A note in her pension file, dated April 27, 1904, indicates that she still had not yet received her accrued back pension payments.

On May 29, 1905, the *Houston Post* published a *Decoration Day* article listing the names of the 25 deceased Union veterans of *McClellan Post No. 9, G.A.R.*, that were buried in one of six Houston area cemeteries. J. N. Quin was noted among the deceased.

On April 10, 1910, Laura Quin was a 62-year-old widow still living in Houston. In addition to her \$8 per month widow's pension, she was supporting herself and her unmarried 29-year-old son, office manager Harvey Quin, by working as a midwife. Also enumerated in

Laura's household was 9-year-old schoolgirl, Hazel Quin, who was inexplicably listed as 'daughter'. Laura's widowed daughter, Mrs. May Smith (age 40), was enumerated as head of a second family living at the same address. May was not employed and all 5 of her children, ranging in age from 10 months to 13 years, were living with her.

On May 24, 1914, the *Houston Post* published a lengthy *Decoration Day* article honoring the sixty-nine Union veterans that were interred in one of six cemeteries in Houston. Once again, J. N. Quin was among those names listed.

A letter, dated October 11, 1915, was sent by the Pension Department to the Postmaster in Houston, Texas requesting the current address of widow Laura. Apparently, her recent pension payments were not being delivered. The request letter noted that Laura was last paid \$12 on April 4, 1914, with the payment delivered to her last

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G.A.R. Veteran James N. Quin (continued)

known address - 1816 Crockett Street in Houston. The Postmaster's relatively prompt response to the request states:

"Advising that it is found this pensioner died on Jan. 7, 1914 at the age of 65 years, last address 1415 Winter St., Houston, Texas, Dr. J. M. Goss attending physician.....T. W. House, Postmaster, Houston, Texas, Oct 25, 1915."

On November 3, 1915, Laura Quin was officially dropped from the pension rolls. She was buried beside James in the Dawn Meadow section of Hollywood Cemetery in Houston. Her gravestone was purchased by her younger sister, Elmina Smith-Patten of New Orleans, and is inscribed with: *"TO MY SISTER"* across the top of the stone."



Written by **Michael L. Lance** of Spring, Texas
Camp Historian – May 2025.

Research by **Terry T. Sutton** of Corpus Christi, Texas
Camp Graves Registration Officer.



Photo of gravestone by **Herbert W. Powers** of Houston, Texas
Camp Sr. Vice-Commander

Trivia: Benton Barracks – A Crucial Union Stronghold

During the Civil War, Benton Barracks in St. Louis, Missouri, emerged as one of the Union's most vital military installations in the West. Established in 1861 on the grounds of the St. Louis Fairgrounds, the barracks were named after Missouri Senator Thomas Hart Benton, a prominent advocate for westward expansion. Originally intended as a training facility, the complex quickly expanded into a hub for troop organization, medical care, and military logistics.

Benton Barracks became a central location for organizing Union regiments, particularly from Missouri and surrounding border states. As the war escalated, the installation also developed into one of the largest military hospitals in the country. With the help of the Western Sanitary Commission, the hospital facilities provided care for thousands of sick and wounded soldiers. Clara Barton and other prominent medical reformers visited or worked with the hospital's staff, helping to elevate the standards of care.

The barracks also played a significant role in the recruitment and training of African American soldiers after the *Emancipation Proclamation* in 1863. The site helped organize units such as the *United States Colored Troops (USCT)*, marking a pivotal shift in Union recruiting policy.

Beyond its strategic utility, Benton Barracks symbolized the Union's resolve to hold Missouri - a critical border state - against Confederate influence. Its presence helped maintain federal authority in the region and supported key military campaigns in the Mississippi River Valley and western theaters of war.

By the war's end, Benton Barracks had trained over 160,000 soldiers and treated tens of thousands of patients. Though the structures were eventually dismantled, its legacy as a logistical and humanitarian cornerstone of the Union war effort remains an important chapter in American history.

Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 37)

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.



- **Charles W. Morton – Boatswain's Mate** – Charles W. Morton was born in 1836 in Ireland. He joined the U.S. Navy and served as a Boatswain's Mate on the ironclad river gunboat, *USS Benton*, during the Civil War. Morton died August 4, 1899 in Portsmouth, Virginia at age 62-63. He was laid to rest at *Captain Ted Conaway Memorial Naval Cemetery* in Portsmouth. Notice of his death was published in *The Norfolk Landmark* of Norfolk, Virginia on August 5, 1899, and states:

"The funeral of Charles Morten, who was found dead Thursday, took place yesterday morning at 10 o'clock, and on account of the deceased's long service in the navy, though he had been discharged a short while ago, Admiral Farquhar permitted the interment at the naval cemetery, Fort Woods, Rev. Father Brady conducted the services."

Morton'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 Boatswain's Mate Charles W. Morton, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action, serving as Boatswain's Mate on board the U.S.S. Benton during the Yazoo River Expedition, Mississippi, 23 to 27 December 1863. Taking part in the hour-and-a-half engagement with the enemy at Drumgould's Bluff, 27 December, Boatswain's Mate Morton served courageously throughout the battle against the hostile forces, who had the dead range of the vessel and were punishing her with heavy fire, until the Benton was ordered to withdraw."



- **Patrick Mullen – Boatswain's Mate** - Patrick Mullen was born May 6, 1844, in Ireland. He joined the U.S. Navy from Baltimore, Maryland and initially served as Boatswain's Mate on the wooden-hulled, sidewheel ferryboat steamer *USS Wyandank*. He received a *Medal of Honor* on June 22, 1865 for his actions during an expedition up Mattox Creek on March 17, 1865. The citation states:

"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor (First Award) to Boatswain's Mate Patrick Mullen, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action, serving as Boatswain's Mate on board the U.S.S. Wyandank during a boat expedition up Mattox Creek, Virginia, 17 March 1865. Rendering gallant assistance to his commanding officer, Boatswain's Mate Mullen, lying on his back, loaded the howitzer and then fired so carefully as to kill and wound many rebels, causing their retreat."

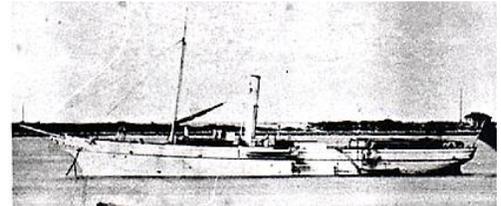
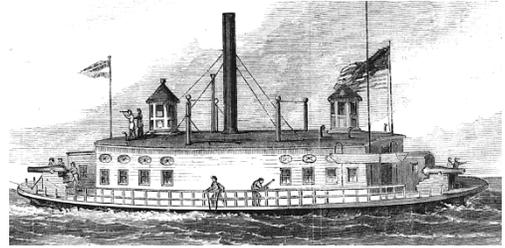
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Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 37 continued)

Right: **Sketch of the steamer *USS Wyandank***

Near the end of the war, Mullen was serving as Boatswain's Mate on the steam-powered iron cargo ship, *USS Don* (middle right), a captured British blockade runner. Six weeks after receiving his *Medal of Honor*, he received a second one for non-combat valor when he bravely rescued a man from drowning. Mullen is one of only nineteen U.S. servicemen to receive a *Medal of Honor* two times. Mullen's second citation reads:

"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor (Second Award) to Boatswain's Mate Patrick Mullen, United States Navy, for gallant and heroic conduct while serving as Boatswain's Mate on board the U.S.S. Don, 1 May 1865, off the coast of Virginia. Engaged in picking up the crew of picket launch No. 6, which had swamped, Boatswain's Mate Mullen, seeing an officer who was at that time no longer able to keep up and was below the surface of the water, jumped overboard and brought the officer to the boat, thereby rescuing him from drowning, which brave action entitled him to wear a bar on the medal he had already received at Mattox Creek, 17 March 1865."



- **Patrick Murphy – Boatswain's Mate** - Patrick Murphy was born January 15, 1823, in Waterford, County Waterford, Ireland. At age 14, he began a 3-year term as a boy seaman aboard merchant ships sailing to North America. He then joined the Royal Navy, serving two years on the Great Lakes. In 1842, Murphy settled in Erie, Pennsylvania. On December 26, 1845, he married Bridget Calligee of Erie. From 1853 to 1857, Murphy owned and commanded the schooner *William Adair* in the freight trade.

Murphy helped outfit the newly built ship *Michigan* in Erie. When the ship was commissioned into the U.S. Navy, Murphy followed it into the service. He sailed aboard *USS Michigan* as a quartermaster for 3 years, then 2 years as a Captain-of-the-Hold, and was subsequently promoted to Quarter Gunner, Boatswain's Mate, and, in 1861, Acting Master's Mate. Later in 1861, he left *Michigan* and joined Admiral David Dixon Porter's fleet as an acting Ensign, serving for 3 months until illness forced him to return home to Erie for 3 months of recuperation. Upon regaining his health, Murphy traveled to New York City and joined *USS Metacomet* as a boatswain's mate. His citation reads:



Patrick Murphy

"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 Patrick Murphy, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving as Boatswain's Mate on board the U.S.S. Metacomet, during action against rebel forts and gunboats and with the ram Tennessee in Mobile Bay, Alabama, 5 August 1864. Despite damage to his ship and the loss of several men on board as enemy fire raked her decks, Boatswain's Mate Murphy performed his duties with skill and courage throughout a furious two-hour battle which resulted in the surrender of the rebel ram Tennessee and in the damaging and destruction of batteries at Fort Morgan."

... additional Navy Medal of Honor recipients will be portrayed in the next issue with Part 38

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Camp Council	Thomas F. Coughlin		
Chaplain	Stephen F. Duncan	Patriotic Instructor	Ronald 'Steve' Brock
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Guide	Michael L. Lance	MOLLUS Coordinator	Harrison G. Moore IV
Signals Officer	John C. Vander Meulen	JROTC Coordinator	Daniel B. Pourreau
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Webmaster	Robert G. Riley	G.A.R. Records Officer	Herbert W. Powers
Guard	Robert G. Riley		
Website	Houston Camp	Website	Department of Texas & Louisiana
Facebook	Houston Camp	Facebook	Department of Texas & Louisiana

Trivia – Notable Firsts

The Civil War is remembered for several historical firsts that shaped the future of warfare, medicine, technology, and society. It was the first major conflict in which railroads played a strategic role, transporting troops and supplies quickly across long distances. The telegraph saw its first large-scale military use, allowing President Lincoln and his generals to communicate in near real time.

Naval warfare was forever changed by the 1862 battle between the Union's *USS Monitor* and the Confederacy's *CSS Virginia* - the first clash of iron-armored warships, portending the end of the era of wooden naval fleets. The war also introduced aerial reconnaissance with the use of observation balloons, a novel form of intelligence gathering at the time.

On the medical front, the Civil War led to the first organized ambulance corps and more structured field hospitals, which laid the foundation for modern battlefield medicine. Clara Barton, who served as a nurse during the war, later founded the American Red Cross.

The war also saw the creation of the *Medal of Honor* in 1862, the first official U.S. military decoration for valor. It was the first war in which African American soldiers fought in organized units, most famously the *54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment*, symbolizing a turning point in the struggle for racial equality. The Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 marked the first federal move to abolish slavery, reshaping the war's purpose and the nation's future.

These firsts highlight the Civil War as a period of rapid innovation and transformation, making it not only a pivotal military conflict but also a defining moment in the evolution of American society and technology.



Memorial Day 2025 – G.A.R. lot in Washington Cemetery

L-R: Michael Lance, Michael Rappe, Daniel Purreau, Herbert Powers, William Myers, John Vander Meulen, Stephen Schulze, Ronald 'Steve' Brock

Grant's Indifference

"Oh, I am heartily tired of hearing about what Lee is going to do. Some of you always seem to think he is suddenly going to turn a double somersault, and land in our rear and on both of our flanks at the same time. Go back to your command, and try to think what we are going to do ourselves, instead of what Lee is going to do."

**From the Memoirs of Horace Porter entitled
"Campaigning With Grant"**

Union General Ulysses S. Grant's response to a worried subordinate Union officer during the *Army of the Potomac's* campaign against General Lee's *Army of Northern Virginia* during the *Battle of Manassas* in 1864