



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

“The Capture of New Orleans” - artwork by American School – Fine Art America.

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Lea Camp Welcomes 144th National Encampment of the SUVCW

Thursday-Sunday, August 7-10, 2025 – National Encampment - Houston, Texas

In June 2014, an exploratory committee was appointed at the 20th Annual Encampment of the Department of Texas in Corsicana, Texas to assess the feasibility of hosting a National Encampment in the Lone Star state. The idea proved to be popular throughout the Department and a National Encampment fund was established to begin setting aside monies earmarked to support the project. It turned out to be a long-term term project, finally coming to fruition in 2025 when the *Department of Texas and Louisiana* was selected to host the 144th Annual National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The event was held in Houston, Texas and Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp No. 2 was designated as the local host camp.

The theme selected for the Encampment was, 'Treue der Union' – translated from German means 'True to the Union'. This theme was chosen to honor the many Texans who remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War. Miniature replicas of the twenty-foot high *Treue der Union* monument located in Comfort, Texas were crafted by Michael Schneider of *Ellsworth Camp 18*.

Right: Miniature replica of the Treue der Union monument

The souvenir monuments were used as the primary feature of the colorful centerpieces adorning the tables at the formal Encampment banquet (see page 7). The centerpiece monuments were eventually awarded as souvenirs to one delighted recipient at each dining table.

The *Department of Texas and Louisiana* was well-represented at the Encampment. Twenty-nine members attended to assist with the tasks of hosting the event – as well as helping boost the Departments voting strength. Of those, thirteen attendees were members of *Lea Camp 2*. Representatives arrived from twenty-seven other Departments from across the country to attend the Encampment. The following images portray some of the highlights of the four-day event that involved members of the *Department of Texas and Louisiana* and *Lea Camp 2*.

On Thursday, August 7, 2025, the featured activity was a bus tour to the *San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site* in La Port, Texas for a glimpse into Texas history. Following the tour of the world's tallest war memorial, the 567-foot



high San Jacinto Monument, the tour bus transported the delegates to the Kemah Boardwalk on Galveston Bay in Kemah, Texas. Leisurely waterfront dining, sight-seeing, and camaraderie was experienced and enjoyed by all. Tip of the Kepi to Brother Blair G. Rudy of *Ord Camp No. 3* of San Antonio for his excellent service as host of the tour.

Early on Friday, August 8, 2025, a Joint Memorial Service preceded the opening of the first business session of the Encampment. The solemn but inspirational service was hosted by CinC

Left: Color Guard advancing the Colors at the Memorial Service



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Lea Camp Welcomes 144th National Encampment *(continued)*

Kevin Martin and Rosemary Martin, National President of the *Auxiliary of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*. The program featured hymns by a duo of bagpipers, an outstanding formal presentation and posting of the Colors by *Company K, 1st U.S. Infantry, SVR* of the *Department of Texas and Louisiana* - commanded by Brook Thomas of *Ellsworth Camp 18*, the reading of the names of recently deceased members of both the *SUVCW* and *ASUVCW*, sing-a-longs, and an impressive inspirational presentation by Stephen D. Schulze of *Lea Camp No. 2* of Houston. Brothers Daniel Pourreau and William Myers of *Lea Camp 2* were members of the SVR Color Guard.

Right: Co. K, 1st U.S. Infantry, SVR Color Guard.

Front L-R: Richard Erder, Blair Rudy, William Myers, and Brook Thomas

Back L-R: Michael Schneider, Timothy Phillips, Daniel Pourreau, Harold Sickler, and Beau Moore.



Commander-in-Chief Kevin Martin of the *Department of the Chesapeake* presided over the Encampment proceedings. The business sessions were audio and video recorded by Assistant National Secretary for Recordings, John Vander Meulen of *Lea Camp 2*, who managed the soundboard. He was assisted with the various cameras and microphones by Robert Riley and Herb Powers, both also of *Lea Camp 2*.

Right: John Vander Meulen at the soundboard

Another highlight of the Friday sessions was a unique gesture by the *Department of Texas and Louisiana* to the *Department of Illinois*. First, a little background:

One hundred and forty-one years ago, *Joseph B. Rood Post No. 472* of the *Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.)* was officially organized in Chicago, Illinois. Twenty-three members signed their names to the Charter of the new Post. Even though *Rood Post No. 472* had a solid core membership when it was organized in 1884, it disbanded a short five years later.



The original *Rood Post* Charter was salvaged by someone at that time and probably changed hands several times afterward during the following decades. Its whereabouts remained relatively unknown until a few years ago when Isaac Frieze, a new member of *Maj. Gen. Edward O. C. Ord Camp No. 3* of San Antonio, purchased it to add to his collection of *G.A.R.* memorabilia.

Brother Frieze offered to return the old Chicagoland *G.A.R.* charter to the delegation from Illinois at the upcoming National Encampment. The fragile rolled-up Charter was carefully unrolled and placed in a temporary presentation frame. Blair Rudy, commander of *Ord Camp No. 3* officially presented the old Charter to a delighted Illinois delegation during the business session of the National Encampment on Friday, August 8th.

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Lea Camp Welcomes 144th National Encampment *(continued)*



Above Left: Chaplain Jerry Kowalski and other members of the Illinois delegation accepting the return of the 1884 Charter of Joseph B. Rood Post 472, G.A.R.

Above Right: Ord Camp 3 commander, Blair Rudy, supported by other members of the Texas and Louisiana delegation, presenting the Rood Post Charter to the Department of Illinois.



Left: The original 1884 Charter of Joseph B. Rood Post No. 472, Grand Army of the Republic, Chicago, Illinois.

During the evening on Friday, representatives from nearly every Department gathered for a fun-filled 'Camp Fire'. Entertainment was provided by the lively *Das Ist Lustig (That's Fun)* German folk band. Gifts, roasting, and tales were presented to CinC Martin and President Martin during the celebration – *all in good fun, of course!*

During the 'Camp Fire', the men of the Department gifted CinC Kevin Martin an elegant felt Stetson hat. The ladies of the *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary No. 1* to the *Lea Camp* bestowed a basketful of various Texas-themed gifts to Auxiliary National President Rosemary Martin.

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Lea Camp Welcomes 144th National Encampment *(continued)*

Right: Auxiliary presenting gifts to National President Rosemary Martin.

Below Right: Commander-in-Chief Kevin Martin dons the gifted Stetson (note the theme-correct uniform worn by PDC John E. Schneider, Sr. of Ellsworth Camp 18 on the far right!)



The business sessions on Saturday, August 9th included not only completing the business of the Order, but also the presentation of awards and many Certificates of Appreciation.

During the presentations, the Texas-Louisiana delegation received the *National Encampment Streamer* from CinC Martin. They then stood for a group photo (see photo on page 8). The streamer is destined to adorn the Department flag at forthcoming events.



During the business session on Saturday, the lengthy process of nominating and voting for candidates to fill the National offices for the 2025-2026 term was completed smoothly. The *Department of Texas and Louisiana* had the largest voting block and duly voted to help elect the next CinC, SVCinC, JVCinC, National Secretary, National Treasurer, and two new members to the National Council of Administration.

Sr. Vice-Commander Kevin Tucker was elected to serve as Commander-in-Chief for the 2025-2026 term. His list of appointed National officers to serve during his administration was then announced.

Left: Commander-in-Chief-elect Kevin Tucker

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Lea Camp Welcomes 144th National Encampment *(continued)*

The appointed officer list included two members of the *Department of Texas and Louisiana*: John C. Vander Meulen as Assistant National Secretary of Recordings, and Michael L. Lance as Assistant National Secretary for Transcriptions, both of *Lea Camp 2*. Installation of the elected and appointed officers was ceremoniously conducted by Past CinC Steve Michaels.



Elected and Appointed National Officers for 2025-2026 being Installed – Oath of Office

At the conclusion of the business session, the meeting room was converted into a large dining venue by the hotel staff. Members of the *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary No. 1* then beautifully decorated the head table and the numerous ten-seat round dining tables in the huge ballroom. Their efforts resulted in a very elegant setting and atmosphere for the banquet.



Right: Banquet table centerpiece

Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary No. 1

L-R: Jill Schneider, Vali Reyes, Norma Pollard, National President Maryann Martin, Lisa Riley, Annette Kinslow, and Jana Marsh.



In addition, a smaller ‘missing man’ dining table display was set up at the front of the venue - courtesy of Larry Joe Reynolds of *Bailey Camp No. 5*.

Richard Carson of *Lea Camp 2* set up a photo booth just outside the doors of the hotel ballroom. He took professional-quality photos of Encampment attendees.

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Lea Camp Welcomes 144th National Encampment *(continued)*

On Sunday morning, August 10, 2025, a Church service was conducted by National Chaplain Dexter Bishop, supported by Chaplain Jerry Kowalski of Illinois, and Department Chaplain, Stephen D. Schulze of *Lea Camp 2*.

Roster of Delegates from *Lea Camp No. 2* representing the Department of *Texas/Louisiana*

Harrison G. Moore, IV	PDC	William D. Myers	Alternate
Terry T. Sutton	Delegate	Daniel B. Pourreau	Delegate
Ronald 'Steve' Brock	Alternate	Herbert W. Powers	Delegate
Richard Carson	Alternate	Michael D. Rappe	Alternate
Cody N. Holcomb	Alternate	Robert G. Riley	Delegate
Stevenson T. Holmes	PDC	Stephen D. Schulze	PDC
Michael L. Lance	PDC	John C. Vander Meulen	Delegate



Texas/Louisiana Delegation Receiving the *National Encampment Streamer* from CinC Kevin Martin

Kneeling L-R: Todd Wilber, George F. Hansen, Larry Joe Reynolds, Blair G. Rudy, *and* Daniel B. Pourreau.

Standing L-R: James K. Lea, Michael D. Rappe, William D. Myers, Cody N. Holcomb, Jason M. Kyle, Stevenson T. Holmes, Michael L. Lance, Donald L. Gates, John C. Vander Meulen, Stephen D. Schulze, Brook J. Thomas, CinC Kevin Martin, John E. Schneider Sr., Robert G. Riley, Timothy M. Phillips (*partially hidden*), Terry T. Sutton, Herbert W. Powers, Brian R. Glass, Michael K. Schneider, Ronald 'Steve' Brock, *and* Ben C. Bonnett.

Not included in photo: Richard Carson, Harrison G. Moore IV, Paul Ridenour, William L. Swafford, Clifford F. 'Butch' Durham, Harold L. Sickler, Richard W. Erder, *and* Beau B. Moore.

Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp No. 2 and the Department and Texas and Louisiana is sincerely grateful to the many members of the Order - from across the nation - who supported the 144th National Encampment with their attendance. The exceptional unity and cooperation of all participants were instrumental in making the 2025 National Encampment experience truly special.



... by Michael L. Lance, PDC/PCC

Ancestor Profile – Sgt. John Beck

Hello! My name is John Beck. I was born April 29, 1842 in Herrick, Illinois, 45 miles south of Decatur. I had two older brothers and sisters. My little sister Nancy was born when I was five. My father, Hiram, died when I was ten and my mother, Elizabeth, passed away when I was 14.

After my mother died, I went to live with the McClanahan's in Cold Spring and worked on their farm. In April 1861, I was recruited by Captain Hall and travelled to Jacksonville to enlist as a private with Company B of the 14th Illinois Infantry Regiment. I was 19 at the time and I am speaking to you wearing my first uniform holding the 1816 Harpers Ferry smoothbore musket we were issued.

Right: John Beck, Co. B, 14th IL Vol. Regiment

We trained at Fort Duncan until the latter part of June. We then moved to Missouri on July 5, where we captured Senator James Green, a secessionist.

In February 1862, we were ordered to Fort Donelson, where we arrived the day after its surrender. From there, we marched to Fort Henry, where we boarded steamboats and went south up the Tennessee river to Pittsburg Landing. Once there, we boarded the *Union Jack* in March, to exchange our old Harpers Ferry muskets for fine Enfield rifles and camped near Shiloh, waiting for orders.



The Rebs hit our camp hard on April 6th early in the morning and forced us to retreat to Jones' Field. From there we counter-attacked behind Marsh's regiment, but were forced to fall back after losing about half our force. It rained hard again that night.

At 6 a.m. on the 7th, we formed the lines again to march against the rebs. This time, we were able to push them back to the Hamburg Purdy Road. From there, they retreated to Corinth and we were finally able to catch a breath the evening of the 7th. I was told later that there were 42 holes in our regimental flag after the battle and that we lost Sam Huson of Company B and thirteen thousand of our comrades over those two days.

After the siege of Corinth, our next big encounter with the Rebs was at Davis Bridge, on the Hatchie River near the village of Metamora, Tennessee. On the night of October 4th, we were up marching early when we ran into the 1st Texas, 42nd Alabama, and the 15th and 23rd Arkansas, just north of State Line road, west of the bridge. We whipped'em again after eight hour's hard fighting and pushed'em back across the river.

Early in the spring of sixty three, we were ordered to Vicksburg to take part in the siege. We lost 15 more before it fell on the fourth of July. We then marched to Jackson, Mississippi, taking part in the siege until its evacuation.

In August, we proceeded to Natchez and formed part of the force which marched across the swamps of northeastern Louisiana to Harrisonburg, on Wachita [*sic*] river, and captured Fort Beauregard. From there, we joined General Sherman on his Meridian raid, and then went back to Illinois on furlough.

I mustered out June 18, 1864 with the rank of Sergeant. Of the 1,980 of us who marched into war with the 14th and 15th Illinois Regiments, I was one of only 480 who were spared by the Almighty.

I returned to Herrick, Illinois and in February '65, I married Catherine Sarver, who I knew from childhood. Together we settled in Bowling Green Township and had ten children; three boys and seven daughters. I passed away in 1908, eleven years before Catherine joined me in heaven. We were both laid to rest in Beck's cemetery in Bowling Green.

The reason I can tell my story today is because my great-great grandson, Jason Kyle, cared enough to tell it. Jason

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Ancestor Profile – Sgt. John Beck (continued)

joined the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and is now a member of the Lt. Commander Edward Lea Camp in Houston, Texas.

You too may have an ancestor who fought in the civil war. Do you care enough to tell their story? If so, reach out to your nearest Camp and join thousands of other descendants of Union veterans who helped preserve the Union and end the curse of slavery. If you live in Houston, reach out to us at joincamp2@camplea.org.

... submitted by descendant Jason Kyle



Trivia – Beards, Whiskers and Whimsy



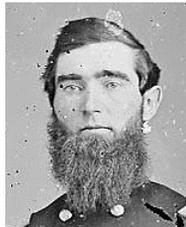
The Union Army became almost as distinguished by its facial hair as by its uniforms and weapons. The 1860s were a golden age of whiskers and mustaches, when beards were viewed not simply as fashion but as a symbol of maturity, authority, and masculine strength. This cultural emphasis followed soldiers into the ranks, where facial hair became an everyday feature of military life.



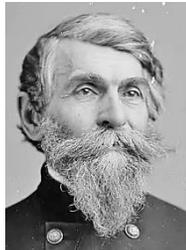
Many Union officers cultivated elaborate styles that became part of their public image. Gen. Ambrose Burnside's sweeping cheek whiskers, connected to his mustache while leaving the chin bare, were so memorable that the term "sideburns" was coined in his honor. Abraham Lincoln's full beard set a national trend that inspired countless imitations. To wear a beard in the Union Army was not just to follow custom—it was to align oneself with figures of leadership and resolve.



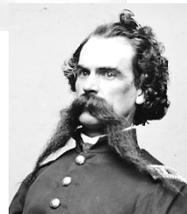
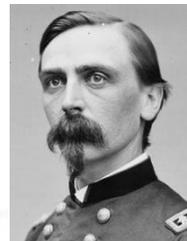
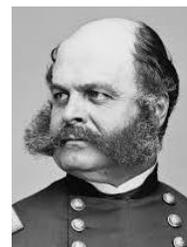
For the common soldier, facial hair often served more practical purposes. Beards offered warmth during winters, when frosts and biting winds tested endurance. On dusty marches, they helped filter the air, however imperfectly. Whiskers could also act as an improvised napkin during meals, an unrefined reality of camp life. Drawbacks were evident: lice and fleas thrived in thick growth, and some officers pressed their men to shave for reasons of hygiene and discipline. Still, soap, razors, and fresh water were scarce, making complete cleanliness difficult to enforce.



Customs of the era encouraged individual expression. Though uniforms standardized clothing and equipment, a man's beard remained uniquely his own. Soldiers experimented with a variety of styles—from the dramatic "chin curtain" that framed the jawline, to goatees, imperials, and even attempts at European-inspired mustaches. Such styles allowed soldiers to retain a sense of personality amid the rigid routines of army life.



The facial hair of Union soldiers reflected both the cultural fashions of mid-19th-century America and the practical realities of war. It served as a badge of manhood, a means of comfort, and a reminder of individuality. Today, photographs of Union veterans—faces framed by bold beards and whiskers—remain striking visual reminders of how something as personal as grooming became part of the larger story of the Civil War.



Patriotic Instructor Minute – United States Army Parades

As we all know, the United States army recently celebrated its 250th birthday. A parade was held in Arlington, Virginia and in Washington, DC to honor its veterans and active duty service members. The parade coincidentally coincided with Flag Day and President Trump's birthday. Depending on who you listen to, it is estimated it was attended by between 200,000 to 250,000 people. The parade consisted of 6,600 soldiers from eleven Corps and Divisions nationwide. There were at least 150 vehicles, 50 helicopters, warplanes, several bands, army mules, and even a dog named "Doc Holiday".

Currently, the U.S. Army consists of 452,689 active duty service personnel with an additional 325,218 National Guard, and 176,968 Army Reservists. There are also 265,000 civilians employed by the army, as well as 4,406 crewed aircraft. The Army's motto is: "This We'll Defend." It is the primary land service branch at the United States Department of Defense, and is designated as the Army of the United States in the United States constitution. It has its roots in the Continental Army formed on June 14, 1775 to fight against the British for independence during the Revolutionary War. By comparison, China currently has a standing army of 2,035,000 personnel with an additional 510,000 in reserve.

During World War II, America's army stood at 11,200,000. This does not include an additional 5,000,000 Navy and Marine Corps personnel. Between 35-40% of the Army's officers are West Point graduates. The remainder of its officers come from ROTC programs or are graduates from officer candidate schools.

While parades the size and scope of the recent one are rare, military parades are not an uncommon occurrence in our country. Smaller ones are held each year in towns and cities during patriotic celebrations like the 4th of July and Memorial Day. One of the largest military parades, prior to the recent one, occurred in 1991 to celebrate our victory in the Gulf War.

There were also large victory parades held after World War I and World War II. The largest United States military parade was "The Review of the Armies" that took place over two days on May 23-24, 1865 in Washington, DC.



At 9 a.m. on May 23rd, a signal gun fired a single shot and General George Meade led an estimated 80,000 men of the *Army of the Potomac* down the streets of Washington past crowds that numbered in the thousands. The infantry marched 12 men across the road, followed by divisional and corps artillery and cavalry regiments (*photo at left*). The mood was gay and festive, and civilians and soldiers alike sang patriotic songs along the route that stretched for seven miles. Meade dismounted when he arrived at the viewing stand and joined the dignitaries, including President Andrew Johnson and General Ulysses Grant, in saluting his troops.

The following day, General William T. Sherman led the 65,000 men of the Army of the Tennessee and the Army of Georgia past the reviewing stand. The parade lasted for six hours. Behind the Army of Georgia came freed blacks, laborers, adventurers, and even scavengers, along with a vast herd of cattle and livestock taken from the Carolinas.

In spite of all the negative comments the current batch of Washington politicians and people elsewhere had to say about the army's birthday celebration, military parades have always been, and will continue to be, part of the American landscape. So let's continue to honor our veterans and military service members with parades. But even more importantly, let's always remember those who sacrificed their lives so we can continue to enjoy the freedoms that we have today in the greatest country the world has ever known.



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

From the Chaplain's Desk

The Divisiveness of the 'Peculiar Institution'

Anyone who has followed the history of the U.S. Civil War will understand just how deeply divided this nation was. There was a reason for that. The nation was founded by people who believed, for the most part, that slavery was okay. It was, after all, a part of the fabric of our society. My ancestor, Captain John Duncan, served during the revolutionary war. During the conflict, he and his command were captured... *along with his slaves*. The first time I read that, I realized, that even though every ancestor I have fought for the North during the Civil War, at one point in time, even my own family enslaved people.

The Quakers are probably the most notable group who opposed slavery in the United States. But other groups also grew to oppose slavery and wanted to abolish it. It is no surprise that because of the divisiveness within the various churches, three U.S. jurisdictions were broken up due to the issue of slavery. Others, notably the Roman Catholic and Episcopal churches, had chaplains in both Union and Confederate commands. Even though these churches also struggled over the issue of slavery, it did not break their churches into parts.

The three most notable church breaks occurred in the Baptist Churches, the Presbyterians, and the Methodists. They all split their congregations over slavery. Slavery had been part of colonial society going back to the mid-1500s. It was mentioned in the U.S. constitution and also in the Bible. It was the status quo for a long time and made many people wealthy (on the backs of the enslaved).

John Wesley, founder of the *Methodist Episcopal Church* (Methodists) spoke strongly against slavery during his lifetime (1703-1791). Many Southern plantation owners were Methodist and desired to keep their livelihood, which, again, was based on enslaving other people. In 1843, a Methodist group that was tired of the church's neutral attitude to slavery left, and in 1845, formed the *Wesleyan Methodist Church*. The Southern churches left to become the *Methodist Episcopal Church*. Among the enslaved, we find what would become the *African Methodist Episcopal Church* (AME) and the *Colored Methodist Episcopal Church* (CME) which worked among the slaves and also later among the freedmen. The Church continued to fall apart as even more abolition-minded groups broke away in 1860. During the Civil War, the church was in disarray and would remain so for over 100 years.

For the Presbyterian Church, it was just as complicated. There were Old School and New School factions in the church long before the war. In 1857, the New School parted ways along north south division - over slavery. (The Scots had been instrumental in the slave trade). In the South, Old and New School forces worked out a compromise which would give us the "*Presbyterian Church in the Confederate States*" (renamed after the war to "*Presbyterian Church in the United States*"). The Northern faction eventually became the *Presbyterian Church USA*. Divisions continued for generations, though after the war they were no longer about slavery.

The most clear division that continues to the day is among the Baptist Churches. John Leland, a Virginian and a Baptist minister, had written against slavery as far back as the Revolutionary War. But the money being made by rich plantation owners in the South silenced opposition to the 'peculiar institution.' The Baptists in the South broke away in 1845 to form the *Southern Baptist Church* - whose founding was truly over the issue of slavery. This division also continues to this very day, but again, not over slavery.

The Anglicans, Catholics, and Unitarians, among others, suffered through similar struggles in their jurisdictions during the 1800s. But they were able to weather the storms of war and remain undivided over slavery.

Because of the 'peculiar institution', it was a horrible divisive time throughout the nation and, as one can easily see - *even in the churches*.

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



Spotlight on a G.A.R. Veteran – Alfred Kincaid Taylor

Alfred Kincaid Taylor was born February 23, 1841 in Lansingburgh, Rensselaer County, New York. He was the oldest of at least seven children born to Rev. Alfred H. Taylor (1812 - 1866) and Phebe Eliza Taylor (1814 - 1874), who were married April 1, 1840. The father was a Baptist pastor who thenceforth moved his family between different states several times to answer various pastoral calls.

However, in 1841, Alfred's parents were still living in their native state of New York when he was born. But less than two years later, the Taylor family pulled up roots and relocated to Pennsylvania. Alfred's next four younger siblings were then born in Pennsylvania between 1843 and 1847.

By 1849, the Taylor family had migrated back to New York. Alfred's next younger sibling, John Follansbee Taylor, was born there on June 14, 1849. The family's stay in the state of New York would be brief.

On July 26, 1850, Alfred was nine years old and living with his parents and five younger siblings in North Kingston, Rhode Island. He and his next two younger siblings, Anna Louise Taylor (age 7) and Edward Mason Taylor (age 6), were attending school. His three younger siblings, Samuel Judson Taylor (age 4), William Yerkes Taylor (age 3), and John Follansbee Taylor (age 1) were at home with their mother, Phebe (age 36). Their father was engaged as a Baptist clergyman.

On February 21, 1852, just two days shy of his 11th birthday, Alfred gained his final sibling with the birth of baby George Tillinghast Taylor. The Alfred H. and Phebe E. Taylor family was now complete, but the elder Alfred's vocation would again call for a move – this time back to Pennsylvania.

The July 1860 U.S. federal census enumeration captured the Taylor family living in the town of Gaysport in Blair County, Pennsylvania. Alfred would have been nineteen years old at that time, but he was not enumerated with his family in Gaysport. In fact, his exact whereabouts in July 1860 are not known as of this writing. At any rate, his life was about to become much more interesting and meaningful.

On April 19, 1861, just a week after the firing on Fort Sumter, Alfred Kincaid Taylor was 21 years old and enlisted with the Union Army from Ohio as a Private. Five days later, On April 24, 1861, he mustered-in as a Corporal with *Company E, 3rd Regiment Ohio Infantry*. Alfred undoubtedly proved to be an excellent soldier, evidenced by his gaining several promotions in relatively quick succession.

On June 13, 1861, after completing his initial 3-month term of service, Alfred was mustered-out - and then immediately reenlisted to serve for an additional three years. He remained with *Co. E of the 3rd Ohio Infantry*, which participated in the *West Virginia Campaign* that same month, capturing the Confederate-held town of Beverly, West Virginia on July 12, 1861. Three days later, on July 15, 1861, Alfred transferred from Co. E to Co. S of the *3rd Ohio Infantry*, which came with a promotion to Quartermaster Sergeant. And then, roughly two weeks later, on Aug 3, 1861, Alfred gained the rank of 1st Lieutenant and Quartermaster with the *3rd Ohio Infantry*.

The *3rd Ohio* remained on duty in western Virginia through the balance of 1861. During their deployment, they fought in several small skirmishes and battles, including the battles of *Rich Mountain* and *Cheat Mountain* in July and September 1861 respectively. On October 8, 1862, Alfred was promoted to Captain of Company I of the *3rd Ohio Infantry*.

Then, on March 3, 1863, Alfred's military experience was altered somewhat when he transferred to the *U.S. Army Signal Corps* as a 2nd Lieutenant under Gen. George H. Thomas. On November 21, 1864, shortly after the expiration of his 3-year term of service, Alfred mustered-out a second time – and then immediately executed his second reenlistment, which came with a commission as Captain with the *U.S. Army Signal Corps*.

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Spotlight on a G.A.R. Veteran – Alfred Kincaid Taylor *(continued)*

Alfred Kincaid Taylor had answered the call of his country during its time of need and dutifully served with the Union forces for more than five years. He finally mustered out of the army for good in Houston, Texas on May 1, 1866, nearly a year after the war had ended.

“A native of Ohio, he served with distinction through the Civil war as a soldier of the Union, and came to Houston immediately after the close of hostilities For a time he was engaged in a mercantile business.”

Less than three weeks after returning to civilian life, on May 21, 1866, twenty-five-year-old Captain Alfred Kincaid Taylor married Miss Lucy Vernetta Bailey in Houston. They were united in matrimony by Minister of the Gospel, J. R. Hutchison. The couple eventually became the parents of six children. Through his marriage, Alfred likely gained some prestige and political clout as his father-in-law, James William Bailey, had served as the 9th mayor of Houston in 1846.

Right: James William Bailey, father-in-law

On April 19, 1867, Alfred and Lucy Taylor’s first child was born in Houston. The baby boy was named Joseph Hooker Taylor, apparently in honor of a Civil War General. The Taylor’s were living at the corner of Milam and Lamar Streets. The *Houston City Directory* for 1867-1868 lists Alfred as employed at *Bailey & Taylor*, which may indicate that he had a business relationship of some sort with his father-in-law.



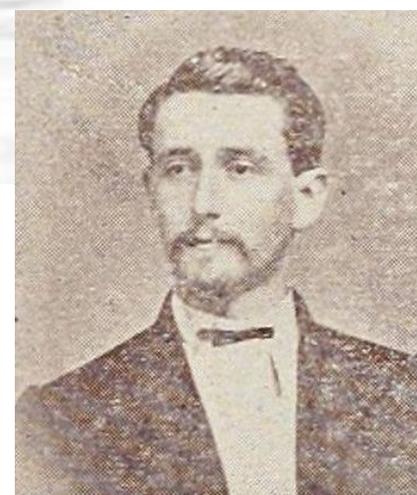
On January 27, 1868, Alfred registered to vote in Harris County, Texas. At that time, he indicated that he had been a resident of Houston in Harris County, Texas for two years. Also in 1868, Alfred was appointed as Houston City Marshal. But his role in law enforcement lasted for only a short while. He quickly found the job quite distasteful.

“In 1868 Governor [Edmund Jackson] Davis turned Marshall Lord out of office and appointed Captain A. K. Taylor marshal. Captain Taylor, as all old Houstonians know, was an elegant gentleman. He took possession of the office, but within a few weeks he became so disgusted with his surroundings that he sent in his resignation and retired to private life.”

Alfred’s private life in 1868 included working as Clerk of the District Court of Harris County, Texas. In that capacity, he would have been responsible for maintaining the official records for the county’s civil and criminal district courts - an impressive position for the twenty-eight-year old, indeed!

Right: Alfred Kincaid Taylor

In 1869, Alfred and Lucy welcomed their second child, Jesse Bailey Taylor, into the family. Not much is known about this boy. He was enumerated on the July 1870 federal census as a one-year-old living in Houston’s 4th Ward with his parents and his three-year-old brother, Joseph Taylor. His parents, Alfred and Lucy, were listed as 29 and 24-years-old respectively. Alfred was still supporting the family as a District Clerk. Little Jesse is believed to have died sometime during the 1870’s, since he does not appear with the family on the June 1880 federal census for Houston. He was reportedly buried in Glenwood Cemetery in Houston.



The *Houston City Directory* for 1870-1871 again lists Alfred as employed as a ‘Court House District Clerk’ and living at 29 Capitol Street. Privately, he was an active Texas Freemason affiliated with *Gray Lodge No. 329*.

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Spotlight on a G.A.R. Veteran – Alfred Kincaid Taylor *(continued)*

Gray Lodge was founded in 1870, and Alfred was one of the earliest members. In 1871, he received his Masonic degrees: the first degree (*Entered Apprentice*) on June 24th; the second degree (*Fellowcraft*) on July 24th; and the third degree (*Master Mason*) on September 12, 1871. Alfred was the fifth person 'raised' in *Gray Lodge*. Alfred...

"... was also a York Rite Mason and High Priest of Washington Chapter in 1882-83. He received the Order of High Priesthood on December 16, 1882. He was Knighted in Ruthven Commandery No. 2 on September 21, 1891. Brother Taylor was the Secretary of Gray Lodge for 12 years, 1881-1893. He was a very loyal and faithful member, and a good Secretary. A. K. Taylor was Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of Texas in 1892-93." (source: Gray Lodge #329, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the Grand Lodge of Texas).



On October 30, 1871, Alfred and Lucy Taylor welcomed their third child into the family when baby Anna Vernetta Taylor was born in Houston.

The *Houston City Directory* for 1873 indicates Alfred was still employed as a District Court Clerk and living on the corner of Capitol and Chenevert Streets.

During the 1870's, Alfred became involved in county politics as a Republican. He was elected and served at least one 4-year term as Harris County Clerk. His office would have managed and maintained public records, including real property records and vital statistics. It also issued marriage licenses and administered election-related duties. During his election, some chicanery apparently occurred. An historical account of the incident published in 1913 states:

"A striking and well remembered instance of [ballot box stuffing] was when Judge John Kerlicks [sic] was a candidate for some county office against the late Captain A. K. Taylor. The returns, I believe, showed the election of Kerlicks [sic], but the result was so close that Taylor contested the election and brought suit in the District Court. When the case came up for trial, the first [ballot] box opened was that from Wescott precinct....There were more ballots found than there were votes out that way, and there was such evidence that the ballots had been manipulated that the whole vote from that precinct was thrown out, thus leaving a sure majority for Captain Taylor, who was given the office."

This account also notes that while the Democrats of Harris County, Texas would have preferred that their man, John Kirlicks, had won that election, they consoled themselves by admitting that Alfred Taylor was actually a decent fellow.

"...they realized that the case was not so bad as it might have been, for though Captain Taylor was a Republican, he was a clean man and had never affiliated with the scalawag Republicans and carpetbaggers. He made a good official and to the day of his death was one of the most honored and reputable citizens of Houston."

Alfred and Lucy Taylor became the parents of their fourth child on November 2, 1874, when baby Clara Baer Taylor was born in Houston. She was followed a few years later, on February 26, 1877, by the birth of another daughter in Houston, baby Mary Ella Taylor.

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Spotlight on a G.A.R. Veteran – Alfred Kincaid Taylor *(continued)*

Alfred K. Taylor is listed in a June 1879 register of the *U.S. Circuit and District Courts of Texas* as a United States Commissioner, who was appointed in Texas. The entry shows Alfred as having been born in New York and employed at Houston on a fee-based compensation basis. In this role, Alfred would have performed “*judicial functions for the federal government that are somewhat analogous to those performed by local magistrates or justices of the peace for the states.*”

On June 21, 1880, A. K. and Lucy Taylor were still living on Chenevert Street in Houston. Their household included their 4 children: Joseph (*age 13*), Annie (*age 8*), Clara (*age 5*), and Mary (*age 4*). As previously mentioned, their son Jesse Taylor was not listed. He would have been about eleven years old. Alfred was 39-years-old and had changed careers. He was now employed as an insurance agent. His birthplace was inexplicably listed as ‘Pennsylvania’, instead of New York, by the census enumerator.

1881 was a notable year for Alfred. He was now serving as Master of *Gray Lodge No. 329* Masons in Houston and also celebrated the birth of his sixth and last child. On October 14, 1881, Alfred Kincaid Taylor, Jr. was born in Houston. Alfred Sr. was forty years old and was also engaged as Commissioner and Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue in 1881-1882.

Right: Alfred Kincaid Taylor

By 1884, the Taylor family had moved to a new address, most likely to better accommodate their growing family. The *Houston City Directory* for 1884-1885 shows the family had moved to the west side of Milam Street, between Lamar and Dallas Streets. Alfred was listed as a partner in the firm, *Childress and Taylor*, an insurance concern.

While engaged in the insurance business, Alfred found time to associate with other Civil War veterans in Texas. He and veterans from across the state became members of the *Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.)* and on March 25, 1885, organized the *Department of Texas*. Local G.A.R. Posts were established in numerous Texas towns and cities, including Houston.



In December 1885, a local G.A.R. Post was organized in Houston and named *Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan Post No. 9*. Alfred was a Charter member of that new Post and served as its first commander. His second-in-command was Reuben B. Baer (*likely for whom his daughter Clara Baer Taylor was named*). Alfred served as Post commander for two consecutive terms during the formative years of the Post, and then from 1887 to 1890, took on the all-important heavy-duty role of Post Adjutant.

In 1886, while serving as commander of *McClellan Post 9*, Alfred concurrently served as Sr. Vice-Commander of the *Department of Texas, G.A.R.* His efforts and commitment to help build and develop the G.A.R. presence in Texas are commendable and noteworthy. His star would continue to rise.

The *Houston City Directory* for 1886-1887 again lists Alfred as an associate of the firm, *Childress & Taylor*. His residence was on the northeast corner of Leeland at Crawford Street in Houston. On May 31, 1887, he and other members of his G.A.R. Post honored their deceased Civil War comrades on Decoration Day (now named Memorial Day). A. K. Taylor is listed among the officers and comrades of *McClellan Post No. 9* in a news article published by the *Galveston Daily News* regarding ‘Decoration Day’ activities.

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Spotlight on a G.A.R. Veteran – Alfred Kincaid Taylor *(continued)*

On February 26, 1889, Adam G. Malloy, the commander of the *Department of Texas, G.A.R.* issued *General Order No. 1*, which announced his appointment of A. K. Taylor as Assistant Quartermaster-General of the *Department of Texas* for the 1889-1890 term. Alfred was obviously widely recognized as a very capable officer and a dedicated member of the Department.

On March 5, 1890, Alfred K. Taylor, as Assistant Quartermaster-General, was present in San Antonio to attend the *5th Annual Encampment of the Department of Texas, G.A.R.* He was one of four Houston-area members that traveled to San Antonio to represent *George B. McClellan Post No. 9*. Alfred was credentialed as a voting delegate based on his status as a past-Post Commander.

On the following day, during the ensuing elections for Department officers, Alfred was one of five men nominated for the vaulted position of Department Commander for the next term. On the third ballot, he was unanimously elected by his peers. His election to this highest *G.A.R.* office in the state was noted in the March 11, 1890 issue of the *Galveston Daily News*, along with a brief biographical sketch.

Then, in August 1890, Alfred traveled from Houston to Boston, Massachusetts to represent the *Department of Texas* at the *24th National Encampment of the G.A.R.* His voting status at that National Encampment was based on his current status as Department Commander.

In early March 1891, Alfred traveled to Dallas to preside over the *6th Annual Encampment of the Department of Texas* as Commander.

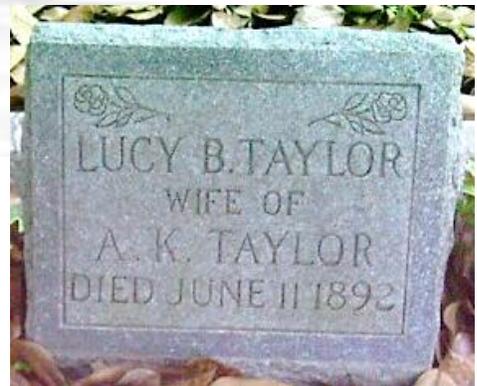
Right: Department Commander Alfred Kincaid Taylor wearing a G.A.R. badge, age 49, 1891



On February 18, 1892, as a Commissioner of the Circuit Court of the United States Eastern District of Texas, Alfred rendered an affidavit supporting the pension claims of Mrs. Jane L. Davis of Houston, the widow of Civil War veteran Mahlon Davis. It was one of hundreds of affidavits he would render during his tenure.

A few months later, on June 11, 1892, tragedy visited the Taylor household. Alfred's beloved wife, Lucy, passed away at age 45-46. She was laid to rest in Glenwood Cemetery in Houston.

In April 1897, the *12th Annual Encampment of the Department of Texas* was held in Houston, making it convenient for Alfred to attend. Based on his status as a Past-Department Commander and Past-Post Commander, he again had voting rights. Fortunately for him, the Houston venue made it possible for him to easily attend another very important event scheduled for five days later – the marriage of his daughter, Clara Baer Taylor. On April 28, 1897, she wed Samuel Oliver Noyes in Houston.



The joy of Clara's wedding was relatively short-lived. On May 12, 1898, after a 4-month illness, Clara passed away at home at the corner of Crawford and Leeland Streets in Houston. She was only twenty-three years old and much-loved by those who knew her. On the following day, the *Houston Daily Post* stated *(in part)*:

"The deceased lady was endowed with all the charms of head and heart which tenderly endeared her to

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Spotlight on a G.A.R. Veteran – Alfred Kincaid Taylor *(continued)*

those who knew her, and it is no idle figure of speech to say that her early taking-off will be sincerely and universally mourned in this community. She had only been married a few months over a year, which makes her melancholy demise all the more difficult to bear, and The Post joins with the legion of those who regret her loss in tendering to her afflicted husband and relatives the respectful tribute of heartfelt condolence.”

Clara Baer Taylor-Noyes’ funeral was held at the same church as her wedding of a year earlier – with a much different atmosphere. Her ashes were placed in Glenwood Cemetery in Houston.



On April 19, 1899, Alfred Kincaid Taylor was fifty-eight years old when he remarried. He and his second wife, Elizabeth Davis Jenkins, were united in matrimony in Houston by Catholic Priest Thomas Hennessy of Annunciation Catholic Church. They exchanged wedding vows at the home of the bride’s sister, Estelle Jenkins-Brady. Masses of flowers decorated several rooms of the large Brady residence.

“There was such a beautiful home atmosphere about it and such a friendly cordial feeling pervading everywhere. Mrs. Brady had made her home very lovely in honor of her sister’s marriage, and in this she was assisted by friends, who placed with loving hands the masses of roses and lilies and vines and spring flowers that made the home so attractive.”

Although only relatives and intimate friends were invited to the event, the gathering was quite large. Alfred’s 27-year-old unmarried daughter, Anna Taylor, caught the bouquet as it was tossed by the bride from the upper hall. By tradition, Anna was destined to be the next to be married. The newlyweds, Alfred and Elizabeth Taylor, immediately left by train for New Orleans for a two-week honeymoon.

And true to tradition, Anna Vernet Taylor did, in fact, soon marry. Ten months later, on February 14, 1900, she wed Louisiana native, Dr. Daniel Stuart Wier, in Houston.

On June 11, 1900, Alfred was fifty-nine years old and living at 1515 Crawford Street in Houston’s Third Ward. He was in the fire insurance business and had been married one year, according to the 1900 federal census. He was living with his wife, Elizabeth, and three of his unmarried children from his prior marriage, including: insurance clerk Joseph H. Taylor (*age 33*); Mary E. Taylor (*age 23*); and schoolboy Alfred K. Taylor, Jr. (*age 14*). Alfred’s recently married 28-year-old daughter, Anna, was living with her physician husband, Daniel S. Wier, a few blocks away at 1504 Leland Avenue - and was with child. Five months later, on November 21, 1900, Alfred finally became a grandfather when Anna gave birth to a son.

In October 1902, Alfred did not attend the 36th National Encampment of the G.A.R. in Washington, DC. The resulting proceedings report of that Encampment notes that Alfred had served as a Department Commander in Texas in 1890, and had recently ‘withdrew from order’. His health was apparently declining as he passed his sixty-first birthday.

However, he did continue his work with the insurance firm, *Childress & Taylor*. In conjunction with his desire to provide a financial safety net for working-class families, he was a long-time member of the *Ancient Order of United Workmen*. This membership-based fraternal organization was founded in 1868, dedicated to providing affordable life insurance and other benefits to its members, something that was not available from commercial insurers at the time.

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Spotlight on a G.A.R. Veteran – Alfred Kincaid Taylor *(continued)*

In early June 1903, Alfred and his wife, Elizabeth, departed from Houston to attend “the Grand lodge meeting of the Ancient Order of United Workmen” in St. Paul, Minnesota. On Monday afternoon, June 8, 1903, word reached Houston that Alfred had become seriously ill in St. Paul. He and Elizabeth remained in St. Paul temporarily, hoping for a recovery – but in vain. She was with him when he passed away on June 14, 1903. He was sixty-two years old.

“Captain Taylor died in St. Paul, where he went well and strong, Friday, June 5th, to attend the Grand lodge meeting of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.”

Elizabeth accompanied Alfred’s remains on the return trip from St. Paul to Houston. The flags at the Cotton exchange and the Turnverein in Houston had been lowered to half-mast as they arrived. A funeral for him was conducted “... from the family residence, corner of Crawford and Leeland streets, Saturday, June 20, at 4:30 p.m. Interment in Glenwood cemetery.”

“The deceased was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Woodmen of the World, Knights of Honor, and the Masons. All will participate in the last rites over the body of their former member.”

An American patriot to the very end, Alfred Kincaid Taylor lived a life of service with honor to the causes and principles he believed in. He expressed his commitment to those causes as an active participant in the affairs of the various organizations he championed, especially the *Grand Army of the Republic*. Foreseeing his eventual demise, he had previously expressed a final request:

“Some years ago he confided to his comrades that the flag, presented by the women of the town in which his company was raised, was in his possession, and he desired that it be buried with him, which request was duly complied with, and his mortal remains enshrouded in the flag he followed repose in Glenwood Cemetery, Houston, Texas. Comrade Taylor, vale and farewell.” (John H. Bolton Department Commander, G.A.R.).

Written by: Michael L. Lance, Department/Camp Historian

Research by: Terry T. Sutton, Department/Camp Graves Registration Officer

Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2, Houston, Texas, Department of Texas, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Sep 2025

Captain Alfred K. Taylor’s third child, Anna Vernetta Taylor-Wier and her husband, Dr. Daniel S. Wier, relocated to Beaumont, Texas between November 1900 and October 1907. They eventually became the parents of five children, four of whom attained adulthood. They raised their family in a large stately home in Beaumont.

Right: **Home of Dr. Daniel and Anna Wier,
1312 Franklin Street in Beaumont
ca. mid-1950s, demolished in 1969**

Anna and Daniel both lived long lives. She passed away September 6, 1950 in Beaumont at age 78, and Daniel died January 15, 1953 at age 81. Both were buried in Magnolia Cemetery in Beaumont.



Glimpse of the Past – Houston’s Early Marshals

The following excerpt is taken from ‘True Stories of Old Houston and Houstonians: Historical and Personal Sketches’, assembled by Dr. S. O. Young of Houston, Texas, which is viewable online at [‘The Portal to Texas History’](#). Reader be warned: This sketch was written in 1913 and, by today’s standards, the language herein may seem racy in places, reflecting the prevailing condition and character of the times. This account is not intended to offend any reader, but rather to provide a vivid snapshot of 19th century law enforcement in the city of Houston, Texas.

Even after Houston had received a charter and had a regularly elected city marshal (now called chief of police), police matters were more or less in the hands of the sheriff. There was never any jealousy, conflict of authority or anything of that sort. The question was a simple one. If the sheriff happened to be present he acted, and the same was true of the marshal. No questions were asked by the absent one or his friends, and everything moved along smoothly.

The office of city marshal and market master were combined at first, and Captain Newt Smith, a veteran of San Jacinto, had the distinction of being the first city marshal of Houston. He was a small man, but a very game and determined one, and never had the least trouble in enforcing his authority, because the evildoers knew to resist him meant disaster to themselves, so they submitted gracefully. He served until 1844, when he voluntarily retired to private life and was succeeded by a namesake, Captain ‘Billy’ Smith.

The old records do not contain anything that gives evidence of Captain ‘Billy’ having had anything except an easy, quiet time during the five years of his incumbency.

Captain ‘Billy’ was succeeded by Captain Bob Boyce, who was very much such a man as the first marshal, Captain Newt Smith. Captain Boyce was rather too aggressive, perhaps, quick-tempered and willing to go rather more than half-way to meet trouble. He was a regular gamecock, and after his true character as a fighter became known, he had little difficulty in asserting his authority. Captain Boyce held office for about twelve years, and though he had numerous chances, he never had to actually kill anyone.

Right: Faded image of Robert Prettyman ‘Bob’ Boyce



Either in 1860 or 1861, I. C. Lord [*Isaac C. Lord*] was elected city marshal after a rather heated and exciting campaign. Had Mr. Lord known what he had to encounter before he got through it, it is doubtful if he would not have quit the race before he started it. His term of office extended through the four years of the [*Civil*] war and through three or four years after the war, during the beginning of the reconstruction period. The latter part of his incumbency was never dull nor unexciting for a moment. There was always something doing night and day.

That is not to be wondered at when it is remembered that Houston at that time had something of rather worse than a mixed population. There were returned Confederate soldiers out of employment, tough Federal soldiers, gamblers, cut-throats, thugs and bad men of every description, while, worse than all else combined, there were thousands of newly-freed, ignorant and idle negroes who were completely under the control of designing carpetbaggers, who were constantly putting them up to do something to enrage the white men. Slung-shooting

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Glimpse of the Past – Houston’s Early Marshals *(continued)*

and highway robberies were of almost nightly occurrences, and every man carried his life in his own hands and knew that he did so.

To contend with conditions such as these, Marshal Lord had only four or five policemen, who were expected to look after the whole city night and day. However, there was one thing that saved the officers much trouble. Each citizen knew that he was expected to take care of himself, and did so.

Perhaps the presence of Davis’s regiment here did more to cause trouble than anything else. This was a notorious Federal regiment commanded by E. J. Davis, afterward reconstruction governor of the State. It was called a ‘Texas regiment,’ and was made up of deserters from the Confederate army, Mexicans, negroes, thugs and a generally undesirable element of society. They had not made camp here a week before robberies and knockdowns began to occur.

Finally there were dead soldiers found once or twice each week on the back streets, and as these dead soldiers had handkerchiefs tied over their faces and slung-shots tied to their wrists, it was not difficult to guess why they had died. No one ever knew the details of their taking off, for the surviving actors were not anxious to brag about their share in it, since it was an easy thing for the Federal authorities to claim that the affair was a murder pure and simple, and that the robbery features had been introduced by the slayer, after the death, in order to make it appear justifiable. There was practically martial law here then, and to get in the hands of the Federal military authorities was a very serious matter.

Right: Slung-shot - a weapon consisting of a weighted object attached to a flexible handle, strap, or cord - widely used as a weapon by 19th-century criminals and gang members.



To show how severe the military authorities were, the following instance is given: One of the Houston policemen was shot at by a drunken Federal soldier, whom the policeman tried to arrest for trying to kick in the door of a millinery establishment on Main Street. To protect himself, the policeman was forced to shoot the soldier. He did not kill him, but he might as well have done so, for he was arrested, thrown in the guardhouse and had a terrible time before he was released. Finally, after several of the lawbreakers had been killed by the citizens, they concluded that the business was too unhealthy and quit it.

But the marshal and police force had troubles of their own in the way of keeping the disorderly negroes in line. There were, as already stated, a number of trifling, irresponsible white politicians here who were constantly stirring the negroes up and causing them to make bad breaks. They organized what was called ‘The Loyal Legion,’ a secret political party, composed mainly of carpet bag white men and trifling negroes. The white men always kept in the background but they shoved the negroes forward, with the result that when any killing was necessary, a negro furnished the victim.

One morning in the early sixties, a negro preacher and fifty or more negroes went to the city jail with the announced intention of taking a negro out of jail and lynching him, because he was a democratic negro and

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Glimpse of the Past – Houston’s Early Marshals *(continued)*

because he had shot another negro who had tried to assassinate him the night before. Marshall Lord attempted to argue with them, but the preacher put an end to all talk by slipping up behind the marshal and trying to blow his brains out. Fortunately, someone knocked the pistol aside and the marshal escaped with no further damage than the loss of his hair on one side of his head.

Alex Erichsen and Martin Ravell, two of the marshal’s force, were there and without hesitation opened fire on the negroes, who attempted to rush the marshal. There was a quick volley and when the smoke cleared away there were several dead negroes on the ground. The preacher escaped for a moment, but was killed by Erichsen a few minutes after. That incident is given here just to show what a strenuous time the ‘force’ had in those days.

In 1868, Governor [Edmund Jackson] Davis turned Marshal Lord out of office and appointed Captain A. K. Taylor marshal. Captain Taylor, as all old Houstonians know, was an elegant gentleman [see ‘Spotlight on a G.A.R. Veteran’ in this newsletter, pg. 13]. He took possession of the office, but within a few weeks he became so disgusted with his surroundings that he sent in his resignation and retired to private life. The situation was too rough for him.

Right: Edmund Jackson Davis – Union Army officer, 14th Governor of Texas, and member of the G.A.R.



The governor then appointed Captain Mahlon. S. Davis to the place. He was a former army officer and a fair man, so he soon made friends with the people and never had serious trouble during his tenure of office.

The Democrats having secured control of the state in the November election in 1873, the charter of Houston was amended in January, 1874, by the terms of which the governor was given the authority to appoint all city officials, an authority he used at once by kicking out all the Republicans and appointing representative men to the offices.

By a singular oversight, no provision was made in the new charter for a city marshal. That complicated things for a while, but the problem was solved by Major S. S. Ashe, who was sheriff at that time. He made Henry Thompson nominally city marshal and gave him twelve or more deputy sheriffs to act as policemen until the defect in the charter could be remedied. When everything was put in shape, an election was held and Henry Thompson was elected city marshal and made one of the best the city has ever had. It must not be supposed that the Democrats getting in power settled the negro question, and that Marshal Thompson and his officers had an easy time. On the contrary, their defeat appeared to make the negroes worse than ever, though they worked more secretly and acted more under cover.

After Marshal Thompson retired, Alex Erichsen was elected and held office for a year or two. Erichsen was one of the coolest and bravest men that ever lived. He was absolutely fearless, but he had one fatal defect. He had too much personality to make a perfect officer. By that is meant that he could never realize that he was an officer first and Alex Erichsen next. If a drunken prisoner swore at him, he took the thing as a personal insult and resented it as such. This defect in his character led to a bloody encounter between him and a prominent gambler, in which both came near losing their lives.

Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 38)

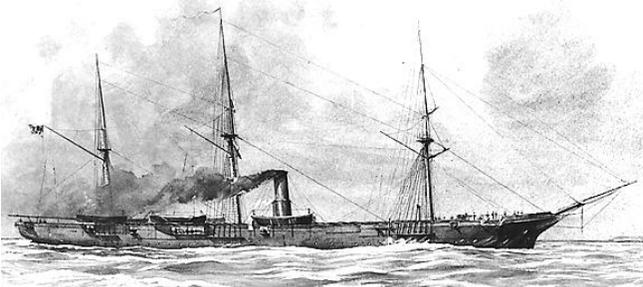
The *Medal of Honor* is the highest military honor awarded by the United States for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty. It was first awarded during the Civil War after President Lincoln signed a bill on December 21, 1861, containing a provision for the medal for the Navy. It was "*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.



- **David J. Naylor - Landsman** – David Johnson Naylor was born in November 1843 in Thompsonville, Connecticut. He was still living in that state when he joined the Navy during the Civil War. He served as a



landsman on the screw sloop-of-war *USS Oneida* (sketch at left). At the *Battle of Mobile Bay* on August 5, 1864, he supplied gunpowder to one of his ship's Parrott rifles as a powder boy. When his passing box, used to protect the powder as it was being carried, was shot from his hands and fell overboard into a small boat of the *USS Galena*, Naylor retrieved the box and resumed his duties. For this action, he was awarded the Medal of

Honor. Naylor died in Feb 1926 at age 82 and was laid to rest in River Bend Cemetery in Westerly, Rhode Island. 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 Landsman David Johnson Naylor, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving on board the U.S.S. Oneida in the engagement at Mobile Bay, Alabama, 5 August 1864. Acting as powder boy at the 30-pounder Parrott rifle, Naylor had his passing box shot from his hands and knocked overboard where it fell in one of the Galena's boats which was under the bow. Jumping overboard, Landsman Naylor recovered his box, returned to his station and continued to carry out his courageous actions throughout the engagement which resulted in the capture of the rebel ram Tennessee and the damaging of Fort Morgan.

- **John Neil - Quarter Gunner** – John Neil was born in 1840 in Newfoundland, Canada. He enlisted with the U.S. Navy from Norwich, Connecticut and served as a Quarter Gunner on the double-ended, side-wheel, gunboat *USS Agawam*. His *Medal of Honor* citations reads:

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Quarter Gunner John Neil, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving on board the U.S.S. Agawam, as one of a volunteer crew of a powder boat which was exploded near Fort Fisher, North Carolina, 23 December 1864. The powder boat, towed in by the Wilderness to prevent detection by the enemy, cast off and slowly steamed to within 300 yards of the beach. After fuses and fires had been lit and a second anchor with short scope let go to assure the boat's tailing inshore, the crew again boarded the Wilderness and proceeded a distance of 12 miles from shore. Less than two hours later the explosion took place, and the following day fires were observed still burning at the forts.

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Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 38 continued)

- **William D. Newland - Ordinary Seaman** - William D. Newland was born in January 1841 in Medway, Massachusetts. He enlisted with the U.S. Navy from Massachusetts in 1862 and served as an Ordinary Seaman on the Mohican-class screw sloop-of-war *USS Oneida*. His conduct as loader of *Oneida's* after 11-inch gun during the August 5, 1864 *Battle of Mobile Bay* was recognized by the award of the *Medal of Honor*. Newland was later promoted to the rank of Master's Mate. Newland became a member of the *Naval Order of the United States* and the *Grand Army of the Republic*.

William D. Newland, 1890

Newland died in 1914 at age 72-73, and was buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Millis, Massachusetts. His citation reads:

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Ordinary Seaman William D. Newland, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving on board the U.S.S. Oneida in the engagement at Mobile Bay, Alabama, 5 August 1864. Carrying out his duties as loader of the after 11-inch gun, Ordinary Seaman Newland distinguished himself on board for his good conduct and faithful discharge of his station, behaving splendidly under the fire of the enemy and throughout the battle which resulted in the capture of the rebel ram Tennessee and the damaging of Fort Morgan.



- **John H. Nibbe - Quartermaster** – Jack H. 'Jack' Nibbe was born in Hamburg, Germany on Nov 25, 1842. By age fourteen, he was employed as a merchant seaman on vessels traveling between New York and Hamburg. In 1860, he jumped ship in New York and joined the U.S. Navy. During the early days of the Civil War, he served as Quartermaster on the tinclad wooden steamer *U.S.S. Petrel*.

In April 1864, the *Petrel* was hit by enemy fire on the Yazoo River, causing the boilers to explode. Quartermaster Nibbe stayed aboard, tending to the wounded as others escaped. He was forced to surrender to Confederate forces. He was transported to a southern prison where he was held until about October 1864. He was honorably discharged from the Navy on January 12, 1865. Thereafter, he returned to deep water sailing. He died in June 1902 at age 59 and was buried in Ivy Green Cemetery in Bremerton, Washington.

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Quartermaster John H. Nibbe, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving as Quartermaster on board the U.S.S. Petrel during its capture in Yazoo River, Mississippi, 22 April 1864. Standing his ground when a shot came through the stern, raking the gundeck and entering and exploding the boilers, when all the others had deserted the flag, Quartermaster Nibbe assisted in getting the wounded off the guard and proceeded to get ready to fire the ship despite the escaping steam from the boilers at which time he was surrounded on all sides by the rebels and forced to surrender.



Additional Navy Medal of Honor recipients will be portrayed in the next issue with Part 39

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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
Scout Coord.	Ben C. Bonnett	Graves Regis. Officer	Terry T. Sutton
Facebook Mgr.	John C. Vander Meulen	Civil War Mem. Officer	Terry T. Sutton
Zoom Facil.	John C. Vander Meulen	Newsletter Editor	Michael L. Lance
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 – The Mosquito Fleet

During the Civil War, the term “Mosquito Fleet” was applied to a flotilla of small Union vessels that played an important role in the rivers and shallow coastal waters of the South. The Fleet consisted mainly of light-draft steamers, tugboats, and converted civilian craft armed with a few guns. These vessels were not imposing in size, but they were highly mobile, inexpensive to operate, and able to maneuver where larger warships could not.

The Union employed its Mosquito Fleet most effectively in the western rivers and in the shallow sounds of North Carolina. In Virginia and the Carolinas, small gunboats patrolled inlets, ferried troops, and cut off Confederate supply lines. Their shallow draft allowed them to slip into shallow waterways where they supported blockades and joint army-navy operations. In the West, similar light-draft craft escorted transports, scouted enemy positions, and provided artillery support along the Mississippi’s many tributaries.



Tin-clad USS Fort Hindman, ca, 1865

Though individually vulnerable, when used in coordination, the Union Mosquito Fleet was a powerful tool, harassing Confederate defenders, securing supply routes, and denying Rebel forces the use of inland waterways. Their persistence forced the Confederacy to divert scarce resources to defend coasts and rivers. The Union Mosquito Fleet may not have carried the prestige of ironclads like the *USS Monitor*, but its constant presence in shallow waters proved vital to maintaining the blockade and advancing Union control of strategic regions.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

1861



1865

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

**Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War**
LCDR Edward Lea USN, Camp 2
Houston, TX

This Certificate is for Earned Recognition.

*WI MN Dept Col Henry Harnden Camp 2 issues TX LA Dept LCDR
Edward Lea USN, Camp 2 this COR to highlight your Outstanding
Efforts in Hosting, Organizing and Coordinating the 144th National
Encampment, representing efforts by the Department of Texas and
Louisiana for all Departments, Camps and National SUVCW.*

In testimony thereof, I confer this recognition certificate in Houston TX on August 9th, 2025

J. Benjamin Hobbins

J. Ben Hobbins, Camp Commander

*Camp #2 Col Henry Harnden, DRD, SUVCW WI-MN
SUVCW HQ America 250 Birthday Cmte, WI America 250*



A kind gesture of gratitude from James Benjamin Hobbins, Commander of Col. Henry Harnden Camp #2 of the Department of Wisconsin for the success of the 144th National Encampment of the SUVCW due to the efforts of the Brothers of the Department of Texas and Louisiana, including the host Camp, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 of Houston, Texas.