



# 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

Mar 2026

Volume 32

No. 1



**Battle of Galveston Commemoration**  
Galveston, Texas  
Page 3



**Memorial Plaque Dedication**  
Pelican, Texas  
Page 7



**Spotlight on a G.A.R. Veteran**  
Galveston, Texas  
Page 12

## **Features**

- 3**            **Battle of Galveston Commemoration - 2026** - The *Lea Camp* hosted the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Signature Event at Trinity Episcopal cemetery in Galveston... *by Michael L. Lance, PDC/PCC*
- 7**            **Memorial Plaque Dedication** – *Bailey Camp #5* of Shreveport unveils and dedicates a memorial plaque honoring the Federal units that participated in the *Battle of Pleasant Hill*. ... *by Michael L. Lance, PDC - with photos by John E. Schneider, Sr., PDC*
- 12**           **Spotlight on a G.A.R. Veteran – Capt. Edwin Nesbitt Ketchum** – Union soldier, Indian scout, cattle driver, Chief of Police, businessman, U.S. Customs Examiner, *G.A.R.* officer, and survivor of the 1900 Storm... *by Michael L. Lance, PDC - with research by Terry T. Sutton.*
- 24**           **The Menard House** – Built by a signer of the *Texas Declaration of Independence* and later owned by Edwin N. Ketchum, a Union Captain and Charter Member of the *G.A.R.* Post in Galveston... *by Michael L. Lance, PDC*
- 25**           **Stone Mountain Silver Half Dollar** - A unique commemorative coin minted during a unique era in U.S. history... *by Michael L. Lance, PDC*
- 10**           **Major General Lew Wallace** – Union soldier, administrator, author, and diplomat with interest in the post-war crisis in Mexico... *by Michael L. Lance, PDC*

## **Departments**

- 9**            **Patriotic Instructor Minute - *Opposite Sides*** - Wartime friends yearn for a third side.
- 11**           **From the Chaplain’s Desk** - Naval Academy Chaplain serves as spiritual guide for Cadets.
- 23**           **Trivia: Edmund Jackson Davis - Hero or Tyrant?** - Union soldier from Texas becomes an unpopular Texas reconstruction governor.
- 27**           **Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients** - Recognizing U.S. Navy Civil War heroes (*part 40*).
- 29**           **Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2** - 2026 officers, staff, and social media links.
- 29**           **Trivia: More Edmund Jackson Davis** - The Texas reconstruction governor’s dramatic end-of-term ‘kerfuffle.’
- 30**           **Signature Photo** - Additional photo from the Mahlon Davis memorial ceremony.
- 30**           **Quote by Maj. Sullivan Ballou** - *My very dear Sarah....*

**Cover Image** - **“From Hampton Roads to Spithead”** - “In an unprecedented international display of U.S. ironclad power, the monitor *USS Miantonomoh* fires one of her mighty 15-inch guns for British dignitaries onboard.” - *art by Patrick O’Brien,*

**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**

Published quarterly in March, June, September, and December.

Send questions or comments to the Editor at: [mlance387@gmail.com](mailto:mlance387@gmail.com)

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

## Battle of Galveston Commemoration 2026

**Saturday, January 3, 2026 – Galveston, Texas**

The annual *Battle of Galveston Commemoration* ceremony was conducted Saturday morning on January 3, 2026. Members of *Lea Camp #2* gathered once again at the historic Trinity Episcopal Cemetery in Galveston. It was the 31<sup>st</sup> consecutive annual observance of the January 1, 1863 land/sea clash between Union and Confederate forces. The fighting took place on the wharves of Galveston and the waters of Galveston Bay. The Union soldiers and sailors who died during that battle were once again solemnly honored and remembered.

The *Lea Camp* welcomed the assistance and participation of members from *Gen. James Byrne Camp #1* of Fort Worth, and *Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp #18* of Dallas. National Commander-in-Chief, Kevin P. Tucker of Massachusetts, also took part in the formal ceremony. In addition, representatives from several other organizations played key roles in the success and grandeur of the event, including: *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1 of Houston, ASUVCW*; *Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4, DUVCW*; *Co. A, 13<sup>th</sup> Reg't U.S. Infantry*; *MOLLUS*; *DOLLUS*; *Harmony Masonic Lodge #6* of Galveston; *Maj. Gen. Patrick Cleburne's 7<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry, SCVCW*, and the *UDC*.



### **The Opening Procession**

**Led by Officer-of-the-Day, John E. Schneider, Sr. of *Ellsworth Camp #18*,  
and followed by drummer William Myers of *Lea Camp #2*, who established the marching cadence.**

*... continued on next page*

## Battle of Galveston Commemoration 2026 (continued)

As in previous years, the program began near the marble Union monument near the back of the cemetery. As all participants arrived at their positions, John C. Vander Meulen, as Master of Ceremonies, opened the service.

The Color Guard, commanded by John E. Schneider, Sr. of *Ellsworth Camp #18* of Dallas, then posted the Colors. The Color Guard included Color Sergeant Donald L. Gates (*Ellsworth Camp #18* and *Byrne Camp #1*), Michael Schneider (*Ellsworth Camp #18*), and Todd Wilber (*Bryne Camp #1*).

After the Colors were posted, Patriotic Instructor Steve Brock led all in the *Pledge of Allegiance*. John Vander Meulen then invited Camp Commander Daniel B. Pourreau to the podium to offer greetings and make introductions.



Left: **Lea Camp Commander, Daniel Pourreau**

Right: **Commander-in-Chief, Kevin P. Tucker**

A stirring address was then given by Commander-in-Chief, Kevin P. Tucker. Afterward, Chaplain Stephen D. Schulze called out the names of the federal casualties - as engraved on the top surface of the Union monument. The ceremonial bell was tolled by Patriotic Instructor Steve Brock after the death roll of each Union ship and army unit was called.



Susan Barry, past President of *Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4, DUVCW*, read the poem 'When the Boys in Blue Are Gone.'

Right: **Susan Barry, DUVCW**

The entire assembly then moved to the nearby gravesite of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, the *Lea Camp's* namesake. The Federal Color and Honor Guards, followed by the Confederate Color Guard led the way, marching to the cadence of the drum.

After all participants and observers moved into position around the Lea grave, the Colors were reposted. Chaplain Richard 'Dick' Gray from *Harmony Lodge No. 6, Masonic Lodge of Galveston* then assumed the podium. He delivered an interesting and entertaining account of the post-battle role of the *Harmony Lodge* Masons in 1863.



As Officer-of-the-Day, John Schneider, Sr. then ceremoniously placed the 'Symbols of the Navy' at the Lea headstone. He then posted Herbert W. Powers as Grave Guard beside the 'symbols'. This action was followed by the placing of wreaths and roses at the headstone.

Additional images of the event on the following pages.

... continued on next page

**Battle of Galveston Commemoration 2026 (continued)**



*Left:* Chaplain Dick Gray Harmony Lodge Masons of Galveston.



*Right:* Herbert W. Powers posted as Grave Guard



*Clockwise from top left:* Anita Stevens, UDC, places a red rose at the gravestone; Susan Barry, DUVCW, places an evergreen wreath; Vali Reyes, Auxiliary, lays a white rose; John Vander Meulen places a small U.S. flag; and CinC Keven Tucker places a grapevine wreath.

... continued on next page

## Battle of Galveston Commemoration 2026 (continued)

Jana Marsh of the *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary*, read the solemn but fitting poem, 'The Unknown Dead'. The poem was followed by a 3-volley musket salute by the Honor Guard, captained by Tommy Attaway, 13<sup>th</sup> Reg't. U.S. Infantry. The unit fired by the drum.

*Right: Jana Marsh reading 'The Unknown Dead.'*

Many thanks are extended from the *Lea Camp* to the volunteers from Camps #1 and #18 for their support and participation – and also to the Allied Orders and other organizations who played a role in the program. *All contributed to the remarkable success of the event!*



### Honor Guard

*L-R: Officer-of-the-Day John Schneider, Sr. (Ellsworth Camp #18); Jason D. Hoffman (Lea Camp #2); Michael D. Rappe (Lea Camp #2); Michael L. Lance (Lea Camp #2); Howard Rose (13<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf.); Daniel B. Pourreau (Lea Camp #2); and Tommy Attaway (Captain, 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf.).*

*... Report by Michael L. Lance, PDC*

*... Photos by Brothers Richard Carson and Robert Riley*

*... Additional photo on page 30*

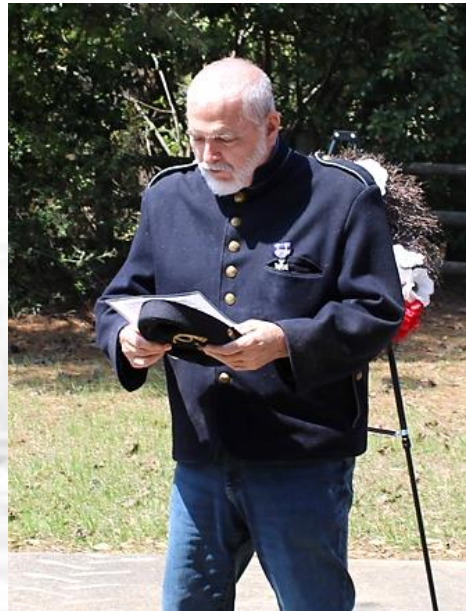
*... See [video highlights](#) of the ceremony*

## Memorial Plaque Dedication

**Saturday, March 28, 2026 – Pelican, Texas**

On Saturday, Camp Commander Daniel Pourreau and I traveled to Pelican, Louisiana to attend the unveiling and dedication of a new memorial plaque recently installed at *Pleasant Hill Battlefield Park*. The plaque had been procured by *Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5* of Shreveport, who hosted the event. Through the efforts of Bill Elliott of *Camp 5*, an *SUVCW* memorial grant was obtained to help defray some of the cost of the new marker – just as he did in 2024 for a memorial plaque placement at *Mansfield State Historic Site*. The *Battle of Mansfield* and *Battle of Pleasant Hill* (together aka. the *Battle of Sabine Crossroads*) were fought one day apart in April 1864 in northwest Louisiana – approximately 30 and 60 miles due south of Shreveport. These two battles marked the turning point of the *Red River Campaign* – the Union’s failed attempt to capture Shreveport.

Seven members of *Bailey Camp 5* were in attendance. Camp Commander Michael Heller, Past-Commander John Prime, and Robb McMahan, all gave brief presentations during the program. At the appropriate moment, Camp Secretary/Treasurer Bill Elliott unveiled the new memorial plaque.



*Top Left:* **Camp Cmdr. Michael A. Heller**

*Top Center:* **Past-Cmdr. John A. Prime**

*Top Right:* **Robb A. McMahan**

*Right:* **William M. ‘Bill’ Elliott – Unveiling the Memorial Plaque**



*... continued on next page*

## Memorial Plaque Dedication (continued)

Daniel Pourreau of *Lea Camp 2* was attired in a formal G.A.R. uniform with a cane, and I wore my federal infantry uniform with musket. Also attending the dedication event were:



*Left: John E. Schneider, Sr., representing Ellsworth Camp 18 and MOLLUS;*

*Left: Jill Schneider, SUVCW Auxiliary and DOLLUS;*

*Right: Miss Battle of Pleasant Hill and Miss 2026 Teen Battle of Pleasant Hill in elegant gowns;*

*Two federal reenactors from Shreveport in full gear;*

*And several members of the Pleasant Hill Battlefield Society.*



*L-R Standing: John A. Prime, Daniel B. Pourreau, John E. Schneider, Sr., Larry Joe Reynolds, Michael A. Heller, Robb A. McMahan, Ralph L. Diamond, and Michael L. Lance.*

*Kneeling: William M. 'Bill' Elliott.*

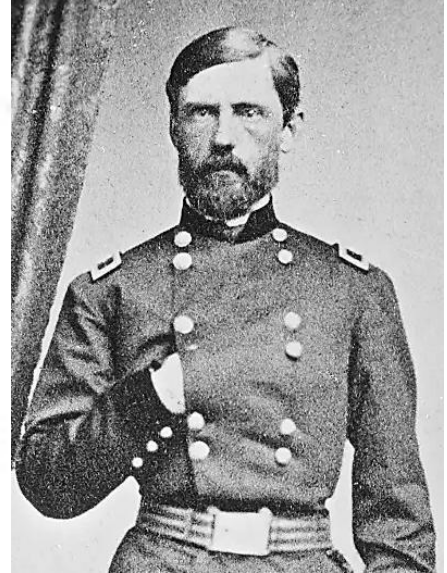
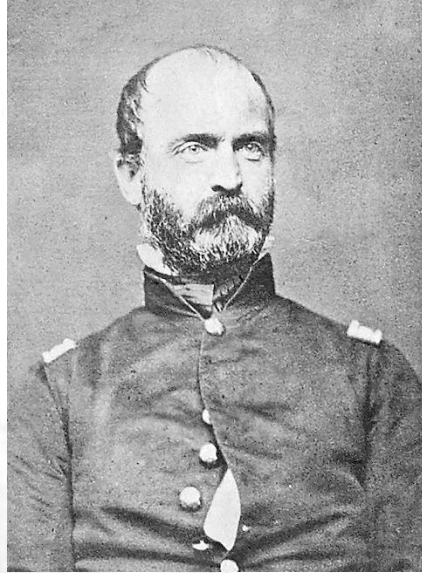
*... by Michael L. Lance, PCC/PDC*

*... photos by John E. Schneider, Sr., PCC/PDC*

## Patriotic Instructor Minute

**Opposite Sides** – We are all aware the Civil War tore families apart. There are several recorded instances where some family members fought for the Union and others for the Confederacy. This is evidenced by our own Camp's namesake, Lt. Commander Edward Lea and his father at the Battle of Galveston in January 1863.

But the war also pitted neighbors and friends against one another. I want to talk briefly about three such friends. They met while serving in the army during the Mexican War. By all accounts they became more like brothers than friends. The three are Winfield Scott Hancock from Pennsylvania, John Reynolds, also from Pennsylvania, and Lewis Armistead, who was born in North Carolina but considered himself a Virginian by heritage.



**Maj. Gen. Winfield S. Hancock**

**Brig. Gen. Lewis A. Armistead**

**Maj. Gen. John F. Reynolds**

In 1861, Hancock and Armistead were serving together in California when it became evident that war was imminent. Armistead chose to fight for the Confederacy, and the night before he left for Virginia, Hancock, who would remain in the Union army, held a soiree at his home in Los Angeles. Mrs. Hancock recalled that Captain Armistead placed his hands on Hancock's shoulders and with tears on his cheeks declared "*Hancock, goodbye; you can never know what this has cost me.*"

Fate would bring these three friends together one last time in early July 1863 at a place called Gettysburg. But the reunion would not be a joyous one.

Reynolds was now a Major General and commanded the 1<sup>st</sup> Corps of the Army of the Potomac. By all accounts, he was one of the finest officers in the Union Army. He was killed before the battle really got started - on day one when he was shot from his saddle and died instantly while positioning his troops. He was the highest ranking officer on either side to die at Gettysburg.

Hancock, also a Major General, was in command of the Union 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps. He was referred to throughout the Union Army as 'Hancock the Superb'. Hancock's men defended a section of the stone wall on Cemetery Ridge near a place known as The Angle. The angle would be the focal point of Confederate General George Pickett's charge during the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the battle. As the battle began, Hancock rode up and down the length at the wall,

*... continued on next page*

## Patriotic Instructor Minute

encouraging his men to hold firm. When one of his staff told him a Corps commander ought not risk his life that way, he replied, "There are times when a Corps commander's life does not count." Hancock would be wounded when a bullet hit off the pommel of his saddle and entered his inner right thigh.

Facing Hancock was his dear old friend, Armistead; now a Brigadier General and in command of one of the three brigades in Gen. George Pickett's Division. As he and his men advanced, Armistead placed his black hat on the tip of his sword so he could be seen. Somehow, he and several of his men managed to breach the stone wall and were near a Union battery when he was mortally wounded. While lying on the ground, Armistead was attended by Union Captain Henry Bingham. When he asked Bingham if he could see General Hancock, Bingham told him the General had been seriously wounded which, according to Bingham, caused Armistead great sorrow. There are two accounts of what Armistead said after he learned his old friend had been wounded. One is that he said, "Tell him I'm Sorry." The other is that he said, "Tell General Hancock for me that I have done him and done you all an injury which I shall regret the longest day I live."



Armistead never did get to see his old friend. He was moved to a Union field hospital where he died two days later. Hancock's wound was serious enough that he had to be evacuated to Philadelphia. There would be no reconciliation between the three friends. Hancock survived the war and ran as the Democratic candidate for President in the 1880 elections. He was narrowly defeated by Republican James A. Garfield, himself a former Major General in the Union Army. Hancock died in 1886. Eventually, the war ended and neighbors, friends, and families had to find a way to reconcile. Some never did, but I like to believe most found a way.

There is a song by Sawyer Brown called 'Another Side'. It is the story of the war as seen through the eyes of a young Confederate soldier grappling with the morality of war while at the same time acknowledging his duty to fight for the South. The last verse of the song speaks of reconciliation and goes like this:

*After four long years, the smoke had cleared, and I went back to the farm.  
Little brother met me at the bridge and he held out his arms.  
He was thin and weak and wounded, and dressed in Yankee blues,  
But I cried and held him and together we both knew  
If it could be done over, there would be a better way.  
Still family and one nation, oh but what a price we paid.  
I guess my daddy would be proud, but my momma, she ashamed,  
Yet I know deep down we need a change.  
Them Northern boys were friends of mine, but dang my Southern pride,  
I'm standing here a crying wishing there was another side.*

I wonder if Hancock, Armistead, and Reynolds and all the boys who fought in that terrible war were of like mind and wished there could have been another side.

*... by Ronald 'Steve' Brock, Camp Patriotic Instructor – a transcription of the presentation he gave during the July 2025 business meeting of Lea Camp #2.*



## From the Chaplain's Desk

### Naval Academy Chaplain

The U.S. Naval Academy swung into full operation at its temporary location in Newport, Rhode Island, during the 1862-1863 academic year. Far from the rebel threat that prompted the school's relocation from Annapolis, Maryland, four classes of cadets, 400 in all, learned the art of war. The staff of 34 instructors included William Augustus Hitchcock, the Academy's chaplain, who performed double duty as assistant professor of ethics and English studies.

*Left:* **Chaplain William Augustus Hitchcock**

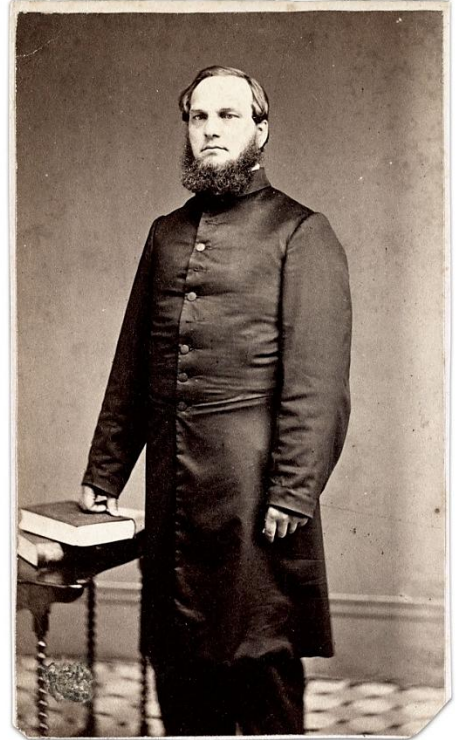
Chaplain Hitchcock joined the Academy from private life. Born in New Haven, Connecticut, and educated at Trinity College and Berkeley Divinity School, he became rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in 1858.

Three years later, he resigned to become a Navy chaplain, and joined the Academy as its spiritual head. Especially memorable was his service during the summer cruise of 1863. Assigned to the practice sloop *Macedonian*, the cadets gained real-world experience in New York's Long Island Sound.

Chaplain Hitchcock's stint in Newport ended in early 1864 when he received orders to join the 360-man crew of the screw frigate *Niagara*. Assigned to the European Squadron, the vessel patrolled European waters in search of Confederate vessels.

Hitchcock went on to serve aboard the training ship *Sabine* and resigned in 1867. He returned to the ministry at churches in Pennsylvania and New York, and earned a Doctor of Divinity degree. He declined the Bishopric of western Pennsylvania in favor of active work with congregants.

While minister of the Church of the Ascension in Buffalo in 1895, Hitchcock suffered head injuries after he attempted to exit a moving trolley car. One source attributed his death three years later at age 64 to the accident. His wife and four children survived him.



... by *Stephen D. Schulze, Camp Chaplain*

In April 1861, as the Civil War erupted, the cadets of the *United States Naval Academy* faced sudden upheaval. Located in Annapolis, Maryland, the academy was considered vulnerable to Confederate attack after Maryland's loyalties came into question. To protect the institution and continue training future naval officers, the federal government temporarily relocated the academy to Newport, Rhode Island. Despite uncertainty and the nation's division, the cadets continued rigorous study and drill. Many soon entered wartime service in the United States Navy, helping supply trained officers during a conflict that rapidly expanded the Union's naval responsibilities.

## Spotlight on a G.A.R. Veteran – Capt. Edwin Nesbitt Ketchum

On Sunday, February 26, 1843, Edwin Nesbitt Ketchum was born at sea on his father's ship near Bermuda - according to an entry in the Ketchum family bible. The relatively isolated island of Bermuda is a British Overseas Territory located in the North Atlantic Ocean about 800 miles off the coast of South Carolina. Edwin's parents were merchant sea captain Alfred Jauncey Ketchum and Elizabeth Wood.

The Ketchum family lived in Bermuda during Edwin's early years. He was just nine years old when his father died of yellow fever aboard his ship, *Medora*, near Nevis and St. Kitt's in the West Indies. After a handful of years working for his fisherman-uncle - and a failed attempt to run away to sea, Edwin's mother sent him to Brooklyn, New York to live with a paternal aunt and attend school.

On April 27, 1862, with the Civil War entering its second year, Edwin was 19 years old and living on 29<sup>th</sup> street in New York City. He was employed as a weighmaster in a grain warehouse. On that day, he enlisted with a New York militia unit in Brooklyn. He reportedly stood 5 feet, 9½ inches tall, had hazel-colored eyes, and a dark complexion and hair. He became a Private in *Company E, 13<sup>th</sup> New York State Militia Heavy Artillery*, with which he served a little more than three months - from May 28, 1862 to September 12, 1862.

About two weeks later – on September 27, 1862 - Edwin continued his military service by enlisting as a Private in the federal army in New York City. His new 3-year enlistment was with *Company B, 176<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry (aka. Ironsides)*. In January 1863, Edwin's regiment moved to the deep south and was deployed in the defenses of New Orleans - responsible for guarding railroad lines in several small communities in the area.

On June 23, 1863, as Confederate forces advanced on New Orleans, Edwin and about 400 other Union soldiers were captured during the *Battle of Brashear City*. Six days later, on June 29, 1863, he was paroled and made his way back to his regiment.

Edwin proved to be a capable soldier. He was just 20 years old on January 1, 1864, when he was elevated to Captain of Company G of the *176<sup>th</sup> New York* at New Orleans. Four months later, on April 3, 1864, he was transferred to Company B of the same regiment, and participated in the unsuccessful *Red River Campaign* in Louisiana.

Right: **Captain Edwin N. Ketchum**

In July 1864, the *176<sup>th</sup> New York* was sent from Louisiana to Virginia. The rigors of wartime travel must have been intense as Edwin reportedly suffered a bout of neuralgia the following month [*severe pain that follows the path of a nerve due to irritation or damage*].

On October 13, 1864, as Edwin was participating in the building of a bridge during the *Battle of Cedar Creek* in Northern Virginia, he was severely wounded. A bullet struck his right arm below the elbow, causing a compound fracture. Adequate medical care was not immediately at hand. It took a week for him to finally arrive at a hospital in Annapolis, Maryland for treatment. After just two days in the hospital - October 21 and October 22 – he was released.

On November 14, 1864, after a very short convalescence, Edwin was placed on light duty at the Draft Rendezvous in New Haven, Connecticut [*a processing center for examining, mustering, and training draftees and substitutes*]. He remained on duty there until April 1865.

Although the war was now nearly over, Edwin continued to serve. On June 30, 1865, while most other federal soldiers were being mustered-out of the Army, he was detailed as an Assistant Provost Marshall at Augusta, Georgia. That assignment apparently did not exactly go smoothly for him, as he spent two months sick in a



... continued on next page

## G.A.R. Veteran – Capt. Edwin Nesbitt Ketchum *(continued)*

hospital - August 31 through October 31, 1865. After recovering, he continued serving as an Assistant Provost Marshall in Augusta.

On April 27, 1866, Edwin was honorably discharged from the army at Savannah, Georgia. His total time served was 3 years, 10 months and 16 days. Instead of resettling in New York, he chose to return to the deep south. A month later, while on his way to Texas with a friend, he met with some sort of mishap and was admitted to "*Sedgwick Gen'l Hospital N. O. [New Orleans] for fractured leg.*"

After arriving in Texas, Edwin continued to travel quite a bit before finally settling down. He worked in several different occupations - including as a clerk, herding cattle, and as a "*civilian scout against Comanches in Wichita Mountains much of 68 & 69.*" [source: *Ketchum pension file*].

In his own words....

*"At close of service April 1866, I left New York for Texas in May to join Lew Wallace in Mexico [see pg. 26 for related information.] Arrived in Galveston on 21<sup>st</sup> of June 1866, residing in Galveston on Winnie Street bet. 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> [streets] in the employ of the G. H. & H.R.R. [Galveston, Houston, & Henderson Railroad] as shipping and bill clerk until December 1867 when I went to the Prairies of Williamson Co. near Circleville & remained there until September 1868, when I drove cattle from Texas to Clinton, Henry Co. Mo. for P. H. Shelton, arriving at Clinton on December 21<sup>st</sup> 1868.*

*"I left Clinton on Jan'y 1<sup>st</sup> 1869 for Texas by way of Virgil City, Lamar & Undoe(?), Mo. then thro Baxter Springs to Tildenslaps Ferry to Jolison Thompson & Ben Lansden's on Cabin Creek, Cherokee Nation - thence to Blue Alberts in Prior Creek stopping at Joe Collier's near Fort Gibson - riding thence with Elij. Clingan, the mail rider, to Boggy Depot, Choctaw Nation, thence to Fort Arbuckle, Camp Supply, and Wichita Mountains where Sheridan was chasing up 'Black Kettle,' 'Santanta,' 'Big Tree' and 'Lone Wolf'. I remained there but a short while, scouting against Indians when I started back for Texas by Colbert's Ferry [a Red River crossing] to Sherman, Tx, reaching the Prairies of Williamson Co. in April 1869.*

*"In August of 1869, I saddled up & rode to Galveston, Tx working for Heidenheimer & Co. [a grocery company] as a clerk, also for G. H. & H RR until Spring of 1870, when I went to Austin, Tx & was made Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, 12<sup>th</sup> Legislature, resigned therefrom in Spring of '71 & returned to Galveston entering the employ of Marx and Kempner [a wholesale grocery business] from which place I resigned in Summer of 1872 go to Dallas in \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ & Co. of whose business affairs I closed in August 1873, returning to Galveston & taking charge of the grocery stock of Le Gierse & Co. of with whom I served until fall of 1876 when I resigned & embarked in my present business as a contractor making Galveston my home. My disability of hernia originated while serving as Chief of Pioneers." [source: handwritten letter in Ketchum pension file, dated March 29, 1905].*

Since Edwin mentions that he relocated from Galveston to Austin in the "*Spring of '70*" to work briefly as Chief Clerk of the Texas House of Representatives, he should appear on the July/August 1870 federal census. However, just as with the 1850 and 1860 enumerations, he has not been found in the census rolls. In 1850, at age 7, he was likely still living with his parents in Bermuda - but in 1860, he probably should have been enumerated somewhere in New York at about age 17.

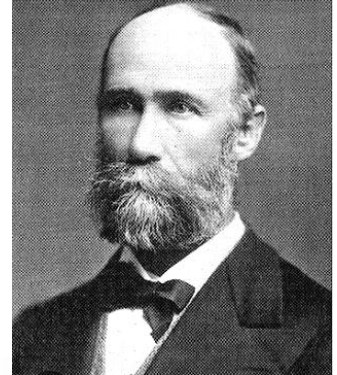
By moving to Austin in 1870, Edwin may have been seeking greener pastures - or maybe was offered a position he could not refuse. Either way, it seems odd that he landed the lofty government position of 'Chief Clerk' of the Texas House of Representatives. Other than his lengthy service in the army, his resume would have contained a rather erratic work history. He states that he "*resigned therefrom in Spring of '71...*", adding to his growing list of short-term jobs.

*... continued on next page*

## G.A.R. Veteran – Capt. Edwin Nesbitt Ketchum (continued)

While in Austin, Edwin likely had personal contact with the newly-elected reconstruction governor, Edmund J. Davis. Governor Davis was also a Union veteran [*1<sup>st</sup> Texas Cavalry*] and was well known for appointing Union loyalists to fill state positions. That tendency probably worked in Edwin's favor. But as mentioned, Edwin's employment as a chief clerk in Austin only lasted a year before he returned to Galveston.

*Right: Texas reconstruction Governor Edmund J. Davis*



Another acquaintance Edwin probably made while in Austin was John Stelfox. In June 1870, Stelfox was a well-to-do Austin merchant with a 13-year-old-daughter named Mary. She and Edwin were destined to cross paths again in the near future.

After concluding another short-term job in Dallas in August 1873 and returning once again to Galveston, Edwin was apparently ready to settle down. On December 24, 1873, he was 30 years old when he and the forementioned Mary Elinor Stelfox, now 16 years old, obtained a marriage license in Travis County. They were united in matrimony in Austin on Christmas Day by the Pastor of St. David's Episcopal Church. Edwin and Mary eventually became the parents of eight children, and remained as husband and wife for the rest of their lives. Roughly nine months later, on September 27, 1874, their first child, Elizabeth Evans 'Elsie' Ketchum was born in Galveston.

'Elsie' lived at home with her parents until she married on April 27, 1901 at age 26. Her husband was 32-year-old Massachusetts native, Harold Pitt Fessenden. The young couple moved to California soon after their marriage and became the parents of at least two children - both born in California.

*Right: Elizabeth Evans Ketchum, eldest daughter of Capt. Edwin N. Ketchum.*



Elizabeth became a widow in 1934, and passed away herself in May 1958 in Alameda, California at age 84. Her ashes were placed in a niche at Chapel of the Chimes Columbarium and Mausoleum in Alameda.

Edwin's second child, Mabel Metcalf Ketchum was born in Galveston the following year – on December 5, 1875.

On June 4, 1902, Mabel was also 26 years old when she married civil engineer Frank Henry Eastman. After living in different locations, the couple settled in Sausalito, California. She wrote a regular social column in a local newspaper urging "*stylish ladies to forgo wearing animal furs and skins*" and championed "*responsible pet ownership.*"

*Right: Mabel Metcalf Ketchum, second daughter of Capt. Edwin N. Ketchum.*



Mabel passed away in San Francisco on December 20, 1966 at age 91. Her ashes were placed in a separate niche very close to her older sister's ashes at Chapel of the Chimes Columbarium and Mausoleum in Alameda.

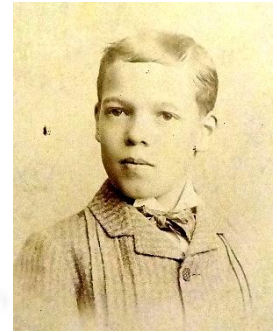
... continued on next page

## G.A.R. Veteran – Capt. Edwin Nesbitt Ketchum *(continued)*

In 1876, Edwin began his own business in Galveston as a general contractor, specializing in hauling. Meanwhile, his family continued to grow. Their third child, Edwin Marinus Ketchum, was born in Galveston on Nov 12, 1877.

After reaching adulthood, Edwin M. Ketchum relocated to Oklahoma. In April 1910, he was unmarried and rooming in Tulsa, Oklahoma while working as a builder supply merchant. In January 1915, Edwin was 34 years old when he married 30-year-old Frankie May Miller in Henderson, Texas.

*Right:* **Edwin Marinus Ketchum, son of Capt. Edwin N. Ketchum.**



In 1930, Edwin worked as a brush company salesman in Ponca City, Oklahoma. He died in Ponca City in September 1938 at age 60, and was laid to rest at Athens Cemetery in Athens, Texas.

In 1880, in order to comfortably accommodate his expanding family - and with Mary once again with child - Edwin purchased the magnificent Menard House on 33<sup>rd</sup> Street in Galveston [see related story on page 24].

*Right:* **The Menard House, aka. The Oaks.**

The Ketchum's soon welcomed their fourth child into the family. Henry Ricker Ketchum was born May 11, 1880 and was enumerated as a one-month-old 'sucker' when the 1880 federal census was taken the following month.



Edwin was then 37 years old and owned a dray - with which he continued to build his hauling business. Mary was 23 years old and caring for their 4 young children – with the help of a 'colored' servant.

On January 26, 1905, Henry Ketchum was 24 years old when he married Ethelyn Gibson in Lake Charles, Louisiana. In January 1919, he married a second time in Manhattan, New York. His second wife was Gertrude H. Holliday-Richie, with whom he became the father of at least 3 children. Henry worked as a hotel manager in Tulsa, Oklahoma, but by 1950, he had returned to Galveston and owned a trading post. He lived with Gertrude in the Ketchum family's historic mansion at 1605 33<sup>rd</sup> street.



*Left:* **Henry Ricker Ketchum, son of Capt. Edwin N. Ketchum.**

Henry was reportedly *"man of great energy and resourcefulness, making and then losing a fortune in Tulsa during the 1920s and '30s. In the 1940s and 50s, he made a modest living off oil and gas investments and by buying and reselling surplus property from the government, or damaged goods from the railroads."*

On November 22, 1976, Henry died in Galveston at age 96 and was cremated. His ashes were scattered in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Galveston.

*... continued on next page*

## G.A.R. Veteran – Capt. Edwin Nesbitt Ketchum (continued)

Edwin's family continued to grow. On September 22, 1882, baby Alfred Joseph Ketchum was welcomed as the fifth child into the family.

In 1910, Alfred Ketchum was living in Portland, Oregon. He was 27 years old, unmarried, and employed as a shoe store clerk. In September 1918, Alfred was 35 years old, living in Eldorado, Kansas, and working as an oil field grading contractor for Gypsy Oil Co.

*Right: Alfred Joseph Ketchum, son of Capt. Edwin N. Ketchum.*



In April 1942, Alfred was 59 years old, stood 5' 10" tall, weighed 155 lbs., with gray eyes, light brown hair, and a ruddy complexion. He was living at the Barksdale Hotel in Bossier City, Louisiana and was employed by Glassell Taylor Co. of Shreveport, Louisiana. He died May 19, 1945, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma at age 62. He was cremated and his ashes were scattered in Galveston Bay off the coast of Galveston.

**DRAYAGE - - DRAYAGE**  
**ED. KETCHUM & CO.,**  
**Draymen and Contractors,**  
Do all kinds of heavy and light hauling. Machinery,  
Boilers and Safes our specialties.  
**Office: Corner of 22d St. and Strand.**

To promote his contracting business, Edwin regularly advertised in the Galveston newspapers and City Directories. His operations flourished, allowing him to provide handsomely for his family.

*Left: Advertisement published in the Galveston Daily News, November 30, 1883.*

Edwin's sixth child, Isabelle Elinor Ketchum, was born in Galveston on February 25, 1885.

Isabelle Ketchum grew up in Galveston. On November 1, 1911, she married Paul N. Snyder of Chicago. The couple initially settled initially in Morristown, South Dakota, then moved to Chicago, Illinois.

*Right: Isabelle Elinor Ketchum, daughter of Capt. Edwin N. Ketchum*



After being widowed in 1945, Isabelle returned to Texas. However, during the last year of her life, she lived in the northeast with her widowed younger sister, Mary, in Temple, New Hampshire. Isabelle passed away December 18, 1971 at age 86. Her ashes were deposited in Saint Augustine's Episcopal Columbarium in Wilmette, Cook County, Illinois.

In 1885, the Union veterans living in Texas organized the *Department of Texas*, the thirty-eighth Department of the *Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.)*. The new Department consisted of several local *Posts* in cities and towns across the State. The local *Post* at Galveston, *Maj. Gen. Winfield S. Hancock Post #2*, was organized in March 1886. Edwin Ketchum served as the first *Post* Commander and was likely one of the Charter members.

Edwin remained very active with the *G.A.R.* for the rest of his life. He served in one or more important elected and/or appointed positions nearly every year, including: Chaplain; Patriotic Instructor; Adjutant; Aide-de-Camp; Chief-of-Staff; Officer-of-the-Day; Jr. and Sr. Vice Commander; Department Inspector; as a Delegate to Department and National Encampments; numerous committee appointments; Department Assistant Adjutant;

*... continued on next page*

## G.A.R. Veteran – Capt. Edwin Nesbitt Ketchum *(continued)*

Department Quartermaster-General; member of the Department Council of Administration; and served as Commander of the *Department of Texas* in 1897. In fact, he was elected to at least five 1-year terms as Commander of *Hancock Post #2* [1886, 1905, 1916, 1917, and 1919].

Edwin's extensive and varied record of service - as a Union soldier and later as a long-time member of the G.A.R., cannot be overstated. He apparently downplayed his military affiliations. Perhaps, for business reasons, he felt it to be more advantageous to appear 'neutral' in the formerly pro-Confederate city. When the federal decennial census was conducted in June 1890, it included a *Special Veterans Schedule*. This schedule was designed to collect information about all surviving Union veterans or their widows. Even though the regular 1890 census records were mostly destroyed by fire years later, the *Special Veterans Schedules* from Texas survived. Edwin's entry simply indicates he had a Galveston, Texas P.O. address and was a Private in the Union army. Apparently frustrated, the enumerator noted: "Could not get any other inform."

On January 26, 1893, Edwin was 49 years old when he and Mary celebrated the birth of their seventh child, Mary Angie 'Mamie' Ketchum. She was also born and raised in Galveston.



On January 31, 1912, Mary Ketchum was 19 years old when she married 26-year-old Laurence T. Walker in Galveston. He was a career military man and reportedly served on the staff of General Pershing during World War I. The couple did not have any children.

*Left: Mary Angie 'Mamie' Ketchum, daughter of Capt. Edwin N. Ketchum.*

By 1920, 'Mamie' and Laurence were living in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and spent the final years of their lives in Temple, New Hampshire. Mary became a widow in 1961, and passed away herself on December 22, 1976 in Temple at age 83.

While her late husband had been buried in the town of his birth, Stoneham, Massachusetts, Mary was laid to rest in Miller Cemetery in their adopted city of Temple, New Hampshire.

Meanwhile, Edwin's contractor business continued to prosper. His crew and their capabilities expanded. In order to be closer to his family, he shifted his office to his home on 33<sup>rd</sup> street.



*Left: 1895 Galveston City Directory advertisement.*

In 1897, Edwin was elected by his peers as Commander of the *Department of Texas*, G.A.R., the highest office at the department level.

**Edwin N. Ketchum, 1897**



*... continued on next page*

## G.A.R. Veteran – Capt. Edwin Nesbitt Ketchum *(continued)*

On October 16, 1898, Edwin and Mary welcomed their eighth and final child into the family when baby Alice Maude Ketchum was born in Galveston.

As an adult, Alice Ketchum moved to Pasadena, Texas near Houston. She was employed as an executive secretary for Champion Paper and Fiber. Alice never married, and for some reason, was sometimes also known as 'Phyllis'.

*Right: Alice Maude Ketchum, daughter of Capt. Edwin N. Ketchum*

On May 11, 1952, Alice passed away at Herman Hospital in Houston. Her usual residence was 525 South Johnson street in Pasadena. Her death was attributed to acute monocytic leukemia, a blood cancer. She was just 53 years and 6 months old. Her remains were cremated and the ashes were scattered in Galveston Bay.



In February 1899, Edwin promoted his company to members of the Galveston City Council with a proposal. He offered to contract with the city to *"sweep the streets and alleys, collect and dispose of all garbage, haul off dead animals, and perform generally the sanitary work of the city."* The idea of awarding a city contract for these services to a private company was new – but seemed attractive to the council members because of promised cost savings and assurances that the work would be done efficiently and reliably. But in the end, politics likely ruled the day!

In April 1899, Edwin traveled from Galveston to Denison, Texas to attend the *14<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment of the Department of Texas, G.A.R.* He was the lone representative from *Hancock Post No. 2* to attend. He was credentialed as a voting delegate based on his status as Past Department Commander. A few weeks later, the *Galveston Tribune* noted that: *"Ed Ketchum spoke briefly in introducing the ceremony of planting a blade of grass on the deceased comrade's grave"* during Memorial Day ceremonies at the gravesite of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN, at Trinity Episcopal Cemetery in Galveston.

Edwin had proven himself to be an energetic and capable man over the years, and his reputation for integrity and getting things done had been noticed. On Thursday, June 8, 1899, the *Galveston Tribune* announced that Galveston Mayor-elect Walter C. Jones had selected Edwin to become the next Chief of Police. On June 1899, the *Galveston Tribune* followed up with the following report *[in part]*:

*"For several years, the police department of Galveston has been quite as unsatisfactory as the fire department has been satisfactory and all because the police department has been the plaything of politics. In spite of civil service platforms, succeeding administrations have traded on the police department as so much political chattel .....*

*"Police Chief Ketchum is a man to whom the public looks for fine results. Unanimously elected, his election is unanimously indorsed by the people. They look upon him as the man for the place and expect a department as efficient as the fire department."*

*Right: Edwin N. Ketchum as Chief of Police*



*... continued on next page*

## G.A.R. Veteran – Capt. Edwin Nesbitt Ketchum *(continued)*

In June 1900, Edwin was 57 years old and still living in the mansion at 1605 33<sup>rd</sup> Street. His wife, Mary, was 44 years old, and all eight of their children - ages one through twenty-three - were still living at home. Even though Edwin was serving as Chief of Police, he continued to manage his general contracting business. His busy work life was soon to become even more challenging.

*Right: Mary, wife of Edward N. Ketchum*



On September 8, 1900, a strong hurricane, estimated at Category 4, made landfall at Galveston. The resulting destruction, mostly from a massive 15-foot-high storm surge, claimed an estimated 6,000-8,000 lives. At least four of Edwin's police officers were among the casualties. Edwin had remained in command at City Hall during the peak of the storm and throughout the immediate recovery - albeit a bit short-handed.

After the surge waters receded, Galveston experienced a period of extreme chaos. Martial law was instituted. Police and local militia units were tasked with suppressing looters who were reportedly stripping corpses and ransacking shops. Saloons were ordered closed and essential supplies like food, medicine, and lumber were confiscated to ensure they could be redistributed to those most in need.



Since not enough able-bodied volunteers were available, some survivors were forced to perform the gruesome tasks of clearing debris and disposing of the thousands of bodies found throughout the city. Some of the funeral pyres used to cremate those remains were reportedly located on the grounds of Edwin's 33<sup>rd</sup> Street residence.

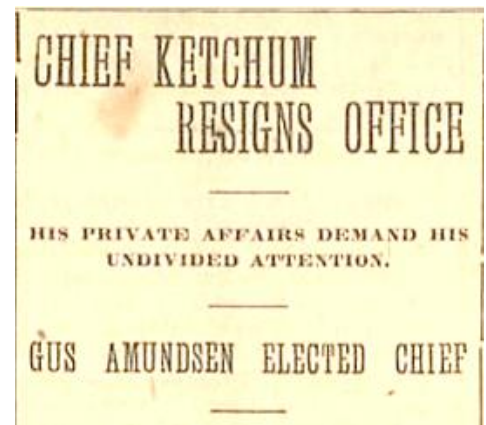
*Left: Hurricane destruction in Galveston*

The 1900 Galveston city elections once again brought a new mayor into office. The mayor-elect instituted radical changes in the city's government structure - which led to Edwin's retirement as Chief of Police in September. His tenure with the Police Department had been brief, but certainly eventful!

Edwin's final act as Chief of Police was to prepare a report on the performance of the Galveston police force during the hurricane and its immediate aftermath. He gave his men high praise and noted that while they were on duty keeping order and making rescues, eight of them lost wives to the storm - along with a combined casualty count of twenty-two of their children.

*Right: Page 1 headline - Galveston Tribune, Sep 25, 1900.*

*"Upon motion, the resignation was accepted and Chief Ketchum was tendered a vote of thanks for his past services. The mayor also said a few nice things about Chief Ketchum." (Galveston Tribune)*



*... continued on next page*

## G.A.R. Veteran – Capt. Edwin Nesbitt Ketchum *(continued)*

In 1901, Edwin served another term as Commander of *Hancock Post No. 2, G.A.R.* The membership of the *Post* remained strong at 65. Their monthly meetings were conducted at a hall located at 307 Tremont Street in Galveston.

In July 1903, an unfortunate incident occurred at Edwin's work camp at Sour Lake, Texas. It seems his company had been contracted by the *BSL&W Railway company [Beaumont, Sour Lake and Western]* to participate in the construction of a new rail line connecting Sour Lake to Beaumont. An unruly mob reportedly entered the camp, firing weapons in the air, with the intent of frightening and driving off Edwin's work crew - which were all men of color. Edwin, with shotgun in hand, stepped forward in defense of his crew and warned the gun-wielding leader of the mob to lay down his weapon.... *twice*. When the order was twice ignored, Edwin fired the shotgun one time, badly wounding three of the instigators. It was later reported that *"The men working under Mr. Ketchum were not molested, owing to the prompt use he made of his shotgun, and these men are still at work."* [*Picayune Newspaper, New Orleans, Louisiana, July 11, 1903*].

On July 20, 1904, Edwin was 61 years old and still living at 1605 33<sup>rd</sup> Street in Galveston when he filled out an application for a military pension. He declared that, since the war, he had lived *"in and all over Texas from Rio Grande to Red River with headquarters always in Galveston."*

His pension claim was based on disabilities he incurred during his service with the *176<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry* – including: the gunshot wound to his arm; a right inguinal hernial; and piles [*hemorrhoids*]. Edwin stated that he had been *"treated for piles since 1880 when they became very annoying, many times being incapacitated by them."* His application was approved - but not until nine months later – and was approved only for the gunshot injury.

Edwin was unable provide evidence to support his claim that the hernia and piles were actually caused by wartime manual labor while serving as Chief of Pioneers. In March 1905, after receiving a request from the Pension Department for an affidavit from a wartime witness to his unfortunate ailments, his cheeky response was:

*"I cannot procure affidavit of commissioned officer, of noncommissioned officer, or enlisted man of my Company or Regiment concerning origin of disability as mentioned.... for at the time I discovered my condition I did not care to have anyone share my knowledge thereof – a young man of 22 or 23 does not care to have the world know that he is any less a man than others of his class and age. Young men hide their infirmities to appear young. Old men tell of theirs to prove age & experience.... Respectfully submitted, Cpt. Ketchum, 1605 33<sup>rd</sup> St., Galveston, Tx."*

At any rate, Edwin began receiving a \$15 per month pension [*about \$575 in 2026 dollars*] *"by reason of wound received in line of duty."*

In April 1910, when the federal census enumerator visited the Ketchum household, Edwin was 67 years old and still working as a 'railroad' contractor. He and Mary had been married 36 years, and they owned their home free and clear. Three of their daughters were still living at home - 'Elennor' (Isabelle), 'Mamie' (Mary), and Alice - although 'Elennor' was soon to be wed.

Her special day came on November 1, 1911. Edwin and Mary, along with the two younger girls, 'Mamie' and Alice, attended the elegant affair. Twenty-six year-old Isabelle was married at Grace Episcopal church in Galveston. A lengthy description of the wedding was published in the *Austin-American Statesman* newspaper a few days later.

*... continued on next page*

## G.A.R. Veteran – Capt. Edwin Nesbitt Ketchum *(continued)*

On June 1, 1912, Edwin was 69 years old and still living at 1605 33<sup>rd</sup> Street. About two weeks earlier, President William Howard Taft signed the *Sherwood Act* into law, which raised the ceiling on pension payment amounts. This prompted Edwin to file for an increase in his monthly allowance. His application was favorably received and he was awarded a \$4 increase - to \$19 per month [*about \$645 in 2026 dollars*].

By 1913, Edwin's long career as a contractor seems to have waned. But he still needed income to pay for living expenses and upkeep of their large home. The 1913 Galveston city directory indicates he, now in his 70s, had taken up employment with the U.S. Government as an assistant Examiner and Recorder at the U.S. Appraiser's office in Galveston. To supplement this government salary, Edwin also petitioned for another increase in his pension allowance. In an April 1913 letter addressed to the Commissioner of Pensions, he appealed:

*"By reason of which and infirmities arising from chronic diarrhea (now causing severe piles) that placed me in hospital at La Fourche, La under Regimental Surgeon Willitts in April or May 1863, I am now unfitted for manual labor. I therefore ask that these conditions be considered in my behalf and that I be paid the maximum pension under this act [Act of May 11, 1912] to wit: \$30.00 per month to which I am entitled."*

Edwin did receive an increase, but not as much as he had hoped. His allowance was increased from \$19 to \$25 per month [*about \$835 in 2026 dollars*]. In a follow-up letter [*dated February 5, 1914*], Edwin displayed tenaciousness with another letter to the Commissioner of Pensions in Washington, DC, protesting:

*"Sir, On or about April 14<sup>th</sup> 1913, I wrote in protest against the rating given me for pension under the Act of May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1912. I claiming by reason of wound and other infirmities, with my age, under this law I was entitled to (30) Thirty and 00/100 dollars per month. Whereas I am being paid but (25) twenty five & 00/100 dollars.*

*"I served from April 1862 to April 1866, four years at hard work most of the time as a 'Pioneer' or in Command of Pioneers – was in hospital but once then for chronic diarrhea, from effects of which I sometimes now suffer, was a prisoner of war for a period, and was wounded at Cedar Creek, Va in October 1864. Hence I claim, under the last clause, 1<sup>st</sup> section of Act cited above \$30.00 pension per month.....Very Respectfully, Edwin N. Ketchum."*

Two weeks later, the Commissioner responded with a denial letter [*dated February 18, 1914*]:

*"In response to your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> instant [sic], you are informed that to give pensionable status under the disability clause of the act of May 11, 1912, the disability or disabilities rendering manual labor impossible must be established as due to service in line of duty.*

*"You were formerly pensioned under the general law for gunshot wound of right arm, the only disability established as of service origin, at the rate of \$15 per month –  $\frac{3}{4}$  total of rank – and the part of claim based on hernis [sic] and piles, was rejected on the ground of no record and your failure to establish the same as having been incurred in service and line of duty."*

For several years, Edwin continued to supplement his pension income by working as an examiner at the U.S. Customs House in Galveston. Finally, in February 1918, his monthly pension stipend rose from \$25 to \$30 [*equivalent to only about \$650 in 2026 dollars*]. However, inflation during the intervening war years effectively eroded the actual buying power of the higher rate. So he continued to work for the U.S. government. In January 1920, the federal census enumerator found Edwin working as a government clerk at age 76. He and Mary were still living in their 33<sup>rd</sup> street residence.

*... continued on next page*

## **G.A.R. Veteran – Capt. Edwin Nesbitt Ketchum (continued)**

By 1924, the *Hancock G.A.R. Post* was conducting its monthly meetings at Edwin's home. The declining membership of the *Post* had remained steady at 15 since 1919. Edwin was serving as Post Adjutant, and would have been responsible for maintaining the records of the *Post*. Due primarily to age-related mortality, membership of the *Post* soon dropped dramatically - to just 4 survivors by 1926.

After Elijah Verbeck passed away on January 3, 1929, and George H. Clawson died six days later, only two members of *Hancock Post #2* were left - Edwin Ketchum and William McDonald. Since a minimum of three members were required to maintain a G.A.R Post, the long-lived *Hancock Post* in Galveston was forced to disband. Edwin, as Commander, duly surrendered the Post Charter.

Later that year, in September, Edwin became the last survivor of the disbanded *Post* after William McDonald was killed in an auto accident. Knowing that his life was also likely nearing its end, Edwin took another thoughtful action to honor memory of the *Post* members who preceded him in death.

*"I have deposited with the First National Bank the sum of \$150 in trust, the interest of which is to be used in keeping in repair the curbing and grounds of two plots of ground in Lakeview Cemetery, property of Hancock Post No. 2, Grand Army of the Republic, in which said post's dead are buried. As I shall be leaving these parts in the near future, I am desirous of bequeathing the duty of the care of these grounds to Argonne Post [Argonne Post No. 20, American Legion of Galveston] that my comrades shall not be disturbed, nor the care of the grounds neglected. If your post will accept this charge, your letter of acceptance endorsed by myself will be filed with the bank. This will authorize the commander of your post, to call for funds from said bank that may be needed for repairs. This charge is to be handed by your organization to the one succeeding yours, as yours is succeeding mine."*

In April 1930, Edwin was 87 years old and still living at 1605 33<sup>rd</sup> street with Mary and their 28-year-old unmarried daughter, Alice. The large dwelling was valued at \$20,000 [about \$389,000 in 2026 dollars]. The census enumerator also noted that the Ketchum's owned a radio set, Edwin was a veteran of the Civil War, and had been born 'at sea' as an American citizen.

But even at his advanced age, Edwin was apparently still mentally sharp and continued to work for the government. The 1930 Galveston city directory lists Edwin as employed as an Examiner of Merchandise on the U.S. Customs barge. But his days were numbered.

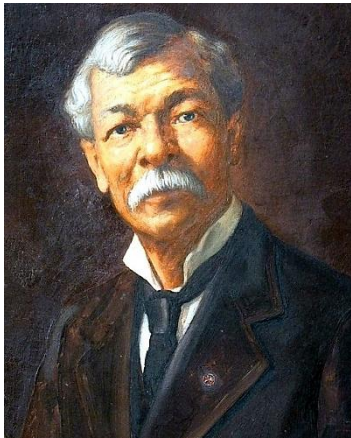
Finally, at 6:45 a.m. on February 19, 1931, Edwin Nesbitt Ketchum passed away at John Sealy Hospital in Galveston. He was one week shy of his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday. Kidney failure, inflammation of the bladder, and a salivary gland infection all contributed to his death. He was cremated in San Antonio, and on February 20, his ashes were scattered on the waters of Galveston Bay.

Under the *Pension Act of 1930*, his widow, Mary E. Ketchum, filed for a widow's pension the following month. Between 1918 and the time of his death in 1931, Edwin's pension allowance had increased from \$30 to \$75 per month. Since he was too ill to endorse his final pension check, Mary returned it to the Commissioner of Pensions with her pension claim application. Her claim was approved in September 1931, and she began receiving a monthly pension of \$40.

During the summer of 1935, Mary moved from Galveston to southwest Houston to live with Alice, her youngest child. Her new address was 111 Branard Ave. On July 5, 1838, Mary was still living with Alice when she passed away at age 81. Alice served as executrix for her mother's Galveston estate. An affidavit in her pension file, dated June 23, 1931, shows Mary declared Austin, Travis County, Texas as her place of birth.

... continued on next page

## G.A.R. Veteran – Capt. Edwin Nesbitt Ketchum *(continued)*



Captain Edwin N. Ketchum's life was colorful and action-packed – soldier, Indian scout, cattle herder, Chief of Police, businessman, U.S. Customs Examiner, Grand Army of the Republic officer, survivor of the 1900 Galveston Hurricane – and owner of the oldest surviving residence in Galveston. He was remembered by his grandchildren as a warm and loving man who enraptured them with endless exciting stories of his lifetime of adventures.

Friend and Texas author, William W. Sterling remembered Edwin as a "remarkable man" who "had an erect, military bearing, wore cowboy boots, was a crack shot, and would fight a circular saw.....He exerted a weighty influence over me, and all that I learned from him was good."

***Born at sea and now at rest at sea! R.I.P. Captain Ketchum!***



Written by Michael L. Lance, PDC  
Dept./Lea Camp 2 Historian

Research by Terry T. Sutton  
Dept./Lea Camp #2 Graves Regis. Officer



March 2026

## Trivia – Edmund Jackson Davis – Hero or Tyrant?

Edmund J. Davis (often called E. J. Davis) served as governor of Texas from 1870 to 1874 during the turbulent era of Reconstruction. A Texas Unionist during the Civil War, he aligned himself with the Republican Party and supported federal efforts to remake Southern society, including the protection of freedmen's rights and the reestablishment of civil government under new constitutional terms.

Davis's administration was marked by ambitious reforms. He championed public education, helping to establish one of Texas's first statewide school systems, and supported infrastructure improvements. However, his tenure also relied heavily on centralized authority. He reorganized the state militia and police forces to combat lawlessness and resistance, particularly from groups like the Ku Klux Klan.

Among many white Texans, especially former Confederates, Davis earned a deeply negative reputation. He was often portrayed as authoritarian, corrupt, and an instrument of Northern "carpetbagger" rule. His use of state police and militia fueled accusations of tyranny. Conversely, African Americans and Unionists frequently viewed him more favorably, recognizing his efforts to protect civil rights and maintain order.

After losing his disputed reelection for governor in November 1873, Davis briefly resisted leaving office, further cementing his controversial legacy in Texas history.



**Brig. Gen. Edmund Jackson Davis**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Texas Union Cavalry - 14<sup>th</sup> Governor of Texas**

*... see additional Davis information on page 29*

## The Menard House

The Menard House is the oldest surviving residence in Galveston, Texas. Built in 1838, this historic and storied home proudly stands at 1605 Post Office Street. In design, it is a Greek Revival masterpiece that serves as a physical example of the island's evolution from a fledgling *Republic of Texas* port to a modern coastal city.

It was built for Michel Branamour Menard, a French-Canadian fur trader and signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence. He was the primary force behind the *Galveston City Company*, purchasing the land that would become the city. To reflect his status, Menard commissioned the grand mansion for his family. Interestingly, the house was not built on-site; the white pine frame was pre-fabricated in Maine and shipped by schooner to Galveston.



### The Menard House

Edwin N. Ketchum purchased the Menard House in 1880, and his family would own the mansion for nearly a century. He, his wife, and their eight children were all living in the elegant structure when the *Great Storm of 1900* demolished much of the island city. During that event, a 15-foot high storm surge swept completely over the island, inundating nearly every structure. Because the city's elevation was only a few feet above sea level, the surge led to catastrophic destruction and loss of life. While the high winds and roiling surge waters obliterated entire neighborhoods, the Menard House, built with the sturdy Maine pine, survived. Fortunately, it had been erected on one of the few higher ridges of the island.

During the gruesome days following the hurricane, the Menard House became a focal point for the recovery. Ketchum was serving as Galveston's Chief of Police at the time. His son, Charles, reported finding ten bodies on the property immediately after the waters receded. Because the ground was too saturated for burials, and the prevailing threat of disease, the grounds of the mansion were reportedly used as a site for funeral pyres. The smoke from the cremation of hurricane victims drifted heavily around the elegant residence, adding to the gloom of loss and destruction.

By the mid-1900s, the Menard house had fallen into severe disrepair. It was saved from the wrecking ball in 1992 when it was purchased by preservation groups, including the *Galveston Historical Foundation*. Then in 1994, after being purchased by a private owner, a meticulous year-long restoration of the grand home began. It was filled with period-correct 19<sup>th</sup>-century antiques, many of which had original ties to the Menard family or to the *Republic of Texas* era.

Today, the Menard House is operated by the *Galveston Historical Foundation* as a museum and event space. It is a cornerstone of the annual "Dickens on the Strand" festival and serves as a venue for weddings, historical lectures, and private galas. It remains a rare "survivor" building - having withstood the 1900 Storm, the 1915 Hurricane, and Hurricane Ike in 2008.

The mansion stands as a monument to the resilience of Galveston's people and its architecture. Walking through its halls today offers a quiet, dignified contrast to the violent history it has witnessed - and offers hints of the joyful days when the children of Civil War veteran Edwin N. Ketchum roamed and romped on the grounds.



... by Michael L. Lance, PDC – Camp Historian

## Stone Mountain Silver Half Dollar

The 1925 Civil War commemorative silver half dollar associated with Stone Mountain stands as one of the most unusual and controversial coins in American history. Officially known as the *Stone Mountain Memorial Half Dollar*, it was issued to raise funds for a massive monument at Stone Mountain honoring the Confederacy.

The coin was authorized by Congress and produced by the U.S. Mint. The obverse features mounted figures of Confederate leaders Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson, while the reverse depicts an eagle alongside the words "Memorial to the Valor of the Soldier of the South." The imagery ties directly to the larger Stone Mountain carving project, which was intended to include not only Lee and Jackson but also Jefferson Davis.



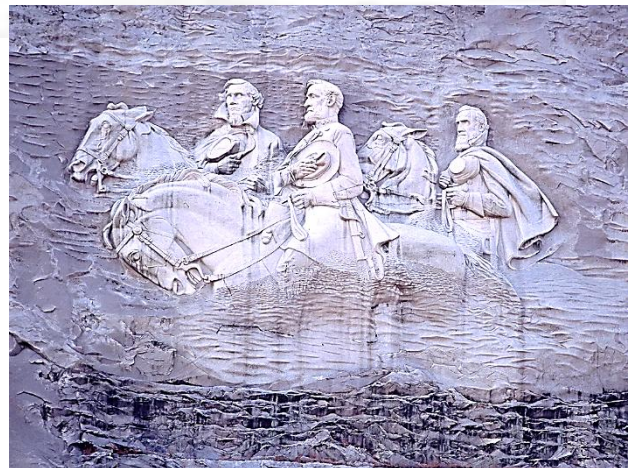
### 1925 Stone Mountain Memorial Half Dollar

More than 2.3 million coins were struck - an enormous number for a commemorative issue of the time. Yet despite this high mintage, many of the coins were never sold to the public. Large quantities were later melted down, making surviving examples quite collectible.

The marketing campaign for the coin was also unusual. Instead of being distributed solely through traditional banking channels, the coins were sold through an aggressive fundraising campaign. Volunteers across the South promoted them as patriotic souvenirs, and some were counterstamped with state abbreviations or special marks to encourage local pride and boost sales. These counterstamped coins are now especially sought after by collectors because each one tells a more specific regional story.

The coin reflected the cultural and political climate of the 1920s. The fundraising effort for Stone Mountain had connections to organizations like the *United Daughters of the Confederacy*, which played a major role in shaping public memory of the Civil War. The monument on the mountain and the coin both reflected the "Lost Cause" interpretation of history, which emphasized Confederate heroism while downplaying the role of slavery.

Despite its ambitious purpose, the larger Stone Mountain monument project itself faced decades of delays, financial troubles, and controversy. The coin, in a sense, became more successful than the monument it was meant to support - at least in the short term. Today, the massive carving at Stone Mountain (*photo at right*) is complete, but it remains a subject of ongoing debate about memory, history, and public symbols.

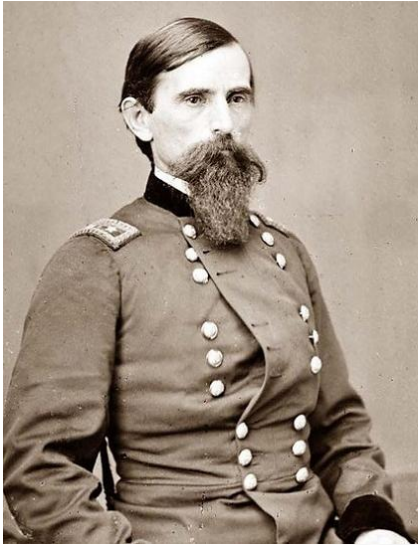


The 1925 Stone Mountain half dollar is more than just a commemorative coin. It is a window into how many Americans in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century chose to remember the Civil War, blending fundraising, artistry, and ideology into a single object. Its unusual production, marketing, and symbolism make it one of the most fascinating - and complex - coins ever issued by the United States.

## Maj. General Lew Wallace

At the close of the Civil War, Major General Lew Wallace's immediate postwar responsibilities included maintaining order in Maryland and serving on the tribunal for those accused in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. But his ambitions and interests also extended beyond domestic concerns - particularly toward the volatile situation in Mexico.

In 1865, Mexico was locked in a struggle between the republican government of Benito Juárez and the French-backed empire of Maximilian I of Mexico. The presence of French troops and a European monarch on North American soil was seen as a direct challenge to the Monroe Doctrine.



Many Union officers, including Wallace, viewed the situation in Mexico as the next challenge and potential military hotspot. In addition, Wallace was likely politically minded, and recognized that his involvement in settling the crisis in Mexico would boost his national standing in the postwar era.

### Maj. General Lewis 'Lew' Wallace, ca. 1865

Wallace was discharged from the U.S. army in November 1865. He immediately traveled to the Texas frontier, where he became involved in informal and semi-covert efforts to aid the Mexican republicans. Texas had become a hub of intrigue, populated by both former Confederate and Union soldiers, adventurers, arms dealers, and political agents. Wallace joined a network of Americans who sought to provide material support to Juárez's forces – thus challenging the limits of U.S. neutrality laws.

His involvement reportedly included discussions about organizing military expeditions and facilitating the transfer of arms across the border. Even though Wallace never led a formal military campaign into Mexico, he was willing to participate directly in the conflict if conditions allowed.

Officially, the United States remained neutral in regards to the events unfolding in Mexico. But there was widespread sympathy for Juárez and quiet encouragement of efforts that would undermine Maximilian's regime. Wallace operated within this gray area - neither fully authorized nor explicitly forbidden.

While the Mexican conflict offered Wallace an opportunity to enhance his reputation, his involvement with Mexico really did not result in a decisive personal role. But it did place him at the center of a fascinating moment when U.S. military figures blurred the line between national service and private ambition.

### Statue of Lewis 'Lew' Wallace National Statuary Hall Collection at the U.S. Capitol.

Wallace eventually gained lasting fame as the author of *Ben-Hur*, a story blending adventure, faith, and history. His multifaceted experiences as a soldier, administrator, and diplomat before and during the critical post-Civil War period likely factored into his creative genius. He died in February 1905 at his home in Crawfordsville, Indiana at age 77....*but his legacy continues!*



## Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 40)

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.*



- **Thomas O'Connell – Coal Heaver** – Thomas O'Connell was born ca. 1842 in Ireland. He immigrated to the U.S. and was living in New York when he joined the U.S. Navy. During the Civil War, he served as a coal heaver on Admiral David Farragut's flagship, the *USS Hartford*.

At the *Battle of Mobile Bay* on August 5, 1864, O'Connell manned the shell whip [a device used to lift ammunition up to the gun deck] despite being ill - until losing his right hand to a Confederate artillery shell. For this action, he was awarded the *Medal of Honor*. O'Connell later married Hannah and became the father of at least four children.



O'Connell died in Whitefield, Maine in August 1899 of traumatic sepsis at age 58, and was buried in Resthaven Cemetery in Windsor, Maine. His *Medal of Honor* is held by the *National Museum of the United States Navy* in Washington, D.C. 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 Coal Heaver Thomas O'Connell, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving on board the flagship U.S.S. Hartford, during successful attacks against Fort Morgan, rebel gunboats and the ram Tennessee in Mobile Bay, Alabama, on 5 August 1864. Although a patient in the sick bay, Coal Heaver O'Connell voluntarily reported at his station at the shell whip and continued to perform his duties with zeal and courage until his right hand was severed by an enemy shellburst."*

- **Timothy O'Donoghue – Seaman** – Timothy O'Donoghue was born in 1844 in Rochester, New York. He joined the U.S. Navy in August 1863 and served as a Seaman and Boatswain's Mate on the tinclad sternwheel steamer, *USS Signal*. On May 5, 1864, during an engagement with Confederates on the Red River in Louisiana, *Signal* took heavy fire and was disabled. Although wounded early in the battle, O'Donoghue remained at his post as gun captain until being ordered to withdraw. For this action, he was awarded the *Medal of Honor*. He left the Navy in March 1865, but reenlisted and served again from May 1867 until May 1870.

... continued on next page

## Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 40)

O'Donoghue'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 Seaman Timothy O'Donoghue, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving as Boatswain's Mate on board the U.S.S. Signal, Red River, Louisiana, 5 May 1864. Proceeding up the Red River, the U.S.S. Signal engaged a large force of enemy field batteries and sharpshooters, returning the fire until the ship was totally disabled, at which time the white flag was raised. Serving as Gun Captain, and wounded early in the battle, O'Donoghue bravely stood by his gun in the face of enemy fire until ordered to withdraw."*



*USS Signal*

- **John Ortega – Seaman** – John (Juan) Ortega was born in Spain in 1840. He immigrated to the U.S. and settled in Pennsylvania. In 1863, he joined the Union Navy stationed in Pennsylvania. Ortega was assigned to the sloop-of-war, *USS Saratoga*, and served as a Seaman. On January 13, 1864, the *USS Saratoga* was ordered to proceed to Charleston, South Carolina, and report to Rear Admiral Dahlgren for duty in the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron. Quite a few men serving on the *Saratoga* made raids into Confederate territory in August and September of 1864. Ortega was a member of two of those landing parties along the coast of Georgia. During both raids, he helped capture a large number of prisoners and also assisted with taking or destroying large quantities of Confederate ammunition and goods. A number of buildings, bridges, and salt works were also destroyed during the expeditions.

As a result of his actions during these high-risk operations, Ortega was awarded the Medal of Honor, being the first Hispanic American serving in the Navy to receive that award. He was promoted to Acting Master's Mate in August 1864, but reportedly deserted from the Navy in June 1865.



*Left: The reverse of the Medal of Honor awarded to Seaman John Ortega. It is inscribed with:*

*Personal Valor  
JOHN ORTEGA  
Seaman  
U.S.S. Saratoga  
Meritorious Conduct in action on  
two Separate Occasions"*

Ortega's official *Medal of Honor* citation reads:

*"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Seaman John Ortega, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving as Seaman on board the U.S.S. SARATOGA during actions of that vessel on two occasions. Carrying out his duties courageously during these actions, Seaman Ortega conducted himself gallantly through both periods. Promoted to Acting Master's Mate."*

*... Additional Navy Medal of Honor recipients will be portrayed in the next issue with Part 41*

## 2026 Camp Officers, Staff, and Social Media Links

Commander	<b>Daniel B. Pourreau, PCC</b>	Commander@camplea.org	
Sr. Vice-Comdr.	<b>Herbert W. Powers</b>	SVC@camplea.org	
Jr. Vice-Comdr.	<b>Robert G. Riley</b>	JoinCamp2@camplea.org	
Secretary	<b>Stephen D. Schulze, PDC</b>	Secretary@camplea.org	
Treasurer	<b>Jason D. Hoffman</b>		
Camp Council	<b>Stevenson Holmes, PDC</b>		
Camp Council	<b>Michael L. Lance, PDC</b>		
Camp Council	<b>John Vander Meulen, PCC</b>		
Chaplain	<b>Stephen D. Schulze, PDC</b>	Patriotic Instructor	<b>Ronald 'Steve' Brock</b>
Historian	<b>Michael L. Lance, PDC</b>	Color Bearer/Drummer	<b>William D. Myers</b>
Guide	<b>Michael L. Lance, PDC</b>	MOLLUS Coordinator	<b>Harrison Moore IV, PDC</b>
Signals Officer	<b>John Vander Meulen, PCC</b>	JROTC Coordinator	<b>Daniel B. Pourreau, PCC</b>
Scout Coord.	<b>Ben C. Bonnett</b>	Graves Regis. Officer	<b>Terry T. Sutton</b>
Facebook Mgr.	<b>John Vander Meulen, PCC</b>	Civil War Mem. Officer	<b>Terry T. Sutton</b>
Zoom Facil.	<b>John Vander Meulen, PCC</b>	Newsletter Editor	<b>Michael L. Lance, PDC</b>
Webmaster	<b>Robert G. Riley</b>	G.A.R. Records Officer	<b>Herbert W. Powers</b>
Guard	<b>Richard J. Carson</b>	Public Relations Officer	<b>Richard J. Carson</b>
Genealogist	<b>Daniel B. Pourreau, PCC</b>		

Website [Houston Camp](#)  
 Facebook [Houston Camp](#)

Website [Department of Texas & Louisiana](#)  
 Facebook [Department of Texas & Louisiana](#)

## Trivia – More Edmund Jackson Davis

In December 1873, Edmund J. Davis was defeated for reelection as Governor of Texas by Democrat Richard Coke. It was an election marked by irregularities. Davis contested the results and refused to leave his office on the ground floor of the Capitol building in Austin. Democratic lawmakers and Governor-elect Coke reportedly had to climb ladders to the Capitol's second story, where the legislature convened.

President Ulysses Grant refused to send troops to the defeated governor's rescue, so Davis reluctantly left the capital in January 1874. He locked the door to the governor's office and took the key, forcing Coke's supporters to break in with an axe. Davis was the last Republican governor of Texas until Republican Bill Clements defeated Democrat John Luke Hill in 1978 – one hundred and five years after Davis vacated the office.

Following his defeat, Davis was nominated to be Collector of Customs at Galveston, but declined the position. He ran for governor again in 1880 but was soundly defeated. His name was placed in nomination for Vice President of the United States at the 1880 Republican National Convention, which met in Chicago. James A. Garfield was the standard-bearer. Had Davis won the VP nomination, he might have wound up in the White House instead of Chester A. Arthur - the man who instead won the vice presidential nomination that year.

Edmund J. Davis died in 1883 and was given a war hero's burial at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin. A large gravestone was placed in his honor by a brother. Davis was survived by his wife, the former Anne Elizabeth Britton (whose father, Forbes Britton, had been chief-of-staff to Texas Governor Sam Houston), and two sons: Britton Davis (a West Point graduate and military officer) and Waters Davis (an attorney and merchant in El Paso).

**Signature Photo** *(continued from page 6)*



***FIRE!***

One of three volleys fired by the Federal Honor Guard during the *Battle of Galveston Commemoration* ceremony in memory and honor of the Union casualties of that January 1, 1863 battle.

***“My very dear Sarah,***

***The indications are very strong that we shall move in a few days—perhaps tomorrow. Lest I should not be able to write again, I feel impelled to leave you these lines.***

***If I do not return, remember how deeply I loved you, and how gladly I would give my life for our country. The memories of your affection sustain me, and I trust in God’s mercy for our reunion.***

***Kiss our children for me, and keep my love forever in your heart, until we meet again beyond this world, where sorrow and parting are no more.”***

**Major Sullivan Ballou**

***2<sup>nd</sup> Rhode Island Infantry***

**July 14, 1861 – prior to the First Battle of Bull Run**