



THE UNIONIST

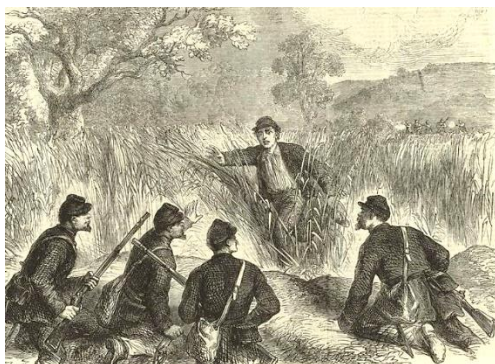
The Official Newsletter of the
Department of Texas and Louisiana
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



May 2022

Volume 25

No. 2



**THEY SEEM TO BE EVERYWHERE!
LIKE THE LOCUSTS OF EGYPT**

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Cover Image **“Give us Hood”** – a painting by Don Troiani depicting the men of the *1st Texas Regiment* cheering their brigade Commander, John Bell Hood, during the *Antietam Campaign* of 1862.

“They Seem to be Everywhere!”

Lice-ridden, desperately hungry, and far from home in the South Carolina countryside, scores of Yankees tried their best to stay out of sight. At night, they slinked through the woods and fields, stealing whatever they could forage to eat. By day, they hid in barns, haylofts, thickets, or anywhere they could find that looked relatively safe enough to catch a little shuteye. However, with so many desperate men on the loose, it was inevitable that unintended encounters with Carolinian citizens would happen – and sometimes violence resulted. But what the wayward Yankees really wanted – was to safely find their way back to their homes and families.

“They seem to be everywhere. They actually cover the land like the locusts of Egypt.” proclaimed a South Carolina newspaper in November 1864. It is estimated that at least 2,500 raggedly-clad northerners were unleashed in the South Carolina countryside between September 1864 and February 1865. They were not armed, but their desperation for survival had the potential to lead to conflict. So who were these uninvited Yankees, and why were they plaguing the South Carolina home front? They were escaped federal prisoners of war – ravenous and desperate to find their way back to the Union lines.

Unintended and frightening encounters did, in fact, occur almost daily. For example, an unsuspecting minister accidentally surprised a Yankee napping under a pile of fodder. The fugitive attacked, and a fistfight resulted. Later, that same minister encountered and captured three other federals while squirrel hunting. On another occasion, the wife of a doctor used her dog to ward off a Yankee trying to climb over the fence onto her property. And, near the road between Columbia and Spartanburg, slaves sleeping in their cabin were suddenly wakened one night by a desperate Yankee standing over their bed, demanding food – and guidance to safety.

Due to a lack of local law enforcement, citizens loyal to the Confederacy had no choice but to mobilize themselves to hunt down the federal fugitives. They formed picket lines across roads, and patrolled the paths through the woods on horseback. Usually, when a Yankee was spotted or encountered, the southerner would send for help. Their neighbors would then respond in force, with lanterns and bloodhounds.

Bloodhounds nab their quarry

However, some Southerners, both white and black, were inclined to assist the fugitive Yankees. When the loyal townspeople of Jalapa, South Carolina, formed a picket line across a road to intercept unsuspecting fugitives, area slaves formed a separate picket line of their own further down the road – to warn any oncoming Yanks about the trap ahead – and guided them around it. Both white and black families also provided provisions and assistance with finding hiding places and safe routes.



So where did all those federal escapees come from? The short answer is: *Out of chaos!* After Atlanta, Georgia fell to the forces of General Sherman on September 2, 1864, Confederate officials feared that Sherman would move southward to liberate the federal captives held at Andersonville and Macon. Thus, orders were issued to shift the federal POW population out of those two prison camps. Confederate Gen. John H. Winder, commander of military prisons in Georgia and Alabama, was responsible for overseeing the evacuation. He decided to send a sizable portion of the POWs eastward to the coastal city of Savannah, Georgia.

However, no one bothered to notify Confederate Maj. Gen. Lafayette McLaws in Savannah that thousands of federal prisoners were heading his way. He was already critically short of forces to defend the city – and simply did not have

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“They Seem to be Everywhere!” (continued)

the manpower necessary to house and guard a large number of captives. When 1,500 POWs unexpectedly arrived in Savannah on Sept. 8, the General exclaimed:

“There must be some strange misconception as to the force in this district, I have now not a single man in reserve to support any point that may be threatened by the enemy. I have no place stockaded or palisaded or fenced in where the prisoners can be kept.”



Other federal POWs were shifted from the prison at Andersonville to Charleston, South Carolina, further up the coast.

Andersonville Prison - 1864

Confederate Maj. Gen. Samuel Jones, commander of the Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, was belatedly notified that Union prisoners were already on the way. There had been no discussions or planning about how the transfer of thousands of prisoners to Charleston might affect his ability to defend the city

if it was besieged by Union forces. On Sept. 8, Jones warned James Seddon, the Confederate Secretary of War, that if Union forces advanced on the city, he would withdraw all guards from the prisoners. Meanwhile, he scrambled to find additional manpower, calling on Brig. Gen. James Chesnut for help.

Chesnut, commander of the Confederate forces in South Carolina, had earlier informed Richmond that his entire force in South Carolina was not sufficient to guard the prisoners from Georgia. On September 10th, he reported that he could not get *“a single man from the militia”* to help. So, Chesnut’s reply to Maj. Gen. Jones was: *“I must respectfully at present decline to take charge of prisoners.”*

Nevertheless, on September 12, 1864, more than 7,400 Union prisoners finally arrived in Charleston. Maj. Gen. Jones was furious. He vehemently protested that he didn’t have sufficient troops to guard those prisoners and defend the city at the same time. In addition, an outbreak of yellow fever further exacerbated his manpower problem. Over the next six days, acting on his own, Jones sent batches of those unwanted federal enlisted POWs north to Florence, South Carolina. After arriving there, the captives were herded into an open field and were watched over by 125 guards.



Those federal POWs in Florence immediately recognized that a prison with no walls presented a golden opportunity for escape. But they had to make their move quickly - before a proper stockade could be built. More than 400 of them soon vanished into the countryside. The escapees immediately turned their attention to foraging for food and proper clothing. As an afterthought, they also reportedly attempted to destroy the railroad. The residents living around Florence were warned to be on the lookout for the fugitives. Sadly, over the next several days, Confederate forces and citizen patrols rounded up all but 23 of the federal escapees. Mobilizing the local population had become a necessity – the only way to restore some semblance of order.

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“They Seem to be Everywhere!” (continued)

The stockade in Florence was hastily thrown up and *almost* completed by September 30, 1864 – built to adequately house the POWs being held in the open field. On that day, loyal Florence residents assembled at the prison site, brandishing whatever arms they had, to assist with securing the Yankees inside the new stockade. Problem solved?

Well, not quite! One reason is because word was received that another 6,000 federal prisoners were on their way from Charleston!

Secondly, Maj. Gen. Jones still had more than 1,500 Federal officers on his hands in Charleston. He decided to send them northwestward to Columbia, South Carolina – again with disastrous results. Dozens of the Yankee officers escaped in Charleston while being ushered to the train station. Then, upwards of 100 more either leapt from the slowly moving cars – or made their escape when the train stopped for water near Branchville, South Carolina – about half way to Columbia. A majority of the officers who escaped during the transfer made it safely to Union lines by January 1865. The most popular destinations for the refugees were the Union-occupied island of Hilton Head, just off the South Carolina coast, and Knoxville, Tennessee. The Federal officers who had not leapt from the train – or otherwise escaped – arrived in Columbia in two shifts on October 5th and 6th. They were also simply turned into a cleared field – without any shelter or fencing – or guards!

The Confederate military had a serious manpower problem in South Carolina in late 1864. They barely had the strength to defend their cities. And the few defenders they had were primarily drawn from the *Confederate Reserves* - youths between 17 and 18 of age - and men aged between 45 and 50. Hunting down runaway POWs, naturally, was a much lower priority.

In addition, Confederate deserters were a major problem. Those brigands organized into violent gangs and victimized residents in the western mountain districts. Vital reserve units were moved from the mountain districts to guard the Yankee POWs arriving in Florence and Columbia. Daily life for Carolinians living in the mountainous areas thus became more dangerous. No relief would come from the state militia, because Confederate conscription had decimated the militia to the point that it effectively ceased to exist.

Local residents were basically left to face the fugitive Yankees and unruly slaves on their own. A group of ladies living just southeast of Columbia, pleaded for their Confederate military men to be allowed to return home, declaring they were “*at the mercy*” of “*treacherous negroes and heartless Yankees.*” Citizens were compelled to act on their own behalf to defend their property. In fact, most of the fugitives caught in South Carolina were nabbed by local residents.

Union Officer captured

Two neighbors, for example, followed footprints in the snow leading from slave cabins to the woods. They eventually tracked down Col. M. A. Cochran’s party of five escapees. The locals sent for help – and nine of their neighbors soon arrived on horseback to help out. Near Greenville, fugitive Lt. Francis Murphy of the 97th New York accidentally stumbled upon a local man chopping wood. The wood chopper pretended to buy Murphy’s story about simply being a citizen traveling from Columbia – and invited Murphy to supper. The fugitive declined the offer and went back into the woods, reunited with his traveling companion, and both escapees took off running. Not long afterward, they heard dogs baying in the distance – a sure sign that the wood chopper had gathered his neighbors to chase them down. Murphy later exclaimed that “*Every man in the Confederacy is authorized to arrest any suspicious persons.*” One newspaper reported that escaped prisoners were being brought in by “*the people at large,*” and citizens were “*vigilant in arresting*” the Yankees.



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“They Seem to be Everywhere!” (continued)

However, some residents had a little more sympathy. Dogs on Mrs. Alexander Taylor’s plantation near Black Creek, about 30 miles southeast of Columbia, alerted her that trespassers were on her property. Willard Glazier and his band of escaped Yankees were, in fact, hiding on her land. When confronted, Glazier admitted who they were and asked Mrs. Taylor for food. She told Glazier her heart belonged to the Southern people, and it would be wrong for her to aid a Yankee. The fugitive then appealed to her sympathy, telling her what they had been through as prisoners, and asked her to let them go. The goodhearted Mrs. Taylor took pity and supplied the fugitives with cornbread, bacon, and sweet potatoes – and a promise to not betray their presence in the neighborhood.

By the end of December 1864, the residents of South Carolina were desperate. Yankee fugitives were roaming across the countryside, large bands of Confederate deserters were robbing citizens with impunity, and slaves in at least two low-country counties launched organized insurrections. Then, news of Sherman’s forces entering the state caused additional alarm. The *Daily South Carolinian* admonished citizens to “*Arm yourselves, fellow citizens, and shoot down every one of these thieves on any provocation....*”

As 1865 began, many federal enlisted men remained as POWs inside the stockade at Florence. But the captive Union officers in Columbia had been moved to the Lunatic Asylum there. As Sherman started moving through the state in early February, Confederate officials again tried to move their captives out of reach - to a location in southwest Georgia. But that plan proved untenable because Sherman’s approaching forces had begun destroying portions of the rail line into Georgia. Confederate officials looked towards North Carolina for an alternative.

The prisons in Columbia and Florence were emptied on February 14 and 15, 1865. Again, chaos reigned! The enlisted Union POWs were shuttled from Florence to Goldsboro, North Carolina. During the transfer, 1,410 men either escaped or were abandoned along the route. Meanwhile, the POW officers were slated to shift from Columbia, South Carolina to Charlotte, North Carolina.

Only a small number of Confederate guards were available to march the federal officers to the train station in Columbia. They left the asylum after dark - through streets crowded with panicked citizens. At least 50 prisoners escaped along the way. The guards also carelessly left more than 60 POWs hiding on the roofs of the asylum’s barracks and hospital. Those Yankees then climbed down from the roofs and wandered the streets - or found refuge with sympathetic locals – and waited for Sherman’s army to capture the city.

At the train station, a backlog on the only railroad line through Columbia, caused departure delays. The guards were forced to transfer their prisoners back and forth between the asylum and the railroad station when departures were cancelled. These additional transfers provided more opportunities for escape.

Even after finally underway on the rails, more federals found opportunities to vanish. Fifteen officers escaped from the train on the way to Charlotte. After reaching their destination, the remaining captives were turned out into an open field near the city. “*It was as futile an attempt at imprisonment as could be devised,*” a Confederate officer later reported. Many federal POWs simply left the field at will. But 992 of them stayed, either due to illness or because they preferred to wait for help.

While the climactic battles and resulting surrenders at Appomattox and Bennett Place signaled the end of the war, the Confederacy’s loss of control of the Yankees they held captive in the south surely had a significant impact towards that end. The desperate struggles and sometimes violent encounters experienced by thousands of Federal fugitives – who *Seemed to be Everywhere* - in the backyards and barnyards of the south - undoubtedly heralded the final days of the Confederacy.



... Submitted by Michael L. Lance, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2

Ancestor Profile – Pvt. Finas Euen Lance

Finas Euen Lance was born about 1825 in Gibson County, Indiana. He was the 3rd child born to John and ‘Nelly’ (Lemasters) Lance, very early settlers of the new state of Indiana. On April 17, 1846, Finas married Elizabeth Leet in Warrick County, Indiana. Like his father, Finas followed farming as his occupation. He and Elizabeth eventually became the parents of 5 children. As was the family tradition, Finas typically went by his middle name, Euen. One of their sons was a junior, and also went by the middle name Euen.

On October 1, 1850, Finas Lance was a 25-year old farmer living in Pike County, Indiana when the federal census enumerator visited the Lance farm. He was farming with his 22-year old wife, Elizabeth, and their first 3 children. They were all still lodging on the old family homestead with his elderly parents. The census enumerator noted that Finas could not read or write.

After Elizabeth passed away in the latter part of 1859 or early 1860 at about age 31, Finas soon re-married. On May 26, 1860, Lydia Murphy became his 2nd wife. For some unknown reason, their marriage record listed Finas as being 50 years old - instead of about 35 years old. The record also declares: *“This certifies that I joined in marriage as husband and wife Ewen F. Lance and Lydia Murphy on the 12th day of April, 1860”*.

About 1862, as the Civil War racked the country, Finas and Lydia were blessed with the birth of a son, Abraham Lincoln Lance. With a young family to support, Finas remained on his small Indiana farm during the early years of the war. However that would soon change.

On September 27, 1864, Finas Lance would have been about 39 years old when he received a draft summons from the 1st Congressional District, calling for him to serve in the Union Army. The Civil War was then raging in its 4th year. Finas’ 1-year term of military service officially began about a month later. On Thursday, December 8th, he reported to Captain Johnson in Evansville, Indiana. The next day, with other fresh recruits, Finas boarded a train and traveled to Indianapolis for about ten days of training at Camp Carrington. That camp was the primary military training camp in the area and the location where nearly all the Indiana regiments were organized.

Finas Lance was mustered-in as a Private with *Company F, 12th Regiment, Indiana Infantry*. A *Soldier's Personal Description* document describes him as: *Ewing [sic] Lance, Company F, 12th Regiment, Indiana Infantry, age 44 [sic], height 5 feet, 9 inches, with a dark complexion, grey eyes, black hair, a farmer, born in Indiana*. Also mustering-in on the same day was Finas’ friend, Private William Leach. The two Privates shared a tent during their time in the army.

On December 20, 1864, Finas and the other green recruits were sent by train to Louisville, Kentucky. After a few days in camp there, the men were marched south through Kentucky into Tennessee, spending 3 nights at Nashville. Then they were ordered to march back again to Louisville, where they remained only briefly. Early the next morning, they were sent by train back to Indianapolis. They did not linger long in Indianapolis either. Less than two days later, they were put on an eastbound train and rolled across Indiana, Ohio, and into Pennsylvania. On New Year’s Day, 1865, Private Finas Lance and the recruits passed through the Allegheny Mountain tunnel - which at the time was considered an *“engineering marvel”* - then continued eastward to cross the Susquehanna River at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. At 1:00 p.m. that day, the train delivered the raw recruits into Philadelphia.

But apparently there was no time to waste. The next day, Finas Lance and the fresh troops marched back to the train depot in Philadelphia and boarded again. They rode the rails northeastward, crossing the Delaware River into Trenton, New Jersey, and then across the Hudson River into New York City. They remained in the New York City area for two nights, camping on Governor’s Island in New York Bay. The recruits then boarded a ship and sailed for Beaufort Island on the coast of South Carolina, experiencing rough seas much of the way.

On January 10, 1865 after landing at Beaufort Island, the new recruits went into camp on the Island. Then, 2 days later,

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Twenty-Eighth Annual Department Encampment

Saturday, 7 May 2022 – Jefferson, Texas

The 28th annual encampment of the *Department of Texas and Louisiana* was successfully conducted in the Parish Hall of the *Immaculate Conception Catholic Church* in Jefferson, Texas. The event was organized and hosted by the *Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp* of Shreveport, Louisiana. The Brothers of the *Bailey Camp* are to be commended for their



rigorous efforts and attention to detail, which resulted in an enjoyable, efficient, and productive encampment.

Left: Department and Camp Colors and Charters on display

Twenty-two Brothers representing all four Camps of the *Department* traveled to Jefferson to attend – with several driving distances of four to seven hours each way. Nine more Brothers attended as delegates virtually via Zoom.

In addition, the *Department* had the honor of the in-person presence of Sr. Vice Cmdr.-in-Chief Bruce Frail from Rhode Island, and the virtual participation of National Chaplain, Jerome Kowalski, from Illinois.

Department Commander Tony 'Bo' Vets brought the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the program through the opening ritual – which concluded with the singing of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

Right: SVCinC Bruce Frail at podium, and Department Cmdr. Tony L. 'Bo' Vets II

The morning session featured a moving memorial service for the two Brothers that had passed away during the previous year – Brothers William A. Pollard, DC and James S. Hackett, PCC – both of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp*. A 'Missing Man Table' had been set up to honor their memory. Brother Larry Joe Reynolds of the *Bailey Camp* narrated the meaning and significance of the elements of the display.

The memorial included a moving PowerPoint presentation of historical images of the two departed Brothers, and concluded with inspirational remarks by Chaplain Kowalski.



The afternoon session was highlighted by the election of Department Officers for the 2022-2023 term.

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Twenty-Eighth Annual Department Encampment *(continued)*



Above: Everyone stood while watching the moving video presentation memorializing deceased Brothers Pollard and Hackett – prepared by Department Signals Officer, John C. Vander Meulen.

Right: The Missing Man Table display included several symbolic items plus uniform items of both departed Brothers.



The newly elected officers of the Department - installed by SVCinC Bruce Frail, include:

Commander	Michael L. Lance, PCC	Camp 2
Sr. Vice-Cmdr.	Timothy M. Phillips, PCC	Camp 1
Jr. Vice-Cmdr.	Richard W. Erder, PCC	Camp 18
Secretary/Treasurer	Donald L. Gates, PDC	Camp 18
Council Member	Lewis E. Willis Sr., PDC	Camp 1
Council Member	Dr. Stevenson T. Holmes, PDC	Camp 2
Council Member	Charles W. Sprague, PDC	Camp 18

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Twenty-Eighth Annual Department Encampment *(continued)*

Oath of Office

L-R: Donald L. Gates
Larry Joe Reynolds
John Vander Meulen
Stephen D. Schulze
John E. Schneider Sr.
William M. Elliott
Michael L. Lance



Department Staff Appointments for 2022-2023 Term

Chaplain	Stephen D. Schulze, PDC
Patriotic Instructor	William M. Elliott
Historian	Michael L. Lance
Civil War Memorials Officer	Charles W. Sprague, PDC
Graves Registration Officer	Terry T. Sutton
Counselor	John E. Schneider Sr., PDC
Department Camp Organizer	David K. LaBrot, PDC
Signals Officer	John C. Vander Meulen
Assistant Signals Officer	Larry Joe Reynolds
Eagle Scout Coordinator	John E. Schneider II, PDC

Top left: SVCinC Bruce Frail pins badge on Department Commander-elect, Michael L. Lance

Left: newly installed Department Commander, Michael Lance, addressing the encampment.

*... Report submitted by Michael L. Lance, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2
... Photos submitted by Brothers William Elliott, Mark Parkison, Tony Vets II, and Stephen D. Schulze*

Graveside Ceremony for a Union Medal of Honor Recipient

Saturday, 7 May 2022 – Jefferson, Texas

Immediately following the close of the 28th annual Encampment of the *Department of Texas and Louisiana*, many of the delegates caravanned to nearby Oakwood Cemetery in Jefferson. This cemetery was of special interest because 24 Union veterans are buried there – including *Medal of Honor* recipient, 2nd Lt. Daniel J. Murphy.

A brief memorial ceremony before Lt. Murphy's grave included the placing of wreaths by Camp Commander Ben C. Bonnett of the *Lt. Edward Lea Camp*, and Camp Commander John A. Prime of the *Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp*. Brothers representing all four Camps of the Department, along with Sister Judy Turner-Chester of the *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1* attended to show respect for the Union Veterans.



Decorated grave marker of *Medal of Honor* recipient, Daniel J. Murphy

As Department Patriotic Instructor William Elliott read the names and death dates of the interred federals, it seemed a bit surreal – as the great majority of the veterans had died not long after the war ended, and within 3 years of each other. It seems that the beautiful and historic city of Jefferson, Texas was not the most ideal location to reside for Union veterans between 1869 – 1871. Their story remains to be told – and should prove to be quite interesting, indeed!



Front row L-R kneeling: William M. Elliott and Tommy Joe Henigan III

Front row L-R standing: Thor E. Chester; Michael L Lance, DC; Bruce Frail, SVCinC; Stephen D. Schulze, PDC; Todd Wilber; Michael A. Heller; Tony L. Vets II, PDC; Tony L. Vets, Sr.; Thomas F. Coughlin, PDC; and Blair G. Rudy, PDC.

Back row L-R: John A. Prime, CC; John C. Vander Meulen; John E. Schneider II, PDC; Brother; Steven G. Coons; Ben C. Bonnett, CC; and Donald L. Gates, PDC.

submitted by Michael L. Lance, PCC – Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2

Gen. James J. Byrne Camp #1 - Fort Worth

Friday – 18 Feb 2022 – Dallas, Texas

Friday, February 18, was the occasion for a new experience as I made my first visit to a National Cemetery. I had received an invitation from *Taps for Veterans* to sound the final call for Vietnam veteran Brian McNamire, USN, at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery. It was different. Those who attend a service there are not informed exactly where the service will be held until one or two days beforehand. They are directed to a lane at the front end of the place. At exactly the time quoted, a guide leads the party to a pavilion where the service takes place. Afterwards, the body is returned to the hearse and is transported to the grave site. *Taps* is sounded at the beginning of the service so that the recording thereof can be taken to other funerals in progress.



Timothy M. Phillips

I have been playing bugle on the *Forts Trail* four or five years and thank God, I have made considerable progress. A lot of the credit goes to a former band director at *Wylie High School* and a music instructor at *Hardin Simmons University* in Abilene. Daily practice has brought my performance to the acceptable level.

I joined in with *Taps for Veterans* a couple of years ago. It is something of a national registry of musicians who volunteer to sound *Taps*, live, for veterans. The outfit is run by retired Air Force bugler Jari Villanueva, and exists to provide live, rather than recorded field music for veterans' funerals. It seems that for most services, the military sends 2 or 3 enlisted personnel to fold the flag and operate the music player. The leaders of *Taps for Veterans* believe that vets have earned something more.

... Submitted by Timothy M. Phillips, Past Camp Commander - Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1

Friday - Mar 11, 2022 – Forts Randolph and Buhlow, Pineville, Louisiana

An old reenacting buddy of mine, Richard Holloway, down in Louisiana, talked me into coming down to *School Day* at Forts Randolph and Buhlow in Pineville. He needed a genuine Wisconsin Bluebelly for the event. As it turned out, I was the only federal to attend. I talked to groups of kids about the *8th Wisconsin Infantry*, the Red River Campaign, and my uniform and equipment. Afterwards, I took a tour of the forts.

Forts Randolph and Buhlow were constructed by the Confederacy on the Red River, opposite the city of Alexandria. Their purpose was to repel anticipated Union attacks through Northwest Louisiana. Construction was completed in March 1865. The work was supervised by Confederate military engineer, Lt. Alphonse Buhlow, for whom one of the forts is named.

The earthen forts, constructed using local plantation slave labor, were fortified with cannon and over eight hundred soldiers. In addition, the Confederate ironclad *Missouri* was anchored in the river opposite Fort Randolph. But the anticipated Union attack never came, and no fighting ever took place at the site.

In May 1865, after the Confederates surrendered to Union forces, the two forts were occupied for a short while by the federals - before being abandoned. The site was added to the *National Register of Historic Places* on June 1, 1981.



... Submitted by Brother Todd Wilber - Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1

Gen. James J. Byrne Camp #1 - Fort Worth (continued)

Saturday – 23 Apr 2022 – Gainesville, Texas

The *Byrne Camp* participated in the annual *Medal of Honor Parade* that took place in Gainesville, Texas on April 23, 2022. Gainesville is the only Medal of Honor Host City in the country. Since 2001, their *Medal of Honor Host City Program* has hosted 56 of the 67 living Medal of Honor Recipients. This year, sixteen recipients were honored. The annual event is held to honor our nation's highest decorated hero's - to promote patriotism and to celebrate the heroism of the recipients. The program included a 4-day festival in the city.

The *Byrne Camp* Color Guard, carrying muskets and the U.S. and Camp Colors, assumed their position in the long parade. The march route through town attracted a large audience, as usual, but the gusty winds were a challenge. The Color Guard made a good impression, and no doubt was the topic of considerable discussion among the observers.



L-R: Beau Moore, Timothy Phillips, Brian Glass, Todd Wilber, and Lucas Turnbull

... Submitted by Brother Timothy Phillips, Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1

The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States.

This honor is generally presented to the recipient by the President of the United States of America in the name of Congress. In 2001 Gainesville, Texas became the only city in America to host our nation's highest decorated hero's annually to promote patriotism and celebrate the heroism of the recipients.....

<https://medalofhonorhostcity.com/>



Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 – Houston

Thursday – 17 Mar 2022 – Houston, Texas

The *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp* successfully participated in the *Texas Daughters of the American Revolution (TexasDAR)* Lineage Society Forum at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Houston on March 17th. The Forum was held one day during the *Texas DAR's* 123rd State Conference, a five-day-long event. Over eighty different heritage societies were represented at the Forum. This was the first year that the *Edward Lea Camp* participated.

This year, 1,963 *DAR* attendees, not including guests, registered for the day of the Forum. For at least fifty-five of those participants, this was their first convention. The convention typically rotates each year between the Texas cities of Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio. In 2023, the convention is slated to be held in Dallas.

Representing *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #1* at the Forum were: Camp Cmdr. Bill Bonnett, Sr. Vice-Cmdr. John Vander Meulen, and Brother Thor Chester. The local *Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War (DUVCW)* were represented by Susan Barry, President of the *Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4*. Sister Judy Turner also attended, representing the *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*.

These five local Camp and Allied Order participants networked with other heritage groups and promoted the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp* and the *Sons* in general. It was amazing to see how many different heritage groups exist – with many of them generally unknown to the general public. Lineage Society Forums such as this help organizations like ours inform the public about our mission and our purpose - as well as providing an opportunity to make new contacts, friends, and even recruit potential new members.



L-R: SVC John Vander Meulen, Auxiliary Sister Judy Turner-Chester, Thor E. Chester, local *DUVCW* Tent President Susan Barry, and Camp Cmdr. Ben Bonnett

After-action report submitted by Brother Thor Eric Chester, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2

Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 – Houston (continued)

The *Lt. Edward Lea Camp* continued to grow during the early months of 2022. Applications for six new memberships were vetted and approved. Formal initiation ceremonies were conducted by the Officers of the *Lea Camp* for five Brothers at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center in west Houston on three separate dates.

Tuesday – 8 Feb 2022 – Houston, Texas

New Brothers Robert G. Riley and Joshua S. Trevino were formally initiated at the monthly Camp meeting in February.

L-R: Department Chaplain Stephen D. Schulze, Color Bearer Tracy Wallace, initiates Robert Riley and Joshua Trevino, and Guide Michael L. Lance, PCC



Tuesday – 8 Mar 2022 – Houston, Texas

Jason D. Hoffman was initiated at the March monthly *Lea Camp* meeting as a new Brother, and William C. Boyd was initiated as an existing Brother. Both men were ready and willing to contribute towards the success of the *Lea Camp*.

L-R: Department Chaplain Stephen D. Schulze, Color Bearer Robert G. Riley, and initiates Jason Trevino and William C. Boyd

Tuesday – 12 Apr 2022 – Houston, Texas

William D. Myers Jr. was formally initiated as a new Brother at the monthly *Lea Camp* meeting in April 2022. He had already ordered elements of a Civil War uniform and was planning to participate in Memorial Day 2022 events in Houston.

William D. Myers Jr. taking oath of Obligation

***... Report submitted by Michael L. Lance, PCC
... Photos by JVC Daniel B. Pourreau***



Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 – Houston (continued)

Saturday – 21 May 2022 – College Station, Texas



An invitation to attend the 85th annual *Texas Society of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars (M.O.S.B.)* Conference was extended to Michael L. Lance, newly elected commander of the *Department of Texas and Louisiana, SUVCW*. The conference took place on May 21, 2022 at the Hilton College Station & Conference Center in College Station, Texas. Brother Lance accepted the invitation and brought greetings from the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* to the conference.

Cmdr. Michael L. Lance brings greetings from the *Department of Texas and Louisiana*

Other guests bringing greetings included John Cohen, Staff Secretary of the *Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)*, J. D. Boydston, President of the *Descendants of Confederate Veterans*, John McCammon, Commander of the *Sons of Confederate Veterans, Texas Division*, Devin Lindsey, Treasurer of *The Sons of the Republic of Texas*,

Golda Foster-McMahon, Treasurer of *National Society Daughters of CSA Officer Corps*, and Norma Jean Holley, District VIII Chair of the *United Daughters of the Confederacy, Texas Division*.

The *M.O.S.B.* is a lineage society, founded in 1938 for descendants of military officers or political leaders of the Confederate States of America – with eight Chapters in Texas. The current Commander of that Society in Texas is our own Brother Larry Joe Reynolds of *Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5, SUVCW*.

Also attending and serving as Sergeant at Arms was Brother William Elliott, also of the *Bailey Camp* - proving once again that numerous Brothers of the *Department of Texas and Louisiana* have ancestors who wore both Blue and Gray.

Top: Brother William Elliott at the podium with Brother Larry Joe Reynolds sitting to his left

Bottom L-R: M.O.S.B. Commander Larry Joe Reynolds and William Elliott, both also Brothers of Bailey Camp 5, SUVCW, receive an award certificate and flag streamer. Standing behind is Lee Roy Lance, a distant cousin of Department of Texas and Louisiana Commander, Michael L. Lance



... Submitted by Michael L. Lance, PCC - Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2

Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp #5 - Shreveport

Thursday – 17 Feb 2022 – Keithville, Louisiana

Several hundred people, including Commander John Prime and Brother William Nichols of the *Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp*, braved heavy rain to pay final respects to thirteen area veterans who died in recent years. The remains of those veterans had never been claimed by friends or relatives and were left languishing in the custody of the Caddo Parish Coroner. The deceased veterans had served in the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps. They finally received full military honors, including the playing of *Taps*, flag-folding ceremonies, and the firing of triple volleys. The services were held at the Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery.

With a tableaux of thirteen patriotically adorned urns forming a backdrop, folded flags were presented to unrelated veterans or agency individuals serving as the honored dead's representatives. Most of the deceased had served in Vietnam, although at least one fought in the Persian Gulf War. The oldest was 72 and the youngest was 60. One of the veterans had died almost ten years ago, but still remained unclaimed.

The discovery of this sad situation began when a Death Investigator at Caddo Coroner's office was asked by a nurse to help find the family of a veteran who died at a local hospital. One phone call led to a series of others - with no resolution, and no final resting place specified for that veteran. His remains ended up at the coroner's office with the others.

"It made me a little angry," the investigator recalled. "I didn't understand how this could happen to people who fought for this country." After contacting a representative of the *Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs*, who was similarly motivated, collaborative work began to identify and research other unclaimed veterans.

Sadly, twenty-one unclaimed deceased U.S. veterans were identified. Efforts were then made to track down the families of those men. Discharge papers and other effects were examined to determine eligibility for burial in a military cemetery. Of the twenty-one men identified, only one family stepped forward to claim their loved one. Seven veterans still remain in the research process – and the rest were interred at the February 17, 2022 event.



A Marine Honor Guard salutes before the urns containing the ashes of veterans awaiting entombment at the Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery

... Submitted by John A. Prime, Commander – Brig. Gen. Joseph Baily Camp #5

Grand Army of the Republic Post 4

G. A. R. VETERANS TAKING PART IN MEMORIAL SERVICE



—Photos by Warren.

Photo at left. Four oldest members of Parmly Post No. 4, G. A. R.: (left to right) Dr. E. P. Brown, 78; S. W. Mather, 78; W. H. Struthers, 80, and Charles Baggett, 80. In front is Master Leo Mitchell, 5. Photo at right shows: Commander G. E. Allgaier and Color Bearer John R. Gold of Parmly Post, discussing plans for Decoration Day observance.

Photos of Parmly Post 4 members published in the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, page 3 – May 30, 1916

... Submitted by Brother Todd Wilbur, Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1, Fort Worth, Texas

Trivia – The G.A.R. Posts Of Texas

At the close of the Civil War, the *Grand Army of the Republic* (G.A.R.) was formed - and quickly became the preeminent veterans' organization. G.A.R. membership reached its peak in 1890, when over 400,000 members were reported. Every state (even those of the former Confederacy) fell within a G.A.R. 'Department,' and within these Departments were 'Posts' (*forerunners of modern American Legion Halls or VFW Halls*). The Posts were made up of local veterans, many of whom participated in local civic events. The G.A.R. *Department of Texas* was organized in March 1885. At least 67 G.A.R. Posts were eventually established within her borders, each named after a notable figure. Five Texas cities hosted two G.A.R. Posts: Austin, Dallas, Ft. Worth, Waco, and Weatherford – and San Antonio boasted three G.A.R. Posts....*Editor*

Ancestor Profile – Pvt. Finas Euen Lance (continued from page 7)

they marched to the nearby the town of Beaufort and finally linked up with their regiment, the 12th Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

Six days later, on January 18, 1865, the now reinforced 12th Indiana marched inland dragging cannons with them. Along the way, they crossed rivers on pontoon bridges and went on foraging details. On one successful foraging expedition, the men returned to camp with “sweet potatoes, honey, cabbages, fowls, pork, sage, pepper, salt, and vegetables.” Day after day, the troops marched northward – traveling 5-15 miles daily. They camped at night after throwing up protective breastworks and posting men on picket duty.

On February 6, 1865, the company fought a minor skirmish with the Confederates, but the advance of the Union men was only slightly slowed. Then the hard work began - destroying railroad tracks. On one occasion, about half way between Augusta and Charleston, South Carolina, they tore up 8 miles of track.

Private Lance and his company continued marching northward, tearing up and burning railroad assets, crossing rivers on pontoon bridges, skirmishing, and throwing up breastworks for evening camps. They drove the Confederates ahead of them, often routing them from their works. Finally, on February 15, 1865, Columbia, South Carolina was in sight in the distance as they went into their evening camp. So far, they had marched about 140 hard miles from where they had landed on the coast 5 weeks earlier.

Columbia was bombarded by federal artillery during the night. The heavy guns continued to pound the city the next day as the federal forces drew closer to the city. On the second day, the 12th Indiana crossed the Congaree River on a pontoon bridge and attacked. Amid “heavy cannonading and musketry”, they drove the rebels back 3½ miles and took possession of Columbia. For almost 3 days, the federal forces remained in the city, “burning arsenals, magazines, railroads, and other public property.”

On February 20, 1865, the Union forces left ruined Columbia and marched northeastward towards Cheraw, South Carolina. They tramped 10-25 miles per day, and like before, set up evening camps after erecting breastworks and posting pickets. Their meals often consisted of nothing more than “a little corn meal bran mush.”

When Private Lance’s unit reached Cheraw 12 days later, the rebels had already been expelled from the town. Twenty-seven pieces of artillery had been captured. The 12th Indiana moved in to occupy the town and, while there, experienced “a great disaster”. A large amount of captured rebel shells suddenly exploded, killing 42 Union men and wounding many others. The troops departed Cheraw the next day, marching northeast. They waded through “swamps knee deep”, constructed “corduroy bridges and lifted wagons out of the mire” onto them, and battled fatigue and sickness as they advanced towards Bentonville, North Carolina - 117 miles distant.

At daylight on March 22, 1865, Private Lance and the 12th Indiana finally reached Bentonville. They “charged the rebels out of their works taking a good many prisoners. Co. “F”, 12th Inf. drove them 3 miles then returned to camp. Saw 2 rebels that had been burned by fire till cooked, horrible sight. There were six dead rebels to one union man. This is what I saw.” [Source: Sgt. James Louis Matthews, Co. F., 12th Reg’t, Indiana Infantry].

After marching about 22 more miles due east, the federal troops reached the town of Goldsboro, North Carolina and went into camp. At this point, they were finally able to rest up and receive letters from home. Since Finas was unable to read or write, his tent mate, William Leach, assisted. “I was well acquainted [with] Finas E. Lance when he went into the Army, was in the same Company & Reg. with him, wrote all of his letters home and read all he received for him.” [Source: Private William Leach, Co. F. 12th Reg’t, Indiana Infantry]. The regiment remained in camp near Goldsboro for nearly 3 weeks. During that time, they heard the good news - Gen. Ulysses Grant had taken Richmond, Virginia.

...continued on next page

Ancestor Profile – Pvt. Finas Euen Lance *(continued)*

At 5 a.m. on April 10, 1865, a new campaign began – one that would take the 12th Indiana on a northwestward march to Raleigh, North Carolina – a distance of about 54 miles. It began with an all-day skirmish during an 18-mile march. Skirmishing continued the next day as the troops continued on through the beautiful North Carolina countryside, camping at night on well-kept farms. As they approached Raleigh, the men could hear heavy cannonading ahead. Luckily for them, the city had already been captured by the time the 12th Indiana arrived at the front. They simply marched through the city and camped in the woods beyond. Then came more picket duty and foraging expeditions. On April 18, 1865, Finas Lance and the troops heard distressing news - President Lincoln had been assassinated.

The Union men remained in camp outside Raleigh for two weeks or so, receiving mail, doing picket duty, drilling, and enduring inspections. Finally, on April 27, 1865, *“glorious news. Gen. Jo. Johnson [sic] surrendered his entire force to Gen. Sherman and there is great rejoicing here”* [Sgt. James Louis Matthews, Co. F., 12th Reg’t, Indiana Infantry].

Two days later, the 12th Indiana began a march northeastward towards Richmond, Virginia. Behind them, they heard *“heavy cannonading all day at Raleigh for salutes.”* Along the way they crossed a previous battlefield and *“saw many skulls. Saw where a Yank had been tortured. Strong fortifications here. Went inside camp, inside the works – Lee’s works.”* [Sgt. James Louis Matthews, Co. F., 12th Reg’t, Indiana Infantry]. But not all was so grim - Finas Lance and his comrades passed by *“some very fine houses”* in *“some fine country”* as they marched through Virginia.

On May 9, 1865, after trudging 132 miles, the 12th Indiana marched through the fallen city of Petersburg, Virginia and was reviewed by General Otis O. Howard. Then they crossed the Appomattox River and marched due north to continue on to Richmond. On the evening of May 11th, after the troops went into their evening camp, another disaster - *“six men killed at night by lightning in camp.”*

Two days later, after reaching the outskirts of Richmond, the 12th Indiana *“marched at 12 o’clock through Manchester under the tune of ‘Get Out [of] the Wilderness’.* Crossed the James River on 2 pontoon bridges and on a solid bridge into Richmond. *Marched up the street to the tune of ‘Hail Columbia’.* *Marched by Castle Thunder, then by Libby Prison, then around by Capitol Square by the monument of George Washington on his horse – a glorious sight.”* [Sgt. James Louis Matthews, Co. F., 12th Reg’t, Indiana Infantry].

The marching pace picked up at that point – with the troops making as many as 25 miles per day. They passed through Bowling Green and then Fredericksburg, Virginia. They crossed over hills and hollows in mountainous country and forded rivers on pontoon bridges. Not all of the men were up to the task however, as several of them *“dropped dead on the road with heat and fatigue.”* On May 19, 1865, they passed through Mt. Vernon and saw the residence of General George Washington. Two days later, the troops marched through Alexandria, Virginia and camped a couple miles north of the town.

Finally, on May 23, 1865, Finas Lance and the 12th Indiana reached the Potomac River and marched across it on the mile-long Long Bridge. That brought them into Washington City where they were reviewed by President Andrew Johnson as they marched along Pennsylvania Avenue during the Grand Review.

After remaining in camp a few miles outside of Washington for about a week, the men of the 12th Indiana boarded a train and headed back towards their home state of Indiana. At 10 a.m. on May 31, 1865, the train left the station at Washington and traveled through Maryland, stopping briefly at Harper’s Ferry, West Virginia in the evening - and then continuing on all night. It chugged through the Allegheny Mountains, passing through a great number of tunnels – some reportedly nearly a mile long.

On June 2, 1865, the troop transport train reached the West Virginia town of Parkersburgh, situated on the Ohio River.

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Ancestor Profile – Pvt. Finas Euen Lance (continued)

Five boats were waiting there to carry the men further along. After being loaded, the vessels started downstream, each packed full of homebound veteran soldiers. They passed numerous river towns before the boats reached their destination – Louisville, Kentucky. It was June 4, 1865. The men disembarked and marched into a camp at the edge of town. They remained there in camp for nearly a month and a half. During this time, Private Finas Lance was hospitalized in Louisville due to a severe case of constipation.

On June 27th, while still in camp near Louisville, the 12th Regiment, Indiana Infantry was dissolved. Many of the men, including Finas Euen Lance, were transferred to *Company E, 59th Indiana Infantry*. It was only a brief assignment for Finas, as he was subsequently discharged less than 3 weeks later. He *"was discharged July 17, 1865, as of Co. E, 59 Indiana Vol. Inf. to which transferred."*....[Source: pension file document].

After the war, the family farm was apparently not able to support Finas' family. According to the June 3, 1870 Indiana federal census, F. E. Lance was a 50-year old [sic] coal miner living in Ohio Township, Warrick County, Indiana. He was living with: his 27-year old 2nd wife, Lydia; their 8-year old son, Abraham L. Lance; and F. E.'s two older sons from his previous marriage - 'Benji' Lance [*the author's gr-grandfather*] and Finas E. Lance Jr. The census also indicated F. E. could not read or write.

Finas Euen Lance Sr. most likely died March 12, 1878 at about age 52. His widow, Lydia (Murphy) Lance, fought a long and fruitless battle with the government to obtain a military pension based on her late husband's Civil War service. No evidence has been found yet showing she actually received a pension before she passed away in Lewisport, Hancock County, Kentucky on November 4, 1919.

By 2005, the military marker on Finas Lance's grave at Sharon Cemetery in Newburgh, Warrick County, Indiana was badly weathered and leaning to one side. However, the inscription was still legible: *"Uren Lance - Co. F - 12th Ind. Inf."* The marker did not include a date of death, and as of 2022, no death record has been found for him.

A new VA military grave marker was placed on Finas Lance's final resting place in 2005. It was officially dedicated during a Lance family reunion on June 12th of that year. The event included a formal marker dedication ceremony conducted by Brother Tim Beckman and other Brothers of the *Department of Indiana, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*. The new grave marker is inscribed with: *"Finas Euen Lance - PVT CO F - 12 IND INF - 1825-1878"*.

During his life, as mentioned above, Finas was known primarily by his middle name, Euen, following the family tradition. However, many different variations of his name have been found in documents and letters. His name was unusual, and since he was illiterate, he may not have known when his name was spelled incorrectly.

And people did have difficulty spelling it! So far, 19 different variations have been found on documents – some with both his given and middle names – and some with one or the other. They include: Finas, Finas E., Finas Ewen, Finas Ewing, Finas Euion, Finas Uion, Finis E., Finis Euan, Francis Ewing, F. E., Euin, Ewen, Ewing, Euen, Edwin, Ewen F., Uren, Uen, and Huan Lance. His parents may have intended to name Finas after the very prominent Cumberland Presbyterian Minister, Finis Ewing (1773 – 1841). But their lack of education may have contributed to their inability to correctly spell that name. The numerous spelling variations were probably the result of the best efforts of others to spell a difficult and uncommon name.

"The proper name of said soldier was, it seems, Finis Ewing Lance; but I never heard him called any name but Ewing, as that was the one he was always called, and I never had seen his name written properly before."....(source: W. W. Slaughter, M.D., 'Physician's Affidavit' in pension file of his widow, Lydia Jones, Newburgh, Indiana, 29 Mar 1895).

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Ancestor Profile – Pvt. Finas Euen Lance (continued)

When Finas Lance was drafted into the Union Army in late 1864, he gave his age as 44 - indicating an improbable birth year of about 1820. He may have exaggerated his age a bit at that time in an attempt to avoid the draft – or, more likely, he simply did not know his exact age. He was probably only about 39 years old when he was drafted, assuming he was born in 1825. Finas may have permanently adopted the older age, deliberately or in error, following his military service. I tend to believe that his earliest reported age of 25, as listed on the 1850 Indiana census, as the least likely to have been distorted – which would indicate that he was born in 1825.

The details above relating to Finas Lance’s Civil War experiences were gleaned from the day-by-day Civil War diary of Sgt. James Louis Matthews. Sgt. Matthews mustered-in and mustered-out of service on the same days as Finas did. They both were initially Privates serving in *Co. F, 12th Regiment, Indiana Infantry*. At the end of the war, both men traveled back to Louisville, Kentucky – and while there, were transferred to *Co. E, 59th Regiment, Indiana Infantry* on the same day. While Finas Lance is only listed once in Matthews’ diary – on a folded sheet of paper inserted in the diary entitled ‘Company Roll, Louisville, Kentucky’ - as E. Lance - it is highly likely that they shared a common experience during the war. The diary ‘Roll’ also includes the name of Finas’ tent-mate, W. Leach (William Leach).



Finas Euen Lance passed away in Warrick County, Indiana on March 12, 1878 at about age 53. The location of Finas’ final resting place was eventually forgotten over time. In 1997, an intense search for it began. A badly weathered military marker was finally found proudly standing, although leaning to the side a bit, at Sharon Cemetery in Newburgh, Warrick County, Indiana. The inscription read: “*Uren Lance – Co. F – 12th Ind. Inf.*”

A new VA military gravestone was ordered and installed by the veteran’s gr-grandson, Chester Lance of Evansville, Indiana. Chester buried the original stone in front of the new marker.

L-R: gr-grandson Chester Lance and son-in-law Greg Hutchison

In July 2005, the new marker was formally dedicated as part of a family reunion organized by 2nd gr-grandson, Michael L. Lance. He was assisted by Brother Tim Beckman and other *SUVCW* Brothers of the *Department of Indiana*.

Left: Brother Tim Beckman conducts the grave marker dedication ceremony



Right: Newly installed military grave marker for Pvt. Finas Euen Lance – Sharon Cemetery, Newburgh, Indiana



... contributed by 2nd gr-grandson Michael L. Lance – Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2

Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients - U.S. Army (Part 2)

The *Medal of Honor* is the USA's highest military honor, awarded 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 - U.S. Army: Army Version of the Medal of Honor

This issue of the *Unionist*, presents Part 1 of comprehensive review of recipients of the *Medal of Honor* who served with the U.S. Army during the Civil War – with a brief description of their heroic actions, and if available, the wording of their citation.



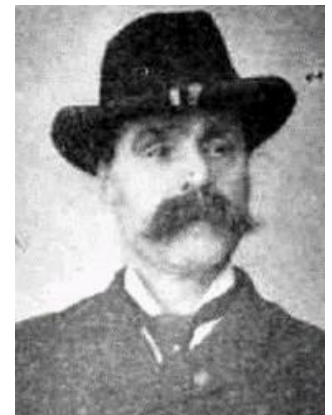
- **James Allen – Corporal** – James Allen was born in May 1843 in Ireland. On April 24, 1861, shortly after the outbreak of the Civil War, he enlisted in *Co. F, 16th New York Infantry*. He earned the Medal of Honor for gallantry in action at the *Battle of South Mountain* on September 14, 1862. During the battle, Allen singlehandedly, and slightly wounded, accosted and captured a squad of 14 Confederate soldiers of the *16th Georgia Infantry*, who had mistakenly believed they were opposed by a superior force. Allen also captured the Confederate flag in this action.

Allen was discharged, along with the rest of the *16th New York*, in May 1863, but continued to serve the Union as a member of the railroad service. After the war, he lived in St. Paul, Minnesota and was a member of the *Garfield Post* of the *Grand Army of the Republic*. Allen was finally awarded his Medal of Honor on September 11, 1890. He died August 31, 1913, and was laid to rest in the Oakland Cemetery in St. Paul.

- **Nathaniel M. Allen – Corporal** – Nathaniel Allen was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1840. His father, Gaius Allen, who came from Acton, was a former soldier who served in the *Davis Blues Regiment* during the War of 1812.

As a young man, Nathaniel Allen worked in Boston as a watchmaker. When the civil war broke out in April 1861, he immediately enlisted as a 21-year old Private into the *1st Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry*. In April 1862, he was promoted to Corporal of the Color Guard and maintained that rank for the rest of his military career.

On the afternoon of the second day of the *Battle of Gettysburg*, Allen's regiment came under heavy small-arms fire from advancing Confederate infantry. In the midst of the fight, he was given the Regiment's U.S. flag from his wounded ensign, William Eaton. Allen's commander then ordered the regiment to retreat from the advancing Confederates.



Whilst retreating, Allen saw Sergeant William Kelren shot and killed - dropping the regimental flag beneath him. Allen immediately retrieved the regimental flag from underneath Kelren's body, and then ran back to his retreating regiment - carrying both flags safely from the battlefield. It was for this action he was awarded the Medal of Honor. More than half of Allen's regiment were killed or wounded during the battle.

After the war ended, Nathaniel Allen returned to Boston where he continued his old trade as a watchmaker. Several years later, however, his eyesight began to fail, making it impossible to work as a watchmaker. He then moved in with his sisters in South Acton, where he lived for the rest of his life. Allen was awarded his medal of honor in March 1899 – thirty-six years after the *Battle of Gettysburg*. He died from nervous exhaustion and heart disease a year later on July 30, 1900, at age 60, and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Acton.

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Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients - U.S. Army (Part 2 continued)

- **Adelbert Ames – 1st Lieutenant** – Adelbert Ames was born in 1835 in Rockland (then known as East Thomaston), Maine. He was the younger of two sons of Martha Bradbury Ames and Jesse Ames. The elder Ames was a sea captain, who later purchased what became the Ames Mill - renowned as the producers of Malt-O-Meal - in Northfield, Minnesota. Son Adelbert also grew up to be a sailor and became a mate on a clipper ship. He also served briefly as a merchant seaman on his father's ship.

On July 1, 1856, Adelbert Ames entered the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He graduated 5 years later, fifth in his class of forty-five. Two classes graduated that year due to the outbreak of the Civil War. Ames' class graduated about a month early - while a second class, set to graduate in 1862, instead graduated on June 24, 1861.

Adelbert Ames as a West Point Cadet

Ames was then commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the 2nd U.S. Artillery. Eight days later, he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant and was assigned to the 5th U.S. Artillery. During the *Battle of First Bull Run* that July, Ames was seriously wounded in the right thigh - but refused to leave his guns. He was brevetted to the rank of major for his actions – and was awarded with a Medal of Honor – which he received in 1893.

For his conduct at the *Battle of Malvern Hill* in July 1862, Ames received a brevet promotion to Lt. Colonel. Then in August 1862, he was assigned to command the 20th Maine Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The 20th Maine fought in the *Maryland Campaign*, but saw little action at the *Battle of Antietam*, due to it being held in a reserve capacity.

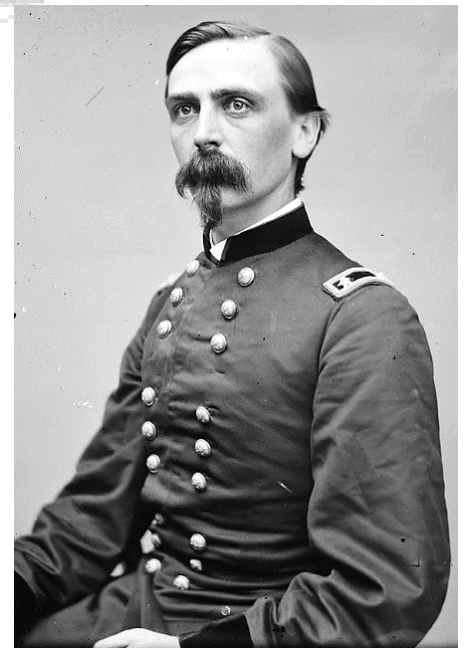
Ames was then promoted to Brigadier General in May 1863, assuming command of the XI Corps of the Army of the Potomac, relinquishing his command of the 20th Maine to Lt. Col. Joshua L. Chamberlain. While his own experience at Gettysburg did not achieve the renown of Chamberlain's, Ames performed well under difficult circumstances. During the massive assault by Confederate Lt. Gen. Richard S. Ewell on July 1, 1863, Ames's division commander, Brig. Gen. Francis C. Barlow, moved his division well in front of other elements of the XI Corps to a slight rise that is now known as Barlow's Knoll. This position was quickly overrun, and Barlow was wounded and captured. Ames then took command of the division and led it in retreat through the streets of Gettysburg to a secure position on Cemetery Hill.

On July 2, the second day of battle, Ames's battered division bore the brunt of the assault on East Cemetery Hill by Maj. Gen. Jubal A. Early, but was able to hold that critical position. At one point Ames himself took part in the hand-to-hand fighting. After the battle, the men of the 20th Maine presented Ames with their battle flag as a token of their esteem.

In January 1865, Ames led the successful assault in the *Second Battle of Fort Fisher*, accompanying his men into the formidable coastal fortress even as most of his staff were shot down by Confederate snipers. For his actions during the assault, he received a brevet promotion to Major General in March 1865.

Adelbert Ames as a Major General in the Union Army

In 1868, following the war, Ames was appointed by Congress to be provisional governor of Mississippi. Also, about 1868, Ames became a member of the *Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS)*, a military society of former Union officers and their descendants.



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Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients - U.S. Army (Part 2 continued)

Ames was elected to the U.S. Senate and served as a Senator from Mississippi from 1870 to 1874. While in Washington, he met and married Blanche Butler, daughter of his former Commander, now U.S. Representative Benjamin Butler. The couple became the parents of six children.

Then, after being elected as governor of Mississippi in 1874, Ames resigned his Senate seat to serve a 2nd term in the Governor's office. He fought to cut spending and to lower the tax rate, with moderate success. Even his enemies agreed that the governor had a rigorous integrity and was incorruptible and sincere.

Adelbert Ames – 27th and 30th Governor of Mississippi

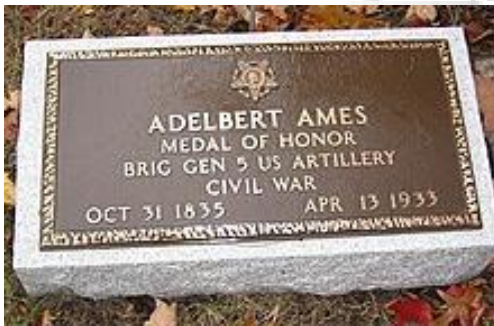
After leaving office as Governor in 1876, Ames settled briefly in Northfield, Minnesota, where he joined his father and brother in their flour-milling business. During his residence there, in September 1876, Jesse James and his gang of former Confederate guerrillas raided the town's bank, supposedly partly because of Ames's investment in it. But the robbery attempt ended in catastrophic failure. Ames next headed to New York City, then later settled in Tewksbury, Massachusetts. He was an executive in a flour mill, and had with other business interests in the nearby city of Lowell.



In 1898, Ames was appointed Brigadier General of Volunteers in the Spanish–American War and fought in Cuba. During the *Battle of San Juan Hill*, the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Division suffered particularly high casualties with its brigade commander killed and the next two ranking regimental commanders wounded. General Ames was then assigned to command the brigade during the *Siege of Santiago*.

Several years later, Ames retired from business pursuits in Lowell, but continued in real estate and entertainment projects in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and Florida. About 1900, he joined the *Massachusetts Society of Colonial Wars*. In 1906, after settling in Massachusetts, Ames built a 17-room estate in Tewksbury known locally as 'the Castle' on Prospect Hill - now called Ames Hill.

In 1933, Adelbert Ames died at his winter home in Ormond Beach, Florida at age 97. At the time of his death, he was the last surviving full-rank general who had served during the Civil War. Ames is buried in the Hildreth family cemetery, located behind the main cemetery on Hildreth St. in Lowell. In November 2009, the Medal of Honor plaque at Ames' grave was dedicated in conjunction with a ceremony honoring Benjamin Butler's 191st birthday – who is buried nearby - the only time of the year that the private family cemetery is open to the public.



In March 2012, the Ames Hill Castle was unanimously voted 'preferably preserved' by the *Tewksbury Historic Commission* due to its unique architectural features, its current state of preservation, and its association with General Ames. Adelbert Ames' Medal of Honor

citation reads:

Remained upon the field in command of a section of Griffin's Battery, directing its fire after being severely wounded and refusing to leave the field until too weak to sit upon the caisson where he had been placed by men of his command.

- **Robert Wesley Ammerman – Private** – Robert Ammerman joined Co. B, 148th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry from Milesburg, Pennsylvania in August 1862. During the action for which he was awarded a Medal of Honor, he suffered the loss of his right leg, and was discharged due to his wounds in May 1865. He died September 30, 1907 and was laid to rest in the Lost Creek Presbyterian Cemetery in McAlisterville, Pennsylvania. His Medal of Honor citation states:

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Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients - U.S. Army *(Part 2 continued)*

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Private Robert Wesley Ammerman, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 12 May 1864, while serving with Company B, 148th Pennsylvania Infantry, in action at Spotsylvania, Virginia, for capture of battle flag of 8th North Carolina (Confederate States of America), being one of the foremost in the assault.

- **Bruce Anderson – Private** – Bruce Anderson was born June 19, 1845 in Mexico City. At the beginning of the Civil War, he was working as a farmer in New York. He enlisted for service from Schenectady on August 31, 1864 as a Private in Co. K, 142nd New York Volunteer Infantry. Anderson has the unusual, but not unique, distinction of being an African American soldier who served in a white Civil War regiment.

On January 15, 1865, Anderson participated in the Union's 2nd attack on Fort Fisher in North Carolina. He and 12 other men answered a call for volunteers to advance ahead of the main attack and cut down the palisade which blocked their path. Despite intense fire from the Confederate defenders, Anderson and the others were successful in destroying the obstacle. Gen. Adelbert Ames recommended all 13 men for the Medal of Honor, but his report was misplaced and not all of the medals were issued.

In 1914, forty-nine years after the end of the war, Anderson hired a lawyer in an effort to receive his Medal of Honor. One of the other soldiers in the palisade-cutting group, Private Zachariah C. Neahr, had successfully petitioned for the award decades earlier. At Anderson's prompting, the Adjutant General of the Army launched an investigation which uncovered General Ames' letter of recommendation and sought out the other men of the group. Three men, Alaric B. Chapin, George Merrill, and Dewitt C. Hotchkiss, were found to be still alive and were, along with Anderson, again recommended for the medal. Anderson, Merrill, and Chapin were each issued the Medal of Honor on December 28, 1914; Hotchkiss' recommendation was overlooked a 2nd time, and he was never decorated. Anderson lived for a time in Illinois, but eventually returned to New York and settled there in the city of Amsterdam. He died August 22, 1922 at age 77 in St. Peter's Hospital in Albany, New York, and was buried at Green Hill Cemetery in Amsterdam. His Medal of Honor citation states:

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Private Bruce Anderson, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 15 January 1865, while serving with Company K, 142nd New York Infantry, in action at Fort Fisher, North Carolina. Private Anderson voluntarily advanced with the head of the column and cut down the palisading.

- **Charles W. Anderson – Private** – Charles Anderson was born as George Pforr on March 15, 1844 in Baltimore, Maryland. He enlisted in the Confederate States Army and served in an artillery battery under Capt. Jonathan McClanahan of Gen. John Imboden's cavalry brigade. In February 1864, Anderson deserted and enlisted in Co. K, 1st New York Vol. Cavalry using the name Charles W. Anderson and the birthplace of New Orleans, Louisiana. On March 2, 1865 at Fishersville, Virginia, Anderson captured a Confederate flag during the *Battle of Waynesboro*. On March 19, 1865, Anderson and other soldiers who had captured flags were given a 30-day furlough and the Medal of Honor by Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton. Anderson mustered-out in June 1865, but re-enlisted in Co. M, 3rd U.S. Cavalry in January 1866. He served 12 years, participating in the Indian Wars before receiving a hardship discharge on April 4, 1878. Anderson settled in Staunton, Virginia and returned to his birth name of George Pforr. He married Sally Smith Garber in 1878, and applied for a Federal pension in 1905, which was granted in 1906. He died February 25, 1916 at age 71, and is buried in Thornrose Cemetery in Staunton, Virginia. His Medal of Honor citation states simply:

Capture of unknown Confederate flag.



... series to be continued next issue with Part 3

Upcoming Activities - Department of Texas and Louisiana

- May 30, 2022** **Memorial Day Ceremony – Gen. James J. Byrne Camp**
Oakwood Cemetery, 701 Grand Ave., Fort Worth, TX – 10:00 a.m.
- Memorial Day Ceremony – Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp**
Houston National Cemetery, 10410 Veterans Memorial Dr., Houston, TX – 9:00 a.m.
- Memorial Day Ceremony – Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp**
Washington/Glenwood Cemeteries, 2911 Washington Ave., Houston, TX – 10:30 a.m.
- Memorial Day Ceremony – Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp**
Oakwood Cemetery, 507-501 N. Line St., Jefferson, TX – 10:00 a.m.
- Memorial Day Ceremony – Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp**
Pecan Grove Cemetery, Industrial Blvd. at Hwy 5, McKinney TX – 8:00 a.m.
- Jun 14, 2022** **Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp Business Meeting**
Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, TX - 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- Jun 8, 2022** **Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp Business Meeting**
Caddo Parish Coroner’s Office, 2900 Hearne Ave, Shreveport, LA
- Jun 19, 2022** **Annual Juneteenth Celebration**
Ashton Villa, 2328 Broadway, Galveston, TX – 10 a.m.
- Jun 21, 2022** **Gen. James J. Byrne Camp Business Meeting**
Online via Zoom – 7:00 p.m.
- Jun 21, 2022** **Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp Business Meeting**
Heritage Farmstead Museum, 1900 W. 15th St., Plano, TX
- Jul 12, 2022** **Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp Business Meeting**
Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, TX - 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- Jul 13, 2022** **Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp Business Meeting**
Caddo Parish Coroner’s Office, 2900 Hearne Ave, Shreveport, LA
- Jul 19, 2022** **Gen. James J. Byrne Camp Business Meeting**
(tentative) Texas Civil War Museum, 760 Jim Wright Fwy N., Fort Worth, TX – 7:00 pm
- Jul 19, 2022** **Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp Business Meeting**
Heritage Farmstead Museum, 1900 W. 15th St., Plano, TX
- Aug 11-14, 2022** **National Encampment**
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 4747 28th St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI
- Sep 13, 2022** **Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp Business Meeting**
Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, TX - 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- Sep 14, 2022** **Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp Business Meeting**
Caddo Parish Coroner’s Office, 2900 Hearne Ave, Shreveport, LA
- Sep 20, 2022** **Gen. James J. Byrne Camp Business Meeting**
(tentative) Texas Civil War Museum, 760 Jim Wright Fwy N., Fort Worth, TX – 7:00 pm
- Sep 20, 2022** **Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp Business Meeting**
Heritage Farmstead Museum, 1900 W. 15th St., Plano, TX

JOIN US IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, and LOYALTY

Department of Texas and Louisiana



2022-2023 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND STAFF

Dept. Commander	<u>Michael L. Lance</u>
Dept. Sr. Vice-Comdr.	Timothy M. Phillips
Dept. Jr. Vice-Comdr.	<u>Richard W. Erder</u> (<i>recruiting</i>)
Dept. Secretary/Treasurer	Donald L. Gates

Dept. Patriotic Instructor	William Elliott	Dept. Eagle Scout Coordinator	John Schneider Sr.
Dept. Chaplain	Stephen D. Schulze	Dept. Assistant Signals Officer	Larry Joe Reynolds
Dept. Historian	Michael L. Lance	Dept. Council Member	Lewis Eugene Willis
Dept. Civil War Mem. Off.	Charles W. Sprague	Dept. Council Member	Dr. Stevenson Holmes
Dept. Graves Registr. Off.	Terry T. Sutton	Dept. Council Member	Charles W. Sprague
Dept. Counselor	John E. Schneider Sr.	Dept. Newsletter Editor	Michael L. Lance
Dept. Organizer	David K. LaBrot	Dept. Assist. Newsletter Editor	Daniel B. Pourreau
Dept. Signals Officer	John Vander Meulen		

2022-2023 CAMP OFFICERS

Gen. James J. Byrne Camp #1 - Fort Worth

Camp Cmdr.	<u>Dr. Paul L. Kendall</u>
Sr. Vice-Comdr.	Beau Moore
Jr. Vice-Comdr.	<u>Todd Wilber</u> (<i>recruiting</i>)
Secr./Treas.	David B. Appleton

Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN Camp #2 - Houston

Camp Cmdr.	<u>Ben C. Bonnett</u>
Sr. Vice-Comdr.	John C. Vander Meulen
Jr. Vice-Comdr.	<u>Daniel B. Pourreau</u> (<i>recruiting</i>)
Secr./Treas.	Stephen D. Schulze

Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp #5 - Shreveport

Camp Cmdr.	<u>John A. Prime</u>
Sr. Vice-Comdr.	Michael Heller
Jr. Vice-Comdr.	<u>Tony Vets II</u> (<i>recruiting</i>)
Secr./Treas.	William Elliott

Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp #18 - Dallas

Camp Cmdr.	<u>David M. Rediger</u>
Sr. Vice-Comdr.	Brook J. Thomas
Jr. Vice-Comdr.	<u>Michael K. Schneider</u> (<i>recruiting</i>)
Secr./Treas.	Donald L. Gates

MEDIA LINKS

Websites: [Department of Texas and Louisiana](#)
[Fort Worth Camp](#)
[Houston Camp](#)
[Shreveport Camp](#)
[Dallas Camp](#)
[National Headquarters, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War](#)

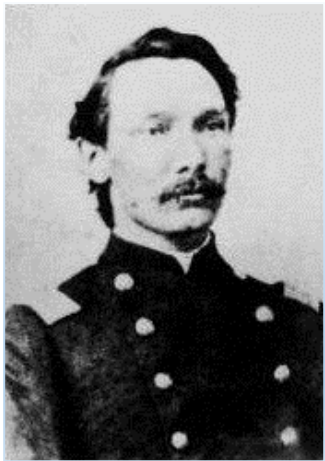
Facebook: [Department of Texas and Louisiana](#)
[Houston Camp](#)

Newsletter: The Department newsletter, *The Unionist*, is published quarterly (*Feb, May, Aug, and Nov*). Send questions or comments concerning the newsletter to the Editor at: mlance387@gmail.com





ROSTER OF NAMESAKES OF THE CAMPS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS AND LOUISIANA
 SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



Gen. James J. Byrne
 Namesake of the Fort Worth Camp

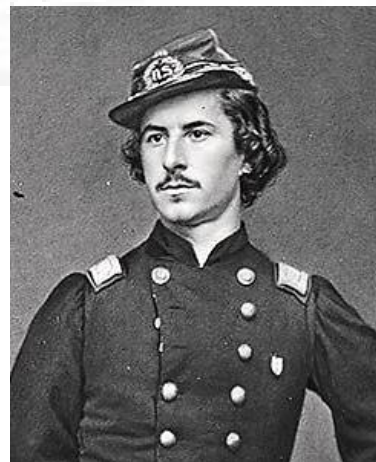


Killed in Action on the USS Harriet Lane

Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea
 Namesake of the Houston Camp



Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey
 Namesake of the Shreveport Camp



Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth
 Namesake of the Dallas Camp