



THE UNIONIST

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



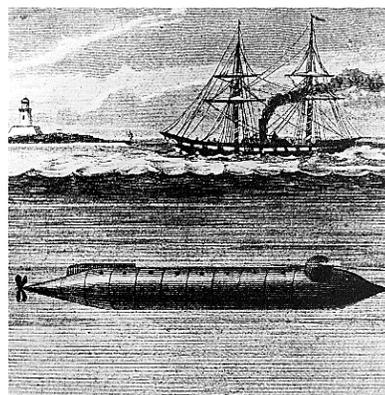
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Cover Image “Sherman’s March to the Sea” – anonymous engraving showing Union engineers and infantrymen tearing up railroad tracks and chopping down telegraph poles during their march from Atlanta to Savannah, Georgia, in November 1864.

141st National Encampment

Friday-Saturday – 12-13 August, 2022 – Grand Rapids, Michigan

Eight Delegates from the *Department of Texas and Louisiana* traveled to Grand Rapids, Michigan to attend the 141st National Encampment of the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*. The attendees included:

- From the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2* of Houston - Dept. Cmdr. Michael Lance; Camp Sr. Vice-Cmdr. and Dept. Signals Officer John Vander Meulen; Camp Secretary/Treasurer and Dept. Chaplain Stephen Schulze; Jr. Vice-Cmdr. Daniel Pourreau; and Camp and Dept. Graves Registration Officer Terry Sutton.
- From the *Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp #18* of Dallas - Camp and Dept. Secretary/Treasurer Donald Gates; and Brother William 'Bill' Swafford.
- From the *Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp #5* of Shreveport - Dept. Assistant Signals Officer Larry Joe Reynolds.

Soon after arriving and settling in at the Encampment hotel, several of the men located the display table that had been reserved to show and sell Clara Barton Appreciation Award pins, challenge coins, and souvenir badges. Several items were sold before, between, and after Encampment sessions. A tip of the kepi to the volunteers who manned the table!

During the business portion of the Encampment, the proposed amendment to the *National Constitution and Regulations* that was offered by the *Department of Texas and Louisiana* was approved by a nearly unanimous vote. The reason the amendment had been put forward was because the recently updated Regulations re-instituted wording that excluded Brothers from full membership if based on descendency from a cousin. Our amendment proposed allowing the 'grandfathering' of those Brothers who were accepted as full members of the Order based on descendency from a cousin between 2014 and 2022. The passing of this 'grandfathering' amendment was hailed by the Department - as it protects the current membership status of Brother Larry Joe Reynolds of the *Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp*.



To make a point during his presentation to the assembled delegates, National Chaplain Jerry Kowalski used a magnificent handmade quilt as a prop (see photo on left). That quilt had been created and graciously donated to the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp* by Auxiliary Sister Linda LaBrot in 2019. The *Lea Camp* then gifted that quilt to Chaplain Kowalski in Houston that year at the annual Department Encampment. It was a honor seeing that donation/gift being put to such good use years later!

In late October 2021, Chaplain Kowalski had again traveled to Houston. He arrived to attend and participate in the William Pollard graveside memorial service conducted by the *Lea Camp* at Hayes-Grace Memorial Park Cemetery in Hitchcock. During that program, 'Chaplain Jerry' presented a *Chaplain's Recognition Award* - a neck ornament - to Dept. Chaplain Stephen Schulze for outstanding service as Chaplain. At the 2022 National Encampment in Grand Rapids this year, Chaplain Kowalski presented Brother Schulze with a *Chaplain's Recognition Certificate* - to complement the 2021 neck ornament.

The *Harriet Lane* newsletter of *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2* received the coveted Marshall Hope award for 'best Camp newsletter'. A flag streamer and certificate was presented to Michael Lance, PCC by National CinC Michael Paquette.

Right: Michael Lance (on left) receives Marshall Hope Award

Between sessions, Dept. Cmdr. Michael Lance and Dept. Signals Officer John Vander Meulen were approached by James Crane, Chairman of the *National Encampment Site Committee*. Brother Crane inquired whether or not the Dept. of Texas and Louisiana would be interested in hosting the National Encampment in Texas in 2025. He indicated that Texas would likely be a popular destination for delegates, and offered to assist with the planning and organizing of such an event.



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141st National Encampment (continued)

National Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief, Bruce Frail, who attended the 2022 Encampment of the *Department of Texas and Louisiana* this year in Jefferson, Texas, was elected as the new National CinC for the 2022-2023 term. At our Encampment, he assisted by installing our Department Officers for 2022-2023. We wish him much success and harmony as he assumes his position of leadership of the Order! In addition, we wish success and a productive year to Sister Allison Pollitt, the National President of the *Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*. She was elected to serve a second term as President of that organization.

Another appointment of note: Congratulations and a tip of the kepi to Brother John Vander Meulen of the *Lt. Edward Lea Camp* for his appointment to the position of Assistant National Secretary for Proceedings. It is wonderful to see Brothers of the *Department of Texas and Louisiana* step up to work and contribute to the success of the Order!

During the more informal Campfire Program following the elections, Brothers of the Department anxiously waited for their turn to present gifts to outgoing CinC, Michael Paquette and *Auxiliary* President, Allison Pollitt. The order of presentations was determined by a drawing of Department names – and Texas was the last name drawn! A Clara Barton pin and Certificate were presented to Sister Pollitt for her service rendered, and several Texas-themed items were gifted to PCinC Paquette. All in all, the Encampment was enjoyable, educational, and a great opportunity to meet and speak with Brothers from around the country. Most attendees were looking forward to next year's Encampment in Nashua, New Hampshire.



National Delegates representing the Department of Texas and Louisiana

L-R: DC Michael Lance, Lea Camp JVC Daniel Poureau, DSO John Vander Meulen, DS/T Donald Gates, DChaplain Stephen Schulze, Bill Swafford, Larry Joe Reynolds, and DGRO Terry Sutton.

... submitted by Michael Lance, DC - Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2

Ancestor Honored

Sunday, August 14, 2022 – Breckenridge, Michigan

On August 14, 2022, immediately following the National Encampment in Grand Rapids, Michigan, five members of the *Department of Texas and Louisiana* drove to Ridgelawn Cemetery in the small Michigan town of Breckenridge in Gratiot County. They merged with five uniformed Michigan men to form an Honor Guard and to conduct a formal memorial service for Civil War veteran, Aaron Ruple Porter (see Porter's story on next page). Porter served with *Co. E, 1st Michigan Engineers* and was the 2nd great-grandfather of Brother Daniel Pourreau of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp* of Houston.



Michael Lance led [the ceremony](#) with John Vander Meulen acting as Chaplain, Donald Gates served as Guard, and Daniel Pourreau offered a detailed biography of his ancestor. Paul Davis, PDC of Michigan served as Officer-of-the-Day, and Larry Joe Reynolds deposited wreaths and a rose at the grave and operated a video camera.

Left: Daniel Pourreau presents the veteran's biography as Michael Lance (on left) and John Vander Meulen listen.

Officer-of-the-Day Davis gave the commands to place the 'tools of the soldier' at the grave and posted Brother Gates as Guard.



Daniel Pourreau then fell in with the Honor Guard to participate in the musket salute. After he and the Michigan men had fired 3 perfect volleys, Brother Vander Meulen sounded *Echo Taps* on a Bluetooth speaker.

L-R: Paul Davis, Donald Gates, Dean Lamphere, Len McInerney, Larry Joe Reynolds, Bob Boquette, Michael Lance, Daniel Pourreau, John Vander Meulen, and Joe Frost.

The Texas, Louisiana, and Michigan men worked well together to conduct a smooth and moving ceremony. Soldier Aaron Ruple Porter deserved no less!

... report submitted by Michael Lance, photos by Jan Davis, Pres., Michigan DUVCW and cousin of Daniel Pourreau.

Ancestor Profile – Aaron Ruple Porter

Aaron Ruple Porter was one of the early settlers of Gratiot County, Michigan. He descended from New England patriots and settlers from England and Wales who had emigrated to the United States in the 17th century - fleeing religious persecution and political oppression. Aaron's earliest North American ancestor was John Porter of Windsor, Connecticut. Five generations of Porters made New England their home. Some fought in the Revolutionary War and others in the War of 1812. It was Aaron's grandfather, Elijah Porter Jr., who, in 1828, finally grew weary of New England and moved his family westward. The caravan eventually arrived at Chautauqua, a small village in far western New York, where they settled and farmed.

In late 1837, Aaron's father, Elijah Porter III, also grew restless. He and his wife, with their six children, left the safety and comfort of their home in western New York and migrated further west in an ox-drawn wagon. Little did they know that they were going to endure one of the coldest winters in decades. Temperatures dipped to 20 degrees below zero. But they endured, traveling almost 400 miles from Chautauqua to arrive at the settlement of McArthur in southern Ohio. Unfortunately, their baby son, Martin Porter, died during their travels, not surviving his first winter. These were the risks and hardships our ancestors took and endured for a chance to live free, worship as they pleased, and build a better life for themselves and their children. They had fled a tyrannical king and the comforts of England, braved the seas for 3 months in a wooden ship to reach an untamed country, fought the Indians during King Phillip's war, defeated the greatest army of their time, built houses, churches, roads and schools, farmed the land - then picked up and moved west to do it all over again.

Aaron Ruple Porter was born in 1843. He was raised with his two brothers and five sisters in Elk, Madison township, Ohio, a small community 14 miles north of the Kentucky border. By 1854, his family was on the move again, this time traveling 300 miles northward to Pine River Township in Gratiot County, Michigan. The Porters were among a wave of settlers enticed by the 1854 *Graduation Act*, which had lowered the cost of 'undesirable lands' to fifty cents per acre. Upon their arrival in Pine River, 12-year-old Aaron and his older brother Chauncey Porter helped their father build a cabin, then continued to clear the land so they could farm it. Sister Ellen taught school and mother Julia and sisters Rebecca and Mahala kept house. By 1859, brother Chauncey, now 24, had married and moved southwest to Ionia County, Michigan to farm his own land and start a family.

In 1862, Aaron lost both his older sister, Julia, and his father within six months of each other. So, at age 19, Aaron was now the head of the household - having lost his father, three brothers, and three sisters. Only his mother Julia and three sisters remained with him in the small Pine River cabin. Despite, or maybe because of, these family hardships, the call of duty eventually prevailed.

In late August 1864, Aaron and his brother Chauncey trekked together to Grand Rapids, Michigan to enlist with the 1st *Michigan Engineers and Mechanics*. Neither had military training, but the hard life on the frontier had likely prepared them well, both physically and mentally, for what lie ahead. The brothers were assigned to *Co. E*, originally under the command of Captain Silas Canfield of Ionia, someone Chauncey probably knew. From there, they were sent south to Camp Owen in Marshall, Michigan for basic training. Then they were dispatched to Atlanta, Georgia to reinforce their regiment which had arrived on September 28, 1864, almost a month after the Confederates had surrendered the city. By then, Atlanta was pretty much in ruins.

Right: Destroyed railroad track

On November 2nd, Aaron's regiment was attached to Jefferson C. Davis's corps and participated in what is known as Sherman's "March to the Sea". During this memorable march, the regiment was required



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Ancestor Profile – Aaron Ruple Porter (continued)

to keep pace with the movements of the infantry, often traveling over ten miles per day. They were tasked with tearing up railroad track, twisting rails, burning bridges, repairing and making roads through marshes, and building bridges.

The regiment left Atlanta on November 16, 1864 and arrived before Savannah on December 11 - a 250-mile march in 25 days.

Right: Building a Pontoon Bridge

The following diary entries were written by a Michigan Engineer during the march. They give an idea of the work done, and the hardships the men experienced on the march:



Nov. 17th - "Companies K, D, C, G, E & I, with three days rations, left the main column and struck the Atlanta & Augusta RR at Lithonia; tore up the track and twisted the rails for several miles; then followed the large bodies of infantry from the Fourteenth Corps until they reached Covington, twisting the track rails. The next day, the six companies left the railroad about dusk and marched three to four miles until we reached the direct road to Eaton. The day's march was very hard on the men, some of whom fainted by the way."

Dec. 3rd - "Moved down the river toward Millen and Augusta. Then marched to near Horse Creek, on the road to Sylvania; the last few miles were made after dark; men very tired; halted in the road near water; supper at 11 pm; sleep about midnight."

Dec. 4th - "Reveille at 4 am. Marched at 6 am; repaired several bad places in the road, one in particular near Little Horse Creek; cut down small pine trees and with fence rails made it passable for the trains. Part of the men on duty at this place all night, keeping road repair, and assisting trains to cross."

Dec. 10th - "Marched at 7 am. At Telfair Road, near Savannah, we turned off on the railroad. Formed column by companies and closed in mass. Waited orders; soon discovered an engine up the track carrying a mounted cannon, which opened up on us. After a few shots we moved across the track into the woods. One man, Robert Brown of Company H, was mortally wounded by the cannon ball. Soon after, the regiment was ordered on to a canal where a dam was built to prevent the rebels overflowing the ground between us."

Dec. 24th - "The regiment moved into Savannah. Here a very comfortable camp in the suburbs and the men are enjoying a well-earned rest."

After the fall of Savannah, Aaron's regiment then started on the long march through the Carolinas for Goldsboro, North Carolina. During the march, a vast amount of public property was destroyed, railroad iron heated and twisted, and countless bridges built and repaired, the men often working all night, so that the army could march the next morning. While they showed some restraint on the *March to the Sea* through Georgia, Sherman's army showed none as they moved north through South Carolina - the first State to secede and to start the conflict. Sherman wrote to Union General-in-Chief, Henry Halleck in Late December from Savannah: "The whole army is burning with an insatiable desire to wreak vengeance upon South Carolina. I almost tremble at their fate, but believe she deserves all that seems in store for her."

On February 1, 1865, the troops marched through the still-smoking remains of McPhersonville, which had been earlier torched by the Union advance. Lt. Alex Campbell from Co. G later wrote home: "We have left a strip of ashes fifty miles in width"

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

Monday, 30 May 2022 – Fort Worth, Texas

The Byrne Camp conducted a Memorial Day ceremony at the *Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)* monument in Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth on Memorial Day. Attendees included: Paul Kendall, PDC/CC; Beau Moore, PDC/SVC; Todd Wilber, JVC; Timothy Phillips, PCC; and Brian Glass, PDC. The ceremony included the laying of a wreath at the G.A.R. monument, a musket salute and the sounding of Taps.

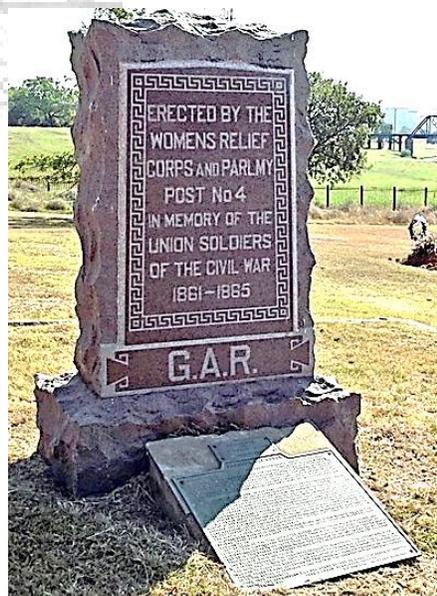


L-R: Camp Cmdr. Paul Kendall, PDC, Timothy Phillips, PCC, and SVC Beau Moore, PDC

The five-man Honor Guard was commanded by Brother Brian Glass, PDC. The muskets of the Honor Guard were fired by Brother Todd Wilber and four members of *Venture Crew 1872* of Fort Worth – a *Boy Scouts of America* unit. Following the musket salute, *Taps*, sounded by bugler Timothy Phillips



Honor Guard, commanded by Brian Glass, fires a salute



G.A.R. Monument

... submitted by SVC Beau Moore, PDC – Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp #18

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

Last Union Veteran – Denton County, Texas

I received a message a couple weeks ago from Brother Todd Wilbur, the Camp Graves Registration Officer, regarding the grave of the last Union veteran in Denton County. My wife, Carol, graciously drove me up to Denton, and we visited the IOOF cemetery there and located the grave. It is situated in the southwest corner of the cemetery, next to Eagle drive. I was pleased to see that a GAR marker was present.



... submitted by Paul Kendall, PDC/CC - Gen. James J. Byrne Camp #1

Harvey Reynolds Lyon Sr. was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania in September 1846. On February 2, 1864, he was 17 years old when he enlisted as a Private in the Union Army at New Brighton, Pennsylvania. He served with Co. K, 16th Pennsylvania Cavalry – a unit in Gregg’s Division of Sheridan’s Corps. He was wounded at Richmond, Virginia.

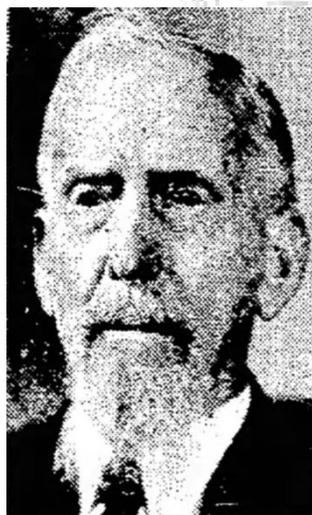
In Jun 1864, Lyon was promoted to Corporal and was mustered-out of service at Lynchburg, Virginia in July 1865. He married Nancy Eleanor Short on December 29, 1870 in California, Moniteau Co., Missouri. The couple eventually settled in Denton, Texas.

In 1933, Harvey Lyon was 87 years old and still living in Denton, Texas. At that time, he and another Civil War veteran, William Alexander Shanklin, who had served with Co. M, 2nd Illinois Cavalry, were believed to be the last two surviving Union soldiers in the County.

Right: **Harvey and Nancy Eleanor ‘Ella’ Lyon**



Harvey Lyon died in May 1936 at age 89. Shanklin, who was about 5 years older than Lyon, had passed away about 3 months earlier – on February 18, 1936. Both men – the last survivors of the Union Army in Denton County, Texas – were buried in the same Odd Fellows Cemetery!



Far Left: **Grave marker for William Alexander Shanklin – the 2nd to last surviving Union soldier**

Near Left: **William Alexander Shanklin** (photo from Ancestry.com)

... information submitted by Todd Wilbur, GRO - Gen. James J. Byrne Camp #1

Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 – Houston

Thursday, 26 May 2022 – Hitchcock, Texas

Four Sisters of the *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1* of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2* got an early start to decorating U.S. veteran's graves for Memorial Day. They assembled at Hypolite Cemetery in Hitchcock, Texas on Thursday, May 26th and set out U.S. flags at the headstones of 26 American heroes. The ladies were once again vigilant in honoring the service of our veterans.



L-R: Auxiliary President Vali Reyes and Sisters Norma Pollard and Jana Marsh



L-R: Auxiliary President Vali Reyes and Sisters Terry Spencer and Jana Marsh

In addition to decorating veteran's graves at Hypolite Cemetery, the Sisters visited Hayes-Grace Memorial Park Cemetery in Hitchcock. They paid their respects at the gravesite of William Pollard, who passed away last August while serving early in his term as Commander of the *Department of Texas and Louisiana*.

... submitted by Jana Marsh - *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1, SUVCW*

Monday, 30 May 2022 – Houston, Texas

Two thunderous cannon shots signaled the start of the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Houston National Cemetery. One of the big guns was manned by members of the *Capt. Ike Turner Camp #1275, SCVCW* of Livingston, Texas, and the crewmen of the other gun were members of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2, SUVCW* of Houston. The Federal crewmen included Camp Cmdr. Ben Bonnett, Stephen D. Schulze, PDC, Michael Rappe, Thomas Coughlin, PDC, and Robert Riley.

A few dozen yards away, enjoying the shade of a large oak tree, was a 14-man Federal infantry unit. This unit consisted of a combination of members from the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2, Co. A, 13th U.S. Infantry*, and the *Texas Rifles*. The *Lea Camp* members included: JVC Daniel Pourreau, Michael L. Lance, PCC, and William Myers.

During the program, the commander of the Federal unit, Tommy Attaway, plus eight men from the Honor Guard marched smartly in the 'Parade of Remembrance' to the center of the Hemicycle – with muskets shouldered and Colors waving. The men marched in two ranks of 4, with the Cmdr. in front leading the way. Afterwards, the unit marched back out to the shade of the oak tree to wait for their next role in the ceremonies.

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



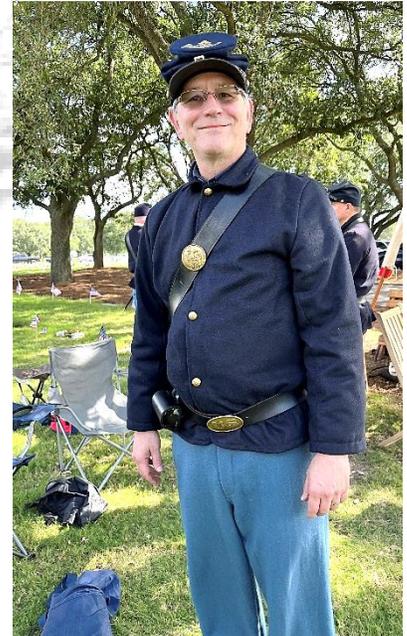
Above: Federal infantry unit marches into the interior grounds of the Hemicycle during the 'Parade of Remembrance' to present the Colors.



JVC Daniel Poureau



Michael Lance, PCC



William Myers

The program included a performance by bagpipers, a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter flyover, laying of wreaths, introduction of veterans of various past conflicts, numerous speeches by political and military dignitaries, a POW/MIA ceremony, and the sounding of *Taps*. Just prior to *Taps*, the Federal Honor Guard assembled a 7-gun unit to provide a 21-gun salute – 3 volleys by 7 muskets. The unit was led into the Hemicycle by two officers and formed up in a single

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

rank for the volleys. While the first shot was a bit ragged, the spectators were seemingly impressed by the precision of movement of the unit. After firing, the Honor Guard unit went to 'Present Arms' for the sounding of *Taps*, then retired.



Federal Honor Guard fires a salute Volley

To close the ceremony, the two cannons once again roared to life. Their simultaneous firing sounded like a single blast. It was a fitting end to a fine program – and a perfect salute to all our nation's veterans.



Federal cannon crew from Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 fires a round to end the formal Memorial Day ceremonies. L-R: Michael Rappe, Thomas Coughlin, PDC, and Stephen Schulze, PDC. Crewmen not visible: CC Ben Bonnett and Robert Riley.

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

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

Monday, 30 May 2022 – Houston, Texas

On Memorial Day, Sr. Vice-Commander John Vander Meulen led a delegation from the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN, Camp #2*, to Washington Cemetery in Houston. They gathered at the *G.A.R.* plot within the cemetery to pay tribute to the Union veterans buried there. In partnership with the *Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War*, a formal memorial service was conducted.

During the program, the participants each took a turn in moving to one of the eleven Civil War markers, pausing to call out the name and unit of their chosen veteran, and then stepped forward to lay a rose on the headstone. They then placed a Civil War era Union flag beside the marker before stepping back to render a salute. *Hymn to the Fallen* sounded in the background. It was a very moving ceremony for all who participated.



Washington Cemetery, Houston, Texas

Front row L-R: Sr. Vice-President Becky Feaster, Gail Johnson, Fran Matchett, and President Sue Barry of Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4, DUVCW, Mary Anthony Startz of Clara Barton Detached Tent #3, DUVCW, friend Jackie Huckabay, and Brother Patrick Young
Back row L-R: Brothers John Vander Meulen, Herbert Powers, and Jason Hoffman

The 2nd grave marker from the left marks the final resting place of Sarah Emma Edmonds-Seelye, the namesake of both the local *DUVCW* Tent and the *Ladies Auxiliary of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2*

... submitted by *SVC John Vander Meulen – Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2*

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

Monday, 30 May 2022 – Riverton, Wyoming

During the morning of May 30, 2022, heavy rain fell in Riverton, Wyoming. Due to the inclement weather, the local Veterans Hall officially cancelled the Memorial Day Ceremony that was scheduled to take place at a local cemetery. However, despite the weather, about forty people showed up at Mountain View Cemetery to honor our departed veterans. Just as the originally scheduled start time for the ceremony neared, the rain lifted.

So in response, Warren Hess, Commander of *American Legion Post 19*, decided to proceed with a modified program anyway. After the attendees recited the *Pledge of Allegiance*, Cmdr. Hess gave a short speech, reminding the audience of the service and sacrifice given by those who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. In addition, he urged them to not only remember the past, but to pass on the traditions of service to future generations in order to help preserve our great republic.

During the abbreviated program, several short remembrance speeches were given, and two wreaths were placed on stands on either side of the VFW monument. Brother Karl Falken of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2* of Houston, representing the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*, placed one of the wreaths, and Jordan Yager, representing the *Sons of the American Revolution*, placed the other.

Both men were dressed in period uniforms patterned after the service of their ancestors. Brother Falken's impression was in honor of his 2nd great-grandfather, Pvt. Michael Bowers of the 87th *Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry*. Jordan Yager's impression was in honor of his ancestor, James Tucker, a teamster who served in Captain Moses Munson's teamster brigade out of Washington County.



Right: Karl Falken and Jordan Yager after placing wreaths



Since the scheduled rifle team did not attend due to the cancellation notice, Brother Falken obliged with a musket salute. The volleys from his Springfield musket boomed over the cemetery. The shots were followed by *Taps*, sounded by bugler Doug Newlin.

Right: Karl Falken's musket salute

Left: Bugler Doug Newlin



The spectators were appreciative of the efforts made by the participants in honoring all U.S. veterans. Many of them took pictures to take home to share with friends and family members who could not attend the event.

... submitted by Brother Karl Falken – Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2

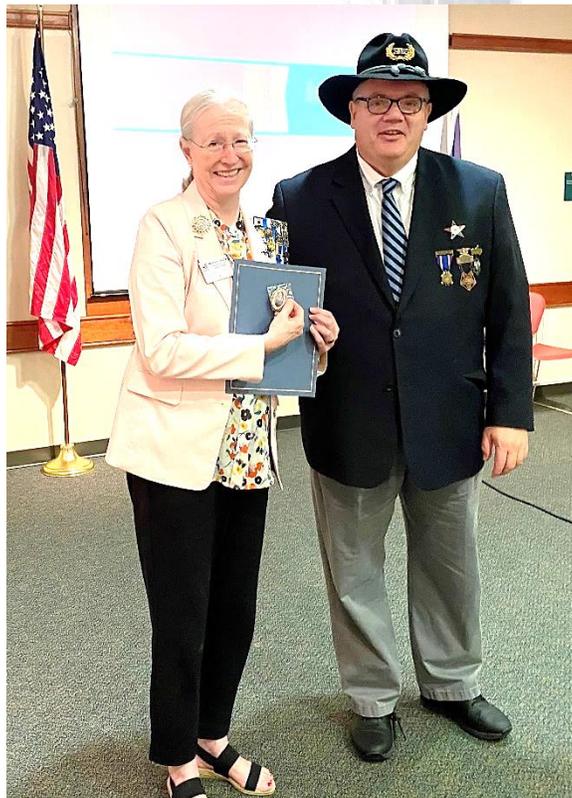
Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 - Houston (continued)

Saturday – 18 Jun 2022 – Conroe, Texas

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution conducted a genealogy workshop in Conroe, Texas on June 18, 2022. John Vander Meulen, Sr. Vice-Commander of the Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp, paid a special visit to the event. His mission was to present member Mary Anthony Startz with a Clara Barton Ladies Appreciation Award. The award was presented to her in recognition for her work with honoring her Union Civil War ancestor, and for being an outstanding guest speaker and friend of the Lea Camp.

Right: Mary Anthony Startz receives Ladies Appreciation Award certificate from SVC John Vander Meulen

Ms. Startz holds memberships in numerous prestigious heritage organizations, including: the San Antonio Clara Barton Detached Tent #3, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War; the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution for thirty years; the Hispanic Genealogical Society of Houston; Daughters of the American Colonists; the Continental Society Daughters of Indian Wars; and the National Society United Daughters of 1812.



She volunteered as guest speaker at the Lea Camp's monthly business meeting in June. Her presentation portrayed the amazing story of her 2nd great-grandfather, William McNamara, who served with the 4th U.S. Cavalry during the Civil War, and later during the Indian Wars. He was also a Medal of Honor recipient.

Left: Mary Anthony Startz receives a Clara Barton Ladies Appreciation Award pin/brooch from SVC John Vander Meulen

Ms. Startz was not expecting Brother Vander Meulen's visit, and was surprised and moved by the gesture. Approximately thirty ladies attended the workshop. They were introduced to the important work being done by the Daughters of the American Revolution, and both the Sons and the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War to preserve the legacy of our veteran ancestors.

Right: Clara Barton Ladies Appreciation Award pin



... submitted by SVC John C. Vander Meulen – Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2

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

Saturday – 18 Jun 2022 – Galveston, Texas

The 43rd Juneteenth holiday was celebrated on two separate days in Galveston, Texas this year. On June 18, the venue was the historic Ashton Villa on Broadway Boulevard. Brother Stephen Duncan once again portrayed Maj. General Gordon Granger at that event. On June 19, the venue moved over to the U.S. Customs House in Galveston. Once again, Brother Duncan attended to portray Maj. General Granger.



At Ashton Villa, Brothers Zane Hooper and Michael Lance attended to serve as a Union Guard. The ballroom of the mansion was filled with guests – and a line of photographers. All seats were taken, so late arrivers stood in the rear of the large room. The Union Guard posted in the back with them.

Left: Federal Guard – Cpl. Michael Lance and Pvt. Zane Hooper

To begin the ceremony, Brother Duncan, as Maj. Gen. Granger, rose from his chair and moved to the podium to briefly welcome the guests and spectators. After an opening prayer and the singing of *God Bless America* by an accomplished singer, several other speakers moved in turn to the podium. They included: Galveston Mayor Dr. Craig Brown; Galveston County Commissioner Stephen Holmes; Galveston NAACP president Mary Patrick; members of the late State Representative Al Edwards family; and U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee.

Dramatic entertainment was provided by Rebecca Jimerson, a Harriet Tubman reenactor. As she concluded her portrayal, Buffalo Soldier reenactor, Luis Padilla, moved to the stage to escort her along the center aisle to the rear of the ballroom.

Right: Retiring Harriet Tubman reenactor escorted by a Buffalo Soldier



Near the end of the program, the Union Guard stepped forward into the center aisle to form up with Maj. Gen. Granger. The unit then marched to the stage to read *General Order No. 3* – the order announcing the emancipation of slaves.

Left: Stephen Duncan, as Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger, stands between his guards before advancing to the stage.



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Left: Attendees watch as the Union Guard escorts Stephen Duncan, portraying Maj. General Gordon Granger, to the stage to read General Order No. 3.

Right: Reading General Order No. 3 at Ashton Villa

2022 marked the first year that Juneteenth was celebrated as a national holiday. During the program, co-sponsor of the enabling legislation, Sheila Jackson Lee, provided a lengthy recount of the actions she and others had taken to bring the holiday into reality.

At the conclusion of the program, the Union men received many requests to stand for photos with attendees. The event was quite successful - both entertaining and informative.



Juneteenth celebrations continued on Sunday, June 19, 2022 at the U.S. Customs Building in Galveston. Brother Duncan, again portraying Maj. Gen. Granger, read *General Order No. 3* from the front steps of the building - after giving the context of the *Order*. He was again joined by Brother Hooper, who served as a Guard. The Customs Building was then christened as the *June Nineteenth Museum*, and is planned to be fully open to the public for Juneteenth 2023.

Right: Portraying Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger, Brother Stephen Duncan reads General Order No. 3 from the steps of the U.S. Customs House – with Zane Hooper as Guard.

Afterward, Brother Duncan presented a copy of the *Order* to Miss Opal Lee, the recognized “grandmother of Juneteenth.”



... report and photos by Michael L. Lance, PCC, and Chaplain Stephen Duncan – Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2

Saturday – 25 Jun 2022 – Worden, Illinois

A remembrance ceremony was held at the grave of my great-grandfather, Henry Ludwig Schulze, on Saturday, June 25th in the little village of Worden, Illinois. The ceremony was conducted by the *Col. Friedrich K. Hecker Camp #443, SUVCW*, which is based in Belleville, Illinois. They were assisted by the *Alton Jaeger Guards*, who portray the *9th Illinois Volunteer Infantry*, the regiment of my ancestor.

Additional ceremony participants included: members of *American Legion Post #564* of Worden, who provided the Honor Guard; members of the *114th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Reactivated*, who sounded 'Echo Taps'; and the Pastor of the Worden Lutheran Church. Henry Schulze and his family had been members of that same Church. The Pastor gave both the Invocation and the Benediction.

The remembrance ceremony actually honored two people – my great-grandfather, Henry Schulze, who was born in Prussia in 1840, and his younger brother, Frederick Schulze. They had immigrated to the United States just prior to the Civil War. The two brothers joined the *9th Illinois Volunteer Infantry* in August 1861. They participated in the assaults on Fort Heineman and Fort Donelson.

In April 1862, the regiment landed at Pittsburgh Landing in Mississippi and set up camp. On the morning of April 6th, the army was attacked by Confederate forces. The regiment held out for nine hours before being pushed back. At the start of the battle the regiment mustered 602 officers and men. At the end of the day, only 297 men answered the muster. My great-uncle, Frederick Schulze, was one of the fallen. Henry Schulze survived the war even though his regiment fought in many more battles.

In March 1863, the *9th Illinois* was converted to a 'mounted infantry' regiment, and thereafter often fought with the cavalry. Henry Schulze was captured twice. The first time was at the *Battle of Cherokee, Alabama*. He was held at Libby Prison for 18 days before being released on parole. In March 1864, after rejoining his regiment, he was captured a second time while scouting along the Flint River near Decatur, Georgia. This time he was sent to Andersonville Prison, and remained there until it was closed. Afterwards, he was transferred to a prison in Florence, South Carolina.

Henry Schulze was finally released from prison in May 1865 after the Confederacy surrendered. He returned to Illinois and married, with the family settling in Worden. He first labored as a farmer, and later became the owner of a general store. He died in 1910 and was buried in the Worden German Cemetery.

Frederick Schulze's remains were recovered from Shiloh after the war and were also reinterred in the Worden German Cemetery. In 1968, I had located his headstone in the old cemetery. However, the headstone is now gone, and the exact location of his grave is no longer known for certain. A few years ago, a monument was erected in the town cemetery which listed the civil war veterans buried there. But no one in Worden today is aware of either Henry or Frederick Schulze. I decided to change that.



Descendant Stephen D. Schulze speaks during the ceremony.

I met with the Commander of *Col. Friedrich K. Hecker Camp #443* during the 2021 National Encampment in St. Louis. He offered to assist with putting together a ceremony to commemorate these two soldiers. The family paid to have a bronze plaque cast which describes the experiences of both men. The plaque was attached to the Schulze monument. I contacted the Veteran's Administration and requested a new headstone for great-uncle Frederick Schulze. Since we aren't sure exactly where the grave is located, we requested a Memorial Stone - which we installed adjacent to the Schulze monument.

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

The remembrance ceremony was a resounding success. I invited as many of Henry's descendants as I could find. We had more than two dozen relatives in attendance. The ceremony included a bagpiper who played "The Minstrel Boy to the War Has Gone" as the Colors were paraded in, and later he played "Amazing Grace" as the Colors were retired. The ceremony included both a rifle and cannon salute, and the playing of "Echo Taps".



Right: Bagpiper Dan Jackson performing

Everyone who attended said they found the ceremony to be very moving. It was followed by a luncheon, where the Director of the *Madison County Historical Society* gave a presentation on the 9th Illinois and the battles they fought in.

Left: Schulze monument and decorated grave marker



Two additional small markers were placed at the Schulze grave - the G.A.R. star and the *SUVCW* emblem. I am determined that my Civil War ancestors, Henry and Frederick Schulze, will not be forgotten!

Below: Brother Stephen D. Schulze (in uniform) and other Schulze descendants at gravesite.



... submitted by *Secr./Treas. Stephen D. Schulze, PDC* – Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2

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

Ancestor Memorialized – Rome, Georgia

After looking at the internet and seeing veteran military headstones, I became curious about how one could acquire a military style headstone for a Civil War veteran. Searching more on the internet, I found the website va.gov, read all the information, downloaded the application, and filled it out completely. I made sure I specified which headstone I wanted, including the size and type. I also made sure I followed all the instructions, including how to submit the necessary and/or correct documentation. After all the above was complete, I mailed the documents to the address listed. Later, I received a response telling me that it had been received and was being processed. I was informed that shipment of the marker should take two to three weeks.

Before I started the above process, I had contacted Maple Grove Cemetery in Rome, Georgia asking permission to have a headstone erected to honor my great-grandfather who had served in the U.S. Army during the Civil War. Their response was very positive. Not only would the cemetery approve the acceptance of the tombstone when shipped to them, they would honor his service by placing the marker at no charge. Although the exact location of my ancestor's burial site is unknown, I was told the cemetery would place the marker in line with the markers of other Union soldiers who are also buried on Myrtle Hill – whose actual burial sites are also unknown. I now have the satisfaction of knowing that my great-grandfather has a proper veteran's headstone honoring his service to our nation.



Right: VA supplied headstone placed in line with other Union Soldiers

Julius Oluf Krag was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, and had served in the military in Denmark. It would have been natural for him to enter into military service for our country when he arrived in May 1863. He enlisted the following



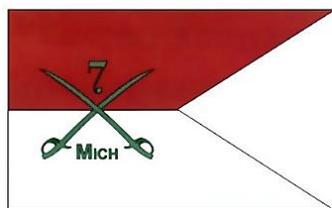
month - in June 1863, and immediately became engaged with our nation's Civil War. He served with honor, was wounded, captured, paroled at Aikens Landing, hospitalized, and again returned to serve with his unit. In August 1865, my great-grandfather was finally mustered-out of active service.

What a shame, that upon his death, he was buried without proper documentation indicating any burial plot/location information. He most likely had a simple wooden cross placed at his final resting place which, after years of neglect, was eventually destroyed or simply rotted away. At least now he has a marker saying he is here, somewhere, known only to God.

... Submitted by descendant Frank Nichols – Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2

Trivia – Guidons

A Guidon was a swallow-tailed pennant used by Cavalry and light Artillery units. At the beginning of the war, Union army regulations did not allow Federal cavalry to carry a National flag. However, they were required to show regimental standards and company guidons – which displayed the letter used to designate the unit. It was mandated that the “guidons measure 3 feet, 5 inches from the lance to the end of the swallow-tail – 15 inches to the fork of the swallow



Early 7th MI Cav. guidon

tail – and 2 feet, three inches on the lance. To be half red and half white, dividing at the fork, the red above.” Unofficially, guidons were also designed that resembled the national banner. Thus the regulations were amended in January 1862 to direct that “guidons and camp colors for the Army will be made like the United States flag, with stars and stripes.



Later 2nd MA, Co. K guidon

Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp #5 - Shreveport

In July, members of the Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp #5 trekked to the Pleasant Hill Battlefield, located about 40 miles south of Shreveport, Louisiana. They were on a mission to observe the relocated Caddo Parish Civil War monument, which was originally dedicated in 1906. The monument had been situated on land donated by Caddo Parish to the *United Daughters of the Confederacy*. It was intended to commemorate the final lowering the Confederate flag on land and to honor all Louisiana veterans of the Civil War.

Even though the monument was intended to honor soldiers of both sides of the war, it also served as the 'tombstone of the Confederacy' – and grew increasingly controversial in recent decades. Changing demographics in Caddo Parish, along with an uninformed populace and elected officials, contributed to the true meaning and significance of the

memorial becoming lost. Earlier this year, the monument was carefully dismantled and trucked to its new battleground home, where it was cleaned and reconstructed.



Left: Relocated Caddo Parish Civil War Monument

The previous location of the monument was historically significant in that the land donated by Caddo Parish had been the site of the Confederate state legislature during the last two years of the war - and had been the location of the final lowering the Confederate flag.

The new site also has significance. It is the ground on which the largest battle of the war west of the Mississippi occurred. It was a Confederate victory, causing Union Maj. General Nathaniel Banks' army to be forced to fall back to Alexandria with the loss of most of its supplies. That infamous defeat led to the Union commander's ironic nickname of "Commissary Banks." The land was donated by the Poimbeouf family of Pleasant Hill, who own much of the battleground and have preserved it as a military park.

In Late September, *Bailey Camp #5* will participate in the opening of one of two remarkably preserved time capsules found in the Caddo Parish monument during its dismantling. The Camp also plans to participate in the rededication of the monument on October 29, 2022.

In August, *Bailey Camp #5* welcomed a visit by Paul Ridenour, a past Cmdr. of *Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp #18* of Dallas. He presented a multimedia program on the Union soldiers buried at Oakwood Cemetery in Jefferson, Texas. There are two rows of 13 graves each. In one row there is an open spot marking the final resting place of Medal of Honor recipient 2nd Lt. Daniel J. Murphy. His grave marker was moved to the cemetery's *Veterans Circle of Honor*, but his body was not moved. His grave remains unmarked. Additionally, the family of 1st Lt. Edward P. Colby reclaimed his remains for burial in his hometown elsewhere, but his tombstone remains at Oakwood Cemetery.

Finally, *Bailey Camp #5* also plans to participate in Veterans' Day observances at the Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery in Keithville.

... submitted by Camp Cmdr. John Prime - Brig. Gen. Joseph Baily Camp #5



Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp #18- Dallas

Monday, 30 May 2022 – McKinney, Texas

On Memorial Day 2022, the *Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp #18* conducted a ceremony of remembrance at Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney, Texas to honor U.S. veterans. They gathered at the gravesite of Captain William L. Boyd, an Illinois-born Civil War veteran who died in 1906 at age 76. The ceremony included the placing of a wreath as well as musket volley salutes commanded by Camp Cmdr. David Rediger.



Front rank fires



Rear Rank fires



L-R: Connor Rediger, DJVC Rick Erder, Ed Prejean, CC David Rediger, Don Gates, PDC, John Schneider, PDC, and Rob Burrage – at decorated grave of Capt. William L. Boyd

... submitted by Donald Gates, Dept. Sec./Treas. – Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp #18

Department Patriotic Instructor's Message

Jan 2022 – From the Office of the National Patriotic Instructor, SUVCW

Excerpt from the message from National Patriotic Instructor, Benjamin Frail:

"As we wrap up the first month of the year 2022, we will start planning activities and fundraisers to help our Camps and Departments. We will begin to start planning our Memorial Day ceremonies and parades to remember the men of the Union and the G.A.R. As this is going on we must keep in mind that we are continuing the mission of the men of the *Grand Army of the Republic*. In doing so we must also teach and educate those we are working with about who the G.A.R. was and what they did.

We know that the comrades of the G.A.R. would care for their fellow Civil War veterans and the families of those who did not come home or had since passed. As the United States entered and exited more conflicts, the G.A.R. would also take those veterans coming home under their wings and make sure that not only were they taken care of, but that they were taking care of their own. It is important to educate the public on the things that the G.A.R. did as it shows that this is part of our legacy as *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*.

There are a few ways that we can go about educating the public and ourselves regarding what the G.A.R. did. To start with ourselves, we will soon be having a module on our new and improved Memorial University that will be dedicated to the history of the G.A.R. This module will help to show our Brothers, young and old, of all the *Grand Army* did to better the lives of their fellow veteran. Understanding what they did will help us to continue and honor their legacy.

Some of the ways we can go about keeping their memory alive in the public is by doing presentations at local historic societies, Boy Scout Troops or VFW Hall. By reaching out to these organizations we will find people who are interested in what the G.A.R. was and how they impacted their society. You might be asking, why is it so important for the rest of the world to know and understand their legacy? We must keep their legacy alive and well because we can learn a lot as a society by looking at what the G.A.R. did. Taking time out of their lives to ensure that those who they were charged with caring for were never forgotten and that is a lesson that everyone can learn from.

I cannot wait to see all the work that Brothers, Camps and Departments will do this coming year from cemetery clean ups to presentations on the G.A.R. Good luck, be safe and remember to have fun with it all!"

Department Chaplain's Corner

Note: The following article was posted by Department of Florida Chaplain Dave Acheson, CC of Camp #9, Jacksonville.

We Had Some Praying Men At Andersonville

Soldiers also prayed for their immediate needs, and perhaps none more earnestly than those who found themselves inside the Confederate prison camp at Andersonville, Georgia. The chief cause of many of the deaths was the foul water supply. Andersonville prisoner William N. Tyler recalled the situation: "They held nightly prayer meetings, and they prayed for water. They prayed like men that meant business, for we were all dying for the want of it. One day after one of these meetings there occurred one of the most fearful rains I ever saw. It washed out the stockade as clean as a hound's tooth. Right between the dead-line and the stockade it washed a ditch about two feet deep and a spring of cold water broke out in a stream large enough to fill a four-inch pipe. The spring is there yet, I am told, and to this day is called Providence spring. It broke out in the very best place it could for our benefit. The stockade protected it on one side from the Rebels, and the dead-line on the other side protected it from the prisoners. The fountain head was thus protected. We had good water from then on."

This story has special meaning for me as my great-grandfather was a prisoner in Andersonville. My thanks to Chaplain Acheson.

.....submitted by Dept. Chaplain Stephen D. Schulze - Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2

The Life and Times of a Camp GRO

On the behest of Department Sr. Vice-Commander, Timothy Phillips, I shall write upon my duties as a Camp Graves Registration Officer (GRO).



When wandering upon the earth, a Camp brother may come upon a grave of a noble defender of the Union. They take a picture of the grave and write down any info they can find about the cemetery. The resulting information is then forwarded unto me.

L-R: Timothy Phillips, PDC and Todd Wilber, Camp #1 GRO

I then ascertain whether the veteran is registered in the *SUVCW* National Graves Registration Database (NGRD) or not. If the veteran is in the system, no need to proceed further. If he is not in the database, I do some research on the veteran using sites like Fold 3 and Find-a-Grave. I then write a short synopsis about the veteran and forward it to the Department GRO, Terry Sutton. The Dept GRO then enters the veteran into the NGRD. Rinse, wash, repeat.

... submitted by DGRO Todd Wilber - Gen. James J. Byrne Camp #1

Ancestor Profile – Aaron Ruple Porter *(continued from page 7)*

The regiment advanced on Raleigh, North Carolina in April 1865, occupying it on April 14, and was present at Bennett's House on April 26, 1865, for the surrender of General Johnston's Confederate Army. After the surrender, the regiment left for Washington, D.C., marching through Richmond, Virginia on the way. They arrived in Washington on May 20 and marched in the *Grand Review* on May 24. The *Grand Review* was grand indeed: some 342 infantry regiments, 27 cavalry regiments, and 44 artillery batteries, along with assorted engineers, signal corpsmen, ambulance drivers, provost marshals, and black civilian pioneers, proudly tramped past the reviewing stands.

On June 6, 1865, Aaron's regiment was ordered to Louisville, Kentucky, and then on to Nashville, Tennessee, where they were engaged in constructing better defenses. They were finally mustered-out of service on September 22, 1865, and arrived back in Jackson, Michigan nine days later. From there, Chauncey and Aaron Porter returned on foot to their families in Ionia and Pine River, a mere 80 and 100 miles away. All told, the brothers traveled close to 2,700 miles during their year with the *1st Michigan Engineers*.



Four years later, Aaron Ruple Porter married 21-year-old Eliza Murphy, a woman of Irish and German descent. They raised five children together, the first being my great-grandfather, Harry Erastus Porter. Aaron lived out his life farming in Pine River and Lafayette townships in Michigan. He passed away in 1904 at age 61 and rests in Ridgelawn Cemetery in Breckenridge, Gratiot County, Michigan. His military grave marker simply reads: "A. R. Porter – Co. E - First Michigan Engineers".

... submitted by 2nd great-grandson, JVC Daniel B. Pourreau - Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2



Weapons of War - An "Infernal Machine"

In 1861, more than a year before the Confederacy introduced the infamous *H. L. Hunley*, the U.S. Navy was looking to enhance its fleet with the addition of its first submersible vessel. This interest was instigated by French inventor and engineer, Brutus de Villeroi, who had succeeded in convincing the Union Navy that he could produce a submersible warship from which a diver could place an explosive charge under an enemy ship. In addition to having a weapon to attack Confederate warships, the Navy saw value in developing a vessel that could also destroy harbor obstructions.

Six months later, in November 1861, de Villeroi was under contract to build the Union Navy's first submarine, later named *USS Alligator*. The Philadelphia shipbuilding firm of Neafie & Levy was quickly engaged to produce the vessel. De Villeroi would provide the innovative design and supervise the building project. Construction of *Alligator* was completed in the spring of 1862, and she was successfully launched at Philadelphia on May 1, 1862.



Inventor Brutus de Villeroi

The resulting green-hued iron vessel was 47 feet long and 8 feet in diameter. Due to her shape and color, it wasn't long before a local newspaper dubbed the new sub "*Alligator*." The moniker stuck and was adopted by the Union Navy. Popular opinion of a sub's stealthy method of attack was as an 'infernal machine'.

Small circular plates of glass were installed along the upper sides to allow for interior lighting. The vessel had several watertight compartments and was designed to carry 18 men. Unique innovations and design features of *Alligator* broke new ground in several ways. *Alligator* was the first operational submarine to have an air purifying system. Two tubes, with floats attached, extended from the top of the vessel to the water's surface to supply air down to the crewmen inside. The tubes were connected to an air pump inside the submarine.

Another significant feature was her forward airlock - which enabled two demolition-trained divers to leave the ship while it was submerged. They could leave through a hatch in the bottom of the ship, affix electrically-fired demolition torpedoes to an underwater target such as an enemy ship or harbor obstruction, return back to the airlock with an insulated copper wire attached to the torpedoes, and then detonate them by connecting the wires to a battery inside the vessel.

Initially, *Alligator* was equipped with 16 hand-powered paddles protruding from her sides to provide propulsion and turning capabilities. The paddles were to be rowed in unison like a canoe. In July 1862, in order to increase speed, the impractical paddles were replaced by a hand-cranked screw propeller. This improvement increased her cruising speed to about four knots. Rudders for steering were also added at that time.

Rear Admiral Samuel Francis Du Pont soon took an interest in the unique vessel and decided to use her in his plans to capture Charleston, SC.



Illustration of *USS Alligator* following the propeller/rudder upgrade

On April 2, 1863, the *Alligator* was unmanned and being towed by her tender, *USS Sumter*, on the long voyage to Port Royal, South Carolina to participate in the *Second Battle for Fort Sumter*. Her battle assignment was to set and detonate sea mines during the attack. The Union Navy believed the submerged *Alligator* would be more or less impervious to destruction from the Confederate defensive guns.

Unfortunately, *Sumter* and *Alligator* encountered fierce weather near Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. *USS Sumter* began taking on water and was dangerously further destabilized by the tethered *Alligator*. It became necessary for the *Sumter* to cut the tow line, leaving *Alligator* adrift to eventually sink. The sub, which was armed with two electrically detonating littoral sea mines, was later declared 'lost at sea' - effectively ending the Union Navy's experiment with submarines. In 2005, a group made up of multiple researchers, historians and archaeologists began searching for the missing *Alligator* - but were unsuccessful. She remains 'lost at sea'.

... submitted by Michael L. Lance, DC - Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2

Featured Civil War Memorial

Even before the Civil War ended, memorials dedicated to honoring the fallen soldiers began to appear. These memorials took several forms, including statues, obelisks, monoliths, stone markers, bronze plaques, and tablets. One of the earliest memorials was a monument installed on the battlefield soon after the December 1861 *Battle of Rowlett's Station* near Munfordville, Kentucky. It was dedicated to the casualties suffered by the 32nd Indiana Infantry during that engagement. In the decades after the war, it was common for communities across the reunited country to organize and raise the funds needed to erect monuments of their own. While many of those memorials still exist, a good number of them are mostly forgotten – or simply ignored. In many cases, the patriotic passions that once brought the memorials into existence have long since faded.

The *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* is entrusted to “perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the men who saved the Union 1861 to 1865,.....”. One way we can do that is to bring awareness to the very memorials that were created to honor and remember their service and sacrifice. Therefore, going forward, this publication will highlight a different Civil War memorial with each issue.

The first memorial to be highlighted, the *Kent County Civil War Monument*, has special meaning for me because it is located in my ‘home town’ of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Even though I must have passed by it a thousand times in my youth, *I never took notice of it*. When I recently saw a reference to a large Civil War monument in downtown Grand Rapids, I could barely visualize it in my mind. So it became a mission for me to visit the site when I traveled to Grand Rapids in August to attend the 141st National Encampment of the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*. The following images were taken during that visit.

Plans and fundraising for a soldier’s monument in Kent County, Michigan had begun before the Civil War ended. However, those efforts slowed to a trickle after the war. But in 1884, when the *Army of the Cumberland* announced that their 17th annual reunion would be held in Grand Rapids the following year, the *Kent County Soldier’s Monument Association* worked quickly to secure the balance of funding needed to build and erect a monument. The Detroit Bronze Company was engaged to create a statue, and permission was granted to place a memorial in a small triangular park in downtown Grand Rapids.

The resulting 34-foot high monument was dedicated on September 17, 1885 as part of the reunion festivities. Michigan Governor Russell Alger attended the event, along with a crowd of more than 30,000 citizens. About three thousand Union veterans were also present, and General Philip Sheridan attended as guest of honor.

During the Civil War, more than 4,200 soldiers had been recruited from Kent County, and nearly 600 of them had sacrificed their lives for the Union cause.

Right: Historic Kent County Civil War Monument

The monument was the first in the country to include a built-in fountain – and the first to commemorate the role of women in the Civil War. A plaque on the monument states that it was erected in 1885 to honor the fallen soldiers from Kent County.



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Featured Civil War Memorial (continued)

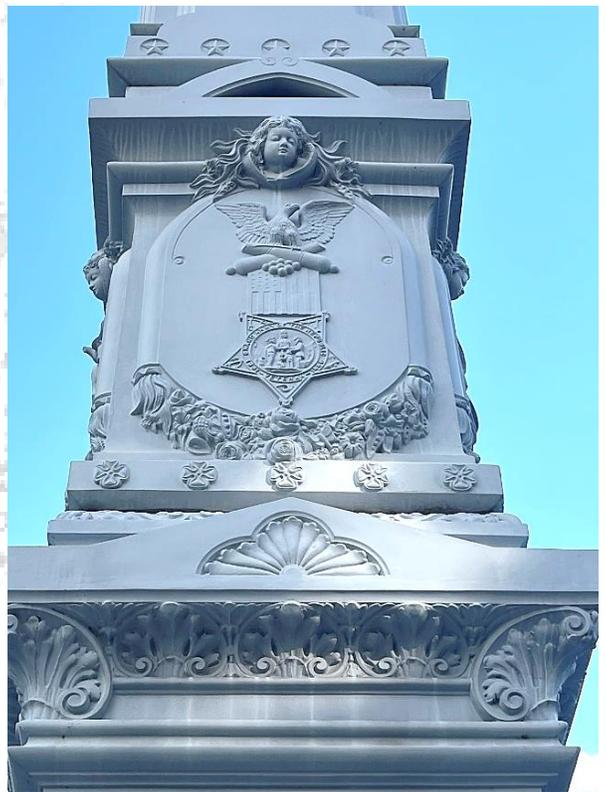


The monument stands in a 16-foot diameter basin. The base section is 7 feet high with three additional sections above – each with detailed engraving, including flourishes, eagles, flags, and military devices. A Union soldier stands at ‘Parade Rest’ on top with his rifle.

The names and dates of major Civil War battles are featured around the base section, including Vicksburg (*see image at left*), Fort Sumter, New Orleans, Ft. Donelson (*see image at bottom left*), Mobile, Stone River, Port Royal, Monitor vs. Merrimac, Yorktown, Atlanta, and Appomattox.

Left: This image shows the unique built-in fountain which features four putti (*chubby winged male child*) spouting water from their mouths on the second tier, and 20 small cannon spouts around the base.

Right: The Grand Army of the Republic is honored with the likeness of its membership badge on the 3rd tier.



Left: This image shows the bas relief likeness of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, one of the four men that adorn the four sides of the base. The other three sides show President Abraham Lincoln, Admiral David Farragut, and President James Garfield.

Bas relief quotations from Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses Grant, James Garfield, and Andrew Jackson are also included on the upper tiers.

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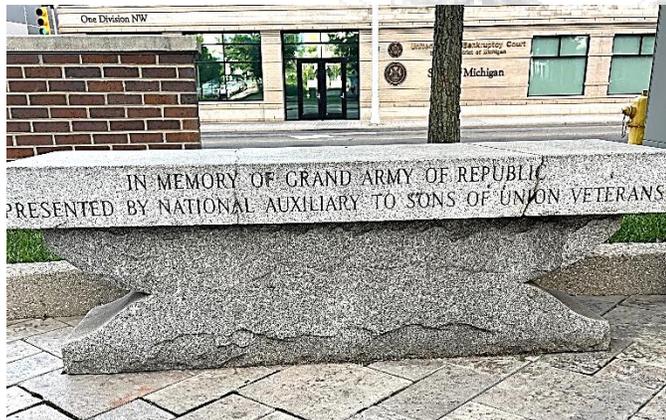
Featured Civil War Memorial (continued)

The monument was cast in pure 'white bronze' (zinc), and thus has retained its beauty and detail over the years - due to the excellent weather resistant properties of zinc.

Right: On the 2nd tier, above the putto's wings, is the bas relief of a woman giving comfort to a wounded soldier, with the words: "WOMEN'S MISSION OF MERCY"

Situated around the monument in the small Monument Park are two stone benches. One is engraved with: "IN MEMORY OF GRAND ARMY OF REPUBLIC – PRESENTED BY NATIONAL AUXILIARY TO SONS OF UNION VETERANS" (see below left), and the other with: "THE COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN – MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES" (see below right).

In addition, a large raised historical marker states: "THIS PROPERTY IS LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR IN JULY 2004 – THE KENT COUNTY CIVIL WAR MONUMENT & FOUNTAIN DEDICATED SEPTEMBER 17, 1885".



In 2000, the *Gen. John A. Logan Camp #1* of the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* led a Civil War Restoration Committee to raise funds to restore the monument. Three years later, they had raised the \$250,000 needed for the project. The restoration included removing layers of "Union blue" paint that had been applied in 1953. The blue paint had been applied back then because of complaints that the original silver-blue finish could be interpreted as "Confederate gray." When the monument was re-dedicated in October 2003, real son, Edward Blakely, whose father had attended the original dedication in 1885, was in attendance.



Left: Union soldier statue was restored to its original unpainted silver-blue finish (internet photo).

In July 2013, Monument Park itself received a make-over. New sidewalks, trees, and street lighting were added. The monument was moved to a more central location in the small park - and turned a bit so that the sentry on top faces the busy intersection.

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

Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients - U.S. Army (Part 3)

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 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.



- **Everett W. Anderson – Sergeant** – Everett W. Anderson was born in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania in 1839. He was a grandson of Revolutionary War veteran and Pennsylvania congressman Isaac Anderson. During the Civil War, Everett W. Anderson served with *Co. M, 15th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry*. He served throughout the war, eventually attaining the rank of Sergeant. He received the Medal of Honor for valor for:



"Captured, single-handed, Confederate Brig. Gen. Robert B. Vance during a charge upon the enemy".

This action took place in Tennessee in January 1864. The Confederate General had captured a major federal supply train moving towards Knoxville to resupply Gen. Ambrose Burnside's troops. While trying to take the captured wagons to North Carolina, Brig. Gen. Vance, and nearly all of his Confederate troops, were captured by Sergeant Anderson and the *15th Pennsylvania Cavalry*. Anderson died in 1917 at age 78. He was buried in Phoenixville.

- **Frederick C. Anderson – Private** – Frederick C. Anderson was born in 1842 in Boston, Massachusetts. By age eight, he was living in a South Boston workhouse called the *House of Industry*. The facility was later described as "[a]n asylum for the insane and refuge for the deserted and the most destitute children of the city". At age 14, Anderson was sent on the Orphan Train, which transported orphaned, abandoned, and homeless children from large East Coast cities to rural areas, where they were taken in by families and put to work. When the train reached Raynham, Massachusetts, young Anderson was selected by Stillman Wilber, a local farmer. He lived and worked on the Wilber farm until August 1861, when he enlisted in the Union Army at Dedham, Massachusetts. He was 19 years old and described as "5 foot 3 inches in height, with a light complexion, blue eyes and sandy hair". Anderson served as a Private with *Co. A, 18th Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry*.

At the Battle of Globe Tavern, during the siege of Petersburg, Anderson captured the *27th South Carolina Infantry Regiment's* flag and flag bearer. For this action, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. His citation simply reads:

"Capture of battle flag of 27th South Carolina (C.S.A.) and the color bearer."

With the captured Confederate flags on display, Anderson and several other men of the *V Corps* were decorated by Gen. George Meade during a ceremony on September 13, 1864. Anderson was mustered out of service on June 29, 1865, in Boston.

After the war, Anderson stayed in Massachusetts and settled in Somerset. He died suddenly of "apoplexy" at age 40 while working at the Worcester Railroad freight yard in Providence, Rhode Island. He was reportedly buried at the Anderson Family Cemetery in Somerset; however no record of this cemetery's existence was found. In 2011, a researcher discovered Anderson's grave at the Dighton Community Church cemetery in Dighton, Massachusetts.

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Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients - U.S. Army (Part 3 continued)

- **Marion T. Anderson – Captain** – Marion T. Anderson was born in 1839 in Decatur County, Indiana. He enlisted in the Union Army in December 1861 at Kokomo, Indiana. He was 22 years old when mustered-in as 1st Sergeant for *Co. D, 51st Indiana Volunteer Infantry*. He was soon promoted to 2nd Lt., and then Captain and commander of *Co. D* in December 1862. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery at the Battle of Nashville, Tennessee on December 16, 1864. His citation reads:



"Led his regiment over 5 lines of the enemy's works, where he fell, severely wounded".

Despite his wounds, Anderson served through the end of the war, resigning his commission in June 1865. He died in 1904 at age 64. He was one of only two 51st Indiana officers to be awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery during the Civil War - the other being Captain Milton F. Russell of *Co. A*.

- **Peter T. Anderson – Corporal** – Peter T. Anderson was born in 1847 in Lafayette Co., Wisconsin. He enlisted with the *31st Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry* in September 1863. He received a brevet promotion to Captain two years after mustering-out of service in July 1865.

During the Battle of Bentonville, North Carolina on March 19, 1865. Anderson's brigade was attacked across an open field - and was threatened to be flanked when they were ordered to retreat. Private Anderson noticed a field piece from the *19th Indiana Artillery* had been abandoned on the field. When no other volunteers stepped forward when asked, Anderson went alone to retrieve it. The big gun had been limbered up to its horses before its cannons retreated in haste without it.



While under fire, Anderson directed the team away from the oncoming Rebels. He was nearly killed when a Confederate officer, seconds from capturing or shooting him, was shot himself by other men from the *31st Wisconsin*, who formed a temporary battle line to cover Private Anderson's action. After the cannon had been successfully rescued, he passed it to his Chief of Artillery,



who reported the incident to Army commander Gen. William T. Sherman. The general himself personally thanked and congratulated Anderson, and promised a more substantial reward - which turned out to be an officer's commission of Captain, U.S. Volunteers - and the Medal of Honor. His citation reads:

"For extraordinary heroism on 19 March 1865, while serving with Company B, 31st Wisconsin Infantry, in action at Bentonville, North Carolina. Entirely unassisted, Private Anderson brought from the field an abandoned piece of artillery and saved the gun from falling into the hands of the enemy."

- **Thomas A. Anderson – Corporal** – Thomas A. Anderson was born in 1841 in Washington Co., Pennsylvania. At age 20, he enlisted in the Union Army at Wheeling, West Virginia and served as a Corporal with *Co. I, 1st Regiment, West Virginia Volunteer Cavalry*. During the Battle of Appomattox Station, Virginia on April 8, 1864, his actions caused him to be awarded the Medal of Honor. His citation states:

"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Corporal Thomas Anderson, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on April 8, 1865, while serving with Company I, 1st West Virginia Cavalry, in action at Appomattox Station, Virginia, for the capture of a Confederate flag."

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Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients - U.S. Army (Part 3 continued)

- **Andrew O. Apple – Corporal** – Andrew O. Apple was born in 1845 in Northampton, Pennsylvania. In August 1862, he enlisted as a Private with the Union Army at New Cumberland, West Virginia at age 17. He served with *Co. I, 12th West Virginia Infantry*. Sometime before April 1865, he was promoted to the rank of Corporal. His regiment fought in multiple small skirmishes and major military engagements throughout the war.

On April 2, 1865, while fighting with his regiment in the *3rd Battle of Petersburg*, Apple performed the act of conspicuous gallantry which later resulted in his being awarded the U.S. Medal of Honor. He had retrieved his regiment's battle flag from a fallen comrade during the assault on Fort Gregg after two other members of his regiment had been killed carrying the flag in that day's engagement. Interviewed later in life about his Civil War experiences, Apple described how the events unfolded that day:



"... about noon April 2, 1865, while the operations were being carried on in front of Petersburg, after the works of Forts Gregg and Whitworth had been assaulted for six hours, General Ord attacked Fort Gregg with three brigades. We came from the left of the line and took the fort after a terrific struggle, during which there was no time to reload our muskets after first discharging them, and the greater number of us were forced to use our bayonets during the entire assault."

Apple's regiment then participated in the pursuit of the Confederate troops commanded by General Robert E. Lee. After Lee surrendered, Apple's regiment marched to Richmond, where it remained to rest through mid-June. Apple, however, was not given the same rest period. He was singled out as one of 40 men to be placed on detached duty. In May 1865, he and his group of 40 were ordered to board a steamer and charged with guarding a series of boxes which they initially were told contained guns. Upon their arrival in Washington, D.C., they oversaw the transport of those boxes to the White House where, in front of U.S. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton and other members of President Johnson's cabinet, the boxes were opened to reveal the battle flags which had been taken from Lee's Confederate forces. After being photographed with Stanton, the men were each given two months' pay and a 30-day furlough with transportation to their homes – and then back to camp. Upon his return to Richmond, Apple was presented with his Medal of Honor. He was honorably discharged with his regiment on June 16, 1865.

Following his honorable discharge, Apple returned home to Pennsylvania. In 1868, he moved westward in search of a better life, choosing to settle in Illinois. He lived and worked as a bartender at a hotel where he met his future wife, Mary. They were married in Kane County, Illinois in November 1869. During the mid-1870s, Apple began a career as a fireman, and eventually attained the post of City Fire Marshall. He was also active with his local chapter of the *Grand Army of the Republic*, often serving as Officer-of-the-Day. Sometime during his early to mid-40s, Apple developed Bright's Disease - an inflammation of the kidneys. He died at his home in Elgin, Illinois in June 1890 at age 45. His remains were escorted to his gravesite by comrades from his *G.A.R.* post, members of the fire department and other city officials. 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 Corporal Andrew O. Apple, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on April 2, 1865, while serving with Company I, 12th West Virginia Infantry, in action at Petersburg, Virginia, for conspicuous gallantry as Color Bearer in the assault on Fort Gregg."

... series to be continued next issue with Part 4

Upcoming Activities - Department of Texas and Louisiana

- Sep 13, 2022** **Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp** – Guest Speaker: History Professor Dr. Andrew J. Torget
Topic: *The Road to Secession for Texas* – 7:00 p.m.
Monthly Business Meeting – 8:00 p.m.
Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, TX - 7:00 p.m.
- Sep 14, 2022** **Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp** – Monthly Business Meeting
Caddo Parish Coroner’s Office, 2900 Hearne Ave, Shreveport, LA – 6:00 p.m.
- Sep 15, 2022** **Gen. James J. Byrne Camp** - Monthly Business Meeting via Zoom – 7:00 p.m.
- Sep 20, 2022** **Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp** - Monthly Business Meeting
Heritage Farmstead Museum, 1900 W. 15th St., Plano, TX – 7:00 p.m.
- Sep 24, 2022** **Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp** - Historic time capsule opening event - Location TBA, 1:00 p.m.
- Oct 11, 2022** **Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp** - Monthly Business Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
New member Initiation Ceremony – 8:00 p.m.
Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, TX - 7:00 p.m.
- Oct 12, 2022** **Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp** - Monthly Business Meeting
Caddo Parish Coroner’s Office, 2900 Hearne Ave, Shreveport, LA – 6:00 p.m.
- Oct 29, 2022** **Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp** - Graveside Ceremony
Old Humble Cemetery, 391-405 S. Houston Ave, Humble, TX – 10:00 a.m.
- Oct 20, 2022** **Gen. James J. Byrne Camp** - Monthly Business Meeting - Via Zoom – 7:00 p.m.
- Nov 5, 2022** **Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp** - *Voices of South Texas* – a Living History Event
Old Bayview Cemetery, 1202 Ramirez St, Corpus Christi, TX – 10:00 a.m.
- Nov 8, 2022** **Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp** - Guest Speaker: History Professor Richard B. McCaslin – 7:00 p.m.
Monthly Business Meeting - 8:00 p.m.
Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, TX - 7:00 p.m.
- Nov 9, 2022** **Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp Business Meeting**
Caddo Parish Coroner’s Office, 2900 Hearne Ave, Shreveport, LA – 6:00 p.m.
- Nov 11, 2022** **Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp** - Veteran’s Day Celebration – Musket Salute and Parade
Houston City Hall, 901 Bagby St., Houston, TX – 10:00 a.m.
- Nov 11, 2022** **Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp** - Veteran’s Day Observances at Hillcrest Memorial Park, Bossier City, LA; Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery, Keithville, LA; and Greenwood Cemetery, Shreveport, LA
- Nov 12, 2022** **Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp** - Veteran’s Day Ceremony
Union veterans section, Glenwood Cemetery, 2911 Washington Ave, Houston, TX - 11:00 a.m.
- Nov 17, 2022** **Gen. James J. Byrne Camp Business Meeting** - Via Zoom – 7:00 p.m.
- Nov 19, 2022** **Gen. James J. Byrne Camp** – Graveside Memorial Ceremony for Gen. James J. Byrne
Pioneers Rest Cemetery, 620 Samuels Ave, Fort Worth, TX – 10:00 a.m.
- Dec 13, 2022** **Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp** – Guest Speaker: Thomas K. Lindsay, Ph.D.
Topic: *The Lincoln/Douglas debates*– 7:00 p.m.
Monthly Business Meeting – 8:00 p.m.
Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, TX
- Dec 15, 2022** **Gen. James J. Byrne Camp Business Meeting** - Via Zoom – 7:00 p.m.
- Dec 17, 2022** **Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp** - Wreaths Across America
Houston National Cemetery, 10410 Veterans Memorial Dr, Houston, TX – 11:00 a.m.
- Jan 7, 2023** **Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp** – Battle of Galveston Commemoration Ceremony
Episcopal Church Cemetery, 4001 Ave K, Galveston, TX – 10:00 a.m.
Monthly Business Meeting – Golden Corral Restaurant, 6200 Seawall Blvd, Galveston, TX - 1:00 p.m.

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Department of Texas and Louisiana



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MEDIA LINKS

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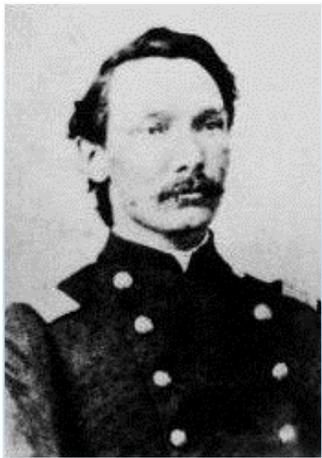
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Newsletter: The Department newsletter, *The Unionist*, is published quarterly (Feb, May, Aug, and Nov). Send questions or comments concerning the newsletter to the Editor at: mlance387@gmail.com





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

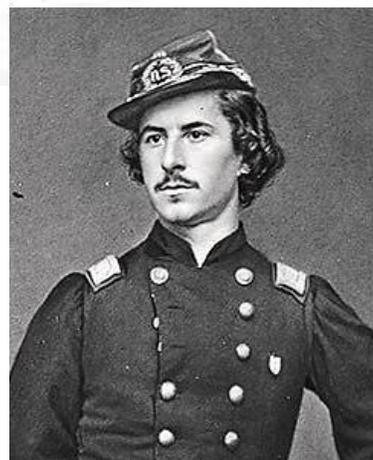


Killed in Action on the USS Harriet Lane

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