



The Harriet Lane

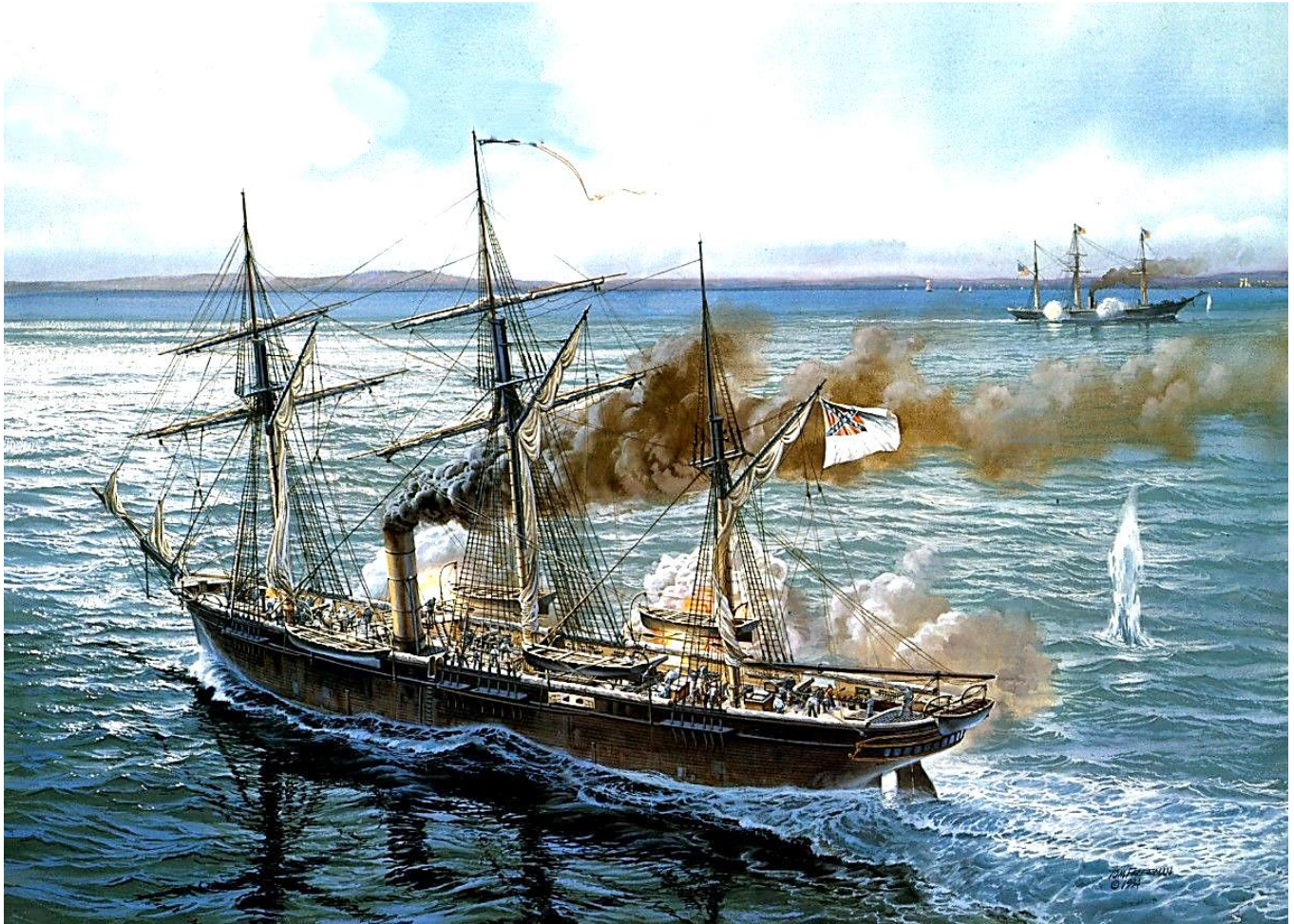


The Official Newsletter of
Lt. Commander Edward Lea, USN, Camp No. 2 – Houston, Texas
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

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Cover Image

CSS Alabama vs USS Kearsarge – Notable naval battle off the coast of France on June 19, 1864 – by an unknown artist.

The *Harriet Lane* is the official newsletter of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN Camp No. 2, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Houston, Texas. It is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December.

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

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

Memorial for Capt. Isaac Conroe

Saturday, 5 Oct 2024 - Houston, Texas

It was a beautiful Fall morning as members of *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2* of Houston arrived at historic Glenwood Cemetery in Houston Heights. They gathered to take part in a graveside ceremony honoring Civil War veteran, Captain Isaac Conroe. Conroe had served as Captain of the *12th Illinois Cavalry* and migrated to Texas after the war. He built a lumber business, and eventually founded the nearby city of Conroe, Texas.

The ceremony was supported by volunteer participants from the *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary No. 1*; *Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp 18* of Dallas; and the *Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent No. 4, DUVCW*. Special guests included Conroe City Councilwoman, Shana Arthur, Andrew V. Rapoza of the *Montgomery County Historical Commission*, and several descendants of Captain Conroe.

The program went smoothly, featuring a biographical reading about Capt. Conroe by Mr. Rapoza, a mayoral proclamation presented by Councilwoman Arthur, the laying of wreaths and roses at the grave, and a 3-volley musket salute. The event was very moving for everyone present, and especially so for the descendants of the Civil War veteran.

The program began with the toll of the ceremonial bell by Camp Patriotic Instructor, Steve Brock. At that signal, the Federal Honor Guard, marched to the gravesite, led by drummer William 'Bill' Myers.



R-L: Bill Myers, John E. Schneider, Sr., Brook Thomas, Jason Hoffman, Michael Rappe, Daniel Purreau, Michael Lance, and Herbert Powers.

After the Honor Guard was in position, Camp Cmdr. John Vander Meulen offered some opening remarks, and called on Department Chaplain Stephen Schulze to give the Invocation. Then, after Capt. Thomas brought the Honor Guard to 'PRESENT ARMS', Patriotic Instructor Brock led the *Pledge of Allegiance*. Cmdr. Vander Meulen followed by welcoming and introducing the participating organizations and guests. He invited Councilwoman Arther to the podium, who gave greetings from the mayor of Conroe. She also read and presented a Proclamation from the mayor (*see page 24*). Mr. Rapoza was then invited to the podium to read his interesting biographical sketch about Captain Conroe. The bio sketch was followed by the poem, 'When the Boys In Blue Are Gone', read by Susan Barry of the *DUVCW*.

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Memorial for Capt. Isaac Conroe *(continued)*

Michael Lance, was then summoned to the podium from his position in the Honor Guard to conduct a version of a 1917 GAR graveside service. It began with the placing of the 'Tools of the Soldier' at the grave by Officer-of-the-Day, John Schneider, Sr., and his posting of Herbert Powers as grave Guard. Next, an evergreen wreath was laid at the grave by Rebecca Feaster of the *DUVCW*, followed by the laying of a white rose by Vali Reyes, President of the *Auxiliary*, and then a grapevine wreath was placed at the grave by Brother Keith Moody. Several descendants of Capt. Conroe then solemnly filed up in turn to each lay a red rose at the grave. Brother Lance then inserted a small 35-star U.S. flag on the GAR marker located beside the grave.

Captain-of-the-Honor Guard, Brook Thomas, then gave the commands for a nicely executed 3-volley musket salute. Drummer Bill Myers coordinated the firing movements by drum signals. The volleys were followed by a recorded version of *Echo Taps*. Brothers Robert Riley and Michael Schneider recorded the event with video and still cameras. The following image gallery illustrates their efforts.



John C. Vander Meulen
Welcomes participants and guests



Andrew V. Rapoza
Biographical sketch about Capt. Conroe



Susan Barry
'When the Boys In Blue Are Gone'



John E. Schneider, Sr.
Officer-of-the-Day



Michael L. Lance
1917 GAR graveside service

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Memorial for Capt. Isaac Conroe (continued)



Above: **Rebecca Feaster**
Placed an evergreen wreath



Vali Reyes
Placed a white rose



Keith Moody
Laying a grapevine wreath

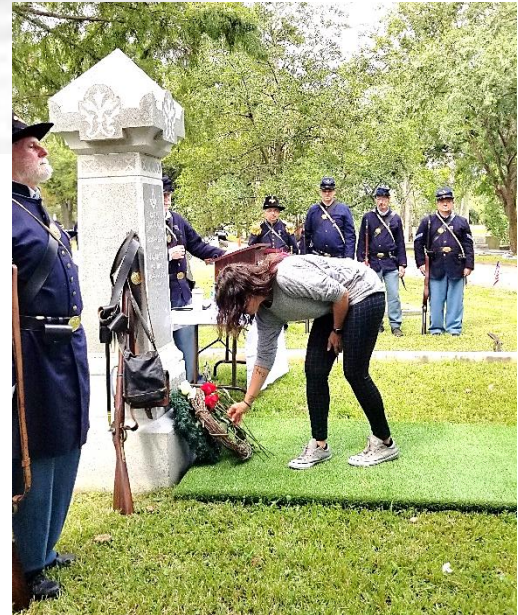
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Memorial for Capt. Isaac Conroe (continued)

Descendants of Capt. Isaac Conroe
Laying red roses



Herbert W. Powers
Grave Guard



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Memorial for Capt. Isaac Conroe (continued)



"READY!"



"FIRE!"

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Memorial for Capt. Isaac Conroe (continued)



Honor Guard Retires



John Vander Meulen and Shana Arthur
Receiving Mayoral Proclamation



Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary No. 1
L-R: Vali Reyes, Norma Pollard, and Jill Schneider

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Memorial for Capt. Isaac Conroe (continued)



L-R: William Myers, Jason Hoffman, Daniel Pourreau, Herbert Powers, Donald Gates, Brook Thomas, Steve Brock, John Schneider, Sr., Michael Lance, Michael Rappe, Stephen Schulze, John Vander Meulen, Robert Riley, and Keith Moody



L-R: Jill Schneider, Mary Anthony-Startz, Janet Hicks, Charity Zemzoum, Susan Barry, Rebecca Feaster, Cecily Kelly, Anne Lineberry, Vali Reyes, and Norma Pollard



... submitted by Michael L. Lance, PDC

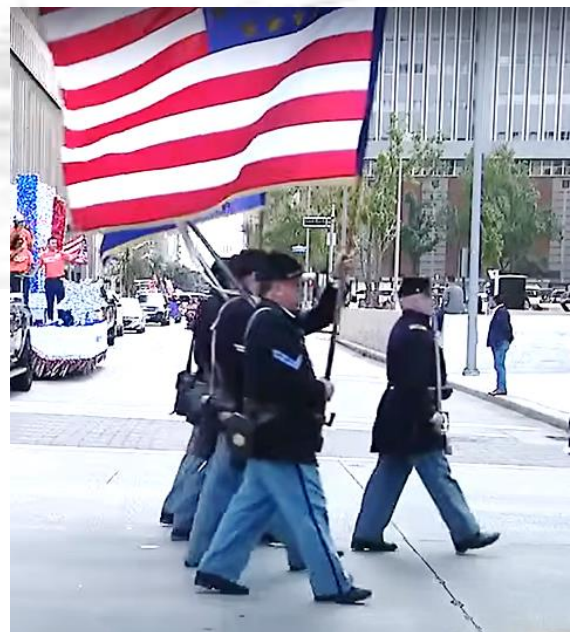
Veterans Day 2024

Saturday, 11 Nov 2024 - Houston, Texas

Lea Camp SVC Daniel B. Pourreau and Michael L. Lance, PDC, mustered on the grounds in front of Houston City Hall on the morning of November 11, 2024 - *Veterans Day*. Four uniformed members of *Co. A, 13th Reg't U.S. Infantry* soon arrived and, together, they formed a 6-man Honor Guard. The unit had the honor of firing the 3-volley musket salute near the end of the formal Veterans Day program conducted on the plaza in front of City Hall. Besides Brothers Pourreau and Lance, the other participants included Tommy Attaway as Captain, Howard Rose, Rion Braddock, and Kerry Manning. The three volleys were resounding and precise.

One of three Volleys

At the conclusion of the program at City Hall, the unit reformed as a 5-man Color Guard to march in Houston's Veterans Day Parade. Capt. Attaway led the unit, with Daniel Pourreau and Kerry Manning carrying flags instead of muskets. They marched smartly, saluting the officials in the grand stands near the end of the parade route. Each participant was glad to have had the opportunity to honor our Nations veterans.



Color Guard marches with the Colors held high and muskets at Right Shoulder Shift,
L-R: Daniel Pourreau, Michael Lance, Tommy Attaway (Capt.), Rion Braddock, and Kerry Manning

... submitted by Michael L. Lance, PDC

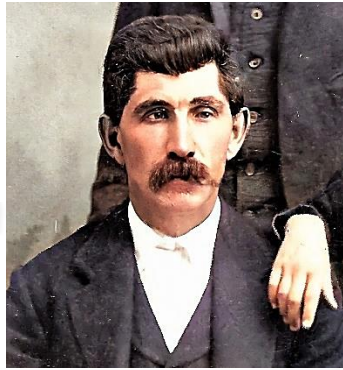
Veterans Day 2024 – Virtual Memorial

Saturday, 11 Nov 2024 - Houston, Texas

On Veterans Day, several members of the *Lea Camp* logged in to participate in a special Zoom session hosted by Camp Cmdr. John Vander Meulen. The Cmdr. played a video tribute presenting the images of several of our Civil War ancestors (*photos below*), as well as other family members who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. In addition to remembering and honoring our veteran forebears, the event gave each attendee the opportunity to share family stories and traditions.



Sgt. Charles Myers
82nd Reg't, PA Vol. Inf.
Anc. of William Myers



Pvt. Frederick Sewart
143rd Reg't, IL Vol. Inf.
Anc. of John Vander Meulen



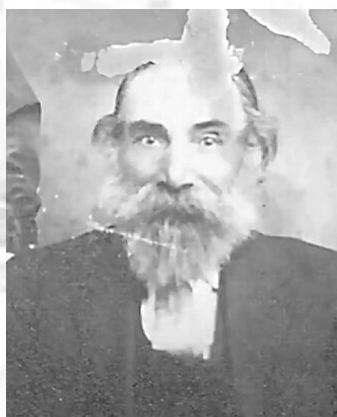
Pvt. Isaac C. Sutton
8th Reg't, IN Inf.
Anc. of Terry Sutton



Pvt. Henry Ludwig Schulze
9th Reg't, IL Vol. Inf.
Anc. of Stephen Schulze



Cpl. John Wesley Lance
58th Reg't, IN Vol. Inf.
Anc. of Michael L. Lance



Pvt. Lafayette Rape
8th Reg't, OH Cav.
Anc. of Michael Rappe



Pvt. John Nuckles
8th Reg't, TN Cav.
Anc. of Larry Nuckles

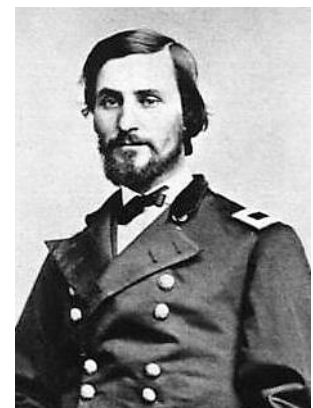


Lt. Col. Kasper Schneider
103rd Reg't, NY Inf.
Anc. of John Schneider Jr. & Sr.



Brig. Gen. William Sooy Smith
1st Division, XVI Corps
Anc. of James Rice

Pvt. John H. Powers
104th Reg't, IL Inf.
Anc. of Herbert Powers



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Veterans Day 2024 – Virtual Memorial (continued)



CMMachinist Clausen L. Schisler
USN
1926-1954
Grandfather of William D. Myers

Other family veterans remembered during the special Veterans Day Zoom tribute included:



Fireman Lester Lance
USN - Korea
1948-1953
Father of Michael Lance



Lt. William D. Myers
USNR – Korea
1952-1954
Father of William D. Myers



Tech. Sgt. Milton J. Schulze
U.S. Army
1942-1946
Father of Stephen Schulze



Cpl. James Edward Vander Meulen
U.S. Army - Germany
1954-1956
Father of John C. Vander Meulen

HEROS ALL!

Veterans Day is observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week it falls on. The observance of Veterans Day on November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: *A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.*

Wreaths Across America 2024

Saturday, 14 Dec 2024 – Houston, Texas

Camp SVC Daniel B. Pourreau, Michael Rappe, Jason Hoffman, and Michael L. Lance, PDC assembled as a unit early on December 14, 2024 to attend the annual *Wreaths Across America* ceremonies at Houston National Cemetery. They took a position just outside the Hemicycle and posed for photos for and with some of the thousands of citizens who gathered to remember our nation's veterans.



Above: The Hemicycle filled to capacity - on both the ground and upper levels.

After the ceremonial program concluded, the *Lea Camp* volunteers recruited a troop of Boy Scouts to assist with the laying of wreaths at dozens of veteran graves. As the unit marched single-file, led by Michael Lance, they halted at grave after grave to allow Daniel Pourreau to loudly call out the deceased veteran's name, rank, and military service unit. Then, after a Scout laid a wreath at the grave, the entire squad saluted in a moment of silence – before marching to the next nearby grave to repeat the ritual.



Posing for a photo with JROTC Cadets before the ceremonies began

L-R: Michael Lance, cadet, cadet, Michael Rappe, cadet, Jason Hoffman, cadet, Daniel Pourreau

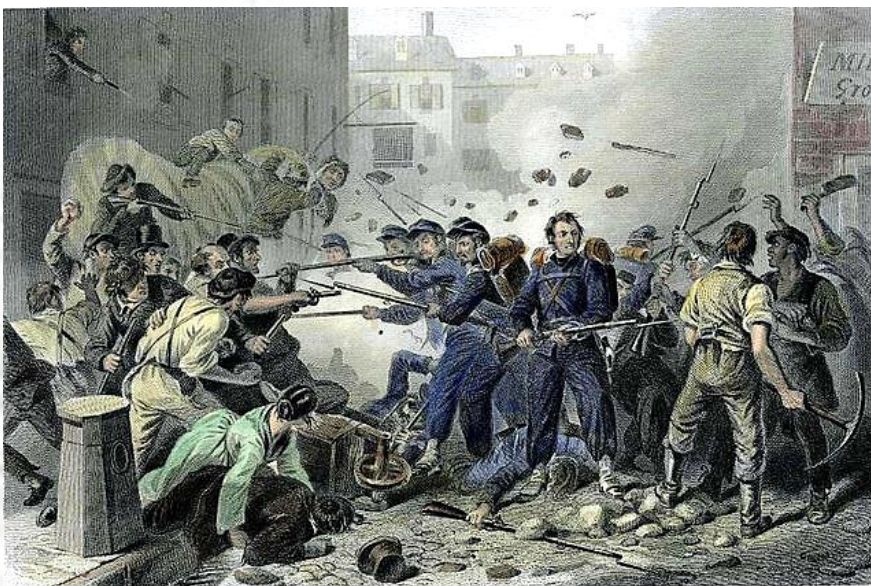
Ancestor Profile – Pvt. John Columbus Bennett

On October 31, 1861, John Columbus Bennett enlisted as a Private in Company D of the *1st Maryland Eastern Shore Regiment of Infantry* for a 3-year term - a month and a half after his 16th birthday. Little is known of his life before that, other than he was born in Henderson, Maryland, in the northern corner of rural Caroline County on September 17, 1845. His parents, Washington and Harriett Bennett were also from Maryland, according to the 1850 census. John had two younger sisters, Ellen and Martha. Other than that, much of their story has been erased like footprints on a windswept beach. But John's legacy is secure, through his record with the *1st Maryland Eastern Shore*, their heroic service at the *Battle of Gettysburg*, and his descendants who remember and honor him.

Late in 1860, the people of Caroline County were disturbed at the threat of Civil War and disunion by the secession of some of the Southern States. Public sentiment divided the people into two classes with the larger group, perhaps, being in favor of maintaining the Federal Union; and the other class in favor of secession. Many people who had heretofore been friends became bitterly opposed to each other - some were for the North - others for the South. This was the condition in Caroline Co. when four companies of Union soldiers were enrolled in the 4 centers of the county.

The first bloodshed of the Civil War occurred in Baltimore, when soldiers from Pennsylvania and Massachusetts had to disembark, march through the city, and board another train to continue their journey south to Washington. On April 19, 1861, a mob of Marylanders sympathizing with the South, attacked the train cars and blocked the route; some began throwing cobblestones and bricks at the troops, assaulting them with "shouts and stones".

Right: Southern sympathizers attack Union soldiers from Massachusetts as they transit through Baltimore streets on April 19, 1861.



Panicked by the situation, several soldiers fired into the mob, whether "accidentally", "in a desultory manner", or "by the command of the officers" is unclear. Chaos ensued as a giant brawl began between fleeing soldiers, the violent mob, and the Baltimore police who tried to suppress the violence. Four soldiers and twelve civilians were killed in what is known as the *Baltimore Riot of 1861*.

John Columbus Bennett, being only 16 years old, needed his parent's permission to enlist with the *1st Eastern Shore Regiment* as an infantry soldier. The *Regiment*, immediately after its organization, was assigned to special duty on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. John's first station was in Baltimore under Gen. John Dix of the *Army of the Potomac*. In November 1861, he joined Gen. Lockwood's Brigade in its expedition into and pacification of the counties of Accomack and Northampton, the eastern shore counties of Virginia at the tip of the Delmar peninsula.

Upon the invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania by Gen. Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army in June 1863, the *1st Eastern Shore Regiment of Infantry* asked to be sent to the front lines, and, with Gen. Lockwood's Brigade, the regiment was transported to Baltimore. It then marched to the battlefield at Gettysburg, which it readied on the morning of July 3, 1863. The regiment immediately went into action around 8 am on *Culp's Hill* with the *12th Army Corps* - on the south-eastern flank of the Union Army. Company K, which had been raised in strongly pro-southern Somerset and Worcester counties refused to go. On July 2nd, as the regiment was moving up to positions on *Culp's Hill*, the 67 members of Co. K

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Ancestor Profile – Pvt. John Columbus Bennett (continued)

were disarmed, dishonorably discharged and given train fare back to Salisbury.

Under command of Col. Maulsby, the regiment formed part of 2nd Brigade (Brig. Gen. Henry H. Lockwood), 1st Division (Brig. Gen. Alpheus S. Williams), XII Corps (Maj. Gen. Henry W. Slocum) at the *Battle of Gettysburg*.

Culp's Hill, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 2, 1863

The regiment mustered 674 men in all ranks, making it the largest regiment in the *Army of the Potomac*. The regiment reached Gettysburg during the afternoon of July 1, but was not engaged. The next morning, July 2, the regiment constructed breastworks south of *Culp's Hill* at McAlister's Woods. Later in the day, however, the entire division was withdrawn and sent south to support a section of the Union line under attack by Longstreet's Corps.



What happened on *Culp's Hill* is the worst example of a State caught between two sides. On July 2, the Union 1st *Maryland Eastern Shore* faced the Confederate 1st *Maryland Battalion*. Color Sergeant Robert Ross of the Union regiment was a cousin to Color Sergeant P. M. Moore of the Confederate battalion. Moore was wounded several times and captured by his neighbors. The Confederate Marylanders suffered almost two hundred casualties.

The battle for *Culp's Hill* resumed around 4:30 the next morning, July 3rd. Union artillery opened the fighting as units of Gen. Henry Slocum's 12th Corps, with men from Ohio and Pennsylvania in the lead, seized the initiative by launching their own counterattack against the Confederates who had claimed their earthworks on the lower hill the previous day.



Left: 1st Reg't Maryland CSA under withering fire during their charge on Culp's Hill on July 3, 1863. (artwork by Don Troiani).

Maj. Goldsborough, commanding the battalion at this point, remembered that *"the whole hillside seemed to be enveloped in a blaze."* In a cruel twist of fate, among the Confederates John Bennett's unit faced that day was the 1st *Maryland CSA*. The narrative of the Civil War as brother against brother rarely echoed more clearly than it did on *Culp's Hill*. John and his comrades poured their fire into the ranks of their state's Rebel sons.

The men from the divided state locked with one another in lethal combat as ever-growing numbers of Union troops filtered into the vicinity. This overwhelming opposition forced the Maryland Confederates from their initial position, sending them back down towards Spangler's Spring. The fighting for *Culp's Hill* devastated the 1st *Maryland CSA* Battalion. The unit entered the battle with 400 men in the ranks; 192 of them fell dead or wounded. Confederate Gen. Steuart, having watched his proud Maryland men fall to bits, was inconsolable in the wake of the attack, weeping and wringing his hands while exclaiming *"My poor boys! My poor boys!"*

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Ancestor Profile – Pvt. John Columbus Bennett (continued)

Despite everything that had happened, the bonds of a shared home persisted across enemy lines after the battle had ended. John and his comrades chose to take care of their stricken Maryland foes. Col. James Wallace, commander of the 1st Maryland Eastern Shore, wrote that *"The 1st Maryland Confederate Regiment met us and were cut to pieces. We sorrowfully gathered up many of our old friends and acquaintances and had them carefully and tenderly cared for."*

After the *Battle of Gettysburg*, the 1st Eastern Shore Infantry Regiment continued with the *Army of the Potomac* until Lee's Confederate Army was driven out of Maryland. Then, after a brief duty on the upper Potomac, the regiment again returned to the Eastern Shores of Maryland and Virginia, where it continued in the performance of special duty until its consolidation with 11th Regiment, *Maryland Volunteer Infantry*.

In all, John Columbus Bennett and his comrades of the 1st Regiment, *Eastern Shore Infantry*, marched 760 miles, rode the train 283 miles, and traveled by water 1,323 miles during those 3 years. John returned to Caroline County where he bought some farm land. He married Josephine Porter, who bore him a daughter named Virginia "Virgie". His wife Josephine passed away of unknown causes in 1876. John remarried to Margaret Griffith of Dover, Delaware that same year. John and Margaret Bennett raised a large family on a farm in Goldsboro, including Luther Thomas Bennett, Brother John Archibald Bennett, Jr.'s grandfather. John Columbus Bennett died in 1908 at age 62 and is buried in Greensboro cemetery.

... prepared for descendant John A. Bennett, Jr. - Lea Camp 2, Houston
(by Camp SVC Daniel B. Pourreau)



Marylander Fights for the Southern Cause

In 1828, George Hume Stuart was the first of 9 children born to wealthy plantation owners in Baltimore, Maryland. He attended West Point beginning in 1844 and graduated at age 19 as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1848 - ranking 37th in his class. He was assigned to the 2nd Dragoons, an Indian-fighting frontier cavalry regiment, later attaining the rank of Captain. In April 1861, Stuart resigned his Army commission when the Civil War broke out. He immediately joined the Confederate forces as a Captain of the 1st Reg't, *Maryland Infantry*. Both he and his father had unsuccessfully lobbied in favor of Maryland's secession from the Union before the war. Stuart was determined to do what he could to prevent Union soldiers from occupying Maryland. As the green Union recruits approached Baltimore, Stuart wrote the following to the President of the Board of Baltimore Police: *"If the Massachusetts troops are on the march [to Annapolis] I shall be in motion very early tomorrow morning to pay my respects to them"*.

George Hume Stuart in Confederate uniform

Unhappy with the sentiments he saw and heard in Maryland regarding support for the North, Stuart stated the following in a letter to his father: *"I found nothing but disgust in my observations along the route and in the place I came to - a large majority of the population are insane on the one idea of loyalty to the Union, and the legislature is so diminished and unreliable that I rejoiced to hear that they intended to adjourn... it seems that we are doomed to be trodden on by these troops who have taken military possession of our State, and seem determined to commit all the outrages of an invading army."*



On April 29, 1861, the Maryland Legislature voted 53–13 against secession. The state was swiftly occupied by Union soldiers to prevent any reconsideration. By July 1861, Stuart had been promoted to Colonel in the Confederacy. He was nicknamed "Maryland" to avoid being confused with Confederate cavalryman Maj. General J.E.B. Stuart. Stuart was wounded at Cross Keys in June 1862, and needed nearly a year to recover. He was then reassigned to Robert E. Lee's army shortly before the *Battle of Gettysburg*. In 1864, Stuart was captured at the *Battle of Spotsylvania Court House*, and later exchanged. He held a command in the *Army of Northern Virginia* until the war's end, and was one of the officers with Robert E. Lee at the surrender at Appomattox Court House. Stuart died in 1903 at age 75.

... submitted by Michael L. Lance, PDC

Spotlight on a GAR Member – William Henry Floore

William Henry Floore was born Christmas Day, 1842 in Salem, Columbiana County in eastern Ohio. He was the fifth of seven children born to John Floor (1809-1889) and Margaret Kariher (1811-1899). William's six siblings were all sisters. The Floor family soon relocated to western Pennsylvania - in Shenango Township, Lawrence County – about 46 miles northwest of Pittsburg. In August 1850, when the Federal census enumerator visited the Floor family farm, William was 7 years old.

On July 13, 1860, just prior to the breakout of the Civil War, William 'Floor' was a 17-year-old unmarried apprentice blacksmith living in Pollock Township in Lawrence County. He was learning the blacksmith trade while boarding with blacksmith William Shaffer and his wife, Manerva, and family. The Civil war would soon interrupt his education.

On Aug 26, 1861, at age 18, William Floore enlisted with the Union army and served with *Co. K, 100th Reg't, Pennsylvania Volunteers*, eventually attaining the rank of Sergeant. He saw action in many battles, including at Gettysburg, Petersburg, and Vicksburg. At least one newspaper account suggests that he was 'badly wounded' on several occasions, while another newspaper article states he survived the war 'unscathed'.

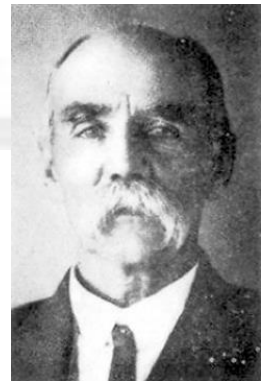
William served with honor until the end of the war. However, at age 21, before being discharged from the Army, he married 17-year-old Julia A. 'Beulah' Cochran (1847-1925). The couple was united in matrimony in Newcastle, Pennsylvania on Feb 24, 1864. They eventually became the parents of 4 children, including Maggie Elizabeth Floore (1866-1917), Daniel Bitner Floore (1869-1964), Cyrus W. Floore (1872-1936), and Mary J. Floore (1875-1901). William was finally discharged from the Army on July 24, 1865. Sometime during his time in the field, he became separated from his knapsack.

On July 26, 1870, William 'Flore' was 27 years old, married, and employed as a blacksmith. He and his 22-year-old wife, Julia, with their two young children, Maggie E. and Daniel B. 'Flore' were living in Newcastle, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania. The family soon migrated to Texas.

On June 17, 1880, William H. Floore was 38 years old and still working as a blacksmith. He was living in Madison County, Texas with his 34-year-old wife, Julia A., and their four children, Maggie E. (age 14), Daniel B. (age 11), 'Syrus' W. (age 8), and Mary J. (age 5) Floore. On August 16, 1884, William filed for an Invalid Pension from Texas, based on debilities resulting from his Civil War service. Around 1885, he moved away from blacksmithing to become a minister of the Church of Christ.

In June 1890, William H. Floore was enumerated on the *Special Veterans Schedule* of the 1890 Federal Census as living in the isolated central Texas town of San Gabriel in Williamson County. He reported that he had served in *Co. K, 100th Pennsylvania Infantry*, having enlisted August 28, 1861 and was discharged 3 years and 11 months later - on July 28, 1865. William claimed he "lost health in U.S. service" and was afflicted with "rheumatism".

William Henry Floore



On June 20, 1900, William Floore was 57 years old and still living in Williamson County, Texas with his 53-year-old wife, Julia. They were boarding with their married son, David Floore (age 30) and his wife, Ida B. (age 30) and 9 year-old son, Wallace A. Floore. William was employed as a 'preacher'. The census record also indicates he and Julia had been married 36 years, and all four of their children were then still living. But tragically, their youngest daughter, Mary J. Floore, would die the following year in Milam County, Texas at age 26.

In 1905, J. M. Moody, an old Confederate veteran living in Kahoka, Arkansas began searching for William Floore. Forty years after the end of the Civil War, the old Confederate veteran wanted to return a lost Bible to its owner, Union

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Spotlight on a GAR Member – William Henry Floore *(continued)*

veteran William Floore. Moody contacted a nearby Union veteran, A. C. Dewey, asking for assistance with his search. Dewey then sent a letter, dated July 24, 1905, to the local *GAR Post* in Newcastle, Pennsylvania. It reads as follows:

Comrades of G. R. A. [sic] – Living near me is an old Confederate soldier who at the battle of Petersburg in 1864 picked up a union knapsack in which was a bible. He carried the bible to the close of the war. He still has it. The name in the bible is Wm. H. Floore, New Castle, Lawrence county, Penn. It was presented to him by his sister. Can you tell us if the owner is still living? If not, what became of him and is the sister who gave the bible living? The soldier who has the bible is J. M. Moody of Kahoka, Ark....Yours respect., A. C. Dewey. Co. E, 19 Reg't, Iowa Vol. Inf.

Dewey's letter was read to the members of the *GAR Post* in *New Castle*. Some of them had either known William Floore during the war, or after the war while he was still living in *New Castle*. However, none of them seemed to know William had migrated to Texas – or if he was even alive. Inquiries were made by a Col. J. S. DuShane, who obtained information that William Floore was then a 'Disciple minister' in Mullin [*sic...McMullen*] Co., Texas. This information was sent to Dewey in Arkansas, and word of the lost knapsack containing the Bible, and the old Confederate's name, were sent to Floore. The long-lost Bible was thereafter reunited with its original owner.

On April 15, 1910, William H. Floore was a 67-year-old 'active' Minister living with his 63-year-old wife, 'Beulah' A. in the tiny settlement of Santa Anna in Coleman County, Texas. The census record confirms that he and 'Bulah' had been married 46 years and one of their four children had passed away. Ten years later, on January 14, 1920, the Federal census enumerators found 77-year-old W. H. Floore and his 74-year-old wife, 'Beulah' A., living in the small town of Lometa in Lampasas County, Texas – about 85 miles northwest of Austin. His occupation was 'Christian Minister' and he once again reported his birthplace as Ohio, and the birthplace of his parents as Pennsylvania.

About 1921, William Floore moved to Houston in Harris Co., Texas. Two years later, at age 81, while attending the 38th *Annual Encampment of the Department of Texas*, which was held in Houston, the *Oath of Obligation* was administered to him by Max Hart, the Commander of Houston's *George B. McClellan Post No. 9*. As a result, in May 1923, fifty-eight years after the close of the Civil war, and thirty-eight years after the *Department of Texas* was organized, William H. Floore, at long last, became a member of the *Grand Army of the Republic!*

On April 12, 1930, William H. Floore was an 87-year-old widower living with his married son, Cyrus W. Floore and wife, Annie, at 6812 Ave. K in Houston. The census record again indicates he was born in Ohio, adding that he married at age 21, he had no occupation, and his parents were both born in Pennsylvania.

At 10:15 p.m. on Monday, May 30, 1938 – Memorial Day – William Henry Floore died at the home of his granddaughter, Mrs. E. L. Edmundson, at age 95. He had endured a bout of hypostatic pneumonia for four days, aggravated by heart disease. His funeral was conducted the next day. He was laid to rest in Section E of Forest Park Cemetery in Houston on June 1, 1938. That same day, Mrs. Edmundson ordered a simple flat VA headstone for her veteran grandfather. She had it delivered to her home at 6812 Avenue K in Houston. The headstone is engraved with:



WILLIAM H. FLOORE
SGT.
100 PA INF.
MAY 30, 1938



... submitted by Michael L. Lance, PDC/Camp Historian

Patriotic Instructor Minute

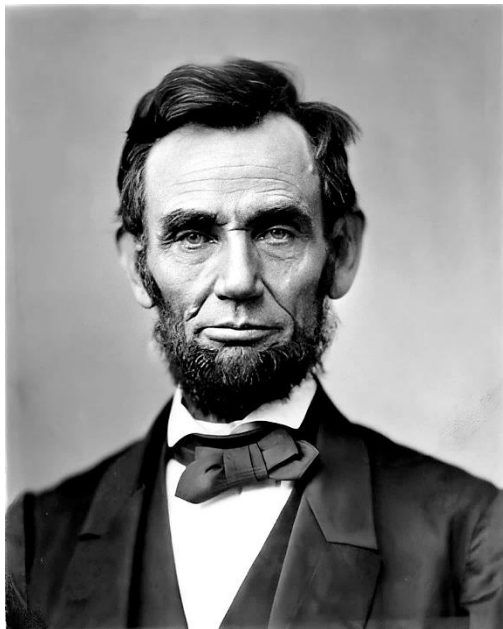
The Gettysburg Address – Valid Today

November 19th will mark the 161st anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln delivering his *Gettysburg Address* at the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery. The President had been invited to deliver a few remarks at the dedication, probably more out of courtesy than anything. I do not believe the organizers of the event had actually expected him to show up.

Lincoln's speech was ten sentences – 272 words – and lasted about two minutes. By contrast, Edward Everett, the main speaker that day, and one of the great orators of the Civil War era, spoke for over two hours before the President gave his remarks.

When he finished, the President's speech was met with polite applause, no loud Huzzahs! In fact, several in attendance had not even been able to hear him speak. However, it was reported that two young men standing near the stage were so touched by the eloquence with which the President had delivered his address, they immediately went and enlisted in the Union army. I do not know if that is true, but it is a good story!

The President had not expected his words to live beyond the moment. He thought his speech had been a failure. However, time and history would dictate otherwise. And so today, his Gettysburg Address is immortal. I remember when I was in seventh grade, we were required to take a Civics class. As part of our grade, we had to memorize the



Gettysburg Address and recite it in front of the entire class. In my opinion, it should still be required today!

By this time in 1863, the population was growing war weary. They just wanted the war to end. With successful military campaigns at Gettysburg and Vicksburg that summer, it appeared that an overall Union victory was perhaps eminent. However, that was not yet guaranteed! There were still powerful Confederate armies to contend with – as well as several bloody battles left to fight before the final victory would be attained.

President Abraham Lincoln

The President achieved two things with his Address that day. One, he extolled the sacrifices of those who died at Gettysburg in defense of liberty and equality. Second, and maybe more importantly, he called upon the people to continue the fight; to stay the course. He basically told them that if the nation were to “*experience a new birth of freedom*”, they would have to persevere and see the war to a successful conclusion.

President Lincoln's words are just as valid for us today as they were for the people of 1863. I believe there are evil forces at work in our country today that want to destroy us. These forces want to divide us as a people and want to eliminate our culture and our history. That must never happen!

It is our duty as *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*, and like organizations, to try to preserve our culture and history as best we can. Whether it be by telling the stories of our Civil War ancestors over, over, and over again, holding gravesite ceremonies, or participating in patriotic events. We too, must persevere - so, as Abraham Lincoln adeptly put it;

“Government of the People, by the People, for the People shall not perish from the earth.”

... submitted by Ronald ‘Steve’ Brock, Camp Patriotic Instructor

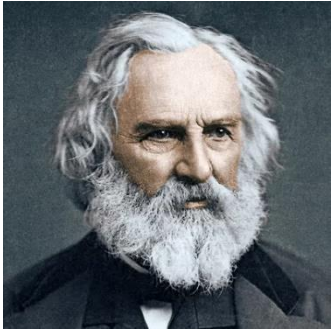


From the Chaplain's Desk

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) was one of America's greatest poets. His family suffered immensely during the Civil War. His wife died tragically from injuries in a fire in 1861 as he tried to save her. At times, his grief was so overwhelming that he feared being sent to an asylum. He would write in his journal, "I can make no record of these days. Better leave them wrapped in silence. Perhaps someday, God will give me peace."

In March 1863, Longfellow's son, Charles A. Longfellow, snuck away to join the Union Army. Making his way to Washington, DC, 'Charley' enlisted as a private in Battery A of the 1st Massachusetts Artillery. While unknown to him, Charley's family connections, including Senator Charles Sumner, were influential behind the scenes in securing a commission for him. On April 1, 1863, within two weeks after arriving in camp, Charley was promoted. On April 1, 1863, he became a 2nd Lieutenant with the 1st Massachusetts Cavalry.



Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

During the Mine Run Campaign in late November 1863, Charley Longfellow was seriously wounded at New Hope Church, Virginia. A bullet passed through his back, nicking his spine on its way out. Henry immediately set out for Washington to be with his son. The doctors told him, though Charley's wound was serious, it looked like he would recover. In his own pain and anguish, and out of the country's pain as well, Longfellow penned the words to this Christmas Carol.

I heard the bells on Christmas day,
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th' unbroken song
Of Peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail
With peace on earth, good will to men."

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day.
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

May God indeed grant us peace on earth and good will to all.

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

Note: Hear Brother Duncan sing the carol at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3vIRjLrcdo>

The organ at Reedy Chapel in Galveston is the backdrop.



Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 35)

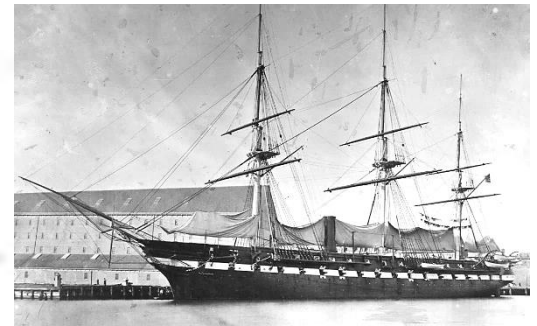
The *Medal of Honor* is the highest military honor awarded by the United States for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty. It was first awarded during the Civil War after President Lincoln signed a bill on December 21, 1861, containing a provision for the medal for the Navy. It was "to be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landsmen, and Marines as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry and other seamanlike qualities during the present war."

Right: **Navy Version of the original Medal of Honor (1862)**

Editor's note: With this issue of the Harriet Lane, in honor of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN - the namesake of our Camp, I am continuing to present a review of the recipients of the Medal of Honor who served in the U.S. Navy during the Civil War.



- **Charles Mills - Seaman** – Charles Mills was born in Ulster, New York in 1840. He volunteered for service in the U.S. Navy from New York and was assigned to the Union wooden steam frigate *USS Minnesota*. During the 2nd *Battle of Fort Fisher* on Jan 15, 1865, that Confederate stronghold in North Carolina was taken by a combined Union storming party of sailors, marines, and soldiers under the command of Admiral David Dixon Porter and General Alfred Terry. Mills was one of nine crewmen from the *USS Minnesota* who received the *Medal of Honor* for gallantry in this action. His *Medal of Honor* citation states:



USS Minnesota

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Seaman Charles Mills, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving on board the U.S.S. Minnesota, in action during the assault on Fort Fisher, North Carolina, 15 January 1865. Landing on the beach with the assaulting party from his ship, Seaman Mills charged up to the palisades and, when more than two thirds of the men became seized with panic and retreated on the run, risked his life to remain with a wounded officer. With the enemy concentrating his fire on the group, he waited until after dark before assisting the wounded man from the field.

- **Hugh Molloy – Ordinary Seaman** – Hugh Molloy was born in 1841 in Comerford, Ireland. During the Civil War, he served as an Ordinary Seaman on Navy gunboat, *USS Fort Hindman*. He was awarded the *Medal of Honor* for his actions during an engagement with a Confederate artillery battery near Harrisonburg, Louisiana, on March 2, 1864.

Right: **Hugh Molloy**



During the action, a shell pierced the *Hindman's* bow casement on the right of gun No. 1, mortally wounding the first sponger, who dropped his sponge out of the port on the forecastle. Molloy instantly jumped from the port to the forecastle, recovered the sponge, and sponged and loaded the gun while outside, exposed to a heavy fire of musketry." Hugh Molloy died at age 80 and was buried in Calvary Cemetery in Evanston, Illinois. 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 Ordinary Seaman Hugh Molloy, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving on board the U.S.S. Fort Hindman during the engagement near Harrisonburg, Louisiana, 2 March 1864. Following a shellburst which mortally wounded the first sponger, who dropped the sponge out of the forecastle port, Ordinary Seaman Molloy jumped out of the port to the forecastle, recovered the sponge and sponged and loaded the gun for the remainder of the action from his exposed position, despite the extreme danger to his person from the raking fire of enemy musketry.

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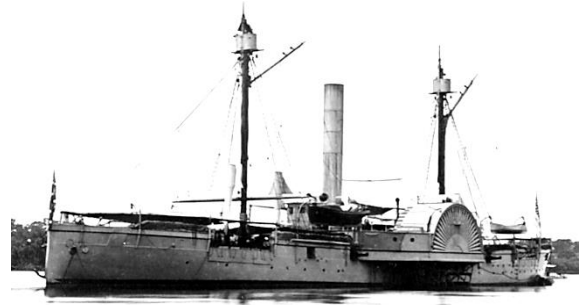
Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 35 continued)

- **Robert William Montgomery - Captain of the Afterguard.** Robert William Montgomery was born in 1838. During the Civil War, he served on the *USS Agawam*, a double-ended, side-wheel gunboat.

USS Agawam in the James River, Virginia - July 1864

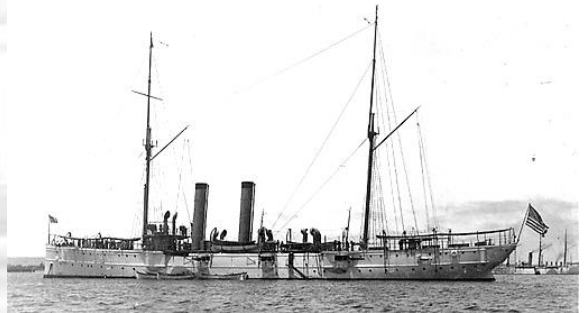
He was one of a volunteer crew of a powder boat which was towed close to enemy lines near Fort Fisher on Dec 23, 1864 and exploded. His citation states:

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



- **Charles Moore - Landsman** – Charles Moore served on the Union steam gunboat *USS Marblehead* off Legareville, Stono River, South Carolina. On Christmas Day 1863, during the engagement with Confederate defenses on John's Island, Moore's actions were noteworthy, earning him a *Medal of Honor*. The rebel battery attacking the *Marblehead* was ultimately silenced and captured. Moore's *Medal of Honor* citation reads:

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Landsman Charles Moore, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving on board the U.S. Steam Gunboat Marblehead off Legareville, Stono River, South Carolina, 25 December 1863, during an engagement with the enemy on John's Island. Wounded in the fierce battle, Landsman Moore returned to his quarters until so exhausted by loss of blood that he had to be taken below. This engagement resulted in the enemy's abandonment of his positions, leaving a caisson and one gun behind.



- **Charles Moore - Seaman** – Charles Moore was born in Reading, Pennsylvania in 1835. On June 19, 1864, he was serving as a Seaman on the *USS Kearsarge*, a Mohican-class sloop-of-war, when she destroyed the powerful Confederate raider, *Alabama*, off Cherbourg, France. In 1891, Moore died in Long Island, New York at age 56. His citation reads:

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Seaman Charles Moore, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action, serving as Seaman on board the U.S.S. Kearsarge when she destroyed the Alabama off Cherbourg, France, 19 June 1864. Acting as sponger and loader of the 11-inch pivot gun of the second division during this bitter engagement, Seaman Moore exhibited marked coolness and good conduct and was highly recommended for his gallantry under fire by the divisional officer.



... additional Navy Medal of Honor recipients will be portrayed in the next issue with Part 36

2024 Camp Officers, Staff, and Social Media Links

Commander	John C. Vander Meulen	camp2commander@txsuv.org	Camp Council	Ben C. Bonnett
Sr. Vice-Comdr.	Daniel B. Pourceau	camp2svc@txsuv.org	Camp Council	Stevenson T. Holmes
Jr. Vice-Comdr.	Vincent T. Trovato	joincamp2@txsuv.org	Camp Council	Thomas F. Coughlin
Secy./Treas.	Stephen D. Schulze	camp2secretary@txsuv.org		
Chaplain	Stephen F. Duncan		Eagle Scout Coord.	Ben C. Bonnett
Patriotic Instructor	Ronald 'Steve' Brock		Graves Regis. Officer	Terry T. Sutton
Historian	Michael L. Lance		Civil War Mem. Officer	Terry T. Sutton
Color Bearer	William D. Myers		G.A.R. Records Officer	Herbert W. Powers
Guide	Thomas F. Coughlin		Facebook Mgr.	John C. Vander Meulen
Guard	Robert G. Riley		Zoom Facilitator	John C. Vander Meulen
Signals Officer	John C. Vander Meulen		Webmaster	Robert G. Riley
JROTC Coord.	Daniel B. Pourceau		Newsletter Editor	Michael L. Lance
Website – Houston Camp		https://www.camplea.org/		
Website – Dept. of TX and LA		http://www.txsuv.org/		
Facebook – Houston Camp		https://www.facebook.com/LtCmdrEdwardLeaCamp2HoustonSUVCW/		
Facebook – Dept. of Texas		https://www.facebook.com/SUVCW.TX.LA/		

Gen. Edward O. C. Ord Post 3 – **CHARTERED!**

On December 20, 2024, the newest Camp of the *Department of Texas and Louisiana* was chartered as *Gen. Edward O. C. Ord Camp 3* of San Antonio. Congratulations to the Brothers who were elected as Officers to lead the new Camp. Now, members of the *Order* living in central Texas have the opportunity to affiliate and participate with an *SUVCW* Camp much closer to home. Led by Blair G. Rudy as Camp Cmdr., the new Camp in San Antonio makes the *Department of Texas and Louisiana* five Camps strong! **HUZZAH!**

The new Camp follows tradition by adopting the name of one of the earliest Posts of the *Grand Army of the Republic* in Texas. When the *Department of Texas* was re-organized in 1885, the thriving *E. O. C. Ord Post No. 3* of San Antonio boasted one of the largest memberships in the state. It would host a number of Department Encampments and several of its members served in important leadership positions within the Department. It was one of only a handful of *GAR* Posts in Texas that survived well into the 1920s.



GAR Ord Post No. 3 of the 1880s was named after a career military man - Maj. Gen. Edward Otho Cresap Ord. Born October 18, 1818, Ord was appointed to West Point by President Andrew Jackson, graduating in 1839 as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 3rd *U.S. Artillery*. He saw action in the 2nd *Seminole War* in Florida, and from there, steadily advanced in rank. Ord was Captain of *Battery C, 3rd U.S. Artillery* when the Civil War erupted in 1861. Later in the war, as a Maj. General, Ord commanded the *XIII Corps* during the final days of *the Siege of Vicksburg*. In April 1865, he led a forced march to Appomattox Court House to help assure the surrender of Confederate Gen.

Edward O. C. Ord Robert E. Lee to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant.

Because of the skills and experience of the Charter members and Officers of the new *Ord Camp* in San Antonio, it should prove to be as successful in fulfilling its mission as the original *GAR* version was. We all wish the new Camp much success and welcome them into our family of Camps of the *Department of Texas and Louisiana*.....*Editor*



CITY OF CONROE

Est. 1904

Proclamation

by the

Mayor of the City of Conroe, Texas

To all to whom these presents shall come,

Greetings:

- WHEREAS, remembering the beginnings of Conroe, Texas is an important aspect of moving into the future; and
- WHEREAS, the founder of Conroe, Texas, Isaac Conroe, was a Patriot and served as a Captain in the Union Army during the Civil War; and
- WHEREAS, the mission of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is to keep alive the memory and legacy of their Union Veteran ancestors; and
- WHEREAS, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is conducting a Remembrance Ceremony to honor Captain Isaac Conroe at his gravesite on October 5, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CONROE, TEXAS, THAT October 5, 2024 is hereby declared

“SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR DAY”

in the City of Conroe, and ask our citizens to remember our founder Isaac Conroe, a man with a vision for our beloved City.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Conroe, Texas to be affixed this 28th day of August, 2024.

DUKE W. COON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

SAMI H. QUINLAN, INTERIM SECRETARY

