



The Harriet Lane



The Official Newsletter of

Lt. Commander Edward Lea, USN, Camp No. 2 – Houston, Texas

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Mar 2025

Volume 31

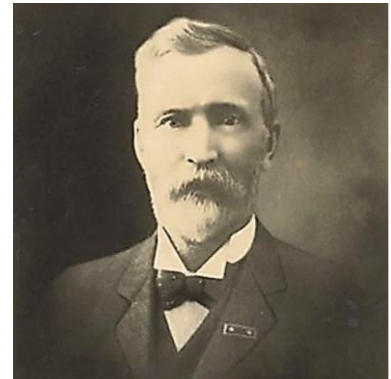
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Cover Image

Civil War Battle - USS Kearsarge vs. CSS Alabama – View from the deck of the *Kearsarge*, June 19, 1864 – artwork by *FineArtAmerica.com*, artist unknown.

**The *Harriet Lane* is the official newsletter of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN Camp No. 2
Sons of Union Veterans Of the Civil War, Houston, Texas**

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

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

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

Wreaths Across America - 2024

Saturday, 14 Dec 2024 - Houston, Texas

Camp Sr. Vice-Cmdr. 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 to interact with event attendees and pose for photos. A crowd of thousands soon gathered at the cemetery to remember and honor our nation's veterans.



Posing for a photo with JROTC Cadets before the official ceremonies began

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



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

After the ceremonial program inside the Hemicycle 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.

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

Battle of Galveston Commemoration - 2025

Saturday, 4 Jan 2025 - Galveston, Texas

Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN, Camp 2 of Houston, Texas hosted their 31st Annual Battle of Galveston Commemoration ceremony at Trinity Episcopal Cemetery in Galveston on January 4, 2025. This signature event once again commemorated the January 1, 1863 sea and land battle that saw Confederate forces recapture Galveston Island - and the death of the Camp's namesake, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea. Lea was mortally wounded during the close fighting onboard the federal gunboat, *USS Harriet Lane*.

The Camp was again honored to have support from members of other Camps of the Department, including: Department Commander, Timothy Phillips, representing *Byrne Camp 1* of Fort Worth, who addressed the assembly and served as bugler; PDC Blair Rudy of *Ord Camp 3* of San Antonio, who served as Color Sergeant; PDC Donald Gates and Michael Schneider of *Ellsworth Camp 18* of Dallas, who served as members of the Color Guard; PDC John E. Schneider of *Ellsworth Camp 18*, who served as Officer-of-the-Day; and Brook Thomas, also of *Ellsworth Camp 18*, who served as Captain of the Honor Guard.

Also assisting with active roles were: President Vali Reyes, Jana Marsh, and Jill Schneider of *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary No. 1*; President Rebecca Feaster, Susan Barry, and three other members of the *Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War*; Howard Rose of the *13th Reg't U.S. Infantry*, Chaplain Dick Gray, representing the Masons of *Harmony Lodge No. 6* of Galveston; and members of the *UDC* and *SCVCW*. The ceremony was a resounding and moving success, with all participants performing their roles in a solemn and respectful fashion. The following photos depict some of the scenes of the event.



The Opening Procession

The Color Guard was followed by Camp Commander John Vander Meulen (*in yellow tie*), who was closely followed by the Federal Honor Guard. They marched to the cadence provided by drummer William Myers (*not shown*), who led the way.

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Battle of Galveston Commemoration – 2025 (continued)



Left:
Ornate glove and sword hilt of Officer-of-the-Day, John E. Schneider, Sr.



Right:
Color Bearer Donald L. Gates and Color Sgt. Blair G. Rudy wait for the signal to Post the Colors.



Left:
The Ceremonial Bell was tolled after the name of each battle casualty was called out.



Right:
Color Bearer Donald L. Gates salutes during the Roll Call of the Dead.



Left:
A bouquet of roses laid on the monument dedicated to the Union casualties.



Right:
UDC Sister Catherine Gill during a solemn moment.

After the ceremonies concluded at the Union monument, the assembly, led by the Color Guard, transitioned a few rows over in the cemetery to the gravesite of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea.

Richard Gray, Chaplain of the *Harmony Lodge No. 6* Masons, gave an interesting historical account of the events surrounding the battle and the participation of the Masons. Sr. Vice Camp Commander Daniel B. Pourreau, then conducted a 1917 GAR Remembrance ceremony, which included the placing of the Symbols of the Navy and the laying of wreaths and a rose at the grave. The poem, *The Unknown Dead*, was recited by Auxiliary Sister Jana Marsh, and Department Commander Timothy M. Phillips also gave an address.

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Battle of Galveston Commemoration – 2025 (continued)



Left:
**Drummer
Bill Myers
leading the
Transition
Procession.**



Right:
**Mason Richard
'Dick' Gray**



Left:
**Dept. Cmdr.
Timothy Phillips
Addressing the
Assembly**



Right:
**Lt. Cmdr. Edward
Lea Grave
Decorated**



Honor Guard Firing a Volley



Three generations of the Schneider family

The ceremonies concluded with a 3-volley musket salute, followed by Taps, sounded by bugler Timothy Phillips. The Colors were retired and the Color Guard and Honor Guard marched from the ceremonial area to the cadence of the drum after Camp Commander John Vander Meulen closed the event.

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Battle of Galveston Commemoration – 2025 *(continued)*



Front row L-R: Steve Brock, Charity Zemzoum, Janet Hicks, Becky Feaster (DUVCW Pres.), Jill Schneider, Vali Reyes (Aux. Pres.), Jana Marsh, Fran Matchett, and Susan Barry (DUVCW PP).

Middle row L-R: Robert G. Riley, Brook J. Thomas (PCC), William Gray, Daniel B. Pourreau (hidden), Steve D. Schulze (PDC), Herb W. Powers, Timothy M. Phillips (DC), and Michael K. Schneider (CC).

Back row L-R: William D. Myers, John E. Schneider, Sr. (PDC), Howard Rose (hidden), Michael L. Lance (PDC), Jason D. Hoffman (mostly hidden), Michael D. Rappe, Donald L. Gates (PDC), and Blair G. Rudy (PDC).

Not pictured: John C. Vander Meulen (CC), John E. Schneider, Jr., Larry D. Nuckels, and Harold K. Henck, Jr. (PCC).

*... submitted by Michael L. Lance, PDC - Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2 – Houston
 ... most photos courtesy of Stuart Villanueva, Galveston News photojournalist
 ... additional photo on page 24*



Results of Officer Elections

Voting was held on December 11, 2024 to elect the *Lea Camp* Officers for 2025. Congratulations to the following Brothers on their election and their willingness to serve. The *Lea Camp* will again be in good hands ...

Commander
Daniel B. Pourreau

Jr. Vice- Commander
Jason D. Hoffman

Camp Council
Thomas F. Coughlin, PDC
Ben C. Bonnett, PCC
Stevenson T. Holmes, PDC

Sr. Vice-Commander
Herbert W. Powers, Jr.

Secretary/Treasurer
Stephen D. Schulze, PDC

All members of the Camp should volunteer to assist these Officers in any way they can - for the good of the Camp, the Department, and the Order.

Installation of 2025 Camp Officers

Saturday, 4 Jan 2025 – Galveston, Texas

At the conclusion of the *Battle of Galveston Commemoration* ceremonies at the Episcopal Cemetery, the *Lea Camp* reassembled in a private room at the Golden Corral Restaurant on Seawall Boulevard in Galveston for a January luncheon business meeting. The agenda included the installation of the Officers for 2025 - both elected and appointed. They were duly installed by Department Commander Timothy Phillips. In addition to the elected officers mentioned on the previous page, the following Brothers answered the call to fill the following appointed Officer positions:

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Patriotic Instructor | Ronald ‘Steve’ Brock |
| Chaplain | Rev. Stephen F. Duncan |
| Graves Registration Officer | Terry T. Sutton |
| Eagle Scout Coordinator | Ben C. Bonnett |
| Civil War Memorials Officer | Terry T. Sutton |
| Guard | Robert G. Riley |
| Color Bearer | William D. Myers |
| Guide/Historian | Michael L. Lance |
| Signals Officer | John C. Vander Meulen |
| Webmaster | Robert G. Riley |
| ROTC/JROTC Coordinator | Daniel B. Pourreau |
| MOLLUS Coordinator | Harrison G. Moore IV |
| Newsletter Editor | Michael L. Lance |

Another highlight of the January business meeting was the presentation of a beautiful plaque to Past Camp Commander John C. Vander Meulen by Commander Daniel Pourreau. The plaque expressed the Camp’s appreciation for Brother Vander Meulen’s outstanding execution of duties and dedication to the Order while serving as Camp Commander during the previous two years. It was an honor well deserved!



*... submitted by Michael L. Lance, PCC/PCC
... photo by Robert G. Riley*

DAR Annual State Conference

Thursday, 13 Mar 2025 - Houston, Texas

On Thursday, March 13, 2025, Camp Commander Daniel Pourceau and PDC Michael L. Lance assembled at the Hyatt Regency hotel in downtown Houston to represent the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* at the 126th Annual State Conference of the Texas Society Daughters of the American Revolution. The Brothers had a reserved table in the reception area and shared it with Susan Barry and Charity Zemzoum of the *Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War*. Numerous other heritage societies also had tables around the room – all giving out information about their individual organizations and seeking potential new members.

The *SUVCW/DUVCW* recruiting table had vintage *GAR* badges on display as well as business cards, *SUVCW* brochures, and Barton brooches. The *DUVCW* Sisters had good success with attracting prospects, and we had several ladies interested in having their husbands join the *Sons*. Donations for three Barton brooches were received. Cmdr. Pourceau was recognized at the opening night ceremonies of the Conference later in the evening.

Trivia – Uniforms not Uniform

Some Union Officers showed their individuality when it came to their uniforms. Below are a few noted examples cited in *Civil War Curiosities*, pgs. 222-225, by Webb Garrison, 1994:

- Promoted to Brig. Gen. of volunteers in June 1863, George Armstrong Custer promptly hunted up the best tailor he could find. His new uniform of blue velvet, heavily trimmed in gold, may have been the most resplendent of any general officer on either side.
- A millionaire by inheritance, Union Brig. Gen. Philip Kearny took to war a wardrobe of twenty custom-tailored uniforms. Wearing one of them and topped by a gold-braided kepi of French style when he rode into battle, he looked more like a European nobleman.
- At both Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, Union Col. Augusto Fogliardi took to the field wearing bright blue trousers ornamented with broad stripes of red. The collar of his dark green coat, as well as its cuffs, were trimmed with red, and he wore a kepi of dark green decorated with three bold stripes of gold.
- Zouave Col. John L. Riker was a sight to see in his extremely baggy light blue trousers topped by a loose jacket of darker blue, crimson shirt, and a red fez decorated with gold with a long blue tassel.
- Union Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans scoffed at the ‘ostentatious display’ of Zouave leaders. But while he usually selected black breeches and a blue coat, underneath the coat he liked to display a snow-white vest.
- Col. Michael Corcoran of the 69th New York wanted no one to forget that he and most of his men were Irish. His coat was conspicuously decorated with crimson and green, and he rode proudly in the shadow of a green flag displaying an embroidered harp of Erin.
- The ‘uniform’ worn by Sen. James Lane of Kansas, commander of the Frontier Guards was briefly responsible for the security of the president and his family. With his men quartered in the White House, Lane swaggered about in denim overalls and a leather vest. Regardless of the season, when he went outside the house, he pulled on a bearskin overcoat.
- Gen. U.S. Grant would have been the easy winner in a contest for ‘least soldierly looking commander’. Sometimes he wore part of a uniform, but often he did not, looking like a farmer or cattleman. He was likely to be seen in ‘a simple blouse without any symbol to indicate his rank.’

Conroe Founder's Day - 2025

Saturday, 15 Mar 2025 - Conroe, Texas

Several members of the *Lea Camp* assembled in Conroe on Saturday, March 15, 2025 to play a role in the program for the annual *Conroe Founder's Day*. This annual event remembers and honors the city's founder, Union Civil War Captain Isaac Conroe. The venue was Isaac Conroe's old homestead located at 202 Ave. A in Conroe.

The attending members of the *Lea Camp* included PCC John Vander Meulen as spokesman for the Camp, Robert Riley as Captain of the Honor Guard, Bill Myers as drummer, and a firing party consisting of CC Daniel Pourreau, Jason Hoffman, Michael Rappe, and PDC Michael Lance.

Right: Conroe homestead



Other attendees at the event included descendants of Isaac Conroe, elected city officials, a Confederate Color Guard, and other dignitaries. The crowd seemed to be mostly Confederate leaning, evidenced by the prominent role reserved for the Color Guard of the *Cleburne Sons of Confederate Veterans of the Civil War*, but it was very respectful and appreciative of the presence, for the first time, of a Federal Honor Guard. And, after all, the founder of their city, Isaac Conroe, was a Union Officer!



L-R: William D. 'Bill' Myers (drummer), Robert G. Riley (Captain), Daniel B. Pourreau (musket), Michael L. Lance (musket), Michael D. Rappe (musket), Jason D. Hoffman (musket).

Near the end of the program, the federal Honor Guard had the honor of firing a 3-volley salute in honor of Capt. Conroe. All eyes were on the *Lea* men as they fired to the drum. The volleys were in perfect unison and their movements coordinated. The unit looked forward to being invited back again in 2026 to honor Isaac Conroe at the next *Conroe Founder's Day*.

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

Spotlight on a Member of the G.A.R. – Pvt. James Herman Agen

James Herman Agen was born in Montpelier, Washington County, Vermont on April 29, 1847. His parents were David Agen Sr. and Elizabeth Donaghue - born in Wexford County, Ireland and Scotland, respectively. In 1850, when James, their third child, was a toddler, the Agen family migrated about 405 miles westward to Wyoming County in New York.

On August 28, 1850, James was two years old and living in the small town of Wethersfield in Wyoming County, New York. He was living with his parents, David 'Agan' (age 30) and Eliza (age 25), and two older brothers, Thomas (age 6) and David Jr. (age 4). The 1850 federal census for Wethersfield shows that the parents were both born in Ireland, and the three boys were all natives of New York (*instead of Vermont*). James began working as a farm laborer at age 9.

On June 16, 1860, James Agen was 13 years old and living with his parents in the small town of Eagle in Wyoming County, New York - about 10 miles south of Wethersfield. The Federal Census enumerator noted that the household now included two additional younger brothers and two younger sisters for a total of seven children. Soon the Civil War broke out.

*... though he was only fifteen years old in the fall of 1862, he enlisted in Wadsworth's Guards and spent five months in the service of the State, but was discharged on account of his youth when the regiment was mustered into the service of the United States.**

In August 1863, while still underage, but anxious to experience the excitement of battle, 15-year-old James ran away from home to again try to join the Federal Army. He made his way to Wethersfield in central Wyoming County and enlisted in *Company C, 130th New York Volunteer Infantry*. However, he remained in camp at Portage Bridge only a short while before again being rejected due to his young age. But James was not about to give up!

*... in February 1864, [he] went to Lockport, New York and again tendered his services. Having ridden thither in a box car he had contracted a severe cold and was rejected as having unsound lungs by the examining Surgeon. Nothing daunted, he worked for his board in a hotel until he had recovered his health, and upon re-examination, he was mustered into Company C, First New York Dragoons.**

So, on his third attempt, James finally was enrolled in the Federal Army. His term of service was three years. As a dragoon, he likely served as a mounted infantryman and remained a Private during the duration of his military service. His initiation into battlefield action came quickly.

*In ten days from that time, [James] was facing the enemy on the banks of the Rapidan. He took part in engagements at Pine Mountain, Old Chancellorsville, and five days of the fight in the Wilderness, where his horse was shot under him after he was detailed to watch the prisoners.**



Not long afterward, during a battle near Winchester, Virginia, James again became the target of hostile bullets. Although he was fortunate enough to avoid those angry missiles, his horse was not as lucky. As the horse went down, it pinned James to the ground. In that helpless position, he was subsequently wounded by fragments from a nearby exploding shell.

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** Commemorative Biographical Record of the Upper Lake Region, pgs. 140-141, 1905.*

Pvt. James Herman Agen *(continued)*

*"... his second horse was shot. The horse fell upon his right leg and held him a prisoner for several hours, during which time he was wounded in the left leg by a bursting shell. He was finally released from his position by two wounded comrades.....With his right hip dislocated and his left leg bleeding from his wounds, [James] mounted the nearest horse, which chanced to be one that was hobbling on three legs, and reached the camp of the 9th New York Volunteer Infantry, where he was sheltered in the major's tent and next day was taken to the temporary hospital which had been established in a church in Winchester."**

After reaching relative safety at the hospital in Winchester, James' soon discovered that his travails were not yet over. The temporary facility was overcrowded as incoming casualties continued to flood in. Learning that the medical staff would not be able to attend to his wounds until the next day, he decided not to wait. He left the temporary hospital to seek medical attention at his regiment. Although it took two days because of unforeseen delays, James finally reached camp and was able to receive medical care from the regimental surgeon.

*A dozen or more pieces of shell were removed from his [leg] wound and he remained for some time in the field hospital.**

While convalescing at the field hospital, James was reportedly visited by Mrs. Abraham Lincoln. James' mother later received the following letter:

Camp Bell Hospital, Washington, D.C., Aug. 10, 1864.

My Dear Mrs. Agen,

Eagle, N.Y.:

As I am sitting by the side of your dear boy I will write you for him. He is sick and wounded but is getting along nicely. He says don't worry about him as he will come out all right.

*Yours in love, Mrs. Abraham Lincoln**

James Agen was still recuperating in October, 1864, when Confederate General Jubal Early's Army made a surprise attack on Sheridan's Union forces at Cedar Creek. James was able to escape the fury of battle by making a quick exit from the scene. He ...



*... was mounted on a donkey by a friendly negro and succeeded in keeping out of danger....The animal which he rode also carried a quantity of baggage, including a field glass, which enabled him to get a good view of the day's engagement.**

Left: A Bad Place for a Fight

Battle of Cedar Creek – art by Kurz & Allison, 1890.

James eventually recovered sufficiently from his leg wounds to rejoin his regiment and served until the end of the Shenandoah Valley Campaign. He was discharged July 17, 1865 at West Superior in Douglas County, Wisconsin by *General Order No. 94*. He had served in twelve different battles and received a bounty of \$300 from the County for his service upon his discharge. James apparently saw opportunity in Superior, for he would return years later with his future family.

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** Commemorative Biographical Record of the Upper Lake Region, pgs. 140-141, 1905.*

Pvt. James Herman Agen *(continued)*

But after mustering-out of the army, rather than returning home to New York, James ventured due south about 275 miles to settle in the relatively new town of Osage, "the City of Maples" in Mitchell County, Iowa. His decision to migrate to Iowa was reportedly influenced by outspoken newspaperman Horace Greeley, who penned the phrase, "*Go West, young man*". James likely sought opportunities for employment and land as he began his post-war life. At any rate, he was apparently reluctant to return home to New York.

At Osage, he was initially hired by a mercantile firm. But since the firm was needing cash to remain viable, James loaned it all of his savings. But the firm folded anyway a few months later, leaving him penniless. James then found employment at a farm to get back on his feet, and eventually saved enough to start his own draying business. He worked hard, hauling grain and lumber, and soon became prosperous.



**"GO WEST,
YOUNG MAN,
GO WEST
AND
GROW UP
WITH
THE
COUNTRY."**

HORACE GREELEY (1811-1872)

On February 22, 1869, James Agen married Ezilda Lodena Hart in Osage. She was a native of Three Rivers, Michigan. They became the parents of the first of their five children, Lillian Belle Agen, nine months later in Osage, on November 28, 1869.

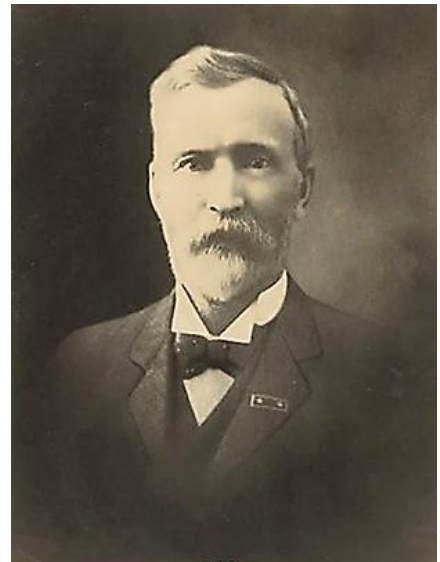
On March 3, 1870, a *Last Will and Testament* was prepared for James' dying father, David Agen, Sr. (*spelled also as 'Eagan'*). The *Will* contains a telling clue to the Agen family interpersonal relations. The dying man bequeathed \$100 or more to each of his children - *except for James!* Referring to James, without any explanation, the *Will* states: "*...to my son James I beqeth [sic] the sum of one dollar eney [sic] time demanded after one year after my death.*" Perhaps lingering hard feelings and disappointment felt by his father after James ran away from home to join the Union Army as a 15-year-old lad seven years earlier had never healed.

On June 6 1870, James H. Agen was a 23-year-old drayman still living in Osage Township, Mitchell County, Iowa. His wartime service as a dragoon likely prepared him for this post-war occupation. The 1870 federal census again shows his birthplace as New York, instead of Vermont. His wife, 'Zilda', was 22 years old and keeping house. Their Iowa-born daughter, Lillie Belle, was now six months old. The young Agen family seemed to be firmly established, owning real estate valued at \$500, and personal property worth \$200.

In April 1875, their second child, Roy J. Agen, was born. And then in December 1879, their third child, Mildred Blanche Agen, was born. The family was steadily growing.

Right: James H. Agen wearing a two-star lapel pin, ca. 1900

On June 18, 1880, James H. Agen was 33 years old and still living in Osage City, Iowa. He was living with his 32-year-old wife, Ezilda, and their three children, schoolgirl Belle (*age 10*), schoolboy Roy (*age 5*), and baby Agen (*age 5 months*). The 1880 federal census correctly indicates Vermont as James' place of birth, and Michigan as Ezilda's place of birth. Their children were all shown as born in Iowa.



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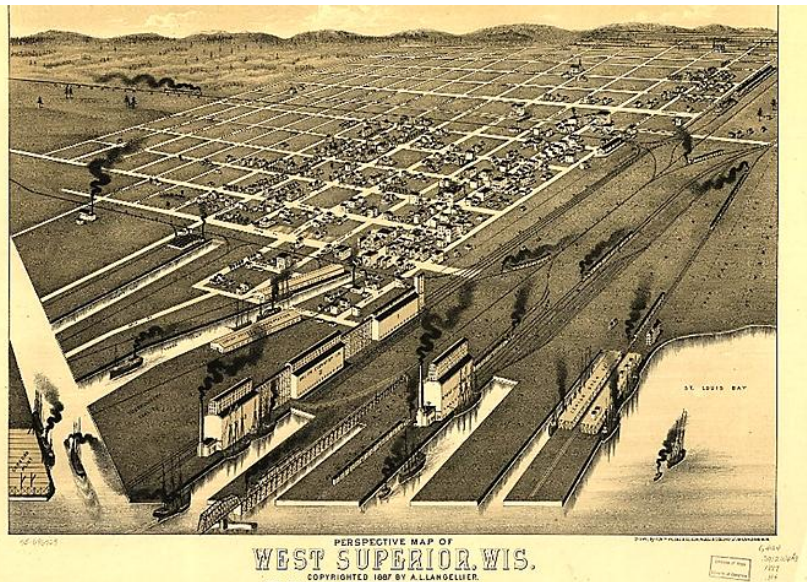
Pvt. James Herman Agen (continued)

Six days later, on June 24, 1880, James H. Agen filed an application (No. 385120) from Iowa for an Invalid Pension based on his Civil War service with *Co. C, 19th New York Cavalry* and *Co. F, 104th New York Infantry*. Apparently, he was successful, as he was issued Pension Certificate No. 232993. In July 1882, their fourth child, Grace Mae Agen, was born.

While living in Osage, James established a connection with other Union veterans living in the area by becoming a member of *1st Lt. F. A. Brush Post No. 77* of the *Grand Army of the Republic* of Osage. He was also apparently quite civic minded, serving six years as a member of the county board of Mitchell County and as an Alderman in Osage for two years. In addition, he was president of the *Mitchell County Agricultural Society* for two years.

On June 1, 1885, James was 38 years old and farming in Osage with his expectant 37-year-old wife, Ezilda, and their four children; L. Bell, Roy J., Millie M. and Gracie S. Agen. Their fifth and last child, Earl Vinton Agen, was born the following month, on July 11, 1885 in Osage.

In 1887, the Agen family packed up and moved north to relocate in the small town of West Superior in Douglas County, Wisconsin. It was a tiny settlement of only about 300 people when he and his family arrived. James immediately engaged in Real Estate, loans, and fire insurance. He erected buildings and developed two business blocks in the town. In addition, he platted and subdivided several additions to the growing town and handled large tracts of timber and farm lands. He also acquired land holdings in Iowa and Texas. The Agens became one of the most prominent families in the area. They continued to live in Superior for about twenty years.



Meanwhile, James was again very active in local civic affairs. He helped reorganize the *West Superior Chamber of Commerce* and served at its first president afterward. He also organized the *Douglas County Agricultural Society* and served as its president, and was instrumental in organizing similar organizations in the surrounding counties. James was a member of the *Knights Templar*, the *Independent Order of Odd Fellows* (I.O.O.F.), the *Ancient Order of United Workmen* (A.O.U.W.), the *Iowa Legion of Honor*, and was affiliated with the Methodist Church.

James was a member of the *Knights Templar*, the *Independent Order of Odd Fellows* (I.O.O.F.), the *Ancient Order of United Workmen* (A.O.U.W.), the *Iowa Legion of Honor*, and was affiliated with the Methodist Church.

In June 1890, James H. Agen was listed on the *1890 Federal Census Special Veterans Schedule* as living in Superior, Wisconsin. He reported that he served as a Private in *Co. C, New York Dragoons*, having enlisted August 22, 1862, and discharged July 17, 1865 - after serving 2 years, 10 months, and 25 days. He did not report any residual disabilities stemming from his leg injuries suffered during the Civil War.

After moving to Wisconsin, James continued his affiliation with the *Grand Army of the Republic*. On January 3, 1891, his G.A.R. membership was transferred to *Alonzo Palmer Post No. 170* in Superior, in which he was a Charter Member. He eventually was elected as Commander of the *Palmer Post*.

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Pvt. James Herman Agen (*continued*)

In 1893 and 1894, James Agen served on the *West Superior Common Council*. He proved to be a man of uncommon vigor and zeal in promoting his adopted hometown.

*In 1894, at his own expense, he made a collection of Douglas county products which he took to Milwaukee and exhibited at the State Fair, winning first premium for the best collection of agricultural products from any single county in the State, and demonstrating the wonderful possibilities of the county for development in that direction.**

James was also involved in State politics. In 1897 and 1898, he represented his district serving as a Republican member of the *Wisconsin State Assembly*. During his second term, he was elected as Sergeant-at-Arms of the *Assembly*.

Between 1896 and 1899, James traveled to Seattle, Washington to visit his younger brother, John Bernard Agen. John owned a wholesale produce and dairy commission business in Seattle and his warehouse served as an Alaska outfitting establishment. During one of those visits, James ventured to Juneau, Alaska, with a load of butter and eggs from his brother's company to sell. This was during the *Klondike Gold Rush*, and James likely traveled to Alaska looking for opportunities, as well as to make a profit by selling those high-demand dairy products.



John Bernard Agen's warehouse in Seattle



John Bernard Agen, ca. 1900

On June 19, 1900, James and Ezilda were living at 502 Hammond Avenue in Superior City, Wisconsin. He was 53 years old, working in real estate, and reported his birthplace as Vermont on the federal census. James' father and mother were listed on the census as born in Ireland and Scotland, respectively. Ezilda was reportedly 48 years old (*which was likely understated*) and born in Michigan, as were her parents. The couple had been married 31 years, all five of their children were still living, and they owned their house free and clear.

It must have been a closely-knit family, as all five Agen children were still living with their parents in 1900, including: unmarried Real Estate agent son, Roy Agen (*age 25*); unmarried schoolgirl daughter, Millie Agen (*age 20*); schoolgirl daughter, Grace Agen (*age 17*); schoolboy son, Earl V. Agen (*age 14*); and married and unemployed

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** Commemorative Biographical Record of the Upper Lake Region, pgs. 140-141, 1905.*

Pvt. James Herman Agen (continued)

daughter, Belle Agen-Griffin (age 30), with her 6-year-old daughter, Loraine Griffin. Belle had married 7 years earlier, but her husband was not enumerated with her in the 1900 Agen household. All five Agen children were correctly listed as born in Iowa.

The 1901 city directory for Superior, Wisconsin shows the Agen family was still living at 502 Hammond Avenue. The family unit was still together for the most part. James and his son, Roy J. Agen, were employed at *James H. Agen Co.*, located at 601-602 Tower Avenue in Superior, selling real estate, loans, and insurance. Daughter Grace M. Agen was still a student.



In 1902, James Agen's standing and reputation as a member of the *Grand Army of the Republic* in Wisconsin was apparently quite strong. As a result, his comrades elected him as Commander of the *Department of Wisconsin* that year. His command encompassed over 16,000 G.A.R. veterans living the state. As Department Commander, he traveled to Washington, DC in October 1892 to attend the 36th National Encampment of the G.A.R., representing the State of Wisconsin. He "served three terms on the staff of the National Commander, with the rank of Colonel."

Left: James Herman Agen – wearing a G.A.R. encampment badge

In June 1905, James was 59 years old and still living in Superior when the Wisconsin State Census was taken. He was still engaged in real estate and insurance, owned his home, and was living with his 58-year-old wife, Eliza [sic], and 3 roomers. Four of their children were also still living in the household, including: their widowed daughter, Belle L. Griffin (age 34); unmarried daughter, Millie B. Agen (age 25); unmarried daughter, Grace Mae Agen (age 22); and unmarried student son, Earl Vinton Agen (age 19). James and everyone in his family was listed on the census page as born in Iowa, except for Earl Agen, who was reportedly born in Wisconsin – which conflicts with the 1900 Wisconsin Federal census and Earl's birth record, which both indicate he was born instead in Iowa in July 1885.

Left: Ezilda L. Hart-Agen



The 1906 city directory for Superior, Wisconsin shows that the Agen family had moved to a new residence. Their new address was 1417 N. 11th Street. The directory lists James H. Agen and two of his daughters, clerk Grace Agen and Millie Agen as living at that address. His son, Roy J. Agen, was living at 2128 Tower Avenue in Superior. James and Roy were still in business together at *James H. Agen Co.* selling real estate, loans, and insurance, and their office was still located at 601-603 Tower Avenue.

Soon James received an offer from a Col. Wolvin of Texas City, Texas, inviting him to come help "clean up the town." James traveled alone to Texas to check out this opportunity, which must have been to his liking, because he later sent for his family to join him in Texas.

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Pvt. James Herman Agen (continued)

After presumably finishing his business with Col. Wolvin in Texas City, the Agen family settled in Houston in Harris County, Texas. James apparently recognized the golden opportunity of selling real estate on installment plans in the growing city. He would continue in the real estate business until his death.

In the 1908-1909 city directory for Houston, James H. Agen is listed as living at 702 Francis Avenue with his son, Earl V. Agen, daughter Miss Grace M. Agen, and daughter Miss Mildred B. Agen. He was the principle at *James H. Agen Company* and president of *East Houston Development Company*. His son, Earl, was also employed at *James H. Agen Company*, which was located at 10 Fox Building at 317½ Main SW in Houston, phone number 1095. They specialized in real estate, lands, and loans.

According to listings in *Polk's Douglas County Directory [Oregon]* for 1910, members of the Agen family from West Superior, Wisconsin, were paying taxes on land they owned in Douglas County, Oregon. The names of record and affiliated assessment values were: James H. Agen, \$1,600; Ezilda Agen, \$500; Millie B. Agen, \$2,370; and Ruby M. M. Agen, \$2,760 (*Ruby was the wife of son, Roy J. Agen*).



Main Street, Houston, Texas, ca. 1910

The 1910-1911 city directory for Houston lists most of the Agen family still living at 702 Francis Avenue. The household included James H. Agen and his sons Roy J. and Earl V. Agen as associates with *James H. Agen Company* selling real estate, lands, and loans, and his two daughters Grace M. Agen and Mildred B. Agen.

At this point, it seems that son Earl had the resources and desire to leave the Agen firm and strike out on his own. On May 28, 1910, he was 24 years old, still unmarried, and was living in Pct. 1 in Harris County, Texas. Like his new near neighbors, Earl was a farmer, specifically a fruit farmer. He was working on his own account and living alone. The 1910 census correctly notes Earl was born in Iowa, his father was born in Vermont, and his mother was born in Michigan. He owned his farm free and clear. (*Note: On February 9, 1931, Earl V. Agen was 45 years old when he married 28-year-old Marie Roward Lester in Pima County, Arizona*).

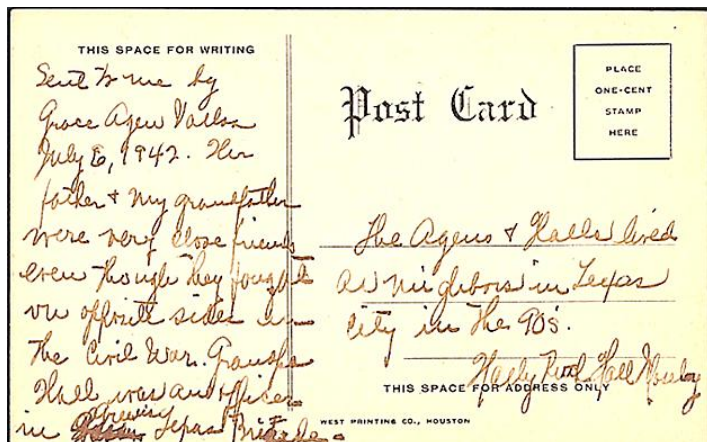
The 1911-1912 city directory for Houston shows James H. Agen was still living at 702 Francis Avenue. Their adult daughter, Miss Millie Agen was also living in the household. His company, *James H. and R. J. Agen Real Estate and Loans*, was still located at 10 Fox Building, 317½ Main Street. His son and business partner, Roy J. Agen, was living at 109 Tuam Avenue in Houston with his wife, Ruby.

James continued his affiliation with the *GAR* after arriving in Texas. Even though he apparently did not serve in any elected or appointed Officer positions with the *George B. McClellan Post 9* of Houston, he was named as a Trustee of that *Post* in 1913.

The 1913 city directory for Houston shows the James Agen family continued to live at 702 Francis Avenue. His business, *James H. Agen Co.*, was still specializing in real estate, land, and loans, but had relocated to 310 Scanlan Bldg. James demonstrated aggressiveness with his Real Estate marketing efforts by mailing out an advertising postcard to his *GAR* comrades in other parts of the country. He teamed up with a friend and former Confederate Corporal to invite former soldiers to relocate to Houston - and, of course, to buy property from him!

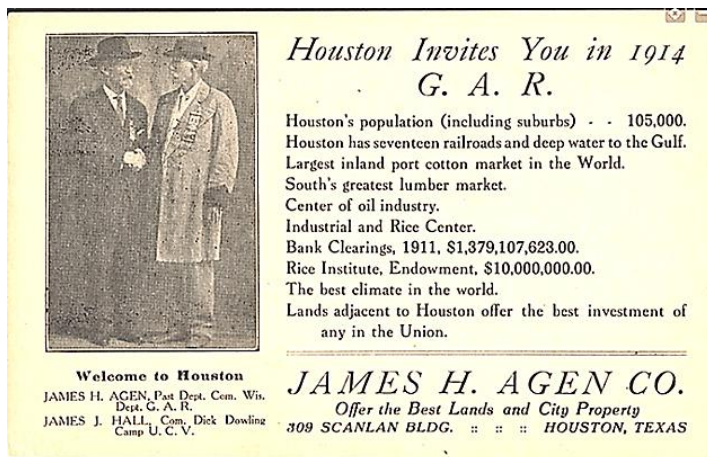
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Pvt. James Herman Agen (continued)



Postcard front - Transcription:

Sent to me by Grace Agen Vallas July 6, 1942. Her father & my grandfather were very close friends even though they fought on opposite sides in the Civil War. Grandpa Hall was an officer in Green's Texas Brigade. The Agens & Halls lived as neighbors in Texas City in the 90's Hally Ruth Hall Mosely.



Postcard back:

Depicts Civil War veterans Private James Herman Agen of Co. C, 1st New York Dragoons Regiment and Cpl. James Jones Hall of Co. C, 4th Texas Cavalry Regiment - West Printing Co., 1914, Houston.

On November 29, 1916, daughter Grace Mae Agen was about 34 years old when she married Horace Adrian Vallas in Houston, Texas.

On Saturday, February 22, 1919, James and Ezilda Agen celebrated the golden anniversary of their wedding with friends and family at their home in Houston. The event drew family members from across the country. Both major newspapers in Houston, the *Houston Post* and the *Houston Chronicle*, noted the occasion the following day with lengthy columns.

After Fifty Years of Matrimony the Agens Hold High Festival

Colonel and Mrs. James H. Agen celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary Saturday, February 22, at their home, 702 Francis Avenue, Houston, in company with their five children, Mrs. Belle Griffin and Mrs. Horace Vallas, both of Houston; Mrs. J. A. Brown of Denver, Colo.; one son, Roy J., of Superior, Wis.; another son, Earl from Denver, Colo.; one brother, N. D., New York, and a sister, Mrs. J. L. Branen of Denver, Colo., and other relatives will arrive during the week. (Houston Chronicle, Feb. 23, 1919).

On January 2, 1920, James' eldest daughter, Lillian Belle Agen-Griffin was living in Illinois. She was lodging with her 24-year-old married daughter, Lorraine Riach, and her husband, Dr. Thomas J. Riach, in Kankakee Township, Illinois. She was enumerated on the 1920 federal census as 'Bell Griffin', was 50 years old, and unemployed. 'Bell' had married Indiana-born Clarence S. Griffin in 1893, and their daughter, Lorraine Griffin, was born May 10, 1895 in West Superior, Wisconsin. Unfortunately, Belle had already been a widow when Lorraine was born, as her husband, Clarence Griffin, died December 18, 1894 – *nearly 5 months earlier*. Daughter Lorraine had married Dr. Riach in Houston in 1918, and they did not have any children as of January 2, 1920.

... continued on next page

Pvt. James Herman Agen (continued)

Eleven days later, on January 13, 1920, James Agen's wife, Ezilda, was lodging with their 37-year-old married daughter, Grace Vallas, and Real Estate Agent son-in-law, Horace A. Vallas. Their address was 610 Francis Avenue in Houston. Ezilda was 71 years old and, for some reason, was enumerated as a 'widow' - possibly as a more 'socially-correct' word for someone 'divorced' or in the process of divorcing. Ezilda reported Michigan as her place of birth, and New York as the birthplace of her parents. The glow of their recent 50-year wedding anniversary celebration must have faded.



On that same day, January 13, 1920, the same census enumerator interviewed James Agen a few doors away, at 702 Francis Avenue. James was 73 years old - and still very much alive. He was living alone and reported that he was a Vermont-born Real Estate agent, owned his house free and clear, and Ireland was the birthplace of his parents. But his health was apparently deteriorating.

Left: **James Herman Agen**

The following year, on October 4, 1921, James Agen died at home at 702 Francis in Houston. He was 74 years, 5 months, and 6 days old. The primary cause of his death was liver cancer, aggravated by Bright's disease. He was laid to rest in Glenwood Cemetery in Houston Heights on the north side of the city.

The informant on James' death certificate was his eldest daughter, Lillie Belle Agen-Griffin of Kankakee, Illinois - *instead of his wife, Ezilda*. Belle reported that her father was a married Real Estate Dealer who was born in Montpelier, Vermont, on April 29, 1847, and his parents were David Agen and Elizabeth Donahue, both born in Ireland.

A month later, on November 3, 1921, James' widow, Ezilda L. Agen, filed an application (No. 1180917) from Texas for a Widow's Pension based on her late husband's Civil War service. She was awarded Certif. No. 924484.



Right top: **James' grave marker**

Right Bottom: **Agen family burial plot
Glenwood Cemetery, Houston, Texas**



... submitted by **Michael L. Lance**
Camp Historian



... researched by **Terry T. Sutton**
Camp Graves Registration Officer



Patriotic Instructor Minute

The Inaugural Address

The custom of delivering an address on Inauguration Day started with George Washington on April 30, 1789. Over the years, they have varied in length from 135 words, delivered by George Washington at his second inauguration in 1793, to 8,445 words delivered by William Henry Harrison on March 4, 1841. It's ironic that while Harrison's address was the longest ever given; it took him nearly two hours to finish, his term in office was the shortest. He died on April 4, 1841, having been President for only 31 days.

Most Presidents use their inaugural address to present their vision of America and to set forth their goals for the nation. It basically sets the tone for their administration. Recently, Donald Trump was inaugurated as the 47th President of the United States. His address was 2,885 words, sixteenth longest ever given.

He pledged that "the golden age of America begins right now", and he outlined the actions he planned to take on issues such as immigration, energy, and gender identity. He also took a few swipes at the previous administration for what he felt were some of its failures.

It has been nearly 160 years since President Abraham Lincoln delivered his second inaugural address on March 4, 1865. It was only 700 words long and is perhaps the greatest inaugural address ever given. By the time he delivered it, the Civil War was winding to an end. All that basically remained was the surrender of the Confederate armies.

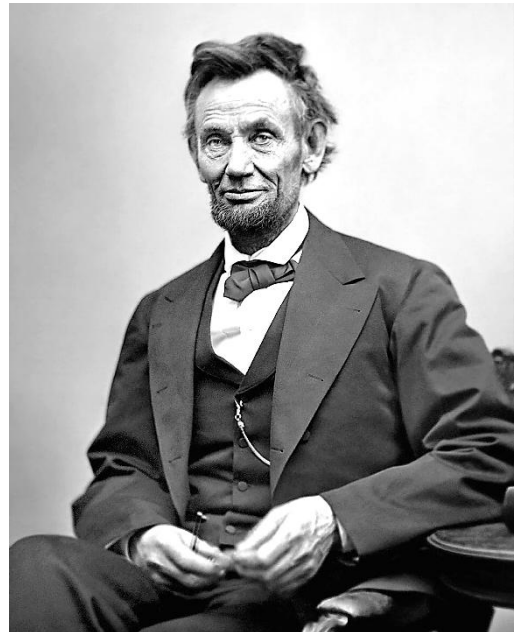
President Abraham Lincoln

The purpose of his address was to call for national unity and reconciliation. Lincoln emphasized that both the North and South shared responsibility for the sin of slavery and urged Americans to heal the nation's wounds with compassion. He was essentially setting the tone for reconstruction with a message of forgiveness and not vengeance at a time when Northern politicians were calling for the South and its leaders to be punished for fomenting rebellion.

The last paragraph of his address is perhaps the most poetic and famous of any words ever spoken. It reads:

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

President Lincoln's vision for the country died with him when he was assassinated on April 14, 1865. President Andrew Johnson attempted to fulfill some of Lincoln's wishes, but radical Northern politicians managed to enact harsher reconstruction measures than Lincoln would have wanted. I wonder how much different our country would be today had Lincoln lived.



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

Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 36)

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.*"

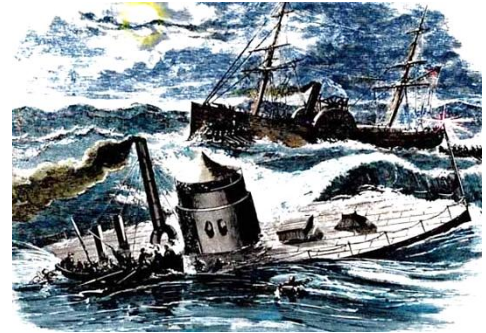
Right: **Navy Version of the original Medal of Honor (1862)**



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.

- **George Moore - Seaman** – George Moore was born in 1837 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He enlisted in the Union Navy in Nov 1862, at Boston. He served aboard the *USS Rhode Island*, a wooden sidewheel steamer. On Dec 30, 1862, the *USS Monitor*, which was under tow by the *USS Rhode Island* foundered 10 miles east of Cape Hatteras in heavy seas. Moore, a crew member aboard the *Rhode Island's* cutter boat, helped to rescue the crew members of the *USS Monitor*, at the peril to his own life. Moore was awarded the *Medal of Honor* for this heroic action.

Right: **Sinking of the USS Monitor**



Later, he re-enlisted in the Union Navy on Jan 23, 1864, serving till being discharged in Apr 1865. His *Medal of Honor* citation reads:

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Seaman George Moore, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving on board the U.S.S. Rhode Island which was engaged in saving the lives of the officers and crew of the U.S.S. Monitor near Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, 30 December 1862. Participating in the hazardous task of rescuing the officers and crew of the sinking Monitor, Seaman Moore after rescuing several of the men, became separated in a heavy gale with other members of the cutter that had set out from the Rhode Island, and spent many hours in the small boat at the mercy of the weather and high seas until finally picked up by a schooner 50 miles east of Cape Hatteras.

- **William Moore – Boatswain's Mate** – William Moore was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1837. He received the *Medal of Honor*, for heroism exhibited on Dec 27, 1862, while on the Yazoo River Expedition near Vicksburg, Mississippi. Moore died in Feb 1918 at age 80 and is buried in Austin, Texas. His citation exemplifies his courageous actions while under heavy fire, stating ...

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Boatswain's Mate William Moore, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action, serving as Boatswain's Mate on board the U.S.S. Benton during the attack on Haines Bluff, Yazoo River, Mississippi, 27 December 1862. Wounded during the hour-and-a-half engagement in which the enemy had the dead range of the vessel and was punishing her with heavy fire, Boatswain's Mate Moore served courageously in carrying lines to the shore until the Benton was ordered to withdraw.

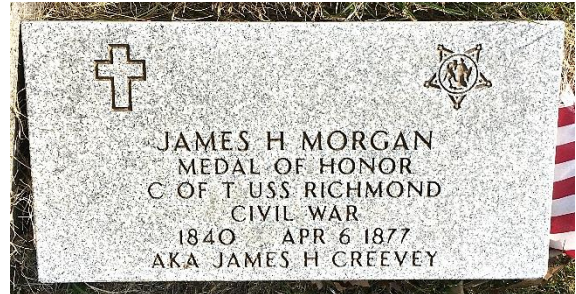
- **James Morgan - Captain of the Top** – James H. Morgan was born in 1840 in New York as James H. Creevey. He joined the U.S. Navy from his home state of New York and served as a Captain of the Top and gun Captain on the *USS Richmond*, a wooden steam-powered sloop-of-war. At the *Battle of Mobile Bay* on Aug 5, 1864,

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Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 36 continued)

Morgan "fought his gun with skill and courage" despite heavy fire. For this action, he was awarded the Medal of Honor four months later. Morgan's official Medal of Honor citation reads:

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Captain of the Top James H. Morgan, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action, serving as Captain of a gun on board the U.S.S. Richmond during action against rebel forts and gunboats and with the Tennessee in Mobile Bay, 5 August 1864. Despite damage to his ship and the loss of several men on board as enemy fire raked her decks, Captain of the Top Morgan fought his gun with skill and courage throughout a furious two-hour battle which resulted in the surrender of the rebel ram Tennessee and in the damaging and destruction of batteries at Fort Morgan.

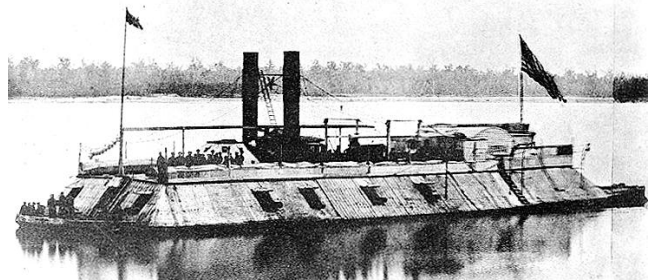


John G. Morrison - Coxswain – John G. Morrison was born in Ireland in 1838, and immigrated to the United States in 1855. In Apr 1861, during the Civil War, Morrison enlisted with the 30th New York Infantry at Lansingburgh, New York. The following year, in Feb 1862, he volunteered for service on the gunboat *USS Carondelet*, a City-class ironclad gunboat, and was appointed as a Coxswain. He later received the Medal of Honor for exceptional bravery during an engagement in Jul 1862 with Confederate ram *CSS Arkansas* in the Yazoo River near Vicksburg. He was



John G. Morrison

an inspiring example to the crew during *Carondelet's* unsuccessful attempt to halt the ironclad Confederate ram's progress through the Union blockade to the Mississippi River. Coxswain Morrison was discharged from the Navy in Mar 1863.



USS Carondelet gunboat, 1861

In Sep 1864, Morrison re-enlisted in the 21st New York Cavalry at Troy, New York, as a Private. He mustered out in May 1865 at Bladensburg, Maryland, and in Jun 1897 in New York City at age 58. He was buried in Cypress Hills Cemetery in Brooklyn. Morrison's *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 Coxswain John G. Morrison, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action, serving as Coxswain on board the U.S.S. Carondelet. Coxswain Morrison was commended for meritorious conduct in general and especially for his heroic conduct and his inspiring example to the crew in the engagement with the rebel ram Arkansas, Yazoo River, Mississippi, 15 July 1862. When the Carondelet was badly cut up, several of her crew killed, many wounded and others almost suffocated from the effects of escaped steam, Coxswain Morrison was the leader when boarders were called on deck, and the first to return to the guns and give the ram a broadside as she passed. His presence of mind in time of battle or trial is reported as always conspicuous and encouraging.

... additional Navy Medal of Honor recipients will be portrayed in the next issue with Part 37

2025 Camp Officers, Staff, and Social Media Links

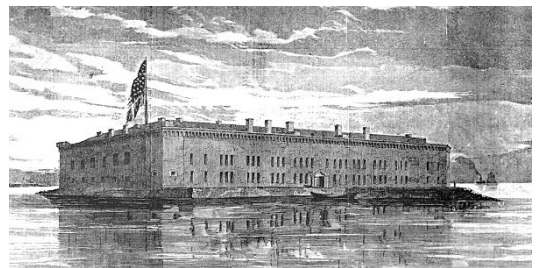
| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| Commander | Daniel B. Pourreau | camp2commander@txsuv.org | |
| Sr. Vice-Comdr. | Herbert W. Powers | camp2svc@txsuv.org | |
| Jr. Vice-Comdr. | Jason D. Hoffman | joincamp2@txsuv.org | |
| Secy./Treas. | Stephen D. Schulze | camp2secretary@txsuv.org | |
| Camp Council | Ben C. Bonnett | | |
| Camp Council | Stevenson Holmes | | |
| Camp Council | Thomas F. Coughlin | | |
| | | | |
| Chaplain | Stephen F. Duncan | Patriotic Instructor | Ronald 'Steve' Brock |
| Historian | Michael L. Lance | Color Bearer | William D. Myers |
| Guide | Michael L. Lance | MOLLUS Coordinator | Harrison G. Moore IV |
| Signals Officer | John C. Vander Meulen | JROTC Coordinator | Daniel B. Pourreau |
| Scout Coord. | Ben C. Bonnett | Graves Regis. Officer | Terry T. Sutton |
| Facebook Mgr. | John C. Vander Meulen | Civil War Mem. Officer | Terry T. Sutton |
| Zoom Facil. | John C. Vander Meulen | Newsletter Editor | Michael L. Lance |
| Webmaster | Robert G. Riley | G.A.R. Records Officer | Herbert W. Powers |
| Guard | Robert G. Riley | | |
| | | | |
| Website | Houston Camp | Website | Department of Texas & Louisiana |
| Facebook | Houston Camp | Facebook | Department of Texas & Louisiana |

Gen. Edward O. C. Ord Camp No. 3, San Antonio

On December 20, 2024, the newest Camp of the *Department of Texas and Louisiana* was chartered as *Gen. Edward O. C. Ord Camp No. 3* of San Antonio. Congratulations to the Brothers who were elected as Officers to lead the new Camp. The Charter members include: **Blair G. Rudy** (*Camp Commander*), **Larry W. Lockett** (*Camp SVC*), **Kevin L. Kanter** (*Camp JVC*), **Dustin S. Whittenburg** (*Camp Secretary/Treasurer*), **Neal W. Rudy**, **William S. Smith**, **William F. Haenn III**, **Scott P. Peters**, **Frank S. Nichols, Jr.**, and **Jan Henry Haines**.

Trivia – The First Shot?

An early, early, 'shot' of the Civil War sent a potentially lethal cannonball from Morris Island careening off the wharf at Fort Sumter, leaving a clearly visible white 'scar' to mark the spot. That was on March 8, 1861, more than a month before the serious bombardment of Fort Sumter. But this shot was an accident committed by a green gun crew at artillery drill. It seems that a live round had been left in a cannon by mistake during a previous drill. Then came an exercise the next day with blank charges....only the live round was still in place. Boom! Apologies extended. No war on as yet."



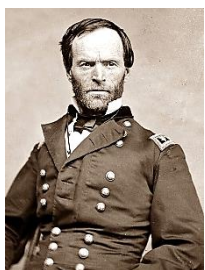
Best Little Ironies, Oddities & Mysteries of the Civil War, pgs. 56-57, by C. Brian Kelly, 2000.



One of three volleys fired during the Battle of Galveston Commemoration Ceremony

January 4, 2025

L-R: Michael D. Rappe, Howard Rose, and Michael L. Lance



Hardships of War

*“You might as well appeal against the thunder-storm
as against these terrible hardships of war.
They are inevitable, and the only way the people of Atlanta
can hope once more to live in peace and quiet at home,
is to stop the war,
which can only be done by admitting
that it began in error and is perpetuated in pride.”*

From the Memoirs of General William Tecumseh Sherman

Union Major General (1862-1865)

Acting U.S. Secretary of War (1869)

Commanding General of the U.S. Army (1869-1883)