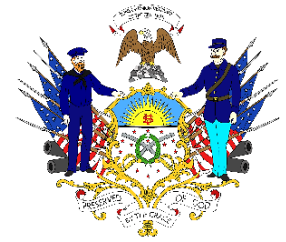




# THE HARRIET LANE



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

Mar 2024 Volume 30 No. 1



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**Cover Image** - "*Naval Battle on the Mississippi in Time of War*" – Artwork in pencil, watercolor, and gouache painting by Fanny Palmer - 1862.

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](mailto:mlance387@gmail.com)

## George B. McClellan Post No. 9 – *Grand Army of the Republic*

The following is a preliminary look at *McClellan Post No. 9* of the *Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)*, organized in Houston, Texas. Much more research is needed - and is planned - regarding the history of this particular Post. This account begins with a brief background about the *GAR* at the National level and then continues with how the *GAR* gained a tenuous foothold in the former Confederate state of Texas, the impressions and reports about conditions in the *Department of Texas*, and is interspersed with information and statistics about the *GAR* in the Lone Star state.

Soon after the close of the Civil War in 1865, veterans of the Union Army began to coalesce into fraternal organizations. In April 1866, Benjamin F. Stephenson, a Civil War surgeon, founded a local 'Post' in Decatur, Illinois, and then laid the groundwork for what would become the *Grand Army of the Republic*. Membership was open to all honorably discharged Union soldiers and sailors. Hundreds of local *GAR* 'Posts' were soon organized across the country. At the state level, the *GAR* was organized into 'Departments', and at the local community level as 'Posts'. By 1890, total *GAR* membership nationwide had climbed to over 400,000 Union veterans in some 7,000 local Posts.

Right: **Benjamin F. Stephenson**



Initially, the mission of the *GAR* was charitable in nature, providing support for wounded and disabled veterans and caring for the widows of Union soldiers. But as the old saying goes, 'there is strength in numbers'. The *GAR*'s formidable size and unity allowed it to also become a powerful political force. It effectively influenced legislation concerning veteran pensions, the building of soldier's homes, promoting patriotic education, and establishing Memorial Day as a National Holiday. Five post-war U.S. Presidents were spawned from its ranks, including Ulysses Grant (1869-1877), Rutherford Hayes (1877-1881), James Garfield (1881-1881), Benjamin Harrison (1889-1893), and William McKinley (1897-1901). During the late 1800s, endorsement by the *GAR* was nearly vital for any Republican aspiring to be nominated for a congressional seat or the land's highest office.

Membership in the *GAR* was not exclusive to just the former Union states in the North and West. Union veterans living in former Confederate states, including Texas, also sought the support and camaraderie of local *GAR* Posts. The *Provisional Department of Texas* was organized on December 10, 1868. It consisted of three local Posts. As membership grew, it became a permanent Department on February 12, 1872, then boasting twelve local Posts. However, the early genesis of the *Department of Texas* soon floundered and was disbanded in 1873. Internal strife related to the reconstruction-era politics of the November 1872 elections - the first presidential election since the start of the Civil War that Texas was allowed to participate in - may have been a determining factor. The young Department had failed to submit the required reports and pay National dues.

However, during the next few years, the local Posts in Texas got their act together and were reinstated as a *Provisional Department* again in 1876. It remained a *Provisional Department* until being absorbed by the *Department of the Gulf* in 1883, joining the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Finally, on March 25, 1885, the veterans of the *GAR* living in Texas organized separately once again as the *Department of Texas* - the 38<sup>th</sup> Department in numerical order. Colonel W. D. Wylie of *Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas Post No. 6* of Dallas was the first Department Commander. Eventually, as many as 83 individual *GAR* Posts would be organized across Texas during the next twenty-five years - in communities large and small.

The journal of the 1885 National Encampment, which was held in Portland, Maine in June, mentions members from *Hancock Post No. 2* of Galveston and *Parmly Post No. 4* of Fort Worth, as well as Department Commander Col. Wylie of Dallas - but no one from *McClellan Post No. 9* of Houston. While I have not yet determined the exact date the *McClellan Post* was organized, all indications point to it being a very early component of the reorganized *Department of Texas*. As evidence, Captain Alfred Kincaid Taylor of the *McClellan Post* was serving as Department Sr. Vice-Commander in 1886.

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## Battle of Galveston Commemoration Ceremony 2024

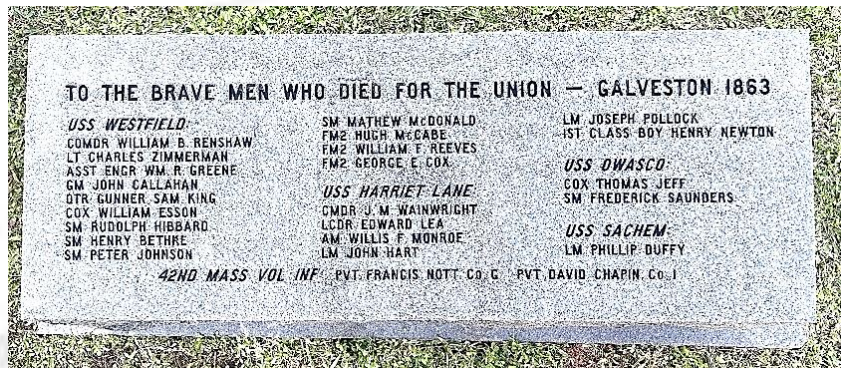
**Saturday, 6 Jan 2024 – Galveston, Texas**

Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2 conducted its annual *Battle of Galveston Commemoration* ceremony on January 6, 2024 at the historic Trinity Episcopal Cemetery in Galveston. It was the 30<sup>th</sup> consecutive ceremony performed by the Camp to remember and honor the Union casualties of the January 1, 1863 *Battle of Galveston* which occurred just a few blocks from the old cemetery. The federal losses on that fateful day included William B. Renshaw, Commander of the Union blockading fleet, Jonathan M. Wainwright, Commander of *USS Harriet Lane*, and Lt. Commander Edward Lea, Executive Officer of the *USS Harriet Lane* and namesake of Houston's *Lea Camp No. 2*.

Members from *Gen. James J. Byrne Camp No. 1* of Fort Worth and *Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp No. 18* of Dallas traveled to Galveston to participate in the elaborate program. Several other organizations also attended to support the effort, including: *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary No. 1, SUVCW; Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent No. 4, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War; Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the U.S. (MOLLUS); Dames of the Loyal Legion of the U.S. (DOLLUS); Co. A, 13<sup>th</sup> Reg't U.S. Infantry/Texas Rifles; and Harmony Lodge No. 6 Masons of Galveston.*

In addition, several Confederate Color Guard units attended the event to offer support, including *Sul Ross Camp #1457* of College Station and *John Bell Hood Camp #50* of Galveston representing the *Sons of Confederate Veterans of the Civil War*, and *Lone Star Chapter #5* of Houston and *Col. Briscoe Baldwin Chapter #312* of Bryan representing the *Military Order of the Stars and Bars*.

*Lea Camp* Commander John C. Vander Meulen presided over the program which unfolded initially at the site of the Union monument (photo of top surface at right) located near the south wall of the cemetery, and then moved to the nearby gravesite of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea to conclude the program.



**Camp Commander John C. Vander Meulen at the Podium - Color Guard at Rest behind**  
**Color Guard L-R: John E. Schneider, Sr. (Capt.), Donald L. Gates, Michael K. Schneider, Lee R. Wallace (not visible)**

*... continued on next page*

## Battle of Galveston Commemoration Ceremony 2024 *(continued)*



**With Arms Presented and Salutes, the Casualty Roll is Called with Tolls of the Bell.**

The Roll of Union Casualties was called by Stephen D. Schulze, PCC/PDC. After each name was called, the ceremonial bell was sounded by Michael L. Lance, PCC/DC (*kneeling*). Flower bouquets were then placed on the Union Monument by members of the *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary, SUVCW, Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent, DUVCW, and DOLLUS.*



**A Combined Musket Salute by Federal and Confederate Honor Guards  
Commanded by Brook J. Thomas, PCC  
*(on right with paper in hand)***

*... submitted by Michael L. Lance, PPC/DC - Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2, Houston  
... additional photo on page 24*



## Ceremonial Bell Donation

**Saturday, 17 Feb 2024 – Houston, Texas**

Sr. Vice-Commander, Daniel B. Pourreau, unveiled his donation of a beautiful eight-inch antiqued ceremonial brass bell to the *Lt. Edward Lea Camp* during the Camp's February business meeting.

Camp Commander John C. Vander Meulen accepted the generous gift and the first demonstration toll was made by Michael L. Lance, DC.



**Michael L. Lance  
and  
John C. Vander Meulen**

The body of the bell is engraved with the name of the Camp. The brass-colored rectangular plate attached near the top of the bell stand is a reproduction Civil War-era Revenue Cutter emblem – to honor the memory of the *USS Harriet Lane*.

**Left: Ceremonial bell on stand with attached Revenue Cutter emblem.**



**Right: SVC Daniel Pourreau.  
Donated the ceremonial bell  
and submitted the photos.**



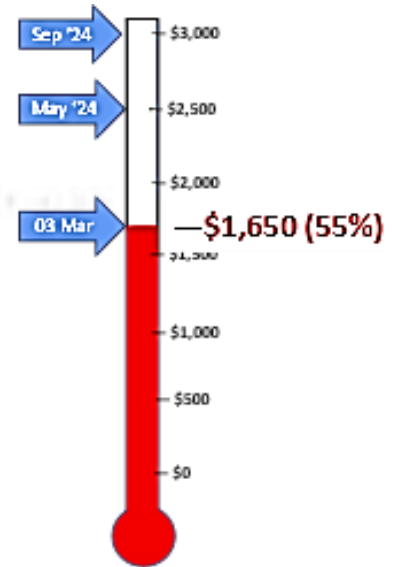
*... submitted by Michael L. Lance, PPC/DC*

# Texas Historical Marker Project

**Saturday, 17 Feb 2024 – Houston, Texas**

At the *Lt. Edward Lea Camp No. 2* meeting in February, SVC Dan Pourceau introduced a project to fund and commission a Texas historical marker to honor the lives of Union veterans buried in the *Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)* lot at Washington Cemetery in Houston. The marker project is the brainchild of Brother Herb Powers, a member of *Lea Camp's Remembrance Committee*, who introduced the idea at a January Camp leadership meeting.

The *GAR Marker Project* immediately received a \$250 gift from *Sarah Emma Seelye Ladies Auxiliary No. 1*. In addition, the *Lea Camp* unanimously voted to approve the donation of \$500 from the Camp's reserve funds to the project. The project fund has since swelled to \$1,650 thanks to individual donations from fourteen Camp members - ranging from \$25 to \$100. If every other Camp member reading this newsletter donates \$20 to the effort, we will reach our fundraising goal of \$3,000 by the March camp meeting! *Huzzahs* to all Brothers and Sisters who have already donated! To donate, simply go to the *Lea Camp* website at <https://www.camplea.org/> and click on the orange 'Donate' button.



*Right: Fundraising Goal Target Tracker*

The *GAR* lot at Washington Cemetery is the final resting place for ten Union veterans of the Civil War. They hailed from four different states and four countries, yet were united by a common cause in a bloody conflict that changed our Nation for the better. While all ten are worthy of remembrance as Union veterans and members of the *Grand Army of the Republic*, one stands out for having a unique role in the conflict - and the *GAR* - Sarah Emma Edmonds.

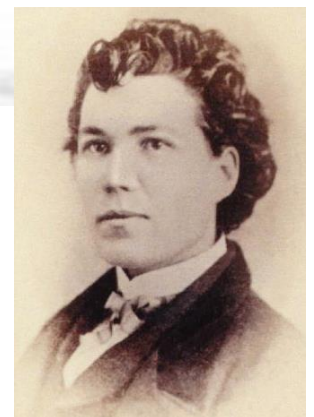
Edmonds, disguised as a man, enlisted with the *2<sup>nd</sup> Michigan Infantry* under the pseudonym of Franklin Thompson. She was one of about 150 women who enlisted with the Union Army as men during the Civil War. She served as a nurse, mail carrier, and spy and was present at the battles of *First Bull Run (Manassas)*, *Fredericksburg*, and *Antietam*.



After the war, Edmonds married her childhood friend, Linus Seelye, and later applied for and received a \$12 monthly pension for her military service. In 1897, she was the first woman to be initiated as a member of the *GAR* for her service as a soldier during the Civil War. Sarah died in LaPorte, Texas, the following year.

*Left: GAR membership badge*

*Right: Sarah Emma Edmonds/Seelye*

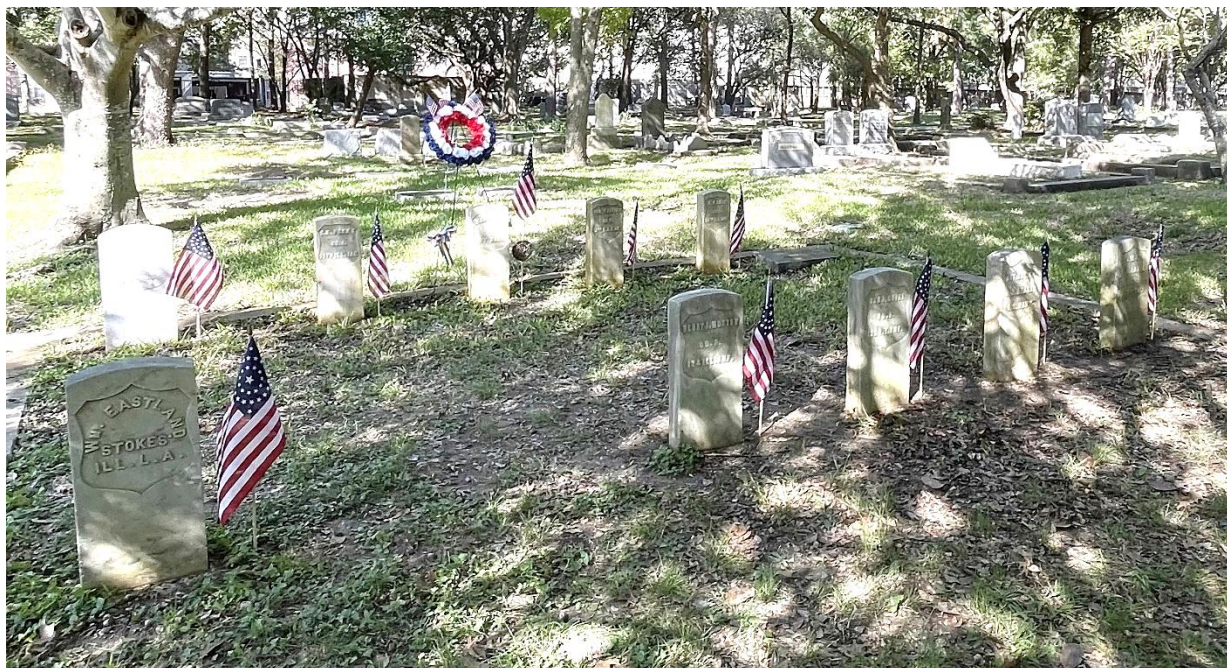


The *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp*, the *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary*, and *Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent No. 4, DUVCW*, have conducted joint memorial ceremonies at the *GAR* lot on many occasions, including Memorial Day. In November 2023, a work detail from the *Camp* and the *Auxiliary* cleaned the headstones and deposited small U.S. flags.

Although Seelye is mentioned briefly on a historical marker located elsewhere on the cemetery grounds, the *GAR* plot itself has no marker identifying its significance. The current *Historical Marker Project* of the *Lea Camp* is intended to provide cemetery visitors with an overview and background of the *GAR* in general, its presence in Houston, and specifically the *GAR* lot in the historic cemetery – to honor and remember the Union veterans buried within.

*... continued on next page*

## Texas Historical Marker Project *(continued)*



**Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) lot in Washington Cemetery, Houston, Texas**

In May 1901, *George B. McLellan* GAR Post 9 of Houston reinterred Army nurse Sarah Emma Edmonds Seelye, aka. Frank Thompson, with full military honors in the GAR lot within the German Cemetery (*renamed Washington Cemetery in 1918*) in Houston. Sarah and the nine other Union Veterans who rest there today include:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>Military Unit</u>
Pvt.	Abram Ogden Bennett	1843	MI	1913	Co. A, 6 <sup>th</sup> MI Heavy Artillery
Pvt.	William Eastland	1837	NY	1911	Stokes Indep. Light Artil. Battery (Chicago, IL)
Nurse	Sarah Emma Edmonds/Seelye	1841	Can.	1898	Co. F, 2 <sup>nd</sup> MI Vol. Infantry
Pvt.	Stephen K. Feeks	1837	NY	1901	Co. G, 37 <sup>th</sup> IL Infantry
Pvt.	Johann Froelich	1842	Prussia	1897	Co. I, 1 <sup>st</sup> LA Cavalry
Pvt.	George Gage	1831	--	1896	Co. C, 59 <sup>th</sup> IL Infantry
Cpl.	Benjamin Guire	1845	NY	--	Co. B, 132 <sup>nd</sup> NY Infantry
Pvt.	Henri Mostow	1841	NY	1907	Co. H, 124 <sup>th</sup> IL Infantry
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt.	Edwin Paine	1837	VT	1903	Co. H, 7 <sup>th</sup> VT Infantry
Ensign	John Reagan	1830	Ireland	1905	U.S. Navy, USS Fort Jackson

*... submitted by Daniel B. Pourreau, SVC – Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2, Houston*



## Lineage Society Fair - 2024

**Thursday, 25 Jan 2024 – Conroe Texas**

*Lea Camp* Commander John Vander Meulen and PCC Michael Lance attended the *Lineage Society Fair* held at the *Montgomery County Memorial Library* in Conroe, Texas. The pair, representing the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*, shared a recruiting and information table with members of the *Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent No. 4, DUVCW*. The Fair was a gathering of several hereditary and lineage societies and was free and open to the public.

*... submitted by Michael L. Lance, PCC/DC – Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2, Houston*



## Daughters of the American Revolution - 2024 Convention

Thursday, 14 Mar 2024 – Austin, Texas

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, Camp Commander John Vander Meulen and Brother Lee Wallace represented *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2, SUVCW*, at the annual conference of the *Texas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)* in Austin, Texas. Numerous other hereditary organizations were also represented at the event.



Over 1,000 members of the *DAR* converged in Austin to attend their conference. Many of them visited the *Lea Camp* display table. It was visited so many times that the on-hand *SUVCW* informational literature was completely depleted! Two attendees made donations to the Camp and were thanked by receiving Clara Barton Ladies Appreciation brooches.

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Left: **Lee R. Wallace and John C. Vander Meulen**

... submitted by John C. Vander Meulen, CC

## Trivia – Squibb Pannier

A Squibb pannier was a lightweight wooden medical chest developed and sold by Edward Robinson Squibb of Brooklyn, New York. Squibb was a Navy surgeon from 1847 to 1857. During the Mexican War, he was exposed to the negative effects that impure medicines and drugs had on his patients. In 1856, he invented a safer method for producing a more consistent and better quality ether.

After resigning from the Navy in 1858, Squibb founded a pharmaceutical lab to produce his ether and other uniform, high-quality medicines. With the development of his Squibb pannier, he was able to supply his medicines to the U.S. Army during the Civil War in compact, rugged, iron-banded chests. They cost about \$100 each and came filled with 52 different medicines protected in individual Japanned tin containers. The panniers could withstand rough handling and jostling rides on Army field ambulances. They allowed battlefield doctors to treat casualties conveniently and effectively.

Besides ether and chloroform used as anesthetics during amputations, the Squibb pannier also included quinine and whiskey to treat symptoms of malaria, and herbal treatments for dysentery and other diseases. A chart glued to the underside of the pannier lid showed where each of the numbered medicines was located inside the chest.



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

## Ancestor Profile – Pvt. Aaron Ruple Porter

This is the story of Aaron Ruple Porter who, with his older brother Chauncey, served in *Co. E* of the *1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Engineers and Mechanics* from 1864 to 1865. The *Michigan Engineers* were a specialized regiment of volunteers trained to not only fight like regular infantrymen but also to provide logistical support to the regular army. They were skilled in building bridges, roads, railroads, and destroying the enemy's infrastructure. Many volunteers were drawn to join this branch of service by the \$4 premium over the regular infantryman's monthly pay of \$13.

*Right: Union Engineers building a corduroy road in June 1862.*



The Porter family arrived in Pine River, Gratiot County, Michigan, in 1854, enticed by the *Graduation Act of 1850*, which offered land for 50 cents per acre to those willing to relocate. Upon their arrival, young Aaron and Chauncey helped their father, Elijah, build a cabin in the woods, then continued to clear the land so they could farm it. Sister Ellen taught school and mother Julia and sisters Rebecca and Mahala tended to household duties.

In 1862, not long after Aaron's brother, Chauncey, had married and moved away to the small town of Ionia near Grand Rapids with his new bride, tragedy struck the Porter family in Pine River. Aaron's father, Elijah, succumbed to disease.

At age 19, Aaron became the head of the Pine River household, which now consisted of himself, his mother, Julia, and his two sisters.

As the war raged in the Eastern and Central States, brothers Aaron and Chauncey Porter both found themselves struggling to support their families in central Michigan.

In October 1863, President Lincoln issued a call for three hundred thousand more men to serve for three years. If quotas were not met, a draft loomed. The federal bounty for first-time recruits was raised to three hundred dollars to spur enlistments. Additional local bounties, averaging between one and two hundred dollars, raised the total available to new recruits even higher.

Since enlisting with a sizable bounty was much more appealing than being drafted, Aaron and Chauncey Porter marched to Grand Rapids together in August 1864, where they enlisted with the *1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Engineers*.

The recruiting bounty of \$500 (which would be about \$15,362 in 2024 dollars) likely assuaged their concerns about leaving their families behind. Neither man had military training, but the hard life on the frontier had likely prepared them well, both physically and mentally, for what lay ahead.

**Rally, Boys, Rally for the Flag!**  
**And Avoid the Draft.**

**VOLUNTEERS**  
FOR THE  
**29th REGIMENT**  
**OF MICHIGAN INFANTRY**

Will be called by the undersigned, who has been duly authorized  
by Adjutant Blair.

**SUBSTITUTES**  
ARE ALSO ENLISTED IN THIS REGIMENT.

**\$300 GOV. BOUNTY**  
And LIBERAL LOCAL BOUNTIES, in addition, offered!

**TERM OF ENLISTMENT THREE YEARS OR DURING THE WAR.**

Come boys, let us strike once more for the old Flag—Let it be ours  
to dash up the glorious work of putting down the Rebel and wicked Rebellion, which has trampled on  
the Constitution, violated the sacred soil of our Father's graves, and laid waste to our homes, and to our country. Let us meet  
"BROTHER COMRADE" in all colors, which we do not hesitate to sacrifice for the cause of LIBERTY.

**N. J. FRINK,**  
Lieut. 29th Reg. Mich. Inf., Recruiting Officer.

MARSHALL, Aug. 3, 1864.

... continued on next page

## Ancestor Profile – Pvt. Aaron Ruple Porter (continued)

The Porter brothers were assigned to *Company E*, commanded by Captain Silas Canfield of Ionia - someone Chauncey likely knew from civilian life. They were sent south to Camp Owen in Marshall, Michigan for brief basic training. Then they were transported to Atlanta, Georgia to reinforce their Engineers regiment which had arrived there ahead of them on September 28, 1864.

By the time the 1<sup>st</sup> *Michigan Engineers* regiment arrived at Atlanta in late September, the Confederates had already abandoned the ruined city and fled southward.

*Right: Shell-damaged Ponder House in Atlanta.*

The hard work for Aaron and his Engineer regiment was soon to begin. On November 2, 1864, the regiment was attached to Jefferson C. Davis' *XIV<sup>th</sup> Corps*. Two weeks later, it left Atlanta and headed for Savannah, Georgia to participate in what is known as Sherman's "*March to the Sea*".



During this memorable march, the regiment was required to keep pace with the movements of the infantry. They traveled over ten miles a day, while tasked with tearing up railroad tracks, twisting rails, burning bridges, repairing and making roads through marshes, and building bridges.

The 1<sup>st</sup> *Michigan* arrived before Savannah on December 11, 1864, after marching 250 miles in 25 days. The following extracts, taken from a diary kept during the march, gives an idea of the work done, and the hardships experienced by the soldiers:

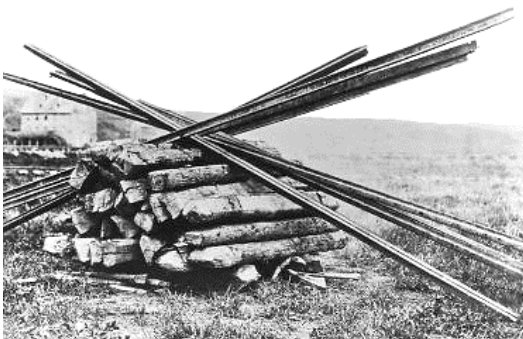
*"Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> - After reaching a point beyond Covington, the six companies left the railroad about dusk and marched three to four miles until we reached the direct road to Eaton, not far from the Oleonfanbacher River. The day's march was very hard on the men, some of whom fainted by the way."*

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

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

One of the reasons the army only advanced about 10 miles per day was that the roads were often muddy and impassable due to steady November rains. So, the engineers not only had to repair bridges that were destroyed by the

retreating Rebels, but they also had to repair the roads made impassable due to heavy rains - and by deliberate flooding by the retreating Confederates. In addition, the troops had to forage for food and shelter, and struggle to catch a few hours of sleep.



*Above: Sherman's Neckties – Wooden cross-ties were turned into a bonfire to heat and soften the rails stacked on top. When softened, the rails were twisted to make them unusable to the Confederates.*

*... continued on next page*

## Ancestor Profile – Pvt. Aaron Ruple Porter *(continued)*

Death also came suddenly to a few unfortunate men. For example, on December 10, 1864, at Telfair Road, near Savannah, Georgia, Robert Brown of *Co. H* was mortally wounded by a cannon ball fired from a rail-mounted cannon.

After the fall of Savannah, the regiment embarked on transports for Beaufort, South Carolina. From there, they began the long march through the Carolinas to Goldsboro, North Carolina. During the march, vast amounts of public property were destroyed, railroad iron heated and twisted, and almost numberless bridges built and repaired. The men often worked all through the night, so the army could march the next morning.

While the troops showed some restraint during the *March to the Sea* through Georgia, Sherman's army showed none as they moved northward through South Carolina. The Palmetto State was the first State to secede to start the war, and Sherman's troops were in a mood to punish. Sherman wrote the following to Chief-of-Staff, Maj. Gen. Henry Halleck in late December from Savannah: *"The whole army is burning with an insatiable desire to wreak vengeance upon South Carolina. I almost tremble at their fate, but believe she deserves all that seems in store for her."*

The regiment advanced on Raleigh, North Carolina, and occupied it on April 14, 1864. They were present at Bennett's House on April 26, 1865, for the surrender of Gen. Johnston's Army. After the surrender, the regiment marched towards Washington, D.C., advancing through a defeated Richmond, Virginia on the way.

The *1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Engineers* arrived at Washington on May 20, 1865, and took part in the *Grand Review* four days later. The unit was mustered out on September 22, 1864 at Nashville, Tennessee, and then marched 500 miles back to Jackson, Michigan. They were then paid and released from duty. From there, Chauncey and Aaron Porter returned to their families in Ionia and Pine River, a mere 80 and 100 miles away.

All told, the Porter brothers traveled nearly 2,700 miles together during their year with the *1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Engineers*. Four years later, Aaron married a 21-year-old woman of Irish and German descent named Eliza Murphy, herself a descendent of Revolutionary War Patriots and early settlers of the Isle of Wight Colony in Virginia. They became the parents of five children, with the first being my great-grandfather, Reverend Harry Erastus Porter.

In his later years, Aaron Ruple Porter lived in Gratiot County, Michigan with his second son, Archie Porter. He passed

away in 1904 at age 61 and now rests next to Eliza in Breckenridge cemetery. A simple headstone at his grave reads: *A. R. Porter - First Michigan Engineers.*

In 2022, after the *SUVCW* National Encampment in Grand Rapids, members of the *Department of Texas and Louisiana* traveled to Breckenridge, Michigan to pay respects to Pvt. Aaron Ruple Porter. They were joined by several members of *Saginaw Camp 67, SUVCW* for a nice graveside ceremony.

*Left: Gravesite of Aaron Ruple Porter at Breckenridge Cemetery. Descendant Daniel B. Pourreau is 3<sup>rd</sup> from the right.*



*... submitted by Daniel B. Pourreau, Camp SVC*

## Patriotic Instructor Minute

I want to write about something a bit different this time - something I've been thinking about. In looking at the ritual script that we use to open our Camp business meetings, I notice we use a variety of words to describe our Officer stations – and another unusual word that is spoken near the opening of our meetings where the Commander asks: “*Brothers, upon which principles is our Order founded and what do we inculcate?*”

*Inculcate?* I may be the only person in the Camp who didn't know what inculcate meant. I have a bachelor's degree, I've worked as a deputy sheriff and a detective for the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department for 31 years where I've written hundreds of crime reports, and I've worked as a background investigator with the Sheriff's Department, again where I've written hundreds of reports, and never once have I used or even heard of this word. So I decided to look up its definition. *Inculcate* is defined as a verb that means to instill an attitude, idea, or habit by persistent instruction. So it is, in fact, a pretty interesting word!

Further down in the opening script, we use several words to describe three of our Officer's stations. But I wonder, do we really give pause and ask ourselves what these words mean? The Patriotic Instructor recites that his station represents *Patriotism, Strength, and Courage*. Patriotism is defined as a feeling of attachment and commitment to a country or nation. Strength is defined as the capacity of an object or substance to withstand great force or pressure, or the quality of being physically strong. Courage is defined as the mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand fear or difficulty, being brave and fearless.

The Sr. Vice-Commander's station stands for *Charity and Purity*. Charity is defined as generosity and helpfulness, especially toward the needy or suffering. Purity is defined as the condition or quality of being pure, free from anything that debases, contaminates, or pollutes.

The Jr. Vice-Commander's station stands for *Fraternity and Faithfulness*. Fraternity is defined as a group of people sharing a common profession or interest, a group of people associated or formally organized for a common purpose, interest, or pleasure. Faithfulness is defined as being steadfast in affection or allegiance, being loyal.

As I contemplate these definitions, I realize that these words describe our Civil War ancestors. These are the values that guided the way they lived their lives. After the war, these values were carried into the rituals they followed as members of the *Grand Army of the Republic*. None of us can truly understand the hell our Civil War ancestors experienced. But for them having to go through it all and still stay true to these values says a lot about their character.

They passed these core values down to us, *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*, and other similar organizations. I believe they would want the same principles to also guide our lives. Patriotism, Charity, and Faithfulness don't seem to mean as much today - and may even be considered passe to some. These worthy virtues don't seem to be taught in our schools anymore. I remember citing the *Pledge of Allegiance* in school every morning. I don't think they do that today. It seems that history lessons have been replaced by classes trying to help children determine what gender they are. On Facebook, I've seen college students who don't know how many states make up our Union, who fought in the Civil War, and even who the current president is. I'm hoping this is not true, but I'm afraid it is!

As I look at our Order today, I notice most of us aren't spring chickens. From photographs, I've noticed that most of the Camps of the *Department of Texas* are made up of senior citizens. So as we approach the end of our road, I think it is imperative we *inculcate* our children and grandchildren with the same virtues that our Civil War ancestors passed down to us. In that way, we will ensure that future generations of *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* will carry on the legacy of our heroic ancestors.



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

## From the Chaplain's Desk

### *So, what did a Chaplain do during the Civil War?*

Chaplains in the Union Army effectively held the rank of Captain of Cavalry. They were paid Captain's wages and were issued fodder for their horses - supplied by the Army. Southern Chaplains were paid similarly but were responsible for their own horses and fodder.

The Chaplain's duties were not codified by the Army. Instead, the regiment(s) they served allowed them to work as seemed best to them. Very Rev. William Corby, CSC who was later President of the *University of Notre Dame*, served as the Regimental Chaplain for the *88<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Irish Brigade*. Unfortunately, the Brigade did not always have a Chaplain for each regiment, and this meant that Father Corby often served for the entire Brigade.

He celebrated mass on a weekly basis. He carried posts for the officers and men of the *Irish Brigade*. He also served as a banker, carrying monies back to New York for the men so that their families could receive the money safely. He argued for clemency for those under his care - even traveling to talk with President Lincoln about one of the soldiers at one point. He counseled the troubled, celebrated the sacraments, and did all those things that a parish priest would normally do.

He also walked the battlefields with the soldiers administering the Last Rites to the dying amid the shot and shell. One Chaplain was killed by a cannonball while ministering to his dying commander, but he appears to have been the only Chaplain killed in battle during the war.

He ministered among the sick and the dying in the field hospitals after the battles and provided as much comfort as possible. He wrote to the families of those who did not make it. He also wrote letters for soldiers who did not know how to write. *He was a very busy man!*



We know what Father Corby did during the war because he wrote a rather extensive memoir afterward. In it, he chronicles the horror of the war and pulls few punches. A Chaplain who was serving among their troops did so as one of them - and it was not an easy path.

**Left: Men of the Irish Brigade pose at Harrison's Landing, Virginia in 1862.**

*Back row: Patrick Dillon and unidentified. Front row: Unidentified, James Dillon, and William Corby. The identified men are priests of the Congregation of the Holy Cross.*



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

## McClellan Post No. 9 – Grand Army of the Republic *(continued from page 3)*

In 1890, Captain Alfred Kincaid Taylor of the *McClellan Post* in Houston was elected as the 6<sup>th</sup> Commander of the *Department of Texas*. He died June 14, 1903, at age 61 and is buried in Houston's Glenwood Cemetery. On August 2, 1897, another notable member of the *McClellan Post* died - Isaac Conroe, founder of the city of Conroe, Texas. He succumbed to a heart attack at age 62 and was also buried in Glenwood Cemetery.

Following Captain Taylor's term as Department Commander in 1890, three other members of *McClellan Post No. 9* would also serve in that capacity. Charles B. Peck served as the 16<sup>th</sup> Department Commander in 1900, Max Hart served as the 36<sup>th</sup> Department Commander in 1920, and W. H. Blake served as the 39<sup>th</sup> Department Commander in 1923.

On June 30, 1899, the total membership of the Department was 667 in 34 Posts. By the end of that year, membership had increased to 781 in 36 Posts. Six months later, on June 30, 1900, the membership of the *Department of Texas* had increased further to 827 in 39 Posts – a net gain of 160 men over the previous June, with 5 new Posts. This steadily increasing number of members and Posts seems to indicate that the *Department of Texas* was 'going against the grain' as total membership was dropping nationwide!

Two of the Department Officers elected for 1900 included the aforementioned Charles B. Peck of *McClellan Post 9* of Houston as Commander, and Elbridge G. Rust, also of the *McClellan Post*, as Assistant Adjutant-General. In August, they both traveled to Chicago to attend the 1900 National Encampment. At that Encampment, Commander Peck was honored by being appointed to the five-man *Committee on the Report of the Chaplain-in-Chief*.

The Commander of the *Department of Texas* in 1901 was Philimon B. Hunt of *Rousseau Post No. 60* of Graham, Texas. Jeremiah J. Billow of *McClellan Post No. 9* was elected as Department Jr. Vice-Commander. Oddly, no other members of the *McClellan Post* were elected or appointed to serve as Department Officers, National Encampment Delegates, or as members of the Department *Council of Administration*. Twenty-six veterans from Posts across the Department were appointed as National Aides-de-Camp - but none from the *McClellan Post*! However, E. G. Rust was appointed to serve on the 3-man *Committee on Transportation*. On December 31, 1901, the total number of members in good standing in the *Department of Texas* had decreased slightly to 822.

In April 1902, sixty-six Union veterans traveled to Beaumont, Texas to attend the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment of the *Department of Texas*. Together, they represented twenty-one of the thirty-nine Texas Posts. The 10 attendees representing the *McClellan Post* included:

Max Hart	Post Cmdr.	Alfonso M. Engle	PPC
Thomas Ferguson	Delegate	H. Hume	PPC
John J. Reagan	Delegate	Charles B. Peck	PPC/PDC
George L. Smith	Delegate	Charles H. Ricker	PPC
Jeremiah J. Billow	PPC/ Department JVC	Elbridge G. Rust	PPC/ <i>Comm. on Transportation</i>

Nine other non-attending members of the *McClellan Post* were mentioned in the resulting journal of the 1902 Department Encampment, including:

Stephen Post	SVC	Reuben B. Baer	PPC
T. W. Reeves	JVC	John Jacob Scholl	PPC
E. B. Day	Alternate	W. H. Honneus	PPC
J. S. Withrow	Alternate	Newton L. Mills	PPC
S. Black	Alternate		

E. J. Rust of *McClellan Post 9* was serving as Department Historian and Custodian of records in 1902. After being elected to this position at the 1901 Department Encampment in Galveston, he had "*purchased a trunk, in which to preserve the archives and data of the Department.*"

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## McClellan Post No. 9 – Grand Army of the Republic *(continued)*

Historian Rust then worked to compile early Texas Post documents from the years 1885 through 1890. He reportedly finished his work *“shortly after my return from the National Encampment at Cleveland [Sep 1901].”* He sent his draft copy to Department Headquarters, and Department Commander Philimon B. Hunt (photo at top right) assigned them to a newly appointed *Committee of Revision*. The committee was charged with reviewing the assembled draft documents and making revisions where necessary. However, *“Owing to the scattered location of the committee[men] from San Antonio to Denison, the work of passing upon my compilation has been of necessity slow...”* Rust reported.



COL. P. B. HUNT,  
Department Commander.

Additionally, based on a recommendation by the *Committee of Revision*, Department Commander Hunt issued an Order in April 1902 requesting all Posts and individual members to submit any historical documents that they might possess - in order to have them added to the compilation - before the Department History Project was finalized. It was suspected that additional uncollected historical information *“not covered by official reports...”* remained at the various Posts and in private collections.

Historian Rust also mentioned in his report that he had *“succeeded during the past two years in picking up here and there two complete files of our printed proceedings from 1890 to the present time.”*

After Department SVC H. C. Adler (photo middle right) of Hurst Post No. 13 of Terrell presented his report at the 1902 Department Encampment, E. G. Rust and H. Hume of the *McClellan Post* were both appointed as members of the 3-man *Committee on the Department SVCs Address*. They would review the DSVCs report and recommend it be approved by a vote.



H. C. ADLER,  
Senior Vice-Commander

The formal address presented by Department JVC, J. J. Billow at the Department Encampment in 1902 briefly mentioned the condition of his *Post* in Houston.

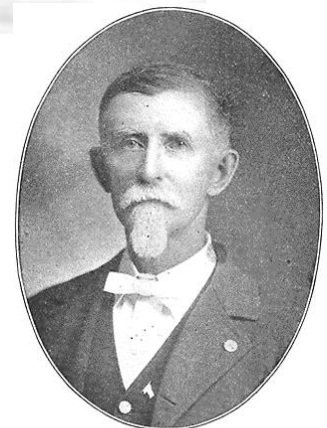
*“By official order from the Department Commander, [I] installed the officers of George B. McClellan Post No. 9, of Houston, Texas. This Post is in a flourishing condition, reinstating and mustering recruits almost every meeting night. There is a good working W.R.C. connected with this Post. The Corps is accomplishing considerable charitable work.”*

*“The George B. McClellan Post has adopted a social or open meeting night, once a month, at which time the W.R.C. arranges a programme [sic] of music, songs, recitations, and plays. Light refreshments are frequently served and the meetings made very enjoyable for the old comrades and their wives, relatives, and friends.”*

Department Chaplain, S. W. Patterson of *Dix Post No. 11* of Dallas, in summarizing the 1901 Memorial Day activities around the state, reported (in part):

*“McClellan Post No. 9, Houston: There were twelve comrades present to hear the memorial service read by E. G. Rust. There were thirty comrades present on Memorial Decoration Day. Four organizations participated.”*

Regarding the *McClellan Post*, Department Inspector W. Z. Manchester (photo at bottom right) of *Parmly Post No. 4* of Fort Worth wrote:



W. Z. MANCHESTER,  
Department Inspector.

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## McClellan Post No. 9 – Grand Army of the Republic *(continued)*

*“Geo. B. McClellan [sic] Post No. 9, Houston; J. J. Billows [sic], Asst. Inspector. Sixty-seven members. Lost during the year, 9. Have a flourishing W.R.C. All official duties well performed. Relief fund \$55.04. Expended for relief, \$25.00. Quartermaster fund, \$35.49. Post property, \$114.75. Comrade Billows writes: ‘McClellan Post No. 9 is in a flourishing condition, having added to its ranks by muster, transfer and reinstatement. The Post now contains on her muster roll 67 members in good standing, having lost 1 by death, 7 suspended; gain, 13, leaving a net gain of 5 for the year. The W.R.C. in connection with this Post is in fine working condition, having 42 members in good standing.’”*

Commenting on the thirty-one deaths suffered across the Department in 1901, Assistant Adjutant-General J. W. Ridge (photo at right) of Dix Post No. 11 of Dallas sadly stated:

*“Comrades of high and low degree or rank are answering the last roll-call, ready as they once were to answer the call to battle, and as fearless to meet it, and ready to respond. Every one of these men, regardless of the place of his birth, was a loyal American citizen, a patriot, a faithful and fearless soldier, whose life was offered in battle before it was given up in peace.”*

During the 1902 Department Encampment, Commander Hunt appointed two additional 3-man committees. Charles B. Peck of *McClellan Post 9* would serve on both of them - the *Committee on Greetings to W.R.C.* and the *Committee on Resolutions*.

H. Hume of the *McClellan Post* actively participated in the nominating process for 1903 Department Officers at the Encampment by rising to nominate Past Sr. Vice-Department Commander C. C. Haskell of Denison for Commander, and later, rose again to nominate R. B. Underhill, Commander of *Lawton Post No. 80* of Beaumont, as Department Sr. Vice-Commander. Haskell was ultimately elected, but Underhill withdrew his name from consideration. E. G. Rust of *McClellan Post 9* of Houston then nominated Underhill to serve as a Representative to the 1903 National Encampment.

By December 31, 1902, the total number of members in the *Department of Texas* had decreased further to 681.

In 1903, the 18<sup>th</sup> *Annual Encampment of the Department of Texas* was held in Dallas from April 14 to April 16. The Department Commander was John H. Bolton of *Ord Post No. 3* of San Antonio. Department Chaplain, Father T. K. Crowley, of *Lyon Post No. 5* of Denison reported on the 1902 Memorial Day activities across the Department. He included the following summary about the *McClellan Post*:

*“Geo. B. McClellan Post No. 9 - The post attended divine services at the First Presbyterian church, thirty comrades being present. The sermon was delivered by Rev. Caldwell, the son of an ex-Confederate. Thirty-five comrades participated in the Memorial day services and visited all the cemeteries and decorated the graves of forty Union soldiers and 300 Confederates. There are five graves unmarked by proper headstones. The post has its own burial plot. Past Department Commander Chas. B. Peck and Rev. G. W. Stoner delivered addresses at the cemetery. The address was eloquent and to the point. There was a military band employed for the occasion, which dispensed patriotic music. Everything went off satisfactory and by reason of the same added materially to the future prosperity of the post.”*

Assistant Adjutant-General H. A. Johnson of *McPherson Post No. 1* of Sherman commented on the 26 deaths across the *Department of Texas* during the 1902-1903 term by writing:

*“During the past year, twenty-six comrades have answered to the last roll call, and one by one our ranks are growing smaller and it will be but a few more years until we will be called upon to assemble and enjoy the company of our fellow comrades.”*



J. W. RIDGE,  
Assistant Adjutant General and Assistant  
Quartermaster General.

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## McClellan Post No. 9 – Grand Army of the Republic *(continued)*

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment of the Department of Texas was held in Fort Worth in April 1910. The Department was commanded by Calvin R. Hubbard of *Kearny Post 20* of Lampasas and consisted of 22 Posts, including *McClellan Post No. 9* of Houston.

In 1911, the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment of the Department of Texas was held in Dallas in May. The Department Commander was James S. Dunlap of *Oglesby Post No. 6* of that city. During the year, *Holcomb Post No. 57* of Mason had ceased to exist, bringing the number of Posts in the Department down to 21. The *McClellan Post* was still on the roster.

The Friday, February 16, 1912 issue of the *Houston Post* newspaper published the following item:

*“A joint open meeting in memory of the birthdays of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln will be held tonight by the George McClellan post No. 9, Grand Army of the Republic, and the George B. McClellan Women’s Relief Corps No. 16, Department of Texas, at the post hall in the Odd Fellows building, corner of Rusk and Milam streets. A cordial invitation has been extended to all to attend the meeting and enjoy the program which has been arranged.”*

On December 31, 1912, the *Department of Texas* consisted of 420 members in good standing in 21 Posts. A year later, on December 31, 1913, the *Department* had 20 Posts with 399 members – a net loss of 1 Post and 21 members during the year.

On Sunday, May 24, 1914, the *Houston Post* newspaper published a lengthy article announcing the Sabbath Day memorial services and Decoration Day (*Memorial Day*) ceremonies planned by the *McClellan Post*. For the memorial services, all ex-Civil War veterans from both sides of the conflict, current soldiers, veterans of the Spanish-American War, State militiamen, *Woman’s Relief Corps No. 16*, politicians, and the public were invited to attend the services on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at First Presbyterian Church in Houston.

The Decoration Day (*Memorial Day*) activities were scheduled for the following Sunday, May 31, 1914. The *McClellan Post* would combine with *George B. McClellan Corps No. 7*, *Women’s Relief Corp of Texas* to conduct a memorial ceremony at Glenwood Cemetery in Houston. The newspaper article is noteworthy because it lists the names of sixty-nine GAR veterans buried in six local cemeteries.

By December 31, 1914, the *Department* had shrunk to 16 Posts and 347 members – indicating a loss of another 4 Posts and 52 members. Nineteen of those aging Union veterans were able to travel from Texas to Detroit in September 1914 to represent the *Department of Texas* at the 48<sup>th</sup> National Encampment. Of the known attendees, none hailed from *McClellan Post 9*. However, the two former Department Commanders from the *McClellan Post*, both then deceased, were recognized in the resulting journal of that Encampment - Alfred Kincaid Taylor, who served as DC in 1890, and Charles B. Peck, who served as DC in 1900

*General Order No. 5*, dated July 20, 1915, announced the appointment of John C. Bonnell of *McClellan Post 9* as an Aid-de-Camp on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief.

On January 3, 1918, the *McClellan Post* suffered the loss of Jeremiah J. Billow. A week later, Post Adjutant John J. Scholl posted a grammatically-challenged letter to the Commissioner of Pensions in Washington, DC. in an attempt to assist Jeremiah Billow’s widow with obtaining a pension. The letterhead indicates the location of the headquarters of the *McClellan Post*. It reads:



J. S. DUNLAP.

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## McClellan Post No. 9 – Grand Army of the Republic *(continued)*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS G.A.R.

**GEO. B. MCCLELLAN POST NO. 9**

**HALL COR. MILAM AND RUSK AVE**

*“Dr Sir & Comrade*

*At the request of the Widow of Comrade Jer. J. Billow late a member of this Post. & who died Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> 1918, & was buried Jan 4<sup>th</sup> 1918, his Pension Certificate is no. 1087372. & formerly a member & Sergt. Co G, 208<sup>th</sup> Penna. V.I. I make application for ‘Forms’ for the widow to get her pension & also for ‘Forms’ to get the Bal. Pension Due from Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> 1917 to Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> 1918. & such instruction & information that the Dept. can give me. I do not know if Comrade Billow has ever employed any attorneys in Washington, DC, or not & if so is it necessary to employ them. The Widow in her bereavement has been left in an almost destitute [sic] condition. & is in in [sic] urgent need of its assistance as early as practicable [sic]. I am attending to this free of charge for the widow & will do the best I can for her. I have the widow certificate of marriage in 1864 is it necessary to send the original copy which I suppose is an heirloom in the family. As She lives seven miles in the Country it would save time to forward the papers to me If the Dept. think unwise I will give her PO. Address – Mrs. J. J. Billow, Southland, P.O. Harris Co. Texas – over [turn to the back side of the sheet] My address is as below. Respectfully Yours in FC&L, John J. Scholl, Sr. Post Adj. No. 9 Dept of Texas, 2906 Labranch St, Houston Texas.”*

This interesting letter indicates that John J. Scholl Sr. was the Post Adjutant in January 1918 and the Post Commander was Max Hart. Additional information printed at the top corner of the letter shows that the *McClellan Post* had ‘*Open Entertainments First Sunday*’ and ‘*Regular Meetings Third Sunday*’. The letter was stamped with an ink marker ‘Finance Division – Jan 15, 1918 – Bureau of Pensions’, indicating that the letter reached its destination. Eventually, this letter wound up in the pension file of widow Billow.

By December 31, 1937, the *Department of Texas* consisted of only two Posts with a total of eight elderly veterans. The Department Commander was John Shearer of *Sam Houston Post 55* of Dublin, Texas, who had served in that position each year since first being elected in 1930. He would continue as Department Commander through 1941, when the Department ceased to exist.

Ninety-nine Civil War veterans have been identified so far as having once been members of the *George B. McClellan Camp No. 9* in Houston. At least two of them are known to have survived into the 1930s. Max Hart died on August 13, 1932, and John W. Camplin died on October 11, 1938. Camplin, therefore, is the last known survivor of the *McClellan Post*. He is buried in Glenwood Cemetery in Houston.

The Union veterans living in Texas after the Civil War played a role in the evolution of the *Grand Army of the Republic* from its earliest years in the late 1860s to the twilight years of the late 1930s. They endured the initial stresses of promoting the Union cause in a former Confederate state, to later enjoy the honors bestowed upon them as heroes and restorers of a united country.

Although the Union veterans were, for the most part, newcomers to the South after the Civil War, they soon integrated into the fabric of their adopted Texas towns and cities. The members of GAR Posts in Texas were active and highly visible in their local communities, participating in parades and holiday and social events across the state. Their legacy will continue to live on – in contemporary newspaper articles, on gravestones and monuments, and other Civil War memorials from Brownsville to Denison, from El Paso to Orange, and through efforts of their heirs - the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*.



*... submitted by Michael L. Lance, DC/PCC*

## Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 32)

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.*



- **Michael McCormick - Boatswain's Mate** – Michael McCormick was born in 1833 in Ireland and emigrated to Milwaukee, Wisconsin during the potato famine. He worked as a saloon keeper in Milwaukee and joined the U.S. Navy from Chicago, Illinois during the Civil War. He served as a Boatswain's Mate and was awarded a *Medal of Honor* for his bravery in action in May 1864 on the Red River while serving on the *USS Signal*, a stern-wheel steamship, during an attempt to seize the city of Shreveport, Louisiana.

McCormick died in Milwaukee at the end of the war at age 32, succumbing to the effects of malaria on May 19, 1865. He reportedly contracted the disease while serving in the swamps of Louisiana. He was buried at Wood National Cemetery in Milwaukee. His *Medal of Honor* citation reads:

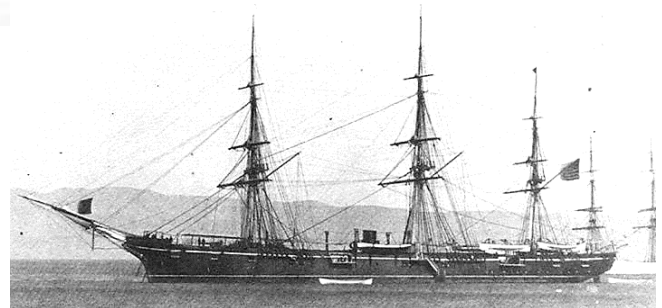
*"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Boatswain's Mate Michael McCormick, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action, serving as Boatswain's Mate on board the U.S.S. Signal, Red River, Louisiana, 5 May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



- **Adam McCulloch - Seaman** – Adam McCulloch was born in 1834 in Maine. He was living in Augusta, Georgia when he joined the U.S. Navy. He served during the Civil War as a Seaman on the *USS Lackawanna* (photo below), a screw-propelled sloop-of-war.

At the Battle of Mobile Bay on August 5, 1864, the *USS Lackawanna* engaged the *CSS Tennessee* at close range. McCulloch was wounded in the leg by flying debris. He refused an order to go below decks and instead remained at his post throughout the battle. For this action, he was awarded the *Medal of Honor*. 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 Adam McCulloch, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving on board the U.S.S. Lackawanna during successful attacks against Fort Morgan, rebel gunboats and the ram Tennessee in Mobile Bay, Alabama, on 5 August 1864. Wounded when an enemy shell struck, and ordered to go below, Seaman McCulloch refused to leave his station and continued to perform his duties throughout the prolonged action which resulted in the capture of the prize ram Tennessee and in the damaging and destruction of Fort Morgan."*

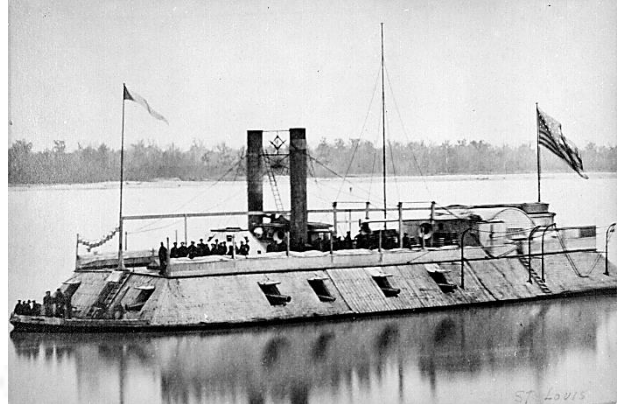


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## Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 32 continued)

- **John McDonald - Boatswain's Mate** – John McDonald was born in 1817 in Perth, Scotland. He joined the U.S. Navy from Boston, Massachusetts, and served as a Boatswain's Mate on the *USS Baron DeKalb*, a City-class ironclad gunboat (image at right). McDonald'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 Boatswain's Mate John McDonald, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving on board the U.S.S. Baron De Kalb, Yazoo River Expedition, Mississippi, 23 to 27 December 1862. Proceeding under orders up the Yazoo River, the U.S.S. Baron De Kalb, with the object of capturing or destroying*



*the enemy's transports, came upon the steamers John Walsh, R. J. Locklan, Golden Age, and the Scotland, sunk on a bar where they were ordered burned. Continuing up the river, she was fired on but, upon returning the fire, caused the enemy's retreat. Returning down the Yazoo, she destroyed and captured large quantities of enemy equipment and several prisoners. Serving bravely throughout this action, John McDonald, as Boatswain's Mate, distinguished himself in the various actions."*

- **John C. McFarland – Captain of the Forecastle** – John C. McFarland was born in 1840 in Boston, Massachusetts. He joined the U.S. Navy from Boston in December 1861 as a Seaman and served on the *USS Ohio*. McFarland was later transferred to the *USS Hartford* which was engaged in the *West Gulf Blockading Squadron*. Having attained the rank of Captain of the Forecastle, McFarland was stationed at the wheel in every engagement in which *Hartford* participated. During the *Battle of Mobile Bay* in August 1864, he left his sickbed to take up his station, keeping the wheel of Admiral David Farragut's flagship throughout the storm of shell and shot. He was commended by his commanding officers for his fortitude and intelligence. McFarland died in October 1881 in Lowell, Massachusetts at age 41.



**NOTE:** The *USS McFarland (DD-237)*, a Clemson-class destroyer (image below) was launched in 1920 and deployed during WWII. It was named in McFarland's honor. His *Medal of Honor* citation reads:

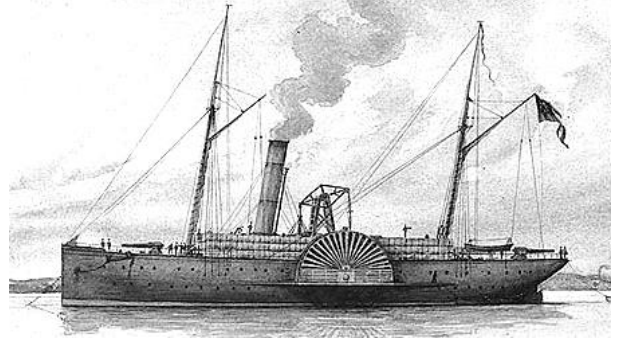
*"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Captain of the Forecastle John C. McFarland, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while stationed at the wheel on board the flagship U.S.S. Hartford during successful action against Fort Morgan, rebel gunboats and the ram Tennessee in Mobile Bay, Alabama, on 5 August 1864. With his ship under terrific enemy shellfire, Captain of the Forecastle McFarland performed his duties with skill and courage and, when the [USS] Lackawanna ran into his ship and every man at the wheel was in danger of being crushed, remained steadfast at his station and continued to steer the ship."*



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## Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 32 continued)

- **John McGowan - Quartermaster** – John McGowan was born in 1831 in Ireland. He emigrated to the United States and was living in New York when he joined the U.S. Navy. He served during the Civil War as a quartermaster on the screw steamer, *USS Varuna* (depiction at right). At the *Battle of Forts Jackson and St. Philip* near New Orleans on April 24, 1862, *Varuna* was rammed twice by the Confederate steamer *CSS Governor Moore* (formerly known as the *Charles Morgan*) and eventually sunk. McGowan was stationed at the ship's wheel and showed "the greatest courage and skill" throughout the close-range fight. For this action, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. The citation reads:



*"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Quartermaster John McGowan, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving as Quartermaster on the U.S.S. Varuna. Quartermaster McGowan occupied one of the most responsible positions on the U.S.S. Varuna during the attacks on Forts Jackson and St. Philip, Louisiana, and in action against the rebel ship Morgan on 24 April 1862. Although guns were raking the decks from behind him, Quartermaster McGowan remained steadfast at the wheel throughout the thickest of the fight, continuing at his station and rendering service with the greatest courage and skill until his ship, repeatedly holed and twice rammed by the enemy, was beached and sunk."*

- **Martin McHugh - Seaman** - Seaman Martin McHugh was born in 1837 in Ireland. He emigrated to the United States, joined the U.S. Navy in 1862, and was assigned to the ironclad *USS Cincinnati* (photo below). In May 1863, during the *Battle of Vicksburg*, the *Cincinnati* was strafed by heavy artillery fire and began to sink. McHugh helped get his captain and shipmates off the vessel as it went under, while "never ceasing to fire until this proud ship went down 'her colors nailed to the mast.'" After the war, McHugh moved to Illinois, eventually settling in Danville. After dying there in 1905, McHugh and his wife were both buried in the local Resurrection Cemetery. But, his grave went unmarked for over 100 years and his wartime bravery was eventually forgotten.



In 2010, it was discovered that McHugh was never issued a *Medal of Honor* marker. A *Medal of Honor Committee* worked for more than a year before attaining a marker from the VA National Cemetery Administration. On April 21, 2012, a day of celebration and remembrance for Seaman McHugh was held at Holy Family Church. It drew nearly 100 people. Speeches highlighted the importance of never forgetting U.S. servicemembers, no matter how long ago they served. A *Medal of Honor* marker, a headstone, and a historical marker were all placed at McHugh's grave during a formal dedication. McHugh's *Medal of Honor* citation reads:

*"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Seaman Martin McHugh, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving on board the U.S.S. CINCINNATI during the attack on the Vicksburg (Mississippi) batteries and at the time of her sinking, 27 May 1863. Engaging the enemy in a fierce battle, the Cincinnati amidst, an incessant fire of shot and shell, continued to fire her guns to the last, though so penetrated by shellfire that her fate was sealed. Serving bravely during this action, Seaman McHugh was conspicuously cool under the fire of the enemy, never ceasing to fire until this proud ship went down, "her colors nailed to the mast."*

... additional *Medal of Honor* recipients will be portrayed in the next issue with Part 33

## 2024 Encampments

### May 4, 2024 – Plano, Texas

The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment of the Department of Texas and Louisiana, SUVCW will be held in Plano, Texas on Saturday, May 4, 2024. The event will be hosted by Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp No. 18 of Dallas. The venue will be the Harding-Blaine Post No. 321 of the American Legion in Plano. The emphasis, once again, will be on following the rich historical traditions and rituals of our Order and the GAR. Many elements of the program were established by our forefathers and had great meaning and importance to them. Our commitment to honoring their memory and legacy will be reflected in the content and conduct of the 2024 Encampment.

All non-attending members of the Department in good standing will be able to monitor the Encampment proceedings online via Zoom. However, all virtual attendees will be muted and not able to participate in discussions. In-person attendance is highly suggested to take full advantage of the camaraderie and friendship opportunities that Department Encampments typically offer. National Jr. Vice-Commander-in-Chief Kevin Tucker will be attending the event as a special guest of the Department and will also serve as installing officer following Department Officer elections for the 2024-2025 term.

Visit the Department website ([SUVCWtx.org](http://SUVCWtx.org)) for additional details regarding the Encampment agenda, registration form, and travel directions.

### August 1 - August 4, 2024 – Lexington, Kentucky

The 143<sup>rd</sup> National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will be held in Lexington, Kentucky from August 1 through August 4, 2024. The event will be hosted by the Department of Kentucky. The venue will be The Campbell House in Lexington. Visit the National website ([SUVCW.org](http://SUVCW.org)) for registration information and full event details, including lodging, meals, tours, and local Kentucky attractions.

## 2024 Camp Officers, Staff, and Social Media Links

Commander	<b>John C. Vander Meulen</b>	<a href="mailto:camp2commander@txsuv.org">camp2commander@txsuv.org</a>	Camp Council	<b>Ben C. Bonnett</b>
Sr. Vice-Comdr.	<b>Daniel B. Poureau</b>	<a href="mailto:camp2svc@txsuv.org">camp2svc@txsuv.org</a>	Camp Council	<b>Stevenson T. Holmes</b>
Jr. Vice-Comdr.	<b>Vincent T. Trovato</b>	<a href="mailto:joincamp2@txsuv.org">joincamp2@txsuv.org</a>	Camp Council	<b>Thomas F. Coughlin</b>
Secy./Treas.	<b>Stephen D. Schulze</b>	<a href="mailto:camp2secretary@txsuv.org">camp2secretary@txsuv.org</a>		

Chaplain	<b>Stephen F. Duncan</b>	Eagle Scout Coord.	<b>Ben C. Bonnett</b>
Patriotic Instructor	<b>Ronald 'Steve' Brock</b>	Graves Regis. Officer	<b>Terry T. Sutton</b>
Historian	<b>Michael L. Lance</b>	Civil War Mem. Officer	<b>Terry T. Sutton</b>
Color Bearer	<b>William D. Myers</b>	G.A.R. Records Officer	<b>Herbert W. Powers</b>
Guide	<b>Thomas F. Coughlin</b>	Facebook Mgr.	<b>John C. Vander Meulen</b>
Guard	<b>Robert G. Riley</b>	Zoom Facilitator	<b>John C. Vander Meulen</b>
Signals Officer	<b>John C. Vander Meulen</b>	Webmaster	<b>Robert G. Riley</b>
JROTC Coord.	<b>Daniel B. Poureau</b>	Newsletter Editor	<b>Michael L. Lance</b>

Website – Houston Camp	<a href="https://www.camplea.org/">https://www.camplea.org/</a>
Website – Dept. of TX and LA	<a href="http://www.txsuv.org/">http://www.txsuv.org/</a>
Facebook – Houston Camp	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/LtCmdrEdwardLeaCamp2HoustonSUVCW/">https://www.facebook.com/LtCmdrEdwardLeaCamp2HoustonSUVCW/</a>
Facebook – Dept. of Texas	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/SUVCW.TX.LA/">https://www.facebook.com/SUVCW.TX.LA/</a>

## Battle of Galveston Commemoration (continued from page 5)



***FIRE!***

Capt. Brook Thomas gives the command for a musket salute tribute to the Union Soldiers and Sailors who died nearby during the January 1, 1863 *Battle of Galveston* - Episcopal Cemetery, Galveston, Texas

### **Aged Texas GAR Veterans March**

*“Probably the most inspiring part of the whole parade was to observe our venerable comrades, Mann, Moore, Peck, Kindred, McKay, Wieler [sic], and Parks on foot with the rest of the boys, making the long and weary march through the heat and dust without a murmur, with an air which seemed to say to the crowd as they passed along, “We have been here before.”*

by

**Col. Philimon B. Hunt**

Member of *Maj. Gen. Lovell H. Rousseau Post No. 60, Grand Army of the Republic, Graham, Texas*

**Commander of the *Department of Texas* in 1902**

Speaking about the elderly Texas contingent marching in the 27,000-man soldier's parade at Cleveland, Ohio on September 11, 1901 during the *35<sup>th</sup> National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic.*

24 April 1902