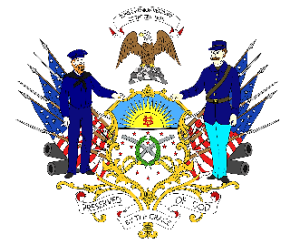




# THE HARRIET LANE



The Official Newsletter of  
Lt. Commander Edward Lea, USN, Camp No. 2 – Houston, Texas

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Jun 2024

Volume 30

No. 2



**DEDICATION CEREMONY**  
BRYAN, TEXAS  
Page 7



**MEMORIAL DAY**  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
Page 10



**JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION**  
GALVESTON, TEXAS  
Page 13



## Features

- 3 Last Living Son of a Civil War Soldier** - by Michael L. Lance, PCC/PDC  
The father of a surviving WWII Private was also a Private – *during the Civil War!*
- 7 Gravestone and Historical Marker Dedication** - by Michael L. Lance, PCC/PDC  
Two cenotaph headstones and a State Historical Marker dedicated in a combined ceremony.
- 9 Memorial Day 2024** - by Michael L. Lance, PCC/PDC  
*Lea Camp* combines with 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf. to provide a musket salute at Houston National Cemetery.
- 10 Memorial Day 2024** - by John C. Vander Meulen, CC  
*Lea Camp* combines with Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1 and the Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4, DUVCW for an elaborate ceremony at the G.A.R. lot in Greenwood Cemetery, Houston.
- 12 Memorial Day 2024** - by Stephen F. Duncan, Chaplain  
*Union monument and graves of Medal of Honor recipient and the namesake of the Camp decorated.*
- 13 Juneteenth Celebration 2024** - by Stephen F. Duncan, Chaplain  
45<sup>th</sup> annual event highlighted by the portrayal of Gen. Gordon Granger reading *General Order No. 3*.
- 14 Ancestor Profile – Pvt. Israel Lambert** - by Robert G. Riley, Webmaster  
The story of a Revolutionary War descendant who served the Union during the Civil War
- 18 United States Colored Troops in the Rio Grande Valley** - by Terry T. Sutton, GRO  
The final chapter of the Civil War played out in south Texas.
- 22 Arlington National Cemetery and Decoration Day** - by Michael L. Lance, PCC/PDC  
A brief history of our Nation's foremost cemetery and it's connection to Memorial Day.

## Departments

- 13 Trivia – Ashton Villa** – Majestic Civil War-era manion is a cherished symbol of cultural heritage.
- 17 Trivia - The Battle of Egypt Station** - Critical railroad center captured by Union Cavalry.
- 20 Patriotic Instructor Minute – Never Again** – The brutal guerilla war in MO, KS, and AR
- 21 From the Chaplain's Desk – The First Decoration Day** - at Arlington Cemetery.
- 24 Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients** - Recognizing U.S. Navy Civil War Heroes (*part 33*).
- 27 Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp No. 2** - 2024 Officers, Staff, and Social Media Links.
- 27 Trivia** – Brief overview of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp No. 2 of Houston, Texas.
- 28 Signature Photo** - Memorial Day (*additional photo*) – Decorated grave of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN.
- 28 Quote** – From Gray to Blue - Unwilling Texas Confederate comments on his wartime predicament.

## Cover Image - "USS Hartford - 1862" – Artwork by Tom Freeman

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)

## Last Living Son Of A Civil War Soldier

At the peaceful Parkview Residential Facility for the elderly in Bolivar, Missouri, there is potential for a great story inside every door. Behind one of those doors lives 99-year-old William R. 'Bill' Pool. One of his treasured keepsakes in the room is his personally-written book of poems, which lies next to a shadowbox displaying keepsakes and war medals. Bill Pool had earned those medals as a soldier serving in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Among the various items inside the shadow box (*photo at right*) are five medals and a badge, including: a Bronze Star (*bottom left*); a Good Conduct Medal (*next to it*); a European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with a Bronze Star attachment (*above the Good Conduct medal*); an Army of Occupation Medal with Germany bar (*next to the right side of the center photo*); a World War II Victory Medal (*on the far right*); .....and a SUVCW membership badge with a Real Son attachment (*upper left*)!

Military service has been a long tradition in Bill's family. Both his father and grandfather had also served their country as soldiers – *during the Civil War!*

Bill Pool's father, Charles Parker Pool, was 80 years old when he was born. Today, Bill is reportedly the last living son of a Civil War soldier. His mother, Clara Bell Straw-Booth Pool, was the last Civil War widow in Missouri to draw a Union pension, passing away in 1990 at age 102.

On August 20, 1861, soon after the outbreak of the Civil War, Charles Parker Pool enlisted with the Union Army at the tiny town of Cairo, Virginia. Located in the far northwest corner of the state, less than 25 miles from the Ohio border, Cairo would become part of West Virginia during the Civil War. Eighteen-year-old Charles, along with a brother *and* his father, Thomas Pool (1804-1887), all enlisted at the same time, serving with Co. D, 6<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Infantry.



Charles Parker Pool was born in Ritchie Co., Virginia in 1843. He married twice following the Civil War, but both of those wives preceded him in death. On August 15, 1915, Charles married for the third time. His new wife was Clara Bell Straw-Booth (1889-1990). They were wed in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She was 27 years old and he was 71. Charles and Clara eventually became the parents of five children, including: Charles Thomas Pool (1916-1944), Ernest John Pool (1918), Florence Pool (1922-2021), William "Bill" Pool (1925) and Garland Ralph Pool (1927-2016). Charles, the patriarch of the family, lived a long life, passing away in 1933 at age 88.

*Left: Civil War veteran Charles Parker Pool with his wife and children. William 'Bill' Pool is the young boy standing in front of his mother.*

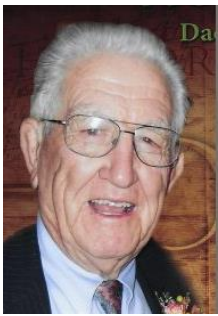
*...continued on next page*

## The Last Living Son Of A Civil War Soldier *(continued)*

One of the poems in Bill's book of poems illustrates his lasting impression of his Civil War veteran dad:

*One of my fondest memories was that of my loving Dad  
and the time we spent together when I was a lad.  
Many was his labor in the time he spent with me,  
and in the process of time, he planted there a tree.  
As I looked upon it, where it grew and stood,  
The fruit that formed upon it, I found was very good.*

*"Charles Parker Pool loved to garden. He always had his overall pockets full of seeds and a stick. When he found an empty spot in his garden he would poke a hole with the stick and drop in a seed. He planted and kept a garden until he was 85 years old. He would sit down and scoot backwards in his gardens and hoe in front of him as he went." (source: his online obituary).*



Late in life, Bill's older brother, 'John' Pool, also shared a memory about their father: *"From the time my dad lived in Virginia, he was a Republican. The feeling I picked up on was that politics had a lot to do with what side people were on back in the mountains during the Civil War. I remember Dad used to say that not all Democrats were Rebels, but that all Rebels were Democrats."*

**Left: Bill's older brother, Ernest 'John' Pool**

Bill Pool was only seven years old when his dad died. But he had a clear memory going back 93 years about how his father's old war injury didn't hold him back. The elder Pool had a leg amputated after getting hit by a falling tree limb while on a march (note: other sources state *"He was shot in the left leg which had to be amputated above the knee."*) Bill related that *"If he wanted to hunt, he walked on crutches. If he got a squirrel, he put it down in the crosses of his crutches."*

Fast forward to World War II. In 1944, William 'Bill' Pool was 19 years old when he joined the U.S. Army. After completing basic training, he was sent to Scotland on the *Queen Mary*. Soon he was deployed to the heart of the ground offensive in Europe as a 'replacement soldier' – one of the men who went into battle to replace casualties. He would see action in France, Germany, and Austria, including the *Battle of the Bulge*

**Right: William R. 'Bill' Pool during WWII**

*"During a battle, an officer was severely wounded. Pool took the idea of 'no man left behind' to heart and urged his commanding officer to help the injured soldier, which entailed going onto the battlefield to retrieve him. The commander didn't feel it was safe to do so, in essence choosing to leave the man to his fate. Pool took it upon himself to recruit another soldier to rescue the officer, which saved his life. For this action, he was awarded a Bronze Star." [source: Bolivar Herald-Free Press online, 12 Jan 2024]*



On another occasion during WWII, Bill recalled that after rescuing an injured soldier on the battlefield, he and two other soldiers accidentally walked into a Nazi trap. They thought they were returning to their company in a secured area, but were mistaken. *"There was a big bomb crater outside that place, and [the Germans] put us in that,"* he exclaimed. Fortunately, he remained a POW under guard in the crater for just three hours. The Allies soon regained control of the area and the Germans retreated. For some reason, they did not shoot their prisoners. *"And that was unusual,"* Bill said. *"I figured that was a miracle."*

*...continued on next page*



## Last Living Son Of A Civil War Soldier *(continued)*

Tim Pletkovich, a member of *Col. John C. Bryner Camp 67, Department of Illinois, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* compiled information and stories he collected during interviews with surviving WWII veterans. His book, entitled: *Civil War Fathers: Sons of the Civil War in WWII*, was published in 2006. One of the featured families in the book is the Pool family. It describes Charles Parker Pool's Civil War service with the 6<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Vols., and follows him through the post-war years. The book illustrates Charles Pool's kind-hearted generosity with an example of how he allocated a portion of his Union pension. On learning of a young Arkansas mother being left destitute after her husband deserted her during the Great Depression, Charles was compelled to come to her aid. "Mr. Pool, who was very benevolent, took it upon himself to secretly start sending money to Clara to be able to subsidize her and her children," Pletkovich wrote.

With the exception of Bill's oldest brother, Charles Thomas Pool, most of his immediate family members typically enjoyed longer-than-average life spans.

Bill's father, **Charles Parker Pool**, was born in March 1843. As mentioned, he and his father, Thomas Pool, served in the Union Army during the Civil War. Charles died in Arkansas in 1933 at age 88 and was buried in Friendship Cemetery in West Fork, Arkansas.

*Right: Bill's parents, Charles and Clara Pool*

Bill's mother, **Clara Bell Straw-Pool** was born in Nevada, Iowa in July 1888 and died in Bolivar, Missouri in 1990 at age 101. She was reportedly the last Civil War widow in the state of Missouri to draw Union benefits. She was buried in Enon Cemetery in Wishart, Missouri.



Bill's oldest brother, **Charles Thomas Pool** was born February 27, 1916 in Fayetteville, Arkansas. On March 29, 1936, he married Edna Gertrude Earl (1915-2001) and they became the parents of two sons in Fayetteville: Thomas Lynn Pool (1936) and Delbert Lee Pool (1940). Charles died March 8, 1944 in Fayetteville at age 28 and, like his father, was buried in Friendship Cemetery in West Fork, Arkansas.

*Right: Real Son, Charles Thomas Pool*



Bill's next oldest brother, **Rev. Ernest 'John' Pool** was born November 10, 1918, also in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He married Allie Peterson in June 1940 and they eventually became the parents of five children. 'John' served with the U.S. Navy during World War II.

In 2004, 'John' Pool became a member of *Col. John C. Bryner Camp 67, Department of Illinois*. He passed away in Springfield, Missouri on September 24, 2016 at age 97. He was memorialized by the SUVCW following his death.

*Right: Real Son, Ernest John Pool*



*SUVCW General Order No. 7 – "With sadness I report the passing of Real Son and Brother Ernest John Pool on September 24, 2016, he was 97 years old. Brother John was born on November 10, 1918 in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He was the son of Pvt. Charles Parker Pool, of Company D of the 6<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Volunteer Infantry. Pvt. Pool mustered into service on August 20, 1861 and served until August 27, 1864 when his term expired. Brother John was recruited along with his brothers, Garland, and William into Col. John C. Bryner Camp 67, Department of Illinois and initiated in January, 2004. .... Ordered this 12th Day of October, 2016 .... Donald L. Martin, Commander-In-Chief."*

*...continued on next page*

## Last Living Son Of A Civil War Soldier *(continued)*

Bill's older sister, **Florence Pool-Wilson**, was born October 4, 1922 in Blackburn, Arkansas. She married Harry O. Wilson on January 1, 1946 and they eventually became the parents of eight children. Florence passed away in Polk Co., Missouri on August 31, 2021 at age 98, and was buried in Enon Cemetery in Wishart, Missouri. Her passing was also recognized by the SUVCW.

*Right: Real Daughter, Florence Pool-Wilson*

*SUVCW General Order No. 2 – "It is my sad duty to report the death of Real Daughter Florence (Pool) Wilson, on 31 August 2021, at the age of 98 years. She had been a resident of Bolivar, Missouri. She was the sister of Real Son William Pool, member of Colonel John C. Bryner, Camp 67, Department of Illinois. She was born to Charles Parker Pool and Clara Bell Straw on October 4, 1922 and married the late Harry O. Wilson. Her father, Private Charles Pool, was enlisted in Company D of the 6<sup>th</sup> WV Infantry and served from August 20, 1861 to August 27, 1864. ... Ordered this 14th Day of September, 2021....Michael A. Paquette...Commander-in-Chief."*



**William "Bill" Pool** was born in 1925 and is still living. He is 99 years old and resides in Bolivar, Missouri. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and, in 2004, was initiated, along with his two brothers, 'John' and Garland, into *Col. John C. Bryner Camp 67, Department of Illinois, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*. Bill is believed to be the last surviving son of a Civil War soldier.

*Right: Real Son, William 'Bill' Pool*



Bill's younger brother, **Garland Ralph Pool**, was born November 4, 1927 in Blackburn, Arkansas. He served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army during World War II. He married Robbie Mae Self in 1948. Along with his two older brothers, John and William, he was initiated into the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* in January 2004. Garland passed away August 8, 2016 in Bolivar, Missouri at age 88.

*Right: Real Son, Garland Ralph Pool*

*SUVCW General Order No. 30 - "It is with deep sadness that I report the passing of Real Son Garland Pool on August 8, 2016. Brother Garland was born on November 4, 1927 in Blackburn, Arkansas. He was the son of Pvt. Charles Parker Pool, of Company D of the 6<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Volunteer Infantry. Pvt. Pool mustered into service on August 20, 1861 and served until August 27, 1864 when his term expired. Brother Garland was recruited along with his brothers, John (Ernest) and William into Col. John C. Bryner Camp 67 by Brother Tim Pletkovich and they were initiated in January, 2004.....Ordered this 9th day of August, 2016, in the Town of East Berlin, Pennsylvania. ... Eugene G. Mortorff, Commander-in-Chief."*



Bill Pool, along with his father, grandfather, and brothers, all fought for what they believed in: America. "He just said, like his father, 'it was the right thing to do,'" Pletkovich said. "And he was doing this to preserve democracy."

*Left: Gravestone of Civil War veteran and family patriarch, Charles Parker Pool*

Today, the old Pool family farm homestead has been absorbed by Devil's Den State Park in Arkansas.

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





## Gravestone and Historical Marker Dedication

**Saturday, 25 May 2024 – Bryan, Texas**

On May 25, 2024, Camp Commander, John C. Vander Meulen, and PCC/PDC Michael L. Lance, representing the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*, traveled to Old Bryan Cemetery (aka. *Yellow Fever Cemetery*) in Bryan, Texas to participate in an unveiling/dedication ceremony. The unveiling was made of a State historical marker, which details the history of the site, and the dedication was of two Civil War military gravestones – one Confederate and one Union.

The event was organized by LeeRoy Lance, Jr., a member of *The Military Order of Stars and Bars* and *Sons of Confederate Veterans*. He invited members of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2, SUVCW* of Houston - which included his distant cousin, Michael L. Lance - to participate in the ceremonies.

The program included: interesting presentations by Henry Mayo of the local *Historical Commission*, and City Councilman James Edge; laying of wreaths at the two cenotaph gravestones; a musket salute by a combined Confederate and Union Honor Guard; and a 'Canteen Ceremony'. Brother John Vander C. Meulen captivated the assembly with a poignant inspirational speech near the end of the program.

Regarding the two Civil War veterans buried in the old cemetery, Lee Lance explained: *"The significance of our Confederate soldier is the fact that he is the younger brother of the youngest person killed at the Alamo at the age of 15. He also lost his dad there. The Union soldier came out of New Jersey. Came down here sometime in the middle of August and he passed away of terminal heat stroke."*



**Canteen Ceremony**

Henry Mayo, Chairman of the *Brazos County Historical Commission*, added: *"There's at least 30 more people, maybe 100 out here buried. Only one grave is marked currently. And we are looking at trying to use some ground penetrating radar and other things to look and try to find more graves in the cemetery, and make sure they're not destroyed in the future."* He also said that identifying and locating the persons buried in the old cemetery is nearly impossible because many records from the 1860s to the 1880s were lost in a fire at Bryan City Hall.



**John C. Vander Meulen delivering a poignant speech.**



**Combined Honor Guard**

*... continued on next page*



## Gravestone and Historical Marker Dedication (continued)



**Cousins LeeRoy Lance Jr. and Michael L. Lance  
Descendants of Civil War soldiers from each side.**



**A young descendant of a Confederate veteran  
learns about a musket from Michael Lance.**

The historical marker reads (in part): "In some public documents, the cemetery is referred to as the Yellow Fever Cemetery. The name may originate from the large number of yellow fever deaths in Brazos county in 1867 and again in 1873. After many years of deterioration, there is only one marked grave in the cemetery: James P. King (1835-1868). King was a mason and member of the Belmont Masonic Lodge No. 131. King was also a Confederate veteran, having served as first corporal in the spy company of Gonzales county. Another identified burial is that of Union Civil War veteran John Skues. Although little is known about the numerous burials, the Old Bryan City Cemetery represents the heritage of the early settlers of Bryan and Brazos county."



**Historical Marker, Confederate and Union Grave Markers, and Ceremony Participants**  
**Michael L. Lance is on the far right, John C. Vander Meulen is beside him, and LeeRoy Lance is 4<sup>th</sup> from the right.**

... report submitted by Michael L. Lance, PDC/PCC  
... photos contributed by LeeRoy Lance Jr., MOSB/SCVCW - Bryan



## Memorial Day 2024

**Monday, 27 May 2024 – Houston, Texas**

Even though Memorial Day 2024 was very hot and humid, members of *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2* combined with members of *Co. A, 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry* at the Houston National Cemetery to form an Honor Guard and a Color Guard. As was customary, the unit assembled to render honors to the nation's fallen military heroes.

**L-R: Stacked arms – Roy Eanes, Michael Lance, Howard Rose, Joey Almia, and Daniel Pourreau.**

The opening of the official ceremonies within the Hemicycle at the Cemetery was signaled by a perfect volley fired by the Union Honor Guard just outside the entrance. Later in the program, the unit reformed as a Color Guard and marched smartly onto the Hemicycle's parade grounds to render a salute, then marched out.



Unfortunately, as the unit was nearing the exit, one member tripped and fell, striking his head on the pavement. Most likely overcome by the heat, he was quickly tended to by medics and then carried to a waiting ambulance. Later it was learned that after a precautionary examination at a nearby hospital, the injured man was declared fit and was given the all clear to drive home.

**Left: The Union Color Guard marches onto the parade grounds of the Hemicycle for a salute.**

Meanwhile, Brothers Michael Lance and Daniel Pourreau, had already left the National cemetery to attend another Memorial Day event at Glenwood Cemetery in Houston Heights. A memorable Memorial Day, for sure!

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





## Memorial Day 2024 (continued)

### Monday, 27 May 2024 – Houston, Texas

On Memorial Day 2024, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 once again gathered with other members of the Allied Orders to participate in a ceremony to honor our nation's heroes. The event took place at the G.A.R. lot in the historic Glenwood Cemetery in Houston Heights. Camp Commander John C. Vander Meulen welcomed several Sisters of *Sarah Emma Seeley Auxiliary No. 1* and the *Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4, DUVCW*. All were eager to participate in the solemn tribute to veterans of all wars, and specifically to the nine G.A.R. veterans buried at the site.

During the ceremony, Rev. Brother Ross Waggoner offered the Divine Blessing and Benediction. Four Sisters of the *DUVCW* presented a reading of their memorial ritual. In addition, detailed biographies of two of the veterans buried in the lot were read by Brother Herbert Powers. The vintage poem, 'When The Boys In Blue Are Gone' was recited by *DUVCW* Sister Susan Barry. A yellow rose and a small 35-star U.S. flag was deposited at each of the graves, one at a time. After placing a rose and flag, the ladies called out the name and service unit of the veterans. Brother Steve Brock tolled the ceremonial bell as each lady saluted the grave before her.

As a tribute to the Union soldiers and sailors, an Honor Guard consisting of Michael D. Rappe, Stephen D. Schulze, Daniel B. Pourreau, and Michael L. Lance, fired three musket volleys, and Presented Arms as *Taps* sounded. Brother Robert G. Riley operated the video and still cameras. To add a special ambience to the ceremony, Commander Vander Meulen played appropriate recorded background music at various points during the program.



**John Vander Meulen Conducted the Ceremony**



**Honor Guard L-R: Lance, Rappe, Pourreau, and Schulze**



**Left L-R: Janet Hicks, Anne Lineberry, Val Wimbish, and Susan Barry - Sisters of the DUVCW - each offering a portion of their Memorial Ritual.**



**Right: Brother Rev. Ross Waggoner offers the Divine Blessing.**

*... continued on next page*



## Memorial Day 2024 (continued)



Herbert W. Powers presents a veteran's biography



Honor Guard Firing One of Three Salute Volleys



Auxiliary Sister Vali Reyes place a Yellow Rose



Ronald S. 'Steve' Brock stationed at the Bell





## Memorial Day 2024 (continued)

### Monday, 27 May 2024 – Galveston, Texas

On Memorial Day, Brother Stephen Duncan visited the historic Episcopal Cemetery in Galveston to decorate the graves of two Union soldiers – Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, the namesake of *Camp 2* who fell in battle, and *Medal of Honor* recipient, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. George Frank Robie. Brother Duncan also decorated the marble monument honoring the casualties of the January 1, 1863 *Battle of Galveston*, which was installed and dedicated by the *Lea Camp* in 2004.



Decorated grave of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea



Decorated grave of 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. George Frank Robie



Left: Decorated Union Monument at Episcopal Cemetery in Galveston

"I was not able to find wreaths this year (for the first time) so I used red, white, and blue flowers to go with the flags. Memory eternal."

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





## Juneteenth Celebration 2024

**Wednesday, 19 June 2024 - Galveston, Texas**

The *Juneteenth Celebration* at the historic Ashton Villa in Galveston was once again highlighted by the reading of *General Order No. 3* by Stephen Duncan, Chaplain of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2, portraying Union Gen. Gordon Granger.

*"Wet weather didn't dampen the celebration of freedom Wednesday during the 45<sup>th</sup> annual Al Edwards Juneteenth Celebration at the 1859 Ashton Villa in Galveston. People filled the ballroom of the historic home to hear the reading of General Order No. 3, which on June 19, 1865, announced all enslaved people in Texas were free. The event honors former state Rep. Al Edwards, who championed Juneteenth as a state holiday." ... Jennifer Reynolds/The Daily News.*



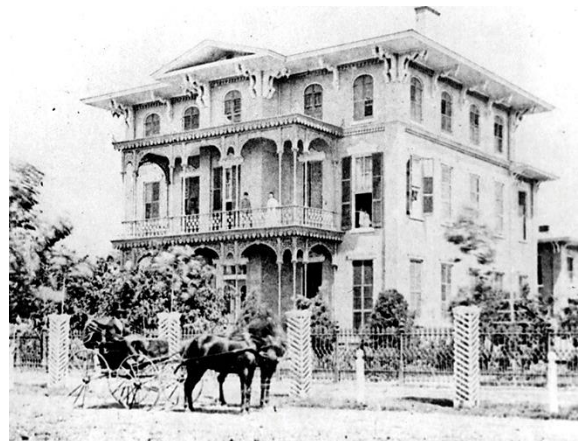
**Above: Rt. Rev. Stephen Duncan, portraying Union Army Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger, reads *Gen. Order No. 3* during the 45<sup>th</sup> annual Al Edwards Juneteenth Celebration**

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

**Ashton Villa** - This majestic mansion, completed in 1859, is one of the oldest surviving structures on Galveston Island, showcasing Greek Revival architecture and intricate detailing. It served as a prominent venue for social and political gatherings, witnessing pivotal moments in Texas history. The shade provided by the 2<sup>nd</sup>-story veranda acted as a welcoming gesture to guests visiting on warm summer days and gave the home a suitably Southern feel.

**Right: Ashton Villa in the 19<sup>th</sup> century**

Today, Ashton Villa stands as a cherished landmark, preserving the memory of *Juneteenth* and the enduring struggle for freedom, making it a symbol of cultural heritage and resilience.



## Ancestor Profile – Pvt. Israel Lambert

*“A horse must be a bit mad to be a good cavalry mount, and its rider must be completely so.”*

Co. A, 27<sup>th</sup> New Jersey Volunteer Infantry - 19 Sep 1862 – 3 Jun 1863

Co. E, 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey Cavalry – 15 Aug 1863 – 1 Nov 1865

Israel Chester Lambert was born in Hardwick Township, Warren Co., New Jersey in 1835. He was the first child of Alfred Lambert of Minisink, New York, and Jane Vanover of Warren, New Jersey. Exactly when and where Israel was born, or the history of the Lamberts in Hardwick Township has been lost to the sands of time. What is recorded is that Israel was a great-grandson of Revolutionary War patriot Samuel H. Lambert of Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

Stories of Israel's heroic ancestor were probably told in the homestead cabin as he grew up with his four brothers and three sisters. In 1850, a U.S. Census enumerator made it to their cabin in Warren County, near the Delaware River, and noted that Alfred Lambert was working as a millwright. Ten years later, the census records reveal that Israel, now age 25, was no longer living with his parents, but was still living in Warren County. He was a carpenter living with his 17-year-old wife, Sarah, and an 8-year-old girl named Mary Homadieu.

By 1861, Israel Lambert had moved south to Blairstown Township with Sarah and their first son, John Alfred Lambert. Another son, Phillip, was born on March 9, 1862 - the same day the Confederate gunboat *CSS Virginia*, engaged with the Union gunboats *USS Monitor*, *USS Minnesota*, *USS Congress*, and *USS Cumberland*, in the *Battle of Hampton Roads* (aka. 'the battle of the ironclads').

Five months later, Israel left an expectant Sarah and his two sons behind in Blairstown and walked 17 hours to *Camp Frelinghuysen* in Newark, New Jersey to enlist with Co. A of the 27<sup>th</sup> New Jersey Vol. Infantry regiment.

The following month, Israel's regiment was dispatched to Washington D.C. by train, arriving there on October 11, 1861.



On December 1, his unit moved southward towards Fredericksburg, Virginia to join 100,000 other Union soldiers preparing for the crossing of the Rappahannock river. They would soon attack that confederate stronghold on their way to lay siege to Richmond, the Confederate capital.

The role of the 27<sup>th</sup> New Jersey at the *Battle of Fredericksburg* is murky, but they were reportedly engaged at Marye's Heights "terrible Stone wall", where 3,000 Union soldiers lost their lives. After this costly defeat, Burnside's Union Army of the Potomac took part in the infamous "Mud March" from January 20 to January 24, 1863.

The following slightly sarcastic letter was written by a soldier of the 27<sup>th</sup> New Jersey Volunteer Infantry about that march:

*“We were warned to be ready to fall in within 10 minutes to start. So, we had no alternative but to tear off our tent covers although it rained and was muddy as it well could, but off we went, we marched about 8 miles & at*

*... continued on next page*



## Ancestor Profile – Pvt. Israel Lambert *(continued)*

dark stopped in a pine forest about 2 miles from the river, there we lay on arms as wet as rats & as cold as snow till at daybreak off we again started but soon stopped after going 2 or 3 miles up & towards the river. There we

lay 24 hours when we received orders to go on picket, so we repacked our still wet and heavy blankets & tents waded 2 miles in mud to the river arriving at our destination after dark. We found that we were not wanted so we griped our way back about a mile & lay on our arms until morning, then it stopped raining.”

“We were in the morning set to work dragging out the mud pontoon wagons artillery & which were being moved back on the retreat to save them from falling into the hands of the rebs. It would have made you laugh to see 50 men take hold of long ropes & run with a heavy pontoon & wagon through the mud some of them up to their knees & soft as porridge.”



On January 24, 1863, Israel's Captain, Charles F. Fernald, wrote the following letter from a camp opposite Fredericksburg, , attesting to the truly miserable conditions Pvt. Lambert and his comrades endured.

*“To the friends of Co. A 27<sup>th</sup> Regt NJVI*

*I deem it my duty to invite your attention to a subject claiming your early consideration, and will, I trust, receive your prompt action. Seventy-five members of my company are destitute of and are in great need of rubber blankets. For a soldier, at this season of the year, who is expected and moreover required, to be at his post in all kinds of weather, and is often subjected to sleeping on the cold, wet ground for successive nights, no one garment belonging to his wardrobe, in my estimation, is so necessary to his health and comfort as a good rubber blanket.*

*Take for instance, the last severe storm, which continued unabated for thirty-six hours. A portion of the 27<sup>th</sup> stood on picket for twenty-four hours, unprotected from its fury. I will leave you to imagine the condition those minus a blanket returned to camp in.”*



*“Other companies of our regiment have been supplied with them by their friends at home, and I have the best of reasons for believing, judging by the past, that you will not remain long indifferent to the wants of the brave boys composing my company, who have sacrificed all the comforts, and pleasures of home for the sake of the Union and the Constitution.”*

*“Noble old Sussex which has always been first and foremost in furnishing men and money to crush the dire rebellion, will not be behind any county in the state in attending to the comfort of her gallant sons. I appeal to your generosity and liberality in behalf of my company, trusting I will have the pleasure of presenting each of those seventy-five destitute men with a new rubber blanket*

*.....C.F. Fernald, Capt. Comd'g Co. A, 27th Regt N.J.V.I.”*

*... continued on next page*

## Ancestor Profile – Pvt. Israel Lambert (continued)

Following the “Mud March”, the 27<sup>th</sup> NJVI Regiment was moved to Nicholasville, Kentucky, just south of Lexington. From there, they conducted operations against Confederate Gen. John Pegram's forces until May 1863. Then on the march to Monticello from April 25 to May 8, the federal troops experienced tragedy when 33 of Israel's comrades drowned as they forded the Cumberland River near Somerset. The regiment then volunteered their services in Pennsylvania during Confederate General Robert E. Lee's invasion of that state - *after their service term had expired*. Finally, Co. A returned to New Jersey and mustered out on July 2, 1863.



Israel must have kept in touch with Capt. Fernald after he returned home, because both men reenlisted with the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey Cavalry a month and a half later at Camp Parker in Trenton. One can't help but wonder if the slaughter at Fredericksburg and the subsequent misery of the “Mud March” influenced them to reenlist with the Cavalry, instead of the infantry. One can also imagine Sarah's dread at the thought of Israel leaving her and their two young sons, both still under two years of age, again...with a third child on the way. But those were the sacrifices our ancestors were prepared to make without a whimper.

Israel's Cavalry regiment left Camp Parker for Washington, D.C. on October 5, 1863. They were attached to Stoneman's Cavalry Division, 22<sup>nd</sup> Army Corps, until December, 1863. After that, Israel was constantly on the move in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Mississippi, providing Cavalry support to various operations, including: Smith's Expedition to Okolona, Mississippi in February 1864, and Sturgis' Expeditions to Ripley and Guntown in Mississippi in early May and June 1864.



It was there, in northeastern Mississippi, on June 10, 1864 that the *Battle of Brice's Cross Roads* was fought. Eighty-five hundred Union troops were engaged against 2,000 Rebel cavalymen under Maj. Gen. Nathan B. Forrest. The New Jersey 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry inflicted heavy casualties on the Confederate forces with their newly issued Spencer repeating rifles.



Despite success in that early skirmish, overall victory at *Brice's Crossroads* went to the Confederates. Forrest, although outnumbered two to one, used his more mobile cavalry to threaten both ends of the Union infantry line simultaneously, while his artillery focused on the center. The Union Troops were forced to retreat to Memphis.



Throughout the second half of 1864, Israel's company participated in a dizzying number of raids, expeditions and skirmishes in Mississippi, including Grierson's 1864 - 1865 raid, and the *Battle of Egypt Station*.

In January 1865, they moved to Natchez, Mississippi, then on to New Orleans in March, and Mobile, Alabama in April. From there, they participated in the battles of *Spanish Fort* and *Fort Blakely* near Mobile. The fall of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely allowed Union troops to enter Mobile unopposed after the Confederate *Army of Mobile* evacuated the city. The Union forces occupied Mobile on April 12, 1865.

... continued on next page



## Ancestor Profile – Pvt. Israel Lambert (continued)

On November 1, 1865, Israel Lambert was mustered out of service with his company at Vicksburg, and returned home to Sarah, his three sons, and infant daughter Mary Emma Jane. Israel and Sarah Lambert eventually became the parents of four more children - three girls and a boy - before the spring of 1880, when they moved to Washington, Buchanan Co., Missouri.

Like many Civil War veterans who had traveled extensively during the war, Israel felt compelled and confident to move his family westward. Unfortunately, the move was not kind to the Lambert family, as both Israel and two-year-old Electa Ann, died in September 1880 of unreported causes. Maybe not coincidentally, the *Missouri State Board of Health* was created in March 1883. Its purpose was to protect citizens against the dreaded diseases of smallpox, typhoid, cholera and other communicable diseases. Israel's death shattered the Lambert's dreams to settle down in Missouri.

### John A. Lambert, Veteran Of Indian Warfare, Dead

John Alfred Lambert, 86, early Utah Indian fighter, died in Phoenix, Ariz., Sunday, according to word received here.

Mr. Lambert was born in Hairs-town, N. J., Oct. 22, 1861, the son of Israel Connel and Sarah Elizabeth Hawk Lambert.

In February, 1881, he enlisted in the army in Indianapolis, Ind. On July 4, 1881, he came to Fort Garland, Colo., and joined the Sixth Infantry.

Four companies came to Park City by train and continued a trek into the Uintah basin by mule team. In October of 1881, they camped at the site where Ouray is now located. They were the first soldiers in that section. They later moved to the mouth of Ashley canyon and established Fort Thornburg.

On Nov. 25, 1885, Mr. Lambert married Carolina L. Swanson in Salt Lake City.

Following an honorable discharge from the army Feb. 17, 1886, he was employed in the mines at Stockton. He prospected for gold in Idaho and was in several western states in the interest of mining.

Surviving are two sons, John A. Lambert, La. Point, Utah; Jacob F. Lambert, Ogden; three daughters, Mrs. Louise L. O'Brien, San Mateo, Calif.; Mrs. Ethel Riley, Prosser, Idaho, and Mrs. Helen Pillsbury, Phoenix, Ariz.; a sister, Mrs. T. E.



John A. Lambert

Jennings, Hamburg, N. J.; 14 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Burial will take place in La. Point directed by the Swain mortuary, Vernal.

John Alfred, the oldest of the Lambert boys, now 19 years old, left Buchanan County for Indianapolis the following spring to enlist with Co. H of the 6<sup>th</sup> US Infantry Regiment. Companies D, F, G and H, under Capt. H. S. Hawkins, formed the infantry battalion with Gen. Mackenzie's Expedition in southwestern Colorado against the Uncompahgre Utes.

John Alfred Lambert eventually settled in Salt Lake City after his discharge at Fort Douglas, raised a family, and lived to the ripe old age of 86. Only his baby sister Lizzie Armina outlived him.

Israel's widow, Sarah, moved back to New Jersey with the remaining family members and remarried in 1886.

Daughter Mary Emma Jane died in 1892 at age 26, leaving three children and a husband behind. She was buried next to her father in Tranquility, Sussex Co., New Jersey.



... submitted by Israel Lambert's 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandson, Robert G. Riley

**The Battle of Egypt Station** – In late December 1864, Union Gen. Benjamin Grierson led an 8,000-man cavalry division on a raid from Memphis, Tennessee into northeastern Mississippi against the *Mobile and Ohio Railroad*. On Christmas Day his forces surprised and captured the Confederate supply depot at Verona, Mississippi, and then pressed on southward to Egypt Station - destroying railroad tracks along the way.



Left: General Benjamin Grierson



On December 28, 1864, the Union forces attacked the estimated 2,000 Confederate defenders at Egypt Station. The 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey Cavalry successfully drove back the Confederate skirmish line and then, with the rest of the federal force, pressed the stubbornly firm line of Confederate defenders. The Confederates were soon forced to surrender.

Besides capturing the Confederate stockade, Grierson's troops also captured four train-mounted guns, and over 500 Confederates, including 15 officers. During the battle, the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey lost 3 officers killed and 2 wounded, along with 16 enlisted men killed and 69 wounded.

## United States Colored Troops (USCT) in the Río Grande Valley

Federal African American soldiers of the Civil War, known as *United States Colored Troops (USCT)*, were first sent into the Río Grande Valley in the fall of 1864. Their mission was to guard the Río Grande river, and they would occupy posts in the region until July 1867.

The first *USCT* regiments arrived at Brazos Santiago, Texas, located on the southern tip of Texas on the Gulf Coast. They were the 62<sup>nd</sup>, 97<sup>th</sup>, and 95<sup>th</sup> *United States Colored Infantry (USCI)*. A fourth non-*USCI* regiment, the 91<sup>st</sup> *Illinois*, was also garrisoned at Brazos Santiago. The 62<sup>nd</sup> *USCI* began its existence as the 1<sup>st</sup> *Missouri Colored Infantry* and was organized near St. Louis in December 1863. The 87<sup>th</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> were both Louisiana regiments raised in and around New Orleans as part of Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks *Corps d' Afrique*.

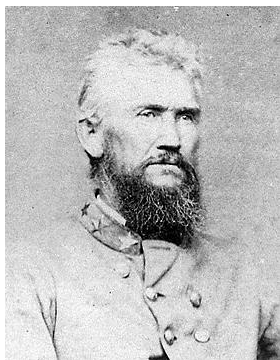


Brazos Santiago, located on Brazos Island at the southern tip of Texas, was an important garrison for Union Troops entering the Río Grande Valley. It had access to the mouth of the Río Grande River and the forts and towns along that waterway. In addition, Brazos Santiago had an unobstructed view of shipping traffic moving through Brazos Santiago Pass. Brazos Santiago, therefore, was a major staging location for arriving Union forces.

The winter of 1864 was a slow uneventful time. Many of the Union soldiers at Brazos Santiago were bored. However, this would change as the Spring of 1865 approached. Both the *Battle of Palmito Ranch* and the arrival of the 25<sup>th</sup> *Union Army Corps* occurred that Spring. The 25<sup>th</sup> *Corps* was the largest single African American unit of the Union Army during the Civil War. It was also the only all-Black Army corps in United States military history.

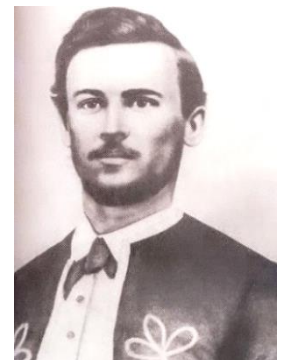
Though largely unknown by the general public, the skirmish at Palmito Ranch on May 13, 1865 was the last battle of the Civil War. Most fighting had ended after Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865. But many Confederate commanders west of the Mississippi had not yet accepted the Union's victory. Confederate troops still controlled Fort Brown at Brownsville, Texas, and the surrounding area, while a small Union garrison occupied Brazos Santiago.

On May 11, 1865, Col. Theodore H. Barrett, commander at Brazos Santiago, ordered Lt. Col. David Branson to lead 250 men of the 62<sup>nd</sup> *U.S. Colored Infantry* and 50 men of the 2<sup>nd</sup> *Texas Cavalry* toward the remaining Confederate strongholds. Branson's force advanced southwest to Palmito Ranch, and on May 13, bolstered by Col. Barrett himself and 200 men of the 34<sup>th</sup> *Indiana Infantry*, pressed steadily onward toward Brownsville.



**Col. John S. 'Rip' Ford**

However, the arrival of John S. "Rip" Ford with 300 Confederate cavalymen and 6 artillery pieces halted Barrett's advance near the western edge of Palmito Ranch. The Union Infantry was forced back toward the coast. As darkness fell, an artillery bombardment by Union naval ships held the Confederates at bay while the Union force retreated. Casualties in the brief battle were light, with the Confederates counting 10 men wounded and the Union 6 wounded and 2 killed. One of the Union casualties was 22-year-old Pvt. John Jefferson Williams of the 34<sup>th</sup> *Indiana Infantry*, who earned the sad distinction of being the final battlefield fatality of the war.



**Pvt. John J. Williams**

*... continued on next page*



## United States Colored Troops (USCT) in the Río Grande Valley (continued)

But the end of the Confederacy was evidently very near. A month earlier, on April 9, 1865, Gen. Robert E. Lee had surrendered his Confederate *Army of Northern Virginia* to Gen. Ulysses Grant. And, just over two weeks later, Confederate Gen. Joseph Johnston surrendered his 90,000-man *Army of Tennessee* to Union Gen. William Sherman. Then like falling dominos, Gen. Richard Taylor surrendered his 10,000-man force on May 4, 1864, and Nathan Bedford Forrest called it quits for his calvary a few days later, stating: *"That we are beaten is a self-evident fact, and any further resistance on our part would justly be regarded as the very height of folly and rashness."*

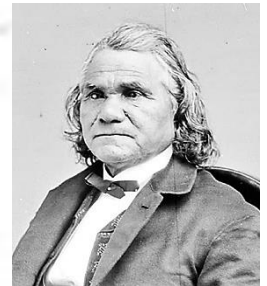
**Right: Union Gen. Sherman meets with Gen. Johnston to discuss terms of surrender**



Even after those surrenders, and after President Johnson declared on May 10, 1865 that the South's armed resistance *"may be regarded as virtually at an end,"* the fighting still sputtered in south Texas at Palmito Ranch – making it the last significant clash between the Blue and the Gray. The Confederate Texas Calvary may have won that last battle at Palmito Ranch, but nothing could change the fact that the Confederacy was doomed. Even as the fighting at Palmito Ranch raged, Confederate Generals Kirby Smith and John Magruder were negotiating surrender terms with Union Gen. John Pope.

Gen. Smith did his best to gain amnesty for himself and the other Confederate officers of his command, but he had nothing with which to bargain. On May 30, 1865, he finally acknowledged that his *Army of the Trans-Mississippi* was not capable of further resistance. That same day, Union troops again moved from the Gulf Coast to occupy Brownsville. Since most of the Confederate troops had already departed for home, only a few of their abandoned horses and mules greeted the federals as they took control of the city. On June 2, 1865, Gen. Smith signed the official surrender of his army onboard the *U.S.S. Fort Jackson* in Galveston Bay - becoming almost the last general in the Confederacy to surrender. Only Gen. Stand Watie, commander of the *Indian Division of Indian Territory*, held out longer, surrendering on June 23, 1865.

**Right: Stand Watie, last Confederate General to surrender**



With the hostilities basically over in June 1865, nearly 16,000 USCT veterans of the aforementioned 25<sup>th</sup> Corps arrived at Brazos Santiago from City Point, Virginia. They were quickly dispersed to Forts Brown at Brownsville, Ringgold Barracks at Rio Grande City, Fort McIntosh at Laredo, and Fort Duncan at Eagle Pass. Other troopers were assigned to other smaller posts across Texas. Their mission was to protect the territory against possible armed threats from Mexico.

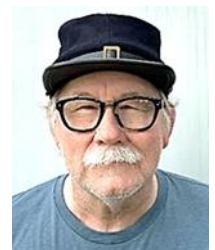
Later, the USCT, along with their successors, the Buffalo Soldiers - as they were called by Plains Indians – continued to patrol the border area to prevent ongoing violence in Mexico from spilling into the U.S. They also worked to discourage bandits and Indians from attacking Texas civilian communities.

**Left: 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Octavius McFarland, Co. D, 62<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Colored Infantry**



The USCT troopers reportedly made a fine adjustment to the hot desert terrain of south Texas and the diverse culture of the lower Río Grande Valley. Sgt. Major Thomas Boswell of the 116<sup>th</sup> USCT quipped: *"If our regiment stays here any length of time, we will all speak Spanish, as we are learning very fast."* The last USCT regiment, the 117<sup>th</sup> U.S. Colored Infantry, left the Río Grande Valley in July 1867.

*... submitted by Terry T. Sutton, Camp/Dept. Graves Registration Officer*



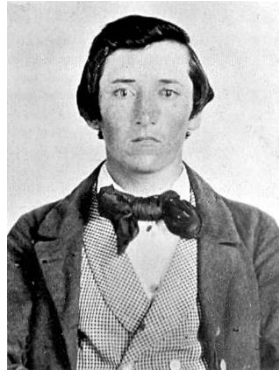


## Patriotic Instructor Minute – Never Again

While the big battles of the Civil War were raging in the east, a different kind of warfare was happening on the edge of the Western Frontier. The guerrilla war of Central and Southwest Missouri, along with Eastern Kansas and Northwest Arkansas was a vicious, brutal and at times a barbarous affair.

During the Civil War, roughly 150,000 Missouri men enlisted in the Union army and about 40,000 fought for the Confederacy. It truly was neighbor against neighbor. Passions ran high on both sides and spawned several Confederate guerrilla raider and bushwhacker bands. These bands were led by William Clarke Quantrill (*below left, b. 1837, d. 1865*), George M. Todd (*below center, b. 1839, d. 1864*), and William T. “Bloody Bill” Anderson (*below right, b. 1840, d. 1864*). To the Unionists, these bands were considered as traitors, murderers and cutthroats - *and for good reason!*

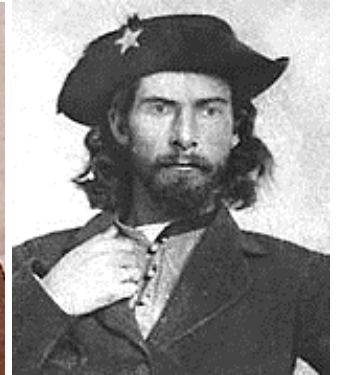
On August 21, 1863, Quantrill’s raiders murdered approximately 150 men and boys in Lawrence, Kansas before burning down most of the town. A lesser-known incident occurred on September 27, 1864, in Centralia, Missouri. Here “Bloody Bill” Anderson and his band of guerrillas, many wearing Union uniforms, intercepted a train and murdered and scalped 24 unarmed Union soldiers who were returning home on leave.



Quantrill



Todd



Anderson

Union forces were also guilty of atrocities. Union Militia units were often viewed as terrorists by those who expressed support for the Southern cause. Men like Lt. Robert Christian of *Co. K, 7<sup>th</sup> Provisional Missouri Militia Cavalry*, would routinely hang men, whip women, and burn the homes and farms of civilians he suspected of aiding Confederate guerrillas. These retributions by Christian would only help spawn men like Jesse and Frank James as well as Jim and Cole Younger ( Union Troops had beaten Jesse and abused his family when he was 16 years old while they were looking for his older brother, Frank ). These men would continue to be a scourge on the Missouri landscape years after the war ended.

So, what are we to take away from all this? To me the answer is obvious. We must never again allow civil war to occur in America.

In the last 20 years, I’ve witnessed things in our country I would never have dreamed possible in my lifetime. Rudeness and a lack of civility have become the rule of the day. The news media now spews opinions rather than report on actual news events. People are now offended by the picture of a lady on a pancake syrup bottle or the logo of a specific sports team. Most of all, I’ve witnessed a secondary school system along with colleges and universities spew leftist rhetoric that teaches young people to hate their country because they perceive its history to be evil and its flag to be a symbol of oppression. To me this is a slap in the face to our Civil War ancestors as well as to all the men and women who fought in America’s wars to preserve our liberty. Sometimes it does seem we are on the verge of another civil war!

So, what are we to do? How can we combat all this negativity? The *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* and like organizations need to continue to extol the virtues of our country. We must tell our children and grandchildren the stories of their Civil War ancestors. They must be taught the true history of their country, including the brutal guerrilla conflict that took place in the Civil War. In the end, we must ensure they never have to endure what our ancestors went through between 1861 and 1865. We must pray that in the end, *RIGHT will triumph!*



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



## From the Chaplain's Desk

**The First Decoration Day** - On the first official Decoration Day - May 30, 1868 - Ohio Rep. James A. Garfield, a former Union Army General and future U.S. President (1881), addressed a crowd of 5,000 visitors gathered at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, saying *(in part)*:

*"Hither our children's children shall come to pay their tribute of grateful homage. For this are we met to-day. By the happy suggestion of a great society, assemblies like this are gathering at this hour in every State in the Union. Thousands of soldiers are to-day turning aside in the march of life to visit the silent encampments of dead comrades who once fought by their side. From many thousand homes, whose light was put out when a soldier fell, there go forth to-day to join these solemn processions loving kindred and friends, from whose heart the shadow of grief will never be lifted till the light of the eternal world dawns upon them."*

After Garfield's brief remarks, the crowd entered the cemetery and placed decorations on the graves of the more than ten thousand service members who had been laid to rest there.



**Section 32 of Arlington National Cemetery - with Arlington House in the distance.**

We, as members of the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*, continue this work on Memorial Day (a Federal Holiday which was derived from Decoration Day) and on other occasions throughout the year. May their memory be for a blessing.



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



## Arlington National Cemetery and Decoration Day

Arlington National Cemetery holds a deeply felt significance in American history. It was established May 13, 1864 on 200 acres of the former estate of the Custis-Lee family - *while the Civil War was still raging across the country*.

The 1,100-acre Custis-Lee plantation estate overlooked the Potomac River across from Washington, DC. A month after the Civil War erupted in April 1861, Federal troops moved across the Potomac to occupy the property for strategic reasons. From the property's heights, it was feared hostile artillery could target every federal building in the nation's capital. Since defense of the capital was paramount, the estate would remain in federal control throughout the war.

The former Lee property would see a lot of activity during the Civil War. As part of the defensive works built around the capital, three forts were erected on the estate - Fort Cass/Rosslyn, Fort Whipple/Fort Myer, and Fort McPherson.



In June 1863, a large Freedman's Village was established on the property for freed and escaped slaves. And Lee's former residence itself, Arlington House, served as a headquarters for the Union Army.

### **Left: Union soldiers at Arlington House**

In January 1864, on the pretext of non-payment of property taxes by Mrs. Lee, the federal government 'purchased' the estate. The stage was now set for the establishment of a National Cemetery.

Since available space at existing DC-area military cemeteries was running out by 1864, Brig. Gen. Montgomery Meigs, Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army, who was responsible for the burial of soldiers, ordered a portion of the Arlington estate be used as a cemetery.

The first military burial was conducted on May 13, 1864. Pvt. William Christman of the 67<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry was buried in the rose garden near the mansion.

### **Right: First military burial - gravestone of Pvt. William Christman**

Then, on June 15, 1864, Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton, formally established Arlington as a National Cemetery. The designated 200 acres were to be utilized for military burials. The venerable cemetery would eventually expand to 639 acres and become the final resting place of over 400,000 veterans and their eligible dependents.

In 1868, three years after the end of the Civil War, Decoration Day was established by the *Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.)*. It was a day set aside to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan, Commander-in-Chief of the G.A.R., declared that special day should be May 30<sup>th</sup> each year. It has been suggested that this date was chosen because flowers would normally be in bloom and readily available all across the country on that date.

The first large Decoration Day observance was conducted on May 30, 1868 at Arlington National Cemetery. Approximately 5,000 visitors gathered to witness the ceremonies - centered around the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington House mansion. Various Washington officials, including Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the affair.

During the program, members of the G.A.R., along with children from the *Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home*, walked through the cemetery strewing flowers on graves - *both Union and Confederate* - while reciting prayers and singing

*... continued on next page*

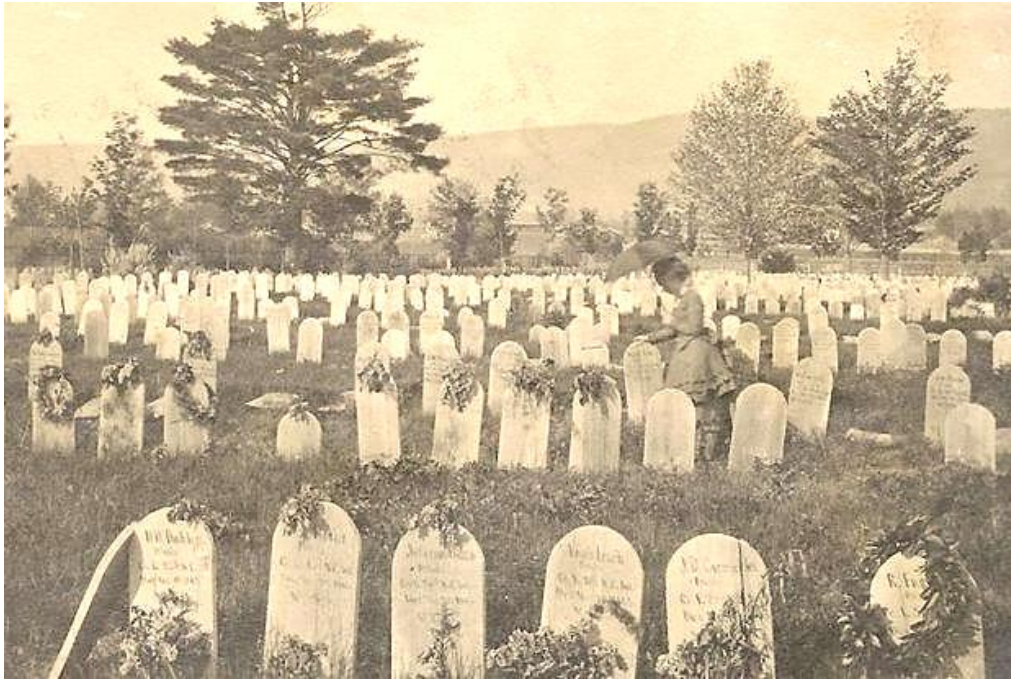




## Arlington National Cemetery and Decoration Day *(continued)*

Hymns. While Arlington cemetery was reserved for Union soldiers, there were exceptions. Pvt. Thomas G. Holman was the 21<sup>st</sup> soldier buried at Arlington, interred on May 17, 1864, the 5<sup>th</sup> day of soldier burials. He had served with Co. F, 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cav., CSA. The next day, Pvt. Michael Quinn of Co. F, 13<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Vols., CSA, was interred. Forty-seven Confederate soldiers who died in 1864 and 1865 while housed in Washington-area prisons were reportedly “buried throughout Arlington Cemetery in no systematic manner.”

In 1971, Decoration Day officially became renamed to Memorial Day. In addition, as a federal holiday, it’s scope was broadened to honor Americans of *all* wars who died while serving in the military.



**Visiting the grave of a fallen loved one in Upstate New York on Decoration Day.**

In 1921, the *Tomb of the Unknown Soldier* was dedicated at Arlington. It symbolizes all unidentified American service members who have died in battle. It remains a focal point of national reverence and is ceremonially guarded around the clock seven days a week.

As time passed, the traditions of how we observe Memorial Day has also evolved. Strewing flowers and singing hymns in the early days has given way to parades, memorial services, and placing flags on graves. But no matter how we honor our veteran heroes, the endless rows of white headstones at Arlington, and at other cemeteries across the country, stand as poignant reminders of the cost of freedom and the sacrifices made throughout our history.

Arlington National Cemetery has also become a place of international respect – a place where dignitaries and visitors from around the world come to pay their respects and reflect on the meaning of sacrifice. Arlington National Cemetery's connection to Decoration Day, now Memorial Day, highlights its pivotal role in commemorating America's military heritage. Over time, it evolved from a Civil War cemetery to a national symbol of sacrifice.

One final note: In 2000, the “*National Moment of Remembrance Act*” was passed by Congress. This Act encourages all Americans to pause at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day – wherever they happen to be - to observe a minute of silence to honor and remember those who died in service to our nation.



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



## Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 33)

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.*



- **James McIntosh – Capt. of the Top** – James McIntosh was born in 1829 in Canada. He immigrated to the United States and was living in New York when he joined the U.S. Navy. He served during the Civil War as Captain of the Top on the wooden steam sloop, *USS Richmond*.



At the *Battle of Mobile Bay* on August 5, 1864, he "performed his duties with skill and courage" despite heavy fire. For this action, he was awarded the *Medal of Honor* four months later.

Left: **Lions Club Pin - Captain of the Top James McIntosh Medal of Honor US Navy Civil War** - an interesting piece of memorabilia found for sale on Ebay

McIntosh died in May 1908 at age 78 while a resident of the *Home for Disabled Soldiers* in Kearny, New Jersey. He was buried in 'Soldiers Circle' at Kearny's *Arlington Memorial Park*. 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 Top James McIntosh, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving on board the U.S.S. Richmond during action against rebel forts and gunboats and with the ram Tennessee in Mobile Bay, Alabama, 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 McIntosh performed his duties with skill and courage throughout the prolonged battle which resulted in the surrender of the rebel ram Tennessee and in the successful attacks carried out on Fort Morgan."*

... continued on next page



## Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 33 continued)

- **William McKnight – Coxswain** – William McKnight was born in May 1842 in Ulster Co., New York. He served with the U.S. Navy as a Coxswain. On April 24, 1862, as a gun captain onboard the screw steamer, *USS Varuna*, he participated in combat against Confederate ships as the Federal fleet fought its way past the fortifications protecting the approaches to New Orleans, Louisiana. For his conduct during this event, Coxswain McKnight was awarded the *Medal of Honor*. McKnight died in November 1914.

*"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Coxswain William McKnight, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action, serving as Captain of a gun on board the U.S.S. Varuna during the attacks on Forts Jackson and St. Philip, Louisiana. And in action against the rebel ship Morgan, 24 April 1862. During this action at extremely close range, while his ship was under furious fire and was twice rammed by the rebel ship Morgan, Coxswain McKnight remained steadfast at his gun throughout the thickest of the fight and was instrumental in inflicting damage on the enemy until the Varuna, so badly damaged that she was forced to beach, was finally sunk."*



**Coxswain William McKnight**

- **James McLeod – Captain of the Foretop** – James McLeod was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1836-1840. He immigrated to the United States and was living in Bucksport, Maine when he joined the U.S. Navy. He served during the Civil War as Captain of the Foretop on the *USS Colorado*.

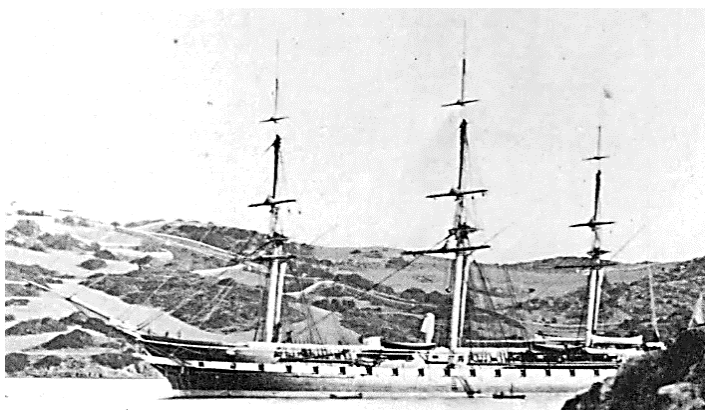
At the *Battle of Forts Jackson and St. Philip* near New Orleans on April 24, 1862, McLeod volunteered to join the *USS Pensacola* as Captain of the aft howitzer gun and performed this duty *"with great ability and activity"*. For this action, he was awarded the *Medal of Honor*. McLeod died in June 1898 and is buried at Cypress Hills National Cemetery in Brooklyn, NY. 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 Foretop James McLeod, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action, serving as Captain of Foretop, and a volunteer from the U.S.S. Colorado. Captain of the Foretop McLeod served on board the U.S.S. Pensacola during the attack upon Forts Jackson and St. Philip, Louisiana, and the taking of New Orleans, 24 and*

*25 April 1862.*

*Acting as gun Captain of the rifled howitzer aft which was much exposed, he served this piece with great ability and activity, although no officer superintended it."*

The *USS Colorado* (photo at right) was a Franklin-class 3-masted steam screw frigate built in Norfolk Navy Yard in 1856. She was named after the Colorado River and could cruise at 9 knots. Her crew consisted of 674 officers and men.



*... continued on next page*



## Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 33 continued)

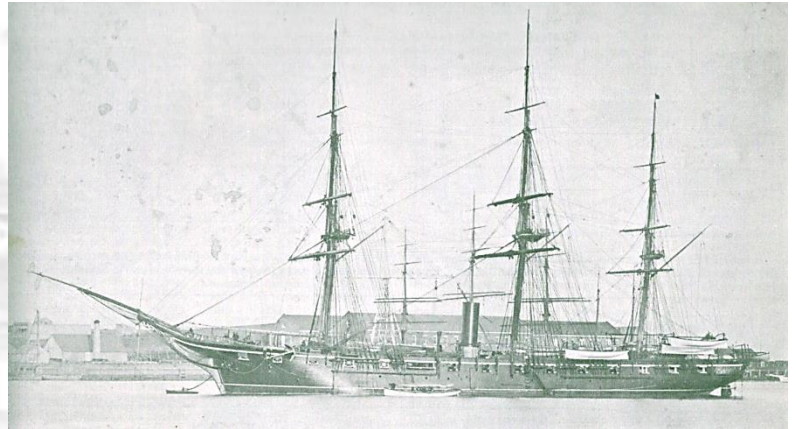
- **George W. McWilliams - Landsman** - George Washington McWilliams was born in 1842 in Waterford, Pennsylvania. He was still living in Waterford when he joined the U.S. Navy in 1864. He served as a Landsman on the side wheel gunboat *USS Pontoosuc* in the *Wilmington Campaign*, from the *First Battle of Fort Fisher* on December 24, 1864, through the campaign's end in February 1865. He was severely wounded and received treatment at a hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia. For his actions during the campaign, he was awarded the *Medal of Honor*. McWilliams died in 1900 at age 57 and was buried at Ida Grove Cemetery in Ida Grove, Iowa. His citation states:



**Lithograph of *USS Pontoosuc*, ca. 1865**

*"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Landsman George Washington McWilliams, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving on board the U.S.S. Pontoosuc during the capture of Fort Fisher and Wilmington, North Carolina, 24 December 1864, to 22 February 1865. Carrying out his duties faithfully throughout this period, Landsman McWilliams was so severely wounded in the assault upon Fort Fisher that he was sent to the hospital at Portsmouth, Virginia. George McWilliams was recommended for his gallantry, skill and coolness in action while under the fire of the enemy."*

- **Charles Melville - Ordinary Seaman** - Charles Melville was born ca. 1828 in Dover, New Hampshire as James Ramsbottom. He joined the Navy from his hometown of Dover and served during the Civil War as an Ordinary Seaman on Admiral David Farragut's flagship, the sloop-of-war steamer *USS Hartford*. At the *Battle of Mobile Bay* in August 1864, Melville was wounded by an artillery shell but returned to his post manning one of *Hartford's* guns for the remainder of the battle. For this action, he was awarded the *Medal of Honor*.



***USS Hartford***

Melville died in 1867 at age 38 or 39 and was buried in Rochester, New Hampshire. His *Medal of Honor* is held by the *National Museum of the United States Navy* in Washington, D.C.



Melville'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 Ordinary Seaman Charles Melville, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving on board the flagship U.S.S. Hartford during action against rebel gunboats, the ram Tennessee, and Fort Morgan in Mobile Bay, Alabama, 5 August 1864. Wounded and taken below to the surgeon when a shell burst between the two forward 9-inch guns, killing and wounding 15 men, Ordinary Seaman Melville promptly returned to his gun on the deck and, although scarcely able to stand, refused to go below and continued to man his post throughout the remainder of the action resulting in the capture of the rebel ram Tennessee."*

*Additional Navy Medal of Honor recipients will be portrayed in the next issue with Part 34*

## 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-Commander	<b>Daniel B. Pourreau</b>	<a href="mailto:camp2svc@txsuv.org">camp2svc@txsuv.org</a>	Camp Council	<b>Stevenson T. Holmes</b>
Jr. Vice-Commander	<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. Pourreau</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>			

**The Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN, Camp No. 2** - was organized in 1994 in Houston, Texas. Its initial Charter, dated July 30, 1994, brought the Camp into the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* organization as a member of the National *Department At Large*. The *Lea Camp* had seven Charter members, including: Harrison G. Moore IV, George W. Newton, James T. Cunningham, Joseph Castor, Charles C. Chambers, Danial F. Lisarelli, and Michael G. O'Reilly.

As more Camps were established in the region, the *Department of the Southwest* was formed. The *Lea Camp* was Chartered on March 4, 1998 as a member of that new Department. Eventually, more Camps were established in Texas, making possible the creation of the current *Department of Texas*. Today, 30 years after it was first chartered, the *Lea Camp* is the largest of the four Camps comprising the *Department of Texas* (aka. *Department of Texas and Louisiana*).

Since early in its existence, the *Lea Camp* has had the fortune of being augmented by a Ladies Auxiliary – the only Camp in the Department to be favored with one. The *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary No. 1* has assisted the Camp in many activities and projects through the years, and continues to be an asset to the Camp and the Department.

The *Lea Camp* sponsors or participates in several activities each year to recognize and honor the memory of our Civil War ancestors. In 2004, the Camp installed and dedicated a marble monument memorializing the casualties of the 1863 *Battle of Galveston* in Galveston's Epicopal Cemetery. Other major activities include: the *Lea Camp's* annual signature event, the *Battle of Galveston Commemoration Ceremony*; Veterans Day ceremonies at *Houston National Cemetery* and at *Washington Cemetery* in Houston Heights; the annual *Wreaths Across America* event at the *Houston National Cememony*; along with assorted graveside ceremonies and historical marker dedications. The *Lea Camp* also recognizes the achievements and patriotism of our younger citizens by presenting numerous *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* Eagle Scout and JROTC achievement awards each year.

Membership in the *Lea Camp* climbed as high as 111 in recent years. Today, in June 2024, the roster stands at 106, with new membership applications arriving nearly every month. Of the original Charter Members, only Brother George G. Harrison IV, remains. Four other members have over 20 years of service. The *Lea Camp* continues to thrive and actively promotes the mission of the *SUVCW* – *preserving the history and legacy of our Civil War veterans*.





**Decorated Grave of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea in a Sea of Wildflowers**

Lea was killed aboard the *USS Harriet Lane* on January 1, 1863 during the Battle of Galveston  
Memorial Day 2024 - Episcopal Cemetery, Galveston, Texas (photo by Stephen F. Duncan, Chaplain)

**From Gray to Blue**

*"At the outbreak of the Civil War, the general population of Comfort [Texas] and vicinity was intensely loyal to the Union and bitterly opposed to secession. They were therefore the objects of bitter hatred from the secession element, by whom they were surrounded, and were closely watched to prevent their escape from the boundaries of the Confederacy. So bitter was the sentiment against the Union-loving element that in 1862 the flower of the population of Comfort and surroundings was murdered on the banks of the Nueces. Their bones bleached the ground for years, till after the war they were gathered and they sleep today under a monument erected to their memory in the town of Comfort. . . . This will show that it was impossible, at that time of intense excitement, to escape the Confederate authorities, and the only way left to the Union-loving men was to apparently acquiesce in the order of things then existing, enlist in the Confederate Army to allay suspicion, and then to watch for the first opportunity to escape across the Rio Grande to Mexico."*

**Henry J. Heinen**

In June 1861, at age 17, he was one of four brothers 'enticed' to enlist with the Confederate Infantry in Texas

**1<sup>st</sup> Sgt., Co. C, 1<sup>st</sup> Texas Cavalry (Union)**

All four brothers eventually deserted and managed to reach Union lines, and enlisted with the *Union Cavalry*  
(Pension file Affidavit - May 31, 1894)