



The Harriet Lane



The Official Newsletter of

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

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

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The Harriet Lane is the official newsletter of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN Camp No. 2

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

San Jacinto Day - 2026

Saturday, April 18, 2026 – La Porte, Texas

Members of *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1* thought it would be a good idea to get out in front of the public at a new event, and it was! For the first time, our organization had a booth at the annual *San Jacinto Day Celebration* in La Porte.

We set up a nice tent with flags and banners, and other displays. We promoted fundraisers, including the Opportunity Quilt drawing, and sale of patriotic cockades. And, of course, membership information was on hand to pass out to visitors. All were a big success!



Sisters Vali Reyes, Jana Marsh, Lisa Riley, and Annette Kinslow attended in either Civil War-era attire or ASUVCW gear, along with Brother Robert Riley from *Lea Camp #2*.

L-R: Vali Reyes, Lisa Riley, Robert Riley, Jana Marsh.

The ladies explained the importance of Patriotic Cockades and showed housewife (*sewing*) kits. We are planning for next year when the Brothers will join the Sisters in force at *San Jacinto Day*, complete with uniforms and displays of our own.



... submitted by Robert G. Riley

Robert and I had a great day at *Battle of San Jacinto Day* yesterday with my some of my fellow sisters from *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary Texas #1*, Auxiliary to *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*. It was the first time our organization has had a booth at the event, which is in La Porte, Texas.

We were able to explain the importance of patriotic cockades back to Revolutionary War days, plus show housewife (*sewing*) kits that soldiers would keep with their gear.

L-R: Lisa Riley, Vali Reyes, Jana Marsh, and Annette Kinslow.

And, yes, some of us were dressed in period dress. You can check out more at <https://www.camplea.org/>.



... submitted by Lisa Riley - *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary Texas #1*, Auxiliary

MEMORIAL DAY - 2026

Monday, May 25, 2026 – Houston National Cemetery, Houston, Texas

Brothers William 'Bill' Myers and Michael Lance combined with members of *Co. A, 13th U.S. Infantry* to form an eleven-man Honor Guard at Houston National Cemetery on Memorial Day. They gathered to honor the memory of our fallen military heroes. Myers served as drummer for the unit and Lance participated as a member of the firing party. The Honor Guard fired a single volley immediately after a unit of *Texas Army* re-enactors opened the event with a cannon salvo. Later in the program, the federal unit reorganized as a Color Guard and fell into slot 32 of the *Parade of Remembrance* procession. The federals marched smartly into the Hemicycle to the beat of the drum with shouldered arms and Colors flying.



View from a distance: The Texas Army cannon crew and a portion of the Federal Honor Guard

... submitted by Michael L. Lance, PDC

Monday, May 25, 2026 – Glenwood Cemetery, Houston, Texas

Nine Union veterans are buried in the relatively small *G.A.R.* lot in Houston's Glenwood Cemetery. They rest amongst approximately 50 other known Union veterans scattered elsewhere around the historic burial ground. On *Memorial Day*, *Lea Camp #2* conducted a formal remembrance ceremony at the *G.A.R.* lot.



The Camp was supported by members of *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1* and *Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4, DUVCW*, who took active roles in the program.

Camp SVC Herb Powers was the organizer of the program and several other Brothers volunteered for various roles in the script, including: John Vander Meulen as a speaker; Steve Brock as Patriotic Instructor and master of the ceremonial bell; and Stephen Schulze as Chaplain.

Left: Camp SVC Herbert W. Powers

The 4-man Honor Guard consisted of William Myers (*drummer*), Michael Lance (*unit leader and musket*), Michael Rappe (*musket*), and guest John Scott (*musket*).

Photos of the solemn event were captured by Richard Carson, and Robert Riley managed the multiple video recording devices

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MEMORIAL DAY – 2026 (CONTINUED)



Honor Guard at 'Present Arms'

L-R: William D. 'Bill' Myers,
Michael L. Lance,
John Scott,
and
Michael D. Rappe



Left: John Vander Meulen

The ladies of the *Auxiliary* and the *DUVCW* also had important roles: Susan Barry (*DUVCW*) read the poem "When the Boys in Blue are Gone"; Vali Reyes, Jana Marsh, and Lisa Riley of the *Auxiliary*, along with Susan Barry, Mary Anthony Startz, and Kimberly McDonell of the *DUVCW* placed roses on the veteran headstones.

Right: Susan Barry - the poem.



Right: Robert Riley monitors one of the video cameras as Camp Cmdr. Daniel Poureau, in G.A.R. garb, observes.



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MEMORIAL DAY – 2026 (CONTINUED)



Volley fired 'by the drum'

L-R: Bill Myers, Michael Lance, and John Scott



**Lisa Riley, Vali Reyes, and Jana Marsh
Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1**

Thank you to all the Brothers and Sisters who attended and participated in this important event. *Memorial Day (formerly known Decoration Day)* was the signature event for the G.A.R. each year. They faithfully remembered and honored their fallen comrades. *We are keeping their legacy alive!*



**Front row L-R: Lisa Riley, Vali Reyes, and Jana Marsh (Auxiliary),
Susan Barry and Kimberly McDonell (DUVCW).**

Back row L-R: Michael Lance, Steve Brock, Bill Myers, Robert Riley, John Scott, Daniel Poureau, John Vander Meulen, Stephen Schulze, Mary Anthony Startz (DUVCW), and Herbert Powers.

... report by Michael L. Lance, PDC

... photos by Richard J. Carson

... additional photo on page 26.

1861 CUSTOMS HOUSE

Thursday, June 11, 2026 – Galveston, Texas

“For more than 165 years, the stately 1861 Courthouse and Customs House has stood at the corner of 20th Street and Post Office Street, surviving hurricanes, economic booms and busts, and the changing fortunes of the island city around it. Now, after a multi-year restoration and renovation effort, the historic landmark has been returned to much of its original grandeur and purpose, offering a glimpse into Galveston's past while securing its future for generations to come. An open house celebrating the completion



of the project coincides with two significant milestones: the building's 165th anniversary and the fifth anniversary of Juneteenth becoming a federal holiday.” GALVESTON – *The Daily News* – Jun 11, 2026.

“Today, our Camp was honored to participate in the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony of the 1861 Customs House in Galveston. The event was hosted by Shaun and Natalie Hodge. As Camp Commander, I had the privilege of presenting the Hodge's with a *Certificate of Recognition* from the Camp and the *Department of Texas and Louisiana, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*. It was to recognize their outstanding contribution to the preservation of this historic building - where *General order No. 3* was printed after the war declaring the emancipation of enslaved people in Texas.” *Daniel Pourreau, Camp Cmdr.*



Atty. Hodges and wife accepting Certificate from Cmdr. Pourreau

Nine members of *Lea Camp #2* gathered at the historic courthouse in Galveston to attend a dedication ceremony and open house. They included: Daniel Pourreau (*Camp Commander*); Richard Carson and Robert Riley (*photography*); Michael Lance and Herbert Powers (*muskets*); Stephen Duncan and Stephen Schulze (*Chaplains*); and Zane Hooper and Jason Kyle (*Aides*). The *Lea Camp* men were also joined by Lisa Riley of *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1*. Commander Daniel Pourreau, clad in a dashing G.A.R. uniform, formally presented a nicely framed

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1861 CUSTOM HOUSE OPEN HOUSE (CONTINUED)

Certificate of Recognition to attorney Shaun Hodge. He also held one end of the ribbon as it was cut, with Brother Jason Kyle holding the opposite end.

After the presentations and speeches, the Brothers enjoyed a self-directed tour of the refurbished building. Many guests, dignitaries, and reporters crowded the spaces.

Right: Cmdr. Pourreau and Jason Kyle hold the ribbon as it is cut by the Hodge family.



World-class art decorated the rooms and hallways. Elaborate chandeliers graced nearly every room. Hors d'oeuvres were served by roving waitstaff, augmenting a small buffet setup. A formal string quartet provided classical music in the reception area.



Mr. and Mrs. Hodge in the restored courtroom flanked by guards Herbert W. Powers and Michael L. Lance



Cmdr. Daniel B. Pourreau and framed SUCW Certificate

Numerous visitors and guests queued for photos with the uniformed men. The event had a festive ambiance and everyone seemed to enjoy the occasion to mingle, to see... and to be seen. It was a first-class affair.

... additional event photos on next page

1861 CUSTOM HOUSE OPEN HOUSE (CONTINUED)



L-R: Zane Hooper, Jason Kyle, Stephen Schulze, Stephen Duncan, and Michael Lance



Portraying Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln



Federal Guard Herbert W. Powers



String Quartet performing.



Left: Michael Lance and Herbert Powers visit a prisoner in the courthouse holding cell [photo captures musket swipe attempt by prisoner. The desperate maneuver failed.]

*... report by Michael L. Lance, PDC
... photos by Richard Carson and Robert G. Riley*

JUNETEENTH 2026

Friday, June 16, 2026 – Galveston, Texas

Nine members of *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2* assembled inside the historic Ashton Villa in Galveston to participate in the *47th Annual Al Edwards' Juneteenth Emancipation Proclamation Reading*. Brother Stephen Duncan portrayed Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger by opening the program, and then later reading *General Order No. 3*. A six-man armed SVR detachment acted as his guard. Brothers Richard Carson and Robert Riley assisted by taking pictures and video.

Right: Stephen Duncan as Maj. Gen. Granger reading General Order No. 3 and three of his six guards.



As the program concluded, the blue-clad contingent remained to stand for numerous photos with appreciative guests and visitors. The Brothers then caravanned to a restaurant on the seawall for lunch and further comradery.

*Head Quarters District of Texas
Galveston Texas June 10th 1865
General Order No. 3.*

The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor.

The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.



L-R: Robert Riley, John Scott, Cody Holcomb, Michael Lance, Stephen Duncan, Zane Hooper, Daniel Poureau, Herbert Powers, and Richard Carson.

CHAPLAIN EMERITUS

Through his tireless work with the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW)* and his iconic historical portrayal of Union General Gordon Granger, Dr. Stephen Duncan serves as a vital bridge between Texas history and the present day. In recognition of his service to the *SUVCW*, Dr. Stephen Duncan has been bestowed with the title of 'Chaplain Emeritus' by the Brothers of *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea USN, Camp 2 Houston-Galveston*.

As a dedicated member and longtime Chaplain of *Camp 2*, Dr. Duncan's membership in the *SUVCW* is more than a hobby; it is a commitment to ensuring that the Union's struggle for emancipation and national unity remains part of the public consciousness. Whether participating in Memorial Day tributes or Veterans Day parades, he ensures the graves of Union veterans are honored and their stories are never forgotten.



Chaplain Emeritus Certificate



Dr. Stephen F. Duncan

Dr. Duncan's most profound impact on the Galveston community is his annual portrayal of Union Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger. Each year, he visits Ashton Villa in Galveston to reenact the reading of *General Order No. 3*. This performance is the heartbeat of Galveston's Juneteenth celebrations, recreating the momentous day in June 1865 when freedom was finally announced to the enslaved people of Texas. His portrayal is not merely a costume; it is an educational mission. By stepping into Granger's boots, he provides a tangible connection to the end of the Civil War, making the abstract concept of "freedom" feel immediate and real for the spectators.



... by Robert G. Riley, JVC and Camp Webmaster

Patriotic Instructor Minute

John F. Reynolds - The stories of our Civil War ancestors provides a common connection between us. Their stories, along with those of others who fought in the Civil War, are the glue that binds us together as *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*. I spoke last time on the life story of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain.

As the 250th birthday of our country approaches, I would like to continue with brief accounts of the stories of individuals who fought to preserve our Union. For some of them, volumes have already been written, and I hope I can do them justice in about 3 minutes. Hopefully, I can throw in a few surprises, by telling the stories of some individuals you may not have heard much of.

This time, I will briefly present the story of John Fulton Reynolds. Reynolds was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on September 20, 1820. He was a career United States Army officer and a Union General during the Civil War. Reynolds was nominated to the United States Military Academy by Senator James Buchanan in 1837. In 1841, he graduated 26th in a class of 52 cadets. He was then commissioned a brevet second lieutenant in the 3rd U.S. Artillery and was assigned to Fort McHenry. As his career progressed, he rose quickly in rank and served with great distinction during the Mexican War, where he became friends with Winfield Scott Hancock and future Confederate General Lewis Armistead.

Right: Maj. Gen. John Fulton Reynolds



After the Mexican War, Reynolds was assigned to the West where he participated in the *Rogue River Wars* in 1856 and the *Utah War* with the Mormons in 1857-58. He was then Commandant of Cadets at West Point from September 1860 to June 1861, while also serving as an instructor of artillery, cavalry, and infantry tactics. When he returned from the West, Reynolds became engaged to Katherine May Hewitt. But because Hewitt was a Catholic and he was a Protestant, they kept their engagement secret.

During the Civil War, Reynolds commanded troops in several battles, including Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. By July 1863, he, now a major general, commanded the left wing of the *Army of the Potomac*, with operational control over the I, III, and XI Corps, as well as John Buford's Cavalry Division.

Unfortunately, Reynolds' story would end at Gettysburg on the morning of July 1, 1863. After meeting briefly with Gen. Buford, he and some of his men rode out into Herbst Woods on McPherson's Ridge. Reynolds was supervising the placement of the 2nd Wisconsin and yelled "*Forward men, forward for God's sake and drive those fellows out of the woods.*" At that moment, he was killed instantly when he was shot from his saddle by a Confederate sharpshooter – before the battle had even really begun. Reynolds' death was a huge blow to the *Army of the Potomac*. He was the highest ranking officer on either side to die during that battle.

By all accounts, Reynolds was loved by his men and highly respected by his peers. He was buried July 4, 1863 in his hometown of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He is memorialized by three statues at Gettysburg National Military Park, one in the cemetery where he is buried, and another in front of Philadelphia City Hall.

Reynolds leaves behind a story that is unfulfilled. We'll never know what his dreams or aspirations were for life after the war, or what he might have accomplished for the nation. But what he does leave behind is a legacy of duty, honor, courage, and sacrifice. He, along with countless others whose stories are also unfulfilled, gave his all for the greatest country on earth; the United States of America.

... by Ronald 'Steve' Brock, Camp Patriotic Instructor – a transcription of the presentation he gave during the April 2025 business meeting of Lea Camp #2.



From the Chaplain's Desk

On Sugar Planters and Men in the Union Ranks

Chaplain George Hughes Hepworth arrived in Louisiana with the rest of the 47th *Massachusetts Infantry* on the last day of 1862. Though in uniform only a month, he later wrote, "I had already begun to feel that my chaplaincy tended to confine rather than give ample scope to my desire for work." Having met the overall commander of Union forces in the region, Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks, Hepworth requested and received an assignment as first lieutenant in the 4th *Louisiana Native Guards*. Banks placed Hepworth on his staff with orders to investigate and report on labor in Louisiana.

Hepworth, 29, brought his Harvard education, Unitarian faith and ardent abolitionism to bear as he traveled Louisiana during the immediate aftermath of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. Over the remaining seven months of his enlistment, he chronicled plantation culture in his book, "The Whip, Hoe, and Sword; The Gulf-Department in '63." He summarized his experience in the introduction: "If I talk a great deal of slavery, it is because I have seen a great deal of it. If I say no good thing of it, it is because I found no good thing in it. I learned to pity the slaveholder and the slave, and to thank God and the genius of the age for the Proclamation."

Right: Chaplain George Hughes Hepworth

In his book, published before the end of 1863, Hepworth directed his harshest criticism to those who enslaved people. "You may talk with a planter upon almost any subject, and you will find him affable and gentlemanly. He will scorn to misrepresent an event, and will speak with commendable charity of his neighbors. The moment, however, the conversation edges towards slavery, his demeanor changes. He either grows reticent, and refuses to say a word; or else becomes angry, and openly insults you on the spot.



"There is no such thing as a calm discussion of the subject with him: he seems to think that any assertion, true or false, is fair. If he can adduce facts, he will pile them up; until, at last, you begin to think the best thing the Almighty can do is to get up an extra generation of negroes for the use of the Southern sugar-planter. If the facts are not readily handled, he hammers away at the Old Testament; quoting verse after verse, trying to prove that the venerable book has no higher mission than to afford favorite texts for the slaveholder. ... If you suggest that the thralldom of a race impedes civilization, and is an inhumanity done to the enslaved, he harangues you on the value of the institution as a missionary society," elevating "a whole people from the depths of barbarity."

By contrast, Hepworth reserved the highest praise for the Union rank and file after a tour of camps in Baltimore and Washington, D.C., about six months before he joined the army. "I conversed with many of the privates," he explained, "and I found everywhere a degree of enthusiasm which surprised me." He continued, "Their purpose is not conquest. They know they are fighting for more than twelve dollars a month—it is for principle."

Hepworth went on to serve as a pastor in New York City, and later became a Trinitarian. He left the ministry in 1885 to work as a journalist for the *New York Herald*, and authored numerous books. He died in 1902.



... submitted by Stephen D. Schulze, PDC - Camp Chaplain

Houston Daily Post - Houston, Texas, Sunday, June 2, 1901, pg. 12, column 3.

SHE RESTS IN HOUSTON **The Remains of a Woman with a Remarkable History** **LAI TO REST IN GERMAN CEMETERY**

**Placed There on Memorial Day – Frank Thompson,
the Soldier, Afterward Mrs. S. E. Seelye**

It has been a cherished purpose of the George B. McClellan post, G.A.R. of Houston to remove the remains of their comrade, Mrs. Seelye, who was buried at a lonely spot by the seaside near La Porte about three years ago, to their burial lot in the German cemetery, where it could be cared for and decorated on Memorial days.

The written consent of her husband and son having been obtained, a delegation from George B. McClellan post proceeded to La Porte and took up the remains, arriving in Houston with them in time to inter them in German cemetery on the morning of Memorial day, about 10:30 o'clock.

FRANK THOMPSON, The Soldier.

The history of this remarkable woman is a veritable romance. She was the only woman that ever belonged to a Grand Army post. She was mustered into George B. McClellan post in this city in April 1897, at the State encampment held in this city by Past Commander-in-Chief A. G. Weissert of Milwaukee , Wis.

Right: As Frank Thompson

She joined company F, Second Michigan Infantry regiment in 1861 under the alias of Frank Thompson, serving two years and making a brilliant record as a soldier, as orderly on the staff of General Poe, as scout and as brigade postmaster. When she contracted malaria and a furlough being denied her, she, fearing detection, took French leave of the army, dropped her male attire and did splendid hospital service as a female nurse.



Mrs. Seelye, Author of "Nurse and Spy."

She wrote the famous "Nurse and Spy," (*her own experience*) and it had a wonderful sale, reaching 175,000 copies, her profits in the sales of which, her publisher certifies, he was instructed by her to turn over to the sanitary commission for use in hospital work, amounting to thousands of dollars.

After the war she married Mr. Seelye, an estimable gentleman, by whom she had three children, one of whom (Frederick) is married and lives in La Porte.

Years after the war, when her health failed her, she revealed herself by correspondence to her old comrades of the Second Michigan Infantry, who looked upon her dropping out of the regiment in 1863 as a profound mystery. They sent her means to attend a reunion of the old regiment and she attended in 1884, after a twenty years' absence – but what a change!

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Yesterday's News *(continued)*

Then they knew her as the affable and soldierly Frank Thompson, now as the mature mother and matron, Mrs. Seelye. They at once interested themselves in her, and by act of congress had her disabilities removed and a pension of \$12 per month granted her.

How much of romance, how much of sentiment in this woman's life who now lies buried on the burial lot of George B. McClellan post in this city, where comrades will annually garland her grave with sweet flowers on every recurring Memorial day.

The testimony from first to last in this grand woman's case is that she was a true Christian character, beloved and respected by all who knew her, notwithstanding this remarkable episode of a loyal heart in her girlhood days.

After her death, her husband went to live with relatives in Elk Rapids, Mich., where he now is.

... submitted by *Herbert W. Powers, Camp Cmdr.*



As mentioned in the newspaper account above, Sarah Emma Edmonds-Seelye was originally buried in La Porte, Texas in 1898. Three years later, she was reinterred in the G.A.R. lot in German Cemetery (now known as Washington, Cemetery) in Houston. The Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, in conjunction with the Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1 and Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4 of Houston, assemble annually at her gravesite to honor her memory.



G.A.R. burial lot at Washington Cemetery.

Seelye's headstone is in the center of the back row (with wreath on tripod behind).

Inset: Closer view of Seelye's headstone, inscribed simply with: "EMMA E. SEELY – ARMY NURSE"

Spotlight on a G.A.R. Veteran – Corporal Dominick H. Regan

Dominick H. Regan was born June 18, 1842 in the 13th century coastal seaport town of Sligo in County Sligo, Ireland. He was still a young boy when he immigrated with his parents from the port of Cork, Ireland, to the United States in 1849 (or 1851 or 1852). At that time, Ireland was deep in the throes of the Irish Potato Famine. Mass starvation, disease, and housing evictions were rampant throughout the Emerald Isle, resulting in a wave of nearly 1.3 million Irish people immigrating to the U.S. seeking a better life. The Regan family settled in New York.

On July 30, 1862, Dominick was employed as a railroad brakeman and living in Chicago, Illinois when he enlisted in the Union Army. On that day, he claimed he was 22 years old - and signed up for a three-year term. Dominick was described as standing five feet, nine inches high, with brown hair, blue eyes, and a fair complexion. Three weeks later, after performing well during an abbreviated boot camp, he was promoted to the rank of Corporal, and mustered into Company K of the 89th Illinois Infantry Regiment.

During the Civil War, Dominick served “with Gen. Phillip Sheridan's command in Tennessee and participated in the *Battle of Lookout Mountain* and other notable engagements. While carrying the mail he was captured by two Confederate soldiers, who released him after relieving him of the mail.” Those Confederates were Col. J. M. Brownson and Maj. William H. Kyle, who both eventually became leading citizens of Victoria, Texas, and were later numbered among Dominick’s closest friends.

Soon after the war ended, Dominick migrated to the Gulf Coast of Texas. In 1866, he established a dry goods store at Corpus Christi. But he soon recognized greater opportunity for his business 50 miles to the north - in the bustling port town of Indianola. He saw that Indianola was a rapidly rebounding coastal boomtown, recovering from Civil War occupations and Union blockades and bombardments. The town quickly grew to become the second-largest port in Texas – rivaling Galveston for commercial dominance on the Gulf Coast. As such, it was a gateway of choice for many European immigrants. They, along with commercial goods, were flooding in.

Indianola also served as a U.S. Army supply depot. As the eastern terminus of the southern Chihuahua Trail, the town was a crucial link for military and trade routes to Mexico and San Antonio. So, in 1867, Dominick relocated his dry goods operations to Indianola, seeking to prosper from the surging local economy there.

On August 9, 1868, Dominick was twenty-six years old when he married nineteen-year-old Mary Virginia Hogan, a native of Houston. They became the parents of a son, Dominick Charles Regan, the following year. The baby boy was the start of what would eventually become a very large family.

Right: Dominick’s wife, Mary Virginia Hogan-Regan



Indianola’s population continued to swell and, by 1870, boasted over 2,000 inhabitants. In these bustling surroundings, Dominick’s dry goods business also grew and prospered. In June 1870, the federal census enumerator reported that Dominick was twenty-nine years old and the inventory of his dry goods business was worth \$25,000 (about \$625,000 in 2026 dollars). His personal real estate was valued at another \$1,500. The Regan family was thriving in Indianola, and over the next 24 years, Dominick and Mary would successfully raise twelve more children.

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Spotlight on a G.A.R. Veteran – Corporal Regan *(continued)*

A daughter, Grace, was born later that year. Two additional Regan children were welcomed into the family in rapid succession: Agnes in 1872 and William in 1873 - both born in Indianola.

By 1875, Indianola's population had more than doubled to over 5,000 residents. It served as the county seat of Calhoun county.

Right: Indianola, Texas, ca. 1875

The Regan family added yet another resident to the town in April 1875 when baby Mary was born.

The present and future continued to look bright for Dominick, his family, and his business. But a few months later, things changed drastically for the worse. Mother Nature brought the happy port community to its knees.



On September 16, 1875, a powerful hurricane blew in from the Gulf of Mexico. The resulting storm surge carried water from Matagorda Bay deep into Indianola's streets and caused heavy damage. The powerful surge plowed deep bayous into the landscape. Three-quarters of the town's buildings were washed away, and most of the remaining structures were in a state of ruin. Only eight buildings were left undamaged.

The storm finally subsided two days later, with fatalities estimated at between 150 and 300 persons. Boats were found washed inland as far as nine miles and railroad tracks were torn up. The town's bustling economy ground to a halt.

Many of the survivors decided to leave the area and resettle further inland. But a portion of them remained in Indianola to rebuild the town and its wharves. Dominick and his family were among those who stayed. The vital cattle and beef shipping industry was revived and the economy slowly improved. However, the town never regained its pre-hurricane prosperity or population numbers.

Dominick was active in the community and served as a civil servant. On April 5, 1877, as a Commissioner, he stood before a county judge in Indianola to swear that he would fairly and truly assess the value of the sections of land that were being sold by the railroad companies. The proceeds from the land sales would be used for the "benefit of the Common School Fund."

Meanwhile, Dominick and Mary continued to welcome more children into their growing family: Mae in 1877 and Eleanor in 1878.

On June 2, 1880, when the Regan household in Indianola was visited by the federal census enumerator, he found enough occupants living there to fill fourteen lines on his census sheet! Dominick was recorded as a 36-year-old dry goods merchant, and his wife, Mary, was once again very much with child. Seven Regan youngsters, at ages one through eleven, graced the residence. Mary's widowed mother and three teenage siblings were also included in the enumeration. Mary gave birth to their eighth child, Angela, just three days later.

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Spotlight on a G.A.R. Veteran – Corporal Regan *(continued)*

In March 1882, another son, Joseph, was born into the Regan family in Indianola. As his retail dry goods business flourished, Dominick established satellite stores in other Texas cities, including Victoria and Cuero. He apparently had keen business instincts and savvy.

By the early 1880s, Dominick had the financial resources necessary to build a beautiful 6,000 square foot home in Indianola – to better accommodate his rapidly expanding family.

Right: Regan House as it appears today.

It was “a fine example of Italianate Victorian design, featuring jigsaw porch detailing and polygonal bay Windows.”

Dominick advertised his dry goods stores in the local newspapers. The full-page ad reproduced below, was published in the *Cuero Bulletin* on December 19, 1884. It gives clues to the types of goods Dominick sold in his stores.



D. H. REGAN,

INDIANOLA, Texas – VICTORIA, Texas, and CUERO, Texas.

DRY GOODS and GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS,

PHILADELPHIA Hand Made **BOOT AND SHOES** A SPECIALTY, OIL CLOTHS, MATTINGS, CARPETS,
GENTS' CLOTHING and Furnishing Goods.

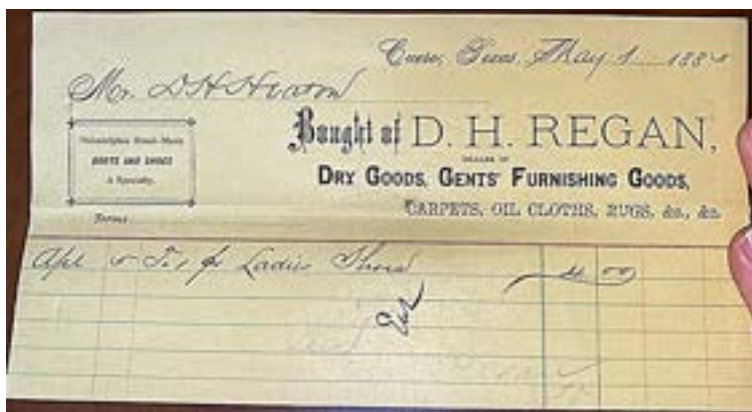
RUGS, SLICKERS, WINDOW SHADES, TRUNKS, VALISES, UMBRELLAS, GEORGIA PLAIDS & CHECKS,

NEW BRAUNFELS CAIMRES,

COTTON BATTING and SOCKS,

BOOTS AND SHOES,

All goods guaranteed as represented. Prices as low as any house in the South.



Left: A receipt given to Mr. D. H. Heaton by D. H. Regan, dated May 1, 1883, showing that Heaton paid off an outstanding \$4.00 bill for a pair of ladies shoes he purchased April 5, 1883 at Dominick's store in Cuero.

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Spotlight on a G.A.R. Veteran – Corporal Regan *(continued)*

In April 1885, Dominick and Mary were blessed with yet another child when baby John was born. The happy occasion of their latest son's birth preceded another severe disruption of daily life in Indianola.

After being mostly rebuilt and resettled following the devastating hurricane of 1875, Indianola received another hard blow from Mother Nature on August 19, 1886. Once again, a fierce hurricane descended on the town, completely destroying nearly everything in its path.

When the storm made landfall, it packed sustained winds of 155 mph. As Category 4 gusts battered the town, a burning lantern was shattered, causing a fire that rapidly swept to neighboring structures, adding to the massive destruction.

Right: August 1886 – Indianola is destroyed again.



Dominick's handsome residence did not escape the storm's fury this time.

The durable house "did float down the street a way before resting against some sturdy cypress trees, according to one of the Regan children, [eight-year-old] Eleanore, who was along for the ride."

What fun it was when her uncle and older brothers cut holes in the floor and the water came rushing up, along with miscellaneous cats, mice, and dogs, sweeping in on crests of the flood water! When horses swam by and stuck their heads in the windows," she "squealed with delight and excitement."

Indianola would never recover from this natural disaster. Today, it remains a ruined ghost town, mostly submerged in Matagorda Bay under 15 feet of water.

For Dominick, this storm was the last straw! He packed up his family and relocated further inland to the larger - and safer - city of Victoria, Texas. Their elegant home soon followed them! It was disassembled, transported by rail to Victoria, and reassembled at 507 De Leon Street.



D. H. Regan at age 41 in 1883

In 1887, the *Victoria Advocate* newspaper reported:

Some months ago Mr. D. H. Regan decided to remove his large and handsome residence from Indianola to this city, and a week or two ago the work of preparing the building for shipment was commenced. It was taken down, the different pieces being carefully numbered, so as to expedite the work of reconstruction. This material, amounting to over 100,000 feet of lumber, required nine cars to move it, the whole reaching Victoria this week.

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Spotlight on a G.A.R. Veteran – Corporal Regan *(continued)*

The site selected for his new home is on Diamond Hill, not far from the German Catholic church where Mr. Regan owns two handsome unimproved lots. Important additions and improvements are to be made in the original building, which, when completed, will make the new structure one of the handsomest and most convenient residences in this city. It is expected that the work will be finished in time to be occupied early in October, at which time Mr. Regan and family will become permanent residents here.

With the move successfully completed, it wasn't long before two of the last three Regan children were born. Baby Arthur arrived in 1887 and Kathleen in 1889 – both born in their adopted city of Victoria. Dominick became well-known throughout the area as “a man of unquestionable integrity and exercised a wide influence in the upbuilding of Victoria and this immediate section. He was active in many affairs and was president of one of the first commercial clubs to be organized” in Victoria.

Although the 1890 federal census records were mostly destroyed by fire in 1921, the associated *Special Veterans Schedules* for Texas survived. The 1890 census enumerator simply noted that Dominick had served as a Private in a U.S. Vol. Regiment, and his Post Office Address was Victoria, Victoria County, Texas.



A handwritten entry from a 1890 census Special Veterans Schedule. The name 'Dominick Regan' is written in cursive. To the right, 'Private' and 'U.S. Vol. Reg.' are written. There are several columns with numbers, including '180', '186', and '25'.

On April 17, 1894, Dominick applied for a military pension from Texas based on his Civil War service with *Company K, 89th Illinois Infantry*. His request was approved (*pension certificate #937763*). The extra pension income was likely welcome, as his wife, Mary, was once again with child. Baby Francis arrived in November.

The joy of welcoming baby Francis into the family quickly dissipated into extreme sorrow. Mary passed away one month and three days later. Dominick was now not only managing a burgeoning dry goods business, but was also a 52-year-old widower tasked with raising a large number of young children. Even so, he did not remarry.



In June 1900, Dominick was still a widower and living on De Leon Street in Victoria when the federal census was taken. He was 57 years old, still engaged as a merchant, and owned his home free and clear. Nine of his thirteen children were still living at home. Their ages ranged from his youngest at age 5, to his 28-year-old widowed daughter, Agnes Regan-Grothaus. His older daughters likely made the mother-less house a home.

Left: **Dominick H. Regan**

Meanwhile, the Regans were probably unaware of the monster storm that was then brewing off the west coast of Africa. Since their residence was located roughly 50 miles inland, the Great Hurricane of 1900 that devastated Galveston and much of the upper Texas Gulf Coast in September that year, did not substantially impact their lives.

The *Maj. James Abram Garfield Post No. 83* of the *Department of Texas, Grand Army of the Republic* was organized in Victoria in January 1908. As an honorably discharged veteran of the Union Army, Dominick was accepted as a member of that Post. In fact, he may have been one of the Charter Members of the new Post. In April 1908, he immediately proved to be an active member of the Order by attending the *23rd Annual Encampment* of the Department of Texas in San Antonio as an Alternate Delegate.

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Spotlight on a G.A.R. Veteran – Corporal Regan *(continued)*

By April 1910, Dominick was 67 years old, unmarried, still living at 507 South De Leon St. in Victoria, and continued to be engaged as a retail dry goods merchant. The 1910 census enumerator also noted that Dominick reported that he had immigrated to the United States from Ireland in 1851, owned his house free and clear, and was a Union Army veteran. Four of his children were still living at home, including; his youngest, fifteen-year-old 'Xavier', and three unmarried adults, Elenora, Arthur, and Kathleen. His son, Arthur, was employed as a bookkeeper in his dry goods business.

The April 1910 membership roster of the *Garfield G.A.R. Post* lists Dominick as a member in good standing and living in Victoria. Since joining the *Post* in 1908, he had been elected by his peers to various officer positions, and eventually served as Post commander. In 1917, he held the position of Post Sr. Vice-Commander - one level away from repeating as Post commander.

Dominick's daughter, Eleanor, likely inherited her father's business acumen. In January 1920, she managed the Regan home in Victoria at 507 S. De Leon St. as a 'boarding house'. She was also listed as head of the family. Dominick was a 77-year-old widower. The census enumerator noted that Dominick reported that he had immigrated from Ireland to the United States in 1849 (*instead of in 1851 as noted on the 1910 federal census*), and became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1854.

During the summer of 1927, Dominick suffered from anaemia, a blood disorder, which eventually proved to be fatal. He passed away at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 10, 1927 at home in Victoria. He was 85 years old. His funeral was held at his home the next day, along with a service at St. Mary's Church. Nine of his twelve surviving children attended. He was then laid to rest in Catholic Cemetery #1 in Victoria.

Nearly three years later, on August 21, 1930, Dominick's 53-year-old unmarried daughter, Eleanor, applied to the War Department to obtain a military-style headstone to place upon his grave. The new marker was shipped to the Catholic Cemetery in Victoria two months later and was erected over his final resting place.



Right: **Headstone of Dominick H. Regan, 2026**

R.I.P. COMRADE REGAN!



Written by Michael L. Lance, PDC
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June 2026

Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (Part 41)

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.



- **Miles M. Oviatt – Corporal** – Miles Mason Oviatt was born Dec 1, 1840, into a farming family in Cattaraugus County, New York. On Aug 19, 1862, he was 21 years old when he joined the Marine Corps in Brooklyn. The Brooklyn Navy Yard served as a key hub for Marine enlistments, drawing rural volunteers with promises of steady pay. Oviatt became a Private with a 3-year service term. During his brief basic training, he was promoted to Corporal.

In early 1863, Cpl. Oviatt was assigned to the 45-60-man contingent of marines



Steam Sloop-of-war USS Brooklyn

serving aboard the steam sloop-of-war *USS Brooklyn*. This vessel served in the *West Gulf Blockading Squadron* and was sent into action against Rebel forts and gunboats, including the Confederate ram *Tennessee*, during the *Battle of Mobile Bay* in Aug 1864.



During this battle, several men aboard his ship were killed, and the ship sustained heavy damage from enemy fire. Oviatt continued to fire his gun throughout the two-hour battle - which resulted in the surrender of the *Tennessee*. For his actions during the battle, Oviatt received the *Medal of Honor*. He was honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant on Aug 18, 1866, and died Nov 1, 1880 - shortly before his 40th birthday. His citation states:

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Corporal Miles M. Oviatt, United States Marine Corps, for extraordinary heroism in action on board the U.S.S. Brooklyn during action against rebel forts and gunboats and with the ram Tennessee in Mobile Bay, 5 August 1864. Despite severe damage to his ship and the loss of several men on board as enemy fire raked the deck, Corporal Oviatt fought his gun with skill and courage throughout the furious two-hour battle which resulted in the surrender of the rebel ram Tennessee.

- **William Parker – Capt. of the Afterguard** – William Parker was born about 1832 in Boston. He was still living in that city when he joined the U.S. Navy. He served during the Civil War as a Captain of the Afterguard on the single screw, two-masted Unadilla-class gunboat *USS Cayuga*.

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Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy *(Part 4I continued)*

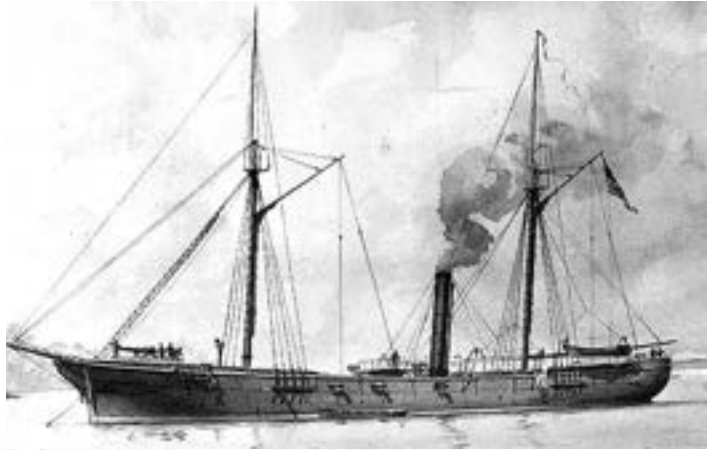
At the *Battle of Forts Jackson and St. Philip* near New Orleans on April 24, 1862, Parker was stationed at the ship's wheel and "conscientiously performed his duties" despite heavy fire. For this action, he was awarded the *Medal of Honor* a year later.

Right: **Sketch of USS Cayuga**

In 1894, Parker was a sailmaker's mate newly assigned to the *USS San Francisco*. He was arrested for drunkenness while ashore in Brooklyn that year and court-martialed. Members of the court learned that Parker was

a *Medal of Honor* recipient when he wore his dress uniform, complete with medal, to the trial. The court found Parker guilty but handed down no punishment. His citation states:

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Captain of the Afterguard William Parker, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving at the wheel on board the U.S.S. Cayuga during the capture of Forts St. Philip and Jackson, Louisiana, and New Orleans, 24 and 25 April 1862. As his ship led the advance column toward the barrier and both forts opened fire simultaneously, striking the vessel from stem to stern, Captain of the Afterguard Parker conscientiously performed his duties throughout the action in which attempts by three rebel steamers to butt and board were thwarted, and the ships driven off. Eleven gunboats were successfully engaged and the enemy garrisons forced to surrender during this battle in which the Cayuga sustained 46 hits.



- **George Parks – Capt. of the Forecastle** – George Parks was born in 1824 in Schenectady County, New York. He was still living in New York when he joined the U.S. Navy. During the Civil War, he served as Captain of the Forecastle on the *USS Richmond*, a wooden steam-powered sloop-of-war.



Left: **USS Richmond at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1863**

At the *Battle of Mobile Bay* on August 5, 1864, Parks "performed his duties with skill and courage" despite heavy fire. For this action, he was awarded the *Medal of Honor* four months later, on December 31, 1864. 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 Captain of the Forecastle George Parks, 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 Forecastle Parks performed his duties with skill and courage throughout a furious two-hour battle which resulted in the surrender of the rebel ram Tennessee and in the damaging and destruction of batteries at Fort Morgan.

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Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients – U.S. Navy (*Part 41 continued*)

- **Joachim Pease – Seaman** – Joachim Pease was born in 1842. Although he has been referred to as a native of Long Island, New York, recently unearthed records in the National Archives show that when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy on January 12, 1862, he listed his birthplace as Fogo Island - which is probably Fogo Island in the archipelago nation of Cape Verde in the Atlantic Ocean, some 350 miles off the coast of West Africa.

Pease signed on as an Ordinary Seaman for a 3-year term, earning \$14 per month [*about \$460 in 2026 dollars*]. His enlistment as a 'seaman' indicates he likely had prior sailing experience. Fogo Island was a major source of labor for whaling ships out of New Bedford, Massachusetts.

The enlistment records note that Joachim was 20 years old, stood 5 feet, 6½ inches high, with black hair and eyes, and a "negro" complexion. He enlisted at New Bedford, Massachusetts (*not from New York City, as commonly reported*). He served on the Mohican-class sloop-of-war, *USS Kearsarge*, during the Civil War.

On June 19, 1864, off the coast of Cherbourg, France, *Kearsarge* battled and defeated the Confederate sloop-of-war *CSS Alabama*. In an after-action report, Pease was recognized for his gallantry under fire.

*But among those showing still higher qualifications I am pleased to name ... also Robert Strahan (captain top), first captain of No. 1 gun; James H. Lee, sponger, and Joachim Pease (colored seaman), loader of same gun. The conduct of the latter in battle fully sustained his reputation as one of the best men in the ship.
... D. H. Sumner, Acting Master, June 20, 1864.*



For his conduct during the *Battle of Cherbourg*, Pease was awarded the *Medal of Honor*. He left the Navy at the end of his enlistment in 1865, having never received his medal. His final fate is unknown, and speculations that he may have resumed life in the merchant navy or returned to Fogo Island remain unproven.

Pease may have been the first African-born recipient of the nation's highest military honor. His *Medal of Honor* is on display in the National Museum of the United States Navy, located in the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. The medal is slated to be handed over to any possible descendants. 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 Joachim Pease, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action as Seaman on board the U.S.S. Kearsarge when she destroyed the Alabama off Cherbourg, France, 19 June 1864. Acting as loader on the No. 2 gun during this bitter engagement, Seaman Pease exhibited marked coolness and good conduct and was highly recommended by the divisional officer for gallantry under fire.

... Additional Navy Medal of Honor recipients will be portrayed in the next issue with Part 42

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Historian	Michael L. Lance, PDC	Color Bearer/Drummer	William D. Myers
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Trivia – Great Comet of 1861

The *Great Comet of 1861* became one of the most memorable celestial events of the 19th century. It appeared in April 1861 – just as the country plunged into civil war. It reached spectacular brilliance in late June and early July, its glowing tail stretching across more than half the night sky. Millions of Americans witnessed the breathtaking display.

Artistic illustration

During the uncertainty of the Civil War's opening months, the comet was far more than an astronomical wonder for many people. It was seen as a divine omen. Ministers preached sermons about its meaning, newspapers eagerly reported sightings, and both Union and Confederate citizens interpreted the celestial visitor as a sign favoring their own cause. Soldiers in camps from Virginia to Missouri gathered after dark to marvel at the brilliant spectacle, often mentioning it in letters home and in diary entries.



One fascinating feature of the comet was that the Earth actually passed through part of its tail on June 30, 1861. Although no harmful effects occurred, few people at the time understood the science behind the event, adding to the mystery surrounding its appearance. Today, historians recognize the *Great Comet of 1861* as more than an astronomical event. It became a shared experience for Americans on both sides of the conflict, symbolizing the uncertainty, hope, and fear that accompanied the nation's darkest hour.

Signature Photo – Memorial Day 2026 *(continued from page 6)*



A Musket Volley ‘By the Drum’

One of three volleys fired by the Federal Honor Guard during the *Memorial Day* ceremony at the G.A.R. lot in Glenwood Cemetery, Houston, Texas.

L-R: Drummer William Myers, PCC Michael Lance, and John Scott

Dear Ancestor

***Your tombstone stands among the rest; neglected and alone.
The name and date are chiseled out on polished, marbled stone.
It reaches out to all who care; it is too late to mourn.
You did not know that I exist; you died and I was born.***

***Yet each of us are cells of you in flesh, in blood, in bone.
Our blood contracts and beats a pulse entirely not our own.
Dear Ancestor, the place you filled one hundred years ago,
Spreads out among the ones you left who would have loved you so.***

***I wonder as you lived and loved, I wonder if you knew
That someday I would find this spot, and come to visit you.***

Author Unknown