



THE UNIONIST

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SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



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COME ALIVE**

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Cover Image: Gen. William T. Sherman and his staff during the siege of Atlanta, October 1864. Unknown Artist.

King Coffee

In the afternoon, after a morning of horror and carnage during the *Battle of Antietam*, a thoughtful act of bravery and kindness took place. That act was later memorialized on a monument at the site. It seems that a 19-year-old Commissary Sergeant took it upon himself to organize a mobile field kitchen and, with a few volunteers, managed to serve warm food and coffee to the men of the embattled *23rd Ohio Infantry*. Exposed to the fire and fury of battle, the Sergeant and his volunteers bravely delivered welcome relief to the hungry and thirsty fighting men.

The monument, located at *Antietam National Battlefield*, near Sharpsburg, Maryland, commemorates the battlefield service of William McKinley, the 25th President of the United States. During the Civil War, McKinley was the teenage Sergeant mentioned above who risked his life to bring that touch of comfort to the soldiers of the *23rd Ohio*. A panel on the front of the monument depicts him handing a cup of coffee to another soldier. Coffee was, after all, highly coveted during the Civil War.



Sgt. William McKinley



Left: McKinley monument, dedicated 1903

The text inscribed on the monument includes:

Sergeant McKinley Co. E. 23rd Ohio Vol. Infantry, while in charge of the Commissary Department, on the afternoon of the day of the Battle of Antietam, September 17, 1862, personally and without orders served hot coffee and warm food to every man in the regiment, on this spot and in doing so had to pass under fire.

Right: Panel on monument depicts Sgt. McKinley serving coffee



Future President Rutherford B. Hayes, another soldier serving with the *23rd Ohio Infantry* at Antietam, later wrote:

"Early in the afternoon, naturally enough, with the exertion required of the men, they were famished and thirsty, and to some extent broken in spirit. The commissary department of that brigade was under Sergeant McKinley's administration and personal supervision. From his hands every man in the regiment was served with hot coffee and warm meats.... He passed under fire and delivered, with his own hands, these things, so essential for the men for whom he was laboring."

The typical Civil War food ration was not very palatable – often half-rotten meat and stone-hard bread. But coffee, by contrast, tended to hold up well and was highly appreciated by the men. In the 1952 classic: *The Life of Billy Yank*, written by Bell Irvin Wiley, he wrote: *"Coffee was one of the most cherished items in the ration. The effect on morale must have been considerable. And if it cannot be said that coffee helped Billy Yank win the war, it at least made his participation in the conflict more tolerable."*

In fact, coffee had been a cherished item for a long time. It was drunk with reverence in the Middle East and Africa since the 15th century. The caffeinated beverage then spread to the Western world by the 17th century – with a

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King Coffee (continued)

coffeehouse opening in Boston as early as 1689. After the *Boston Tea Party* revolt, John Adams stated that *"tea must be universally renounced"*. That led to the rise in consumption of the next best thing – *coffee*! Even American Indians during the colonial period became partial to coffee. The Sioux called it *'kazuta sapa'* – which translates roughly to *'black medicine'*.

Before the Civil War, the primary port for the U.S. coffee trade was New Orleans – coming from suppliers in Java, Ceylon, Brazil, and Costa Rica. Ironically, many of the coffee suppliers relied on slave labor to produce the beans. After the war began, due to the Union blockade, New York became the primary port of entry for the beans. Coffee prices steadily increased during the war – from 14 cents per pound in 1861, to as high as 42 cents by 1865. In the South, coffee prices skyrocketed to \$5 per pound - and sometimes higher.

President Andrew Jackson added coffee to the official military food ration in 1832. At the outbreak of the Civil War, the Union food ration included 12 ounces of pork or bacon, one pound and 4 ounces of salt or fresh beef, flour or bread, corn, beans or peas – *and coffee*. Coffee beans were usually distributed whole and roasted, but sometimes green beans were dispensed. By 1864, the federal government was purchasing 40 million pounds of coffee beans annually. For a brief time during the war, canned instant coffee was also distributed, but that product proved unpopular and was quickly discontinued. It was known as *'essence of coffee'* – a coffee extract mixed with milk and sugar.

To prepare their coffee, the soldiers first roasted the beans if they were green. Then they used a rock or a rifle butt to grind them for brewing. By the end of the war, the stocks of some Sharps carbines had been modified to include a hand-cranked grinder for grain or coffee!



Sharps carbine stock with grinder

The grounds were then mixed with water in a pot and brought to a boil over a fire. The resulting brew was then either strained through a piece of cloth, or the grounds were simply allowed to settle to the bottom of their cups.

Coffee was usually served black and *"strong enough to float an iron wedge"*. Sugar was added if available. One technique often used was to mix sugar evenly with the beans *before* brewing – so that every cup was sweetened.

"Whatever words of condemnation or criticism may have been bestowed on other government rations, there was but one opinion of the coffee that was served out, and that was of unqualified acceptance." wrote Union veteran John D. Billings in his 1888 classic, *Hard Tack and Coffee*.

The stimulating effect of coffee was treasured by the troops. Billings' tome goes on to include: *"What a Godsend it seemed to us at times! How often after being completely jaded by a night march – and this was an experience common to thousands, - have I had a wash, if there was water to be had, made and drunk my pint or so of coffee and felt as fresh and invigorated as if just arisen from a night's sound sleep!"*

Of course, the quality of the coffee served depended on who was brewing it. One Irish soldier reportedly declared that the coffee prepared by his company cooks in large pots was indistinguishable from the company soup. He supposedly despised it so much that he preferred to drink *"Adam's Ale instead,"* referring to water – the only drink available to Adam in the Garden of Eden.

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King Coffee (continued)

In his Civil War chronical entitled *Corporal Si Klegg and His Pard*, Lt. Col. Wilbur Hinman of the 65th Ohio Infantry wrote: *"it is safe to say that if forced to strike one [item] from the bill of fare, not one in a hundred would have marked out coffee. Ifhardtack or bacon ran short, it could be eked out with odds and ends picked up by foraging, but there was nothing to take the place of coffee."*

But the Confederate soldier had no choice but to find a substitute – because the coffee trade in the South basically dried up due to the blockade. Substitutes were usually weak approximations. One oral history relates how sweet potatoes were used to make 'coffee'.

"We cut them up and dried them and boiled them, and drank this for coffee."

Others brewed concoctions made from peanuts, peas, dried fruit, acorns, corn, rye, or chicory. Another recipe called for cutting the roots of dandelions into small pieces, roasting them until crisp, and grinding them up! If available, grounds from *real* coffee beans were mixed with the substitutes – enhancing the supply.

In 1861, a recipe for beet coffee was sent to the newspaper in Augusta, Georgia, suggesting:

"take the common garden beet, wash it clean, cut it up into small pieces, twice the size of a grain of coffee; put into the coffee toaster or oven, and roast as you do your coffee – perfectly brown. When sufficiently dry and hard, grind it in a clean mill, and take half a common sized coffee cup of the grounds, and boil with one gallon water. Then settle with an egg, and send to the table, hot. Sweeten with very little sugar, and add good cream or milk. [It] can be drank by children, with impunity, and will not (in my judgement) either impair sight or nerves. Try it, as an antidote to the blockade"

Whether it was drunk by the common soldier or a U.S. president, coffee was considered a valued commodity and widely consumed throughout the Civil War.

In 1887, Robert Todd Lincoln received an unexpected gift from Capt. D. W. Taylor. It was a coffee cup. Taylor said the cup had come to him through a White House servant who had seen President Lincoln place the cup on a windowsill on April 14, 1865 – just before leaving for Ford's Theater. The servant had saved the cup as a souvenir. Today, that cup (pictured below) is housed at the Smithsonian Institution



President Lincoln's last cup of coffee?

President Abraham Lincoln

It may be supposed that the last thing our revered war-time President ever drank – was *King Coffee!*

... Submitted by Michael L. Lance, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2

Words From the Front

A Recount of the Battle of Gaines' Mill

Decimus et Ultimus Barziza was born in Williamsburg, Virginia in 1838. After graduating from college, he migrated to Texas to study law, eventually becoming an attorney there. During the first year of the Civil War, Barziza enlisted in the 4th Texas Infantry, a Confederate unit, and served under Louis Wigfall and John Bell Hood.



Barziza was soon elected as 1st Lieutenant of Co. C. During his time in service, he experienced hard combat and was twice wounded. He became a POW during the *Battle of Gettysburg*, escaped captivity by jumping from a moving train in the middle of the night, walked to Upper Canada to hook up with Confederate sympathizers, and eventually made his way to North Carolina by way of Nova Scotia and Bermuda – culminating in a harrowing dash through the Union Blockade.

After the war, Barziza returned to Texas and resumed his law practice and served two terms in the Texas legislature. Barziza also wrote his memoirs which chronicled the adventures of his captivity and life as a fugitive. In early 1882, Barziza died in Houston at the relatively young age of 43. Barziza Street, in the Houston neighborhood of Eastwood, is named for him.

On August 1, 1862, while in camp with the 4th Texas Infantry, near Richmond, Virginia, Lt. Barziza penned the following lengthy letter to a friend at home. In it, he details his recent traumatic combat experience during the battle of *Gaines Mill*, Virginia. The letter was published anonymously in August 1862 in Richmond's *Daily Whig* and again in April 1865 in *The Houston Tri-Weekly*.

"Dear _____,

I have not had, or rather I have not taken the opportunity to write you any of the details of the late battles. A few days before they commenced, our Division consisting of Gen. Whiting's Brigade, Gen. Hood's Texas Brigade, Hampton Legion Infantry, and Reilley's Battery, was ordered to Staunton, for the ostensible purpose of assisting Jackson in the Valley; but in two days we were started straight back, down towards the great army of McClellan.

We arrived at Ashland on the evening of the 25th June. The next morning we started early, bearing towards the rear and right flank of the enemy's lines. About 12 o'clock, our advance scouts drove in some cavalry pickets. Moving on, about 4 o'clock, we encountered a small force, who soon fled and burnt a bridge over a small creek with deep banks, sufficient to retard the movements of [our] artillery.

One company from our Regiment, the 4th Texas, was detailed to construct a bridge, while the infantry waded the creek and occupied the heights beyond. In less than an hour, a good bridge made of fence rails was finished, the road cleared out, and our artillery came thundering over.

All this time we could hear the severe and heavy fighting going on at or near Mechanicsville. The great battle, or rather, the series of great battles, had fairly opened. About dark, we formed junction with General Ewell. There was sharp skirmishing in front of us long after dark. We lay in line of battle and slept on our arms, knowing that the next day we ourselves would try the fiery ordeal of battle. Yet we were all cheerful and confident, and no one spoke or even thought of anything but victory. We slept soundly, for we were fatigued; the last sound falling upon our ear being the boom of a distant cannon; but it was the last living sleep many a brave fellow every enjoyed.

We were on the move early next morning. The fighting was still going on to our right. The enemy had, it seems, evacuated Mechanicsville during the night, and the two Hills [A.P. and D.H.] and Longstreet were pressing upon his retreating columns. We met, during the morning, hundreds of prisoners, who appeared glad that their fighting was over. Camps deserted and stores abandoned showed the hasty and precipitate movement of the enemy.

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Words From the Front **Battle of Gaines' Mill (continued)**

We were told that the Hills and Longstreet were driving him down the Chickahominy. Slowly we marched during the morning towards the firing.

The enemy had been retreating all the morning, but about 12 or 1 o'clock, he suddenly halted, turned about and offered battle. Here it was discovered that he had taken up a well-protected and admirably chosen position, which seemed to be fixed, ready, in waiting for him. Powerful batteries in commanding position, supported by upwards of 45,000 infantry, who were splendidly protected by ingenious breastworks, here frowned down on the advancing columns of the Confederates; and then opened one of the dearest and bloodiest battles on record – that of Gaines' Mills or Gaines' Farm. He had been falling back all day to occupy this position, calculating to defeat us here, and then next throw his left into Richmond.

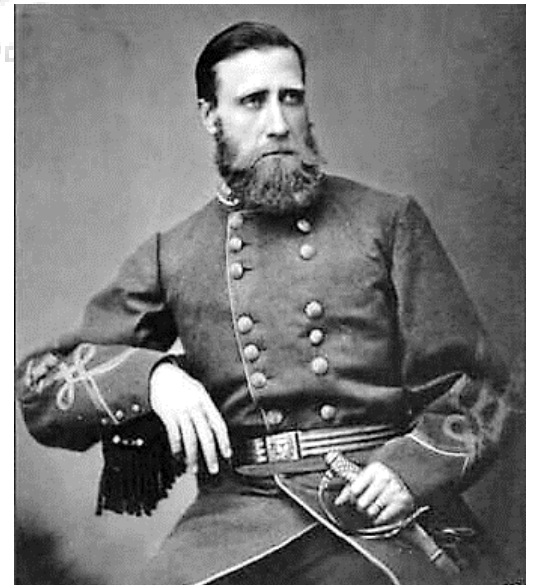
About 2 o'clock, we could hear the roar of artillery and rattle of musketry – incessant, fierce and continuous. Our faces were set in the direction of the firing. As we approached nearer, the storm of battle was borne to our ears with terrible distinctness. We moved on. Closer and closer we came to the dreadful scene of the strife. Now we are in range of their artillery, though they do not see us. Shells, bursting above, around, before and behind us, scattering their blazing fragments and sulfurous contents, remind me that we are in the tide of battle.

Moving slowly along, now well within range of the batteries, a poor fellow's head is smashed right by me, and his brains scattered on his comrades near him. We move on in a run, over ditches and marches, swamps and fences, through open fields and thick woods, up and down hills – double quicking to the field of carnage, the harvest of death. Courier after courier arrives, urging us to hurry – our forces were hard pressed.

Gen. Lee meets us and hurries us on, as if the fate of mankind depended upon our coming. We get in striking distance of the bullets – are arranged in the order we are to go into battle. In the meantime, the tempest of the strife seemed to have been pouring out its utmost fury. The loud crashing sound of artillery, the peculiar roll of musketry, mingled with half-drowned words of command or the cries of pain of some wounded soldier borne by on a bloody litter, filled the air with their terrific sounds.

Gen. Hood and Col. Marshall conduct our Regiment; on we go in a run – the fight thickens – the noise deafens – on we go over a deep branch, meeting regiments and thousands of frightened stragglers leaving the field, some of them exclaimed as they passed us – “I wish you'd take that battery.” I never dreamed of such confusion; our ranks were broken time and again by the fleeing Confederates; really the tide of battle seemed to have been rushing madly against us. Men deserted their colors, Colonels lost their commands, and God only knows how far off were a rout and panic.

Suddenly we (4th Texas Regiment) faced to the front, advanced in a run up the hill, and as we reached the brow were welcomed with a storm of grape and canister from the opposite hill side, while their two lines of infantry, protected by their works, and posted on the side of the hill, upon the top of which was placed their battery, poured deadly and staggering volleys full in our faces. Here fell our Colonel John Marshall, and with him, nearly half of his regiment. On the brow of this hill the dead bodies of our Confederate soldiers lay in numbers. They who had gone in at this point before us, and had been repulsed, stopped on this hill to fire, and were mowed down like grass and compelled to retire. It was now past 5 o'clock.



Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood

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Words From the Front **Battle of Gaines' Mill** (continued)

When we got to the brow of the hill, instead of halting, we rushed down it, yelling, and madly plunged right into the deep branch of water at the base of the hill. Dashing up the steep bank, being within thirty yards of the enemy's works, we flew towards the breastworks, cleared them, and slaughtered the retreating devils as they scampered up the hill towards their battery. There, a brave fellow on horseback with his hat on his sword, tried to rally them. But they scarcely had time, even if they had been so disposed, for, leaping over the works, we dashed up the hill, driving them before us and capturing the battery.



“Texas Fury” by Dan Nance. Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood leads the charge of his Texas Brigade at Gaines Mill.

Thus the lines of the enemy were pierced and broken, and from that moment commenced the victory with which our arms were blessed. As we came down the first hill, Lieut. Col. Warwick picked up a Confederate flag, which some regiment had abandoned, and fell with a mortal wound – the flag in hand; he supposed it was our own; but right gallantly was ours borne through the fight by our brave Color Sergeant Francis, struck as it was by nine balls. Here also Major Key fell.

After capturing this battery, we saw there was yet work ahead. We were now in an open field; the 18th Georgia here moved up on our right; a heavy thirty-two-pound battery straight ahead now opened on us with terrible effect, while another off to the right reminded us that we had just commenced the battle.

On we go, leaving the battery we had just taken to be held by a small party, exposed to a galling fire from the battery in front, from that on the right and from swarms of broken infantry all on our left and rear. Yet, on we go, with not a field officer to lead us, two thirds of the Company officers and half the men already down – yelling, shouting, firing, running straight up to the death-dealing machines before us, everyone resolved to capture them and rout the enemy.

When we came within 800 yards of this battery, I found myself with some others, in a lane, formed by a fence and barn, here we halted a few seconds to blow. I could plainly see the gunners at work; down they would

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Words From the Front **Battle of Gaines' Mill** (continued)

drive the horrid grape – a long, blasting flame issued from the pieces, and then crushing through the fence and barn, shattering rails and weather-boarding came the terrible missiles with merciless fury. Again we start off.

When we arrived within about 70 yards of the battery, we stopped for a moment behind a very slight mound where an old fence had stood. The smoke had now settled down upon the field in thick curtains, rolling about like some half solid substance; the dust was suffocating. We could see nothing but the red blaze of the cannon, and hear nothing but its roar and the hurtling and whizzing of the missiles.

Suddenly the word is passed down the line, "Cavalry," and down come horses and riders with sabers swung over their heads, charging like an avalanche upon our scattered lines; they were met by volleys of lead, and fixed bayonets in the hands of resolute men, and in less time than I take to write it, a squadron of U.S. Regular Cavalry was routed and destroyed. Horses without riders, or sometimes with a wounded or dead master dangling from the stirrups, plunged wildly and fearfully over the plain, trampling over dead and dying; presenting altogether one of the most sublime, and at the same time fearful, pictures that any man can conceive of without being an eye-witness.



5th US Cavalry Charge at the Battle of Gaines Mill

The [Union] Cavalry routed, on we rush with a yell, drive the gunners off or kill them, and our battle flag waves over the battery. Still, the work was not finished; the enemy had rallied behind some houses in front and in the garden, and kept up a sharp fire; we drove ahead, forced them to leave the houses, whipped them out of the garden and put them to utter rout. Our own Regiment, now a mere handful and led by Captain Townsend, still rushed on towards the river, until ordered back for fear of being surrounded. It was by this time getting dark. Prisoners gave themselves up in numbers. A [Federal] Battalion ran into the 5th Texas Regiment and surrendered.

We gathered the little squad of our Regiment that was left, formed line of battle, and prepared to sleep on the battlefield with the dead and dying. As the night came on and quiet rested on the battlefield, the groans of the wounded and their cries for water resounded through the night air; while glimmering lights scattered far and wide over the field told of the eager search for some brother, son, or friend, or the base and heartless robbing of the dead by contemptible and merciless demons dressed up like soldiers. Finally, overpowered by fatigue we lie down on the ground and are wrapt in deep sleep.

The next morning, we rose early. I will not attempt to describe the appearance of the field. I could write twenty pages and yet give you no adequate idea of it. The ground was strewn with dead and dying men and horses, with broken guns and abandoned cartridge boxes, knapsacks and blankets, etc.

Thus ended the decisive battle of the 27th, which broke the right wing of the enemy and consequently causes his whole vast line to give way. Dearly did the Texas Brigade sustain the reputation of the State. And of them, the 4th Texas has won immortal honor. To it is accorded, by the official reports of our Generals, the high honor of being the first troops in the battle of Gaines' Mill to break the lines of McClellan's chosen host. I saw men leap over the bodies of the commanders and officers and rush head-long to the enemy. Texas need not feel ashamed of the deeds of her sons in the Virginia army; Friday's fight has bound the brows of the gallant State with unfading laurels, I am yours, et."

... Source of letter: Texas Need Not Feel Ashamed, by Drew Gruber, Civil War Times, Jun 2013, pgs. 52-57

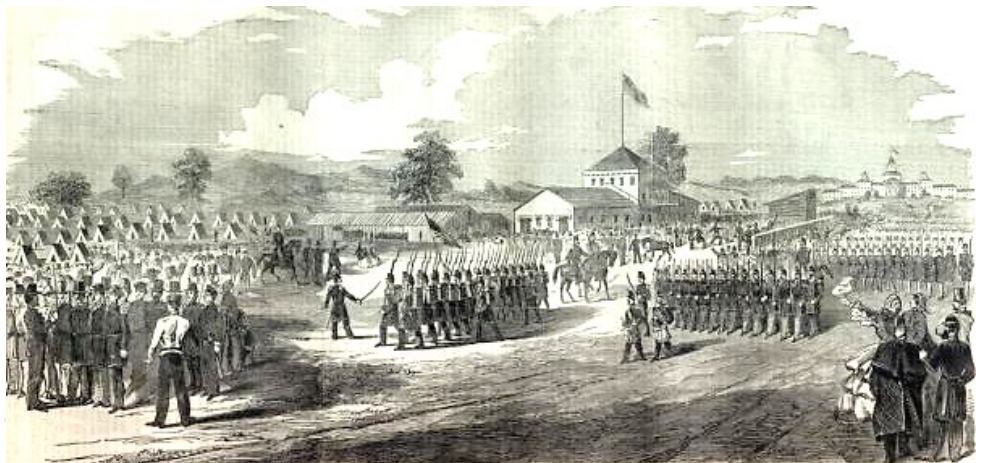
Ancestor Profile – Cpl. John S. Darling

John S. Darling was born October 1, 1843 in Blacklog Valley, Juniata County, Pennsylvania. He was the first of six sons born to Thomas J. and Jane Purvis Darling. When the Civil War began in 1861, John was 17 years old, single and still living at home with his parents. He was employed as a laborer in an unspecified business.

On October 22, 1862, John Darling and his father, being members of the existing Pennsylvania militia, joined for duty with *Co. F, 171st Pennsylvania Infantry*. The 171st was comprised of several units of the Pennsylvania drafted militia. Thomas and John were enrolled for 9 months service and, on November 2, 1862, were mustered-in at Camp Curtin, near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Camp Curtin, ca. 1861

After a month of training, the unit was assigned to *Spinola's Brigade, VII Corps, Department of Virginia* and transported to New Berne, North Carolina. From this point, the 171st participated in various expeditions along the North Carolina coast. On April 9, 1863, they saw action in a skirmish at Blount's Creek, NC.



The unit was then ordered to Fortress Monroe, Virginia, and upon arrival on June 20, 1863, took part in Dix's Peninsula Campaign from July 1 to July 7, 1863. Following the July 11-24, 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, they were then ordered to Harper's Ferry where they participated in the pursuit of Lee's *Army of Northern Virginia*.

On August 2, 1863, the 171st was ordered to Harrisburg, PA and mustered out of service by company between August 6 and August 8. John's father, Thomas Darling, was present at muster-out, but John was not. According to his service record, he became ill on or about July 8, 1863 at Harper's Ferry and had been hospitalized in Washington, DC.

After returning home to Juniata County, John either became bored with civilian life, or was stirred by some great patriotic feeling – or perhaps a combination of the two. For reasons never documented, he enlisted in the *49th Pennsylvania Infantry* at Harrisburg on March 18, 1864. He was mustered-in at Camp Curtin on April 4th with veteran status, which earned him a bounty of \$60. He was assigned to the new *Co. G* and became part of the great *Army of the Potomac's VI Corps, First Division, Third Brigade*. According to his service record John, at age 20, stood 5 foot 1 inch tall, had a dark complexion, dark hair, and hazel eyes.

What those hazel eyes saw over the next year probably tested every ounce of his courage and being - and likely defined him as a man. If the \$60 bounty was his reason for re-enlistment, at some point, John probably questioned the wisdom of what he had done. As part of the *VI Corps*, John saw horrific fighting and carnage all during Grant's Overland Campaign – including The Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, actions along the North Anna River and the assaults at Cold Harbor, Virginia.

By June 16, 1864, John Darling was in the trenches around Petersburg, where his unit took part in the initial assault on Petersburg 2 days later, and engagements at Jerusalem Plank Road and along the Weldon Railroad. When the *VI Corps* was temporarily assigned to Gen. Sheridan to take part in the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864, John stayed behind in Virginia. He had been assigned ambulance guard duty at City Point. He remained at City Point until the *VI Corps* returned to Petersburg in October or November 1864. On October 1, 1864, John had celebrated his 21st birthday.

On March 7, 1865, John was promoted to the rank of Corporal. Additionally, his pension records indicate that “on or about the middle of March 1865 while on review”, John was “stricken down with sunstroke in camp near Petersburg,

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Ancestor Profile – Cpl. John S. Darling (continued)



Virginia". It does not appear that he was hospitalized at any point, nor was he reported absent from duty.

Left: Petersburg trenches

Back in the trenches with the 49th, his unit took part in the siege operations around Petersburg and battles at Dabney's Mill,

Hatcher's Run, as well as the final assault on and capture of Petersburg on April 2, 1865. They further took part in the pursuit of what was left of Lee's *Army of Northern Virginia* and engaged those remnants at Sailor's Creek on April 6, 1865.

Then, from April 6 to April 12, the *VI Corps* was assigned to escort Confederate prisoners from Sailor's Creek to Richmond. Thus, the units who had fought so valiantly during the campaign were not present for the final surrender of Lee's Army at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865.

From Richmond, they returned to Petersburg - and from April 23 to April 29, 1865, participated in the expedition to Danville, Virginia where they stood ready to support and join Sherman's forces in North Carolina if needed - they were never needed for that purpose. They then moved to Washington, DC in late May where they participated in the *VI Corps Grand Review* on June 8, 1865. The *49th Pennsylvania* mustered-out of federal service at Hall's Hill, Virginia on July 15, 1865.

After witnessing and surviving some of the most horrific fighting of the war, John returned home to Juniata County, Pennsylvania. He married Arabella L. Emory on May 29, 1866. She was the daughter of John and Martha Emory of adjacent Perry County, Pennsylvania. Whether John and Arabella knew each other before the war is not clear. Shortly after their marriage, the entire Darling family - John and Arabella, John's parents and all 5 brothers relocated to Venango County in Northeast Pennsylvania and settled in Cornplanter Township, near Oil City. The entire family became heavily involved in the booming oil business, serving as pumpers, engineers and producers.

John S. Darling "died Saturday morning, March 18, 1916 at his home near East Waterford, Perry County, Pennsylvania; death being due to heart trouble and the infirmities of old age". A lengthy obituary appeared in the *Butler County Citizen* on March 21, 1916 - and concluded with the following words:

"During the Civil War, he enlisted in the Army and was engaged in very active service until the close of the war, having taken part in many of the severest battles fought between the North and the South. Mr. Darling was a man among men. A man who could always be relied upon, and a man whose word was as good as gold. A man who will be missed in the neighborhood where he lived and where he took an active interest in the welfare of the community".

John and Arabella Darling are buried side-by-side in East Waterford Cemetery in East Waterford, Pennsylvania.

... Submitted by Scott D. Shuster, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp, Houston, Texas #2, Jan 2003

Weapons of War

The Austrian “Lorenz” Rifle

When Pvt. John Darling enlisted with *Co. G* of the *49th Pennsylvania Regiment* (Drafted Militia) in March 1864, he was issued, or brought with him, an imported model 1854 Austrian “Lorenz” rifle. According to Ordnance records for the first quarter of 1864, *Co. G* was in possession of 82 “Rifled Muskets, Austrian, quadrangular bayonet. Calibre .54 and .55.” By that time, most other Union infantrymen were equipped with 1861 and 1863 model Springfields in .58 caliber or imported 1853 Pattern Enfields in .577 caliber. But the *49th Pennsylvania* still carried the .54 cal. Lorenz into the carnage known as the *Battles of the Wilderness* and *Spotsylvania Courthouse*.



M1854 Infanteriegewehr (infantry rifle) - the Austrian “Lorenz”

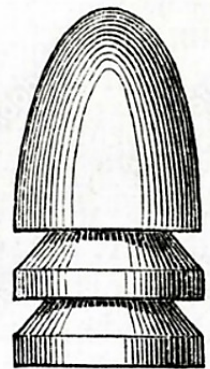
The Austrian “Lorenz”, or *M1854 Infanteriegewehr* (infantry rifle), was the third most widely used rifle during the American Civil War. The Union recorded purchases of 226,924 and the Confederacy bought as many as 100,000. Confederate-bought Lorenz rifles saw heavy use in the *Army of Mississippi* in 1863–64, with many of them being issued to re-equip regiments captured at the siege of Vicksburg and later exchanged. On the Union side, continental European firearms were mostly distributed to the Western armies—as such, the Lorenz Rifle was relatively uncommon in the *Army of the Potomac* (although two regiments of the famous *Iron Brigade* and the *49th Pennsylvania* regiment carried them), but heavily used by the *Army of the Cumberland* and *Army of the Tennessee*.

The quality of Lorenz rifles during the Civil War was inconsistent. Some were considered to be of the finest quality (particularly ones from the Vienna Arsenal) and were sometimes praised as being superior to the Enfield; others, especially those in later purchases from private contractors, were described as horrible in both design and condition. Many of these poorer-quality weapons were swapped out on the battlefield for the British Enfield or the American Springfield rifle-muskets whenever these were available. A fair number of Lorenz rifles had also been used in the 1859 conflict with France and were worn and not in pristine condition when they reached the United States.

Lorenz rifles in the Civil War were generally used with .54 caliber cartridges designed for the Model 1841 “Mississippi” rifle. These differed from the cartridges manufactured in Austria and may have contributed to the unreliability of the weapons. In the Austrian service, the Lorenz originally utilized the Wilkinson-type *Kompressivkugel*, or “compression bullet,” that was known for great accuracy as well as simplicity of manufacture. The 28-grain .539-caliber bullet was paper patched up to a diameter of about .545-inch and lubricated with mutton tallow. It had a higher muzzle velocity and flatter trajectory than the .58-caliber Springfield and .577-caliber Enfield Minié balls that had a hollow base and relied on expansion rather than compression to catch the rifling.

Right: **Lorenz flat-based compression bullet**

Many of the Lorenz rifles were bored out to .58 caliber to accommodate standard Springfield rifle ammunition. The sights on the rifle also were not measured in the English measuring units used in the United States but in paces (Schritt)—as such, this made it difficult for soldiers to aim and fire them accurately without proper training. Nonetheless, with the correct ammunition and in the trained hands of Pvt. Darling, the “Austrian” was a superbly accurate rifle, superior even to the Springfield and Enfield due to its higher muzzle velocity and flatter bullet trajectory.



**Fig. 13. Lorenz’
Stauchgeschöß.**

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Weapons of War

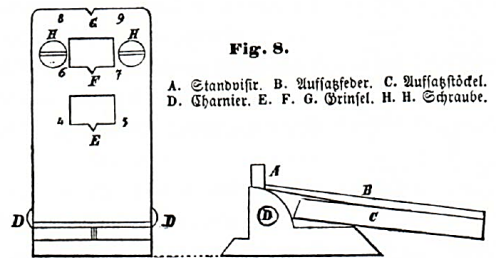
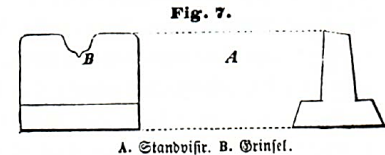
The Austrian "Lorenz" Rifle (continued)

WEAPON PROFILE

- **Type:** Rifled percussion muzzleloader
- **In service with:**
 - Austrian Army
 - Union Army (226,924 units)
 - Confederate Army (~100,000 units)
- **In service from:** 1855 to 1867
- **Purpose:** Infantry and Light Infantry battle rifles
- **Inventor:** Lt. Joseph Lorenz (Austrian Army)

MANUFACTURING

- **Manufacturers:** Vienna Arsenal, multiple third-party contractors
- **Action:** Percussion lock
- **Stock:** Beech wood with check rise
- **Sights:** Block or Flip up rear sights graduated from 300 to 900 paces (246 to 900)
- **Metal Finish:** "in the white"
- **Purchase price in 1861:** ~\$16 Infantry rifle, ~\$14 Jägerstutzen
- **Total number produced:** 688,000
- **Variants:** 3-band Infantry rifle, 2-band Jägerstutzen



Block V-notch (Fig.7) and Flip-up (Fig.8) sights of Lorenz Rifles

SPECIFICATIONS

- **Bore diameter:** .547 cal. (13.9 mm) also rebored to .58 cal. in Union arsenals
- **Barrel length:** 37.5 inches
- **Overall Length:** 52.6 inches
- **Total weight:** 9.4 lbs.
- **Rifling type:** 4 grooves, right hand gain twist, 1 turn in 78"
- **Bayonet type:** quadrangle socket

AMMUNITION

- **Type:** Paper cartridge containing bullet and powder charge
- **Standard powder charge:** 55 grain fine-grade black powder
- **Bullet weight and type:** 28 grain compression lead conical – paper patched .539 cal. – tallow lubed



Lorenz bullet showing groove compression

PERFORMANCE

- **Rate of Fire:** 1-3 round per minute
- **Muzzle Velocity:** 1,224 ft./sec.
- **Effective Range:** 250 yards
- **Maximum Range:** 750 yards

... submitted by Daniel B. Purreau, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2

Gen. James J. Byrne Camp #1 - Fort Worth

The *Gen. James J. Byrne Camp* of Fort Worth currently holds monthly meetings online via Zoom. The Camp Commander is Dr. Paul L. Kendall. The Camp is named after General James J. Byrne, a U.S. army officer who was born in Ireland and moved to New York at an early age. Byrne was brevetted to Brig. Gen. for gallantry at the battle of *Pleasant Hill* - and to Maj. Gen. for his conduct at the battles of *Moore's Plantation* and *Yellow Bayou*. According to the *Fort Worth Democrat*, Byrne was the youngest general in the U.S. Army. He was mustered-out of service on May 13, 1866.

Early in July 1880, Byrne left Fort Worth for El Paso with a party of 15 men, guided by the notorious Pat Doolan, to survey railroad lands in the Guadalupe Mountains. On August 2, 1880, he learned that Apache chief Victorio had once again crossed into the Big Bend region from Mexico and was attacking targets of opportunity. Due to "either honor or self-respect," Byrne pushed on towards the Guadalupe Mountains anyway.

On August 10, Byrne was traveling in a stagecoach driven by 17-year-old Charles D. West. The coach was attacked by Chief Victorio's band about 9 miles east of Fort Quitman, and although West managed to turn it around and start back for the shelter of the fort, two of the Indians overtook the coach and fired into it, wounding Byrne first in the hip and then in the small of the back. According to newspaper report, Byrne was unarmed, and West's Winchester rifle had only two cartridges. No doctor was nearer than El Paso. Byrne died of gangrene on August 14, 1880. "I never saw a man die braver," said West.

Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp #5 - Shreveport

The *Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp* was formed in 2018 in Shreveport, Louisiana - and is part of the *Department of Texas with Louisiana, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*. The Camp Commander is John A. Prime.

The Camp is named after Ohio-born Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey, who was considered the 'savior' of the Union Army under Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Banks, who commanded during the ill-fated Red River Campaign. The progress of the federal fleet had been stymied by low water on the Red River. This was likely due to the Confederate forces at Shreveport destroying a dam at Tones Bayou, which diverted the waters of the Red River into Bayou Pierre, a tributary west of the Red. The falling waters had left the Red River impassable at Alexandria, where rocks and ancient geological uplifting created rapids. Bailey convinced Gen. Banks and Adm. Porter that a wing dam would allow the water to pool and allow the fleet to escape. Using sailors and the idle soldiers to fell trees and build the dam, the fleet was saved - troops who would prove invaluable in the capture of Atlanta and actions in other Southern states later in 1864 and 1865, lived to fight another day. Bailey was dubbed by the press as "the Hero of the Red River."

Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp #18 - Dallas

The *Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp* of Dallas meets on the third Tuesday of each month at *Heritage Farmstead Museum* in Plano, Texas. The Camp Commander is David M. Rediger. The *Ellsworth Camp* is named after Col. Elmer Ephraim Ellsworth (*b. 1837 - d. 1861*) of New York, who was known as the first conspicuous casualty of the Civil War.

On May 24, 1861, the day after Virginia seceded, Col. Ellsworth led his men uncontested down the streets of Alexandria, Virginia. He ordered some of his men to take the railroad station while he and a few other soldiers went to secure the telegraph office. While doing this, Ellsworth noticed a Confederate flag flying above the Marshall House Inn. He and four others quickly went up the stairs inside the inn. Ellsworth cut down the flag and was on the way down the stairs when the owner, James W. Jackson, killed him with a shotgun blast to the chest. Corporal Francis Brownell then immediately killed the innkeeper. Brownell was later awarded a Medal of Honor for his actions. President Lincoln was deeply saddened by his friend's death and ordered an honor guard to bring Ellsworth's body to the White House - where it lay in state on May 25, 1861. Ellsworth was then taken to City Hall in New York City, where thousands of Union supporters came to see the first man to fall for the Union cause.

Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 – Houston

Veterans Day - Nov 11, 2021 – Houston, Texas

At 10:00 a.m. on Veterans Day, the city of Houston, Texas paid tribute to military men and women at the annual *Houston Salutes American Heroes Veterans Day Celebration*. The official ceremonies were followed by the traditional parade through downtown Houston. The celebration honored the brave men and women who fought and sacrificed for our liberty and freedom. Houston reportedly has the second largest veteran population in the country - with more than 250,000 veterans living in the area.

City Hall in Houston

The event officially began on the steps of Houston's City Hall. Many veterans were in attendance, along with a number of politicians and civic leaders. Several of the politicians greeted the crowd and gave speeches, including Houston mayor Sylvester Turner, Senator Ted Cruz, and Representative Sheila Jackson Lee. A moment of silence was observed during the program to commemorate the 101st anniversary of the signing of the *Armistice* agreement which ended World War I on the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.



Some of the earliest arrivals on the scene at City Hall this day were dressed in Civil War uniforms. They carried black powder muskets, haversacks, and canteens. An impressive Honor guard of twelve riflemen was soon formed in the grassy area beside the Hermann Square Reflection Pond. The unit consisted of elements of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN, Camp 2* and *Co. A, 13th Regt. U.S. Infantry/Texas Rifles*. They were expertly commanded by Captain Don Tucker of the *Texas Rifles*. Two stacks of muskets were set up in the grass to be ready for the traditional 3-volley rifle salute.

On cue, Captain Tucker commanded the unit through the 3 volleys – the first one with double-charged weapons. The



resulting blast reverberated through the tall downtown buildings - and immediately captured the full attention of all spectators! The shock of the shot must have also rattled the very skilled military bugler a little, because he began sounding *Taps* as the unit was re-loading to fire volley number two! Instead of firing the second round, the Honor Guard came to *PRESENT ARMS* until *Taps* was finished. Then, two more 'normal' volleys were fired in precise unison.

Above L-R: **Howard Rose**, spectator, **Steve Corey**, **John Scott**, **Daniel B. Poureau**, **Joey Almia**, **Michael D. Rappe**, **Roy Eanes**, and **Michael L. Lance**. Unit members not pictured include: **Rion Braddock**, **Curtis Lewis**, **Kerry Manning**, and **Capt. Don Tucker**.

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Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 **Veterans Day 2021** *(continued)*

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the slightly embarrassed bugler approached the Honor Guard to apologize for his error. However, since the bugler performed *Taps* so well, and since the musket volleys were so impressive, the spectators probably thought everything happened exactly to plan! *All well and good!*

The crowd then mostly dispersed to secure positions along the parade route – which would begin about 11:30 a.m. Meanwhile, many organizations and marching units were queuing up at designated parade staging areas. The Federal Honor Guard first obtained the U.S. Colors and the Regimental Flag from one of their parked vehicles, then advanced a few blocks to ease into their #17 parade slot.

Two of the riflemen, Steve Corey and John Scott of the 13th U.S. Infantry – now sans rifles – would carry the Colors in the parade. At the staging area, the unit reassembled into two ranks – six men in the front rank, and four men in the rear rank – then waited for the parade to begin.



Rear Rank L-R: Michael Lance (not pictured), Joey Almia, Michael D. Rappe, and Daniel B. Pourreau *Front Rank L-R: Lewis Curtis, Roy Eanes, Steve Corey, John Scott, (and not pictured) Rion Braddock and Howard Rose. Commanded from the front by Captain Don Tucker (also not shown)*

The Honor Guard marched tightly, shoulder-to-shoulder, nicely executing ‘wheel’ turns at street corners. Their weapons were alternately carried at *SHOULDER ARMS*, *RIGHT SHOULDER SHIFT*, or *SUPPORT ARMS*, as commanded by Captain Tucker.

As the unit passed before the parade reviewing stand near the end of the route, the Regimental flag was dipped in salute. The riflemen came smartly to *PRESENT ARMS* and turned their heads to face the stand as they marched past. The spectators along the parade route seemed to appreciate the display of the Honor Guard. They cheered, saluted, and waved small U.S. flags as the unit marched past.

... Report submitted by Michael L. Lance, Camp Cmdr.

Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 - Houston

Voices of South Texas – 6 Nov 2021 – Corpus Christi, TX

November 6, 2021 was a pleasantly cool sunny day, perfect for a leisurely drive from Houston to Corpus Christi, Texas. The destination was the historic Old Bayview Cemetery near downtown Corpus Christi. Dating from 1845, Old Bayview is the oldest federal military cemetery in Texas - and is the final resting place of many prominent area citizens. Veterans of many wars, including the War of 1812, the Texas War for Independence, the Mexican War, Indian campaigns, the Civil War, and other later conflicts are buried on the grounds. On this day, some of those veterans and memorable citizens seemed to come to life during the 12th annual *Voices of South Texas* event!

Old Bayview Cemetery Sign

John Vander Meulen and Michael Lance arrived on the scene to find it alive with many visitors – giving the burial grounds a festive atmosphere. Reenactors dressed in period-correct outfits were giving interesting oral presentations to small gaggles of attentive onlookers near many of the graves. Each presenter strived to accurately portray the notable person buried at his/her post, relating stories and circumstances of long-ago lives.



L-R: Thor Chester, Daniel Poureau, Steven Coons, Judy Turner-Chester, Michael Lance, and John Vander Meulen

As mentioned above, among the cemetery's permanent residents are several veterans of the Civil War. Members of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN Camp 2* have attended this event for the last several years to honor one of those heroes each time. This year, the focus was on the grave of Cpl. Andrew W. Hyndman, who served with *Co. J, 10th U.S. Infantry*.

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Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 - Houston

Voices of South Texas (Continued)

Besides John Vander Meulen and Michael Lance, the other members of the Camp who attended the event were Thor Chester, Steven Coons, Daniel Pourreau, Frank 'Nick' Nichols, and Robert Yeager. Judy Turner-Chester of the *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1* also attended to serve as display and ceremony script coordinator. Brother Pourreau and Michael Lance were dressed in Civil War uniforms and carried muskets. Brother Nichols provided the photos included in this report, and Brother Yeager, wearing a Confederate uniform, demonstrated and fired a cannon.

Our graveside ceremony was to take place later in the morning – immediately after the cannon demonstration. In the meantime, we had plenty of time to wander throughout the cemetery to enjoy the presentations given by the varied assortment of reenactors. Interesting conversations with inquisitive event visitors was also a treat.



Daniel Pourreau with a lady reenactor



Michael Lance with prospective recruit

The Captain of the Confederate cannon was our own Robert Yeager. As usual, a large crowd of spectators gathered to hear him give a rousing demonstration about the operations of the big gun. The crowd was awed by several volleys - which shook the ground!

After the first cannon shot, a wailing siren was heard in the distance. Soon, we saw a rescue vehicle approaching with its lights flashing. The vehicle seemed to be searching for the source of the blast as it circled the near neighborhood. It finally arrived on the street beside the cemetery – in front of and below the business end of the cannon – *just as another volley was fired!* The crowd was amused by the spectacle!



Making the ground shake!

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Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 - Houston

Voices of South Texas (continued)

As Brother Yeager concluded his cannon demonstration, he directed the crowd towards our position. As the visitors drifted over and gathered around us, we began our ceremony for Cpl. Hyndman.



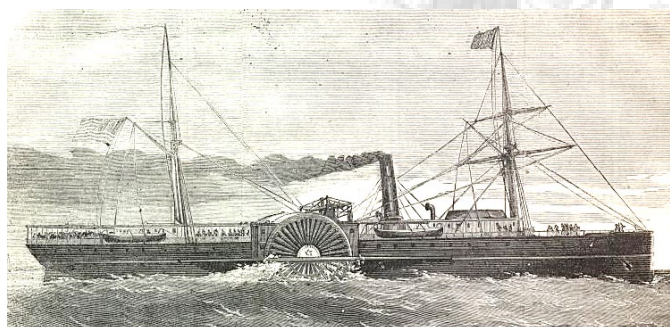
Left: Honor Guard salutes – Michael L. Lance and Daniel B. Pourreau

Brothers John Vander Meulen and Thor Chester loudly offered the ceremony script and a bio of the soldier, Steven Coons laid a wreath at the grave, and Daniel Pourreau and Michael Lance served as an armed Honor Guard. At the appropriate moment, the Guard marched forward, offered a 3-volley musket salute, and then *PRESENTED ARMS* as a recorded version of *Taps* was sounded. The presentation was well received, and everyone was looking forward to the 13th annual version of *Voices of South Texas* in 2022!

... Report submitted by Michael L. Lance, Camp Cmdr.

Trivia – *Star of the West*

The civilian merchant steamship, *Star of the West*, a 2-deck, side-wheel vessel, had a colorful service record during the Civil War. She was hired by President Franklin Buchanan's administration in early January 1861 to resupply Fort Sumter. Her speed and maneuverability were counted on to accomplish her important mission. Having sailed almost



immediately under sealed orders, the *Star of the West* reached Charleston harbor before dawn on January 9. As day broke, cadets of the Citadel Military Institute spotted the ship and opened fire, preventing her from completing her mission.

Illustration of Star of the West - Harper's Weekly

In April 1861, after successful voyages as a hired Federal troop transport, *Star of the West* was anchored off Pass Caballo bar leading into Matagorda Bay, close to the shore of Texas. The vessel was unexpectedly boarded and captured by Confederate Col. Earl Van Dorn with two militia units from Galveston, the *Wigfall Guards* and the *Island City Rifles*. Her name was changed to *CSS St. Philip*, and she was sent to New Orleans, where she served as a Confederate naval station and hospital ship. In April 1862, when Union Adm. David Farragut captured New Orleans, the *Star of the West* escaped recapture, transporting millions in gold, silver, and paper currency to Vicksburg – and then continued on to Yazoo City, Mississippi.

In March 1863, two Union ironclads and five smaller vessels passed through Yazoo Pass into the Tallahatchie River to attack Vicksburg from the rear. But they encountered an obstacle - Confederate Maj. Gen. William W. Loring had ordered the *Star of the West* sunk broadside in the Tallahatchie near Greenwood to block the Union flotilla – thus ending the vessel's colorful wartime service. After the war, the *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* used snagboats to remove obstructions from shallow rivers and waterways, which included the wreck of the *Star of the West*.

A *Star of the West* medal is awarded annually to the 'best drilled cadet' at *The Citadel*, the military college in South Carolina. A small piece of oak salvaged from the *Star of the West* is reportedly attached to the medals.

... submitted by Michael L. Lance, Camp Cmdr.

Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 - Houston

Wreaths Across America – 18 Dec 2021 – Houston, TX

The annual Wreaths Across America event took place at the Houston National Cemetery on Saturday, December 18, 2021 under the threat of heavy thunderstorms. The clouds were dark and low during the morning, but the grounds remained dry until the 11 a.m. start of the formal ceremony. In order to finish the program before the rains came, a few of the agenda elements were cancelled – including the anticipated flyover by the *Commemorative Air Force's Flying WWII War Birds*.

Daniel B. Pourreau, John C. Vander Meulen, and Michael L. Lance, representing the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp*, assembled earlier in the morning just outside the cemetery Hemicycle structure. They wore Civil War uniforms and carried muskets.

Right: Daniel Pourreau, John Vander Meulen, & Michael Lance

Before the official ceremony began, the trio interacted with the continuously growing number of visitors. The viewing areas within the Hemicycle steadily filled to capacity with the crowd eventually overflowing out at the main entrance.

During this time, several families requested to have their children photographed with the uniformed men – and were graciously accommodated.



Along with posing for photos, the Brothers enjoyed sharing information about their weapons and uniforms with the adults and children. The youngsters were attentive and eager to learn. The parents were brought into the discussions by being asked about their possible ancestral connections to the Civil War.

Left: A Cub Scout proudly poses for a photo

During these interactions, the Brothers met members of *Cub Scout Pack 1202* and *Boy Scout Troops 1202* and *512*, led by Scout Master Robert Courtemanche. The Scouts volunteered to assist the Brothers with the laying of wreaths after the ceremony.

At the beginning of the ceremony, while the opening invocation was being offered by Reverend Jim Flagg of First United Methodist Church of Humble, the podium microphone unexpectedly failed. Without missing a beat, the Reverend continued speaking. The large crowd remained very quiet, straining to hear his unamplified words. Fortunately, a technician was able to restore the sound system before the end of the invocation.

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Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 – Houston

Wreaths Across America (continued)



Left: A Navy JROTC Officer poses for a photo with Brothers Pourreau and Lance



Right: Daniel Pourreau lent his musket and kepi to a Cub Scout for this image

The Navy JROTC unit from Kingwood High School presented the Colors. Later during the ceremony, wreaths were placed on stands by representatives from each of the 8 branches of service – including the U.S. Space Force. Near the end of the ceremony, the *Semper Fi #3 Memorial Honor Detail* fired a 3-volley salute, followed by a bugler sounding Taps. Brothers Pourreau, Vander Meulen, and Lance had positioned themselves at the edge of the demonstration area opposite to and facing the *Semper Fi* squad - presenting arms in unison with them to honor of the multitude of veterans buried in the cemetery.

As the official ceremony in the Hemicycle ended, the *Lea Camp* Brothers marched across the demonstration grounds to pose for photos in front of the ceremonial service wreaths.



Before the Wreaths

Afterward, the unit exited the Hemicycle to lay wreaths at veteran's graves. Stacks of boxes placed within the cemetery contained over 47,000 wreaths.

The Brothers were assisted by the Scouts of Pack and Troop 1202. Approximately two dozen wreaths were obtained by the group before they moved to a row of not-yet-decorated upright grave markers. The graves in the row were then addressed one at a time, with the youngsters taking turns placing the wreaths. Each wreath-laying Scout then stepped back into line to salute with the *Lea Camp* members.

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Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 - Houston

Wreaths Across America (continued)

The name and service unit of each buried veteran was spoken aloud by Brother John Vander Meulen. After most of the wreaths were placed and salutes given, the rain began in earnest. It soon became a downpour - accompanied by thunder, lightning, and high winds. The last half dozen or so wreaths were hastily laid followed by a brief memorial statement by Brother Vander Meulen. Then everyone moved quickly to find shelter. Brothers Lance and Vander Meulen found refuge in the Hemicycle. Brother Pourreau headed for his car. After about 30 minutes, the rain slowed, allowing most of the soaking wet visitors to make their way towards their vehicles to depart.



Left: Before the ceremony, Daniel B. Pourreau demonstrated loading and firing procedures with his vintage Civil War-era British Enfield musket.

Right: Michael L. Lance lets a Scout experience holding a later model bayoneted Enfield as the Scout master observes.



Left: Shortly before the light rain turned into a torrential downpour, a Scout steps forward to lay a wreath at the grave of the next veteran to be remembered.

While the event was moving and memorable, the havoc caused by the thunderstorm resulted in many unlaidd wreaths. Volunteers were requested to return the next day to lay the wreaths still remaining in the shipping boxes on the grounds. The *Wreaths Across America* is a worthy event and presents the *Camp* with a great opportunity to honor our veterans - and to interact with the public.

Hopefully, the 2022 version will have increased participation by the *Camp* – and better weather conditions!

... Report submitted by Michael Lance, Camp Cmdr.

Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 - Houston Battle of Galveston Commemoration

Saturday - 22 Jan 2022 – Episcopal Cemetery, Galveston, Texas

Braving a very chilly and windy January morning, the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp* assembled at the historic Episcopal Church Cemetery in Galveston, Texas. They gathered to conduct their 28th *Battle of Galveston Commemoration* ceremony - the event held each January to honor the soldiers and sailors who perished during the January 1, 1863 struggle for the island city. The following images capture a few moments of this year's event.



The opening procession approaching the ceremonial area, led by Officer-of-the-Day, Hon. John E. Schneider, Sr.*



Past-Camp Cmdr. Michael L. Lance opening the event as Dept. Chaplain Stephen D. Schulze waits to offer the Divine Blessing.**



At **PRESENT ARMS** during the *Pledge of Allegiance* and *National Anthem* **

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Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 - Houston
Battle of Galveston Commemoration (continued)



Susan Barry, President of the Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, greeting the assembly from the podium. **



Officer-of-the-Day, John E. Schneider, Sr., representing M.O.L.L.U.S., addressing the gathering. *



Michael L. Lance, PCC, relating the details of the 1863 Battle of Galveston. *

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Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 - Houston
Battle of Galveston Commemoration (continued)



Officer-of-the-Day John E. Schneider, Sr. reads the Roll Call of Battle Casualties - Past-Camp Cmdr. Michael L. Lance tolls the bell after each name is called. *



After the assembly moves over to the grave of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN, a casualty of the battle, Michael L. Lance, PCC, re-opens the ceremony. **

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Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 - Houston
Battle of Galveston Commemoration (continued)



Dick Gray, Chaplain of Galveston's Harmony Masonic Lodge #6, tells the story of his historic lodge's role during the aftermath of the battle. *



Officer-of-the-Day, John E. Schneider, Sr. places the Symbols of the Army at the headstone. Tracy I. Wallace and Michael L. Lance observe. **



Norma Pollard of the Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary, SUVCW saluting at the foot of the grave after placing a red rose at the grave marker. **

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Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 - Houston
Battle of Galveston Commemoration (continued)



Federal Honor Guard **PRESENTING ARMS** during the laying of wreaths, rose, and small U.S. flag at the grave. *L-R: Chris Strezelecki, Ben Bonnett, Michael Rappe, William Martin, Daniel Pourreau, Rion Braddock, and Howard Rose*



One of three volleys fired by the Honor Guard in memory of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea and the other Union casualties of the 1863 New Year's Day *Battle of Galveston*. **



Michael L. Lance, PCC, offers closing remarks as grave Guard, Lee R. Wallace stands at his post.*

... Report by Michael L. Lance, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2

* Photo submitted by Andrew Hall, historical researcher, author

** Photo submitted by Kathleen Shanahan Meca, author, writer, photographer

Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients - U.S. Army (Part 1)

The *Medal of Honor* is the USA's highest military honor, awarded 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 - U.S. Army: Army Version of the Medal of Honor

This issue of the *Unionist*, presents Part 1 of comprehensive review of recipients of the *Medal of Honor* who served with the U.S. Army during the Civil War – with a brief description of their heroic actions, and if available, the wording of their citation.



- **James Frank Adams – Private** – James Frank Adams was born in Cabell County, West Virginia. On November 12, 1864, while serving as a Private in *Co. D* of the *1st West Virginia Volunteer Cavalry Regiment*, he captured the flag of the *14th Virginia Cavalry* during an engagement at Nineveh, Virginia. His Medal of Honor was issued two weeks later.
- **John G. B. Adams – 2nd Lt.** – John G. B. Adams was born October 6, 1841 in Groveland, Massachusetts. When the Civil War broke out, he enlisted as a Private in Maj. Ben Perley Poore's Rifle Battalion, a unit that was later folded into the *19th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment*. When the *19th* departed the state on March 1, 1861, Adams was a Corporal in *Co. A*.

Lt. John G. B. Adams

He served with the *19th* in the *Peninsula Campaign* and at the Battle of *Antietam*. During the seven days' fighting on the Peninsula he was conspicuous for his bravery, and at its close his gallantry had won for him a 2nd Lt.'s commission. While serving as a 2nd Lt. in *Co. I*, he was one of 18 Union soldiers who received the *Medal of Honor* for valor at the *Battle of Fredericksburg*. During the battle, Adams recovered both the Regimental and National colors as the Confederate corporal and lieutenant carrying them fell mortally wounded. With a flag in each hand he advanced, the regiment was reformed on him. His *Medal of Honor* citation reads:

Seized the 2 colors from the hands of a corporal and a lieutenant as they fell mortally wounded, and with a color in each hand advanced across the field to a point where the regiment was reformed on those colors.

On July 2, 1863, during the *Battle of Gettysburg*, Adams was severely wounded. He was the ranking 1st Lt. in his regiment and had taken command of *Co. I*. After Gettysburg he was promoted to Captain. His convalescence was relatively brief, allowing him to return and fight at the *Battle of the Wilderness*, *Battle of Spotsylvania Court House*, and the *Battle of Cold Harbor*.

On June 22, 1864, he and the entire regiment were captured near Cold Harbor. Adams was held at Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia. He was also imprisoned at Macon, Georgia, and Charleston, South Carolina, where he and other officers were placed on Morris Island in an attempt to stop naval bombardment by the Union. While imprisoned at Columbia, Adams and a comrade attempted to escape, but were eventually captured. He was held for a total of nine months.



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Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients - U.S. Army (Part 1 continued)

- **Frederick Alber – Private** – Frederick Alber was born in Germany in 1838. In 1846, he emigrated to the U.S. settling in Michigan – eventually becoming a farmer. On July 12, 1862, at age 24, Alber enrolled for a 3-year term of service at Manchester, Michigan. He mustered-in for duty as a Private with *Co. A, 17th Michigan Infantry* the following month. In 1864, while serving with the *17th Michigan* during the *Battle of Spotsylvania Court House*, Pvt. Alber captured 2 enemy soldiers after freeing Lt. Charles Todd, one of the officers from his regiment who had been captured by Confederate troops. In June 1865, Alber honorably mustered-out of service at Delaney House in Washington, D.C. Following his honorable discharge, Alber returned to Michigan and married Mary S. Alber. In 1913, he died in Oregon Township, Michigan at age 75. His *Medal of Honor* reads:

Bravely rescued Lt. Charles H. Todd of his regiment who had been captured by a party of Confederates by shooting down one, knocking over another with the butt of his musket, and taking them both prisoners.

In November 1999, Senator Spencer Abraham (R-MI) paid tribute to Alber – delivering the following message:

Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Frederick Alber of Lapeer County, MI. On November 13, 1999, the community of Oregon Township will dedicate a new headstone for Mr. Alber and also honor other veterans buried in the Oregon Township Cemetery. Frederick Alber enlisted in the Seventeenth Michigan Infantry on July 2, 1862 at age 24 and served valiantly during the Civil War. On July 30, 1896, Private Alber was issued the Medal of Honor for his undaunted bravery in the Wilderness and his heroic actions at Spotsylvania. On May 12, 1864, Private Alber rescued Lieutenant Charles Todd of the 17th Michigan Infantry who was in the hands of a party of rebels. Private Alber shot down one enemy rebel and knocked over another with the butt of his musket. He then took the rebels as prisoners and conducted them both to the rear of the formation.

- **Christian Albert – Private** – Christian Albert was born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1842. He served as a Private in *Co. G, 47th Ohio Infantry*. Albert distinguished himself at the *Battle of Vicksburg* on May 22, 1863. He died in 1922 and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Toledo, Ohio. His Medal of Honor citation simply states:

Gallantry in the charge of the "volunteer storming party".

- **Abner P. Allen – Corporal** – Abner Allen was born in Woodford County, Illinois in 1839. In January 1864, he joined the *39th Illinois Infantry Regiment* from Bloomington, Illinois. By the time the *39th* was involved in the *Siege of Petersburg* in Virginia, Allen was serving as a Corporal in *Co. K*. When the regiment assaulted Fort Gregg on April 2, 1865 under heavy fire, Allen was at the front as a Color Bearer.

At the surrender ceremony at *Appomattox Courthouse* a week later, Allen was given the honor of carrying Illinois' flag. He later traveled to Washington, D.C. with Gen. Gibbon and 76 captured Confederate colors. He received his Medal of Honor there from Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. Abner Allen mustered-out of service with his regiment on December 6, 1865. He died in 1905 and is buried in Centerburg Cemetery in Centerburg, Ohio. His citation simply reads: "*Gallantry as color bearer in the assault on Fort Gregg.*"



**"Shoot and Be Damned" – painting by Keith Rocco
Depicting the Siege of Fort Gregg**

... to be continued next issue with Part 2

Upcoming Activities - Department of Texas with Louisiana

- Feb 8, 2022** **Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp Business Meeting**
Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, TX – 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Feb 9, 2022** **Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp Business Meeting**
Caddo Parish Coroner’s Office, 2900 Hearne Ave, Shreveport, LA
- Feb 15, 2022** **Gen. James J. Byrne Camp Business Meeting**
Via Zoom only – 7:00 p.m.
Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp Business Meeting
Heritage Farmstead Museum, 1900 W. 15th St., Plano, TX
- Mar 8, 2022** **Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp Business Meeting**
Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, Texas - 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Mar 9, 2022** **Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp Business Meeting**
Caddo Parish Coroner’s Office, 2900 Hearne Ave, Shreveport, LA
- Mar 15, 2022** **Gen. James J. Byrne Camp Business Meeting**
Texas Civil War Museum, 760 Jim Wright Fwy North, Fort Worth, TX – 7:00 p.m.
- Mar 15, 2022** **Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp Business Meeting**
Heritage Farmstead Museum, 1900 W. 15th St., Plano, TX
- Apr 12, 2022** **Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp Business Meeting**
Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, TX - 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Apr 13, 2022** **Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp Business Meeting**
Caddo Parish Coroner’s Office, 2900 Hearne Ave, Shreveport, LA
- Apr 19, 2022** **Gen. James J. Byrne Camp Business Meeting**
Texas Civil War Museum, 760 Jim Wright Fwy North, Fort Worth, TX – 7:00 p.m.
- Apr 19, 2022** **Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp Business Meeting**
Heritage Farmstead Museum, 1900 W. 15th St., Plano, TX
- May 7, 2022** **Department of Texas/Louisiana Encampment** (*Tentative date*) – All four Camps.
Jefferson, TX
- May 10, 2022** **Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp Business Meeting**
Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, TX - 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- May 11, 2022** **Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp Business Meeting**
Caddo Parish Coroner’s Office, 2900 Hearne Ave, Shreveport, LA
- May 17, 2022** **Gen. James J. Byrne Camp Business Meeting**
Texas Civil War Museum, 760 Jim Wright Fwy North, Fort Worth, TX – 7:00 p.m.
- May 17, 2022** **Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp Business Meeting**
Heritage Farmstead Museum, 1900 W. 15th St., Plano, TX
- May 30, 2022** **Memorial Day Ceremony – Gen. James J. Byrne Camp**
Oakwood Cemetery, 701 Grand Ave., Fort Worth, TX – 10:00 a.m.
Memorial Day Ceremony – Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp
Houston National Cemetery, 10410 Veterans Memorial Dr., Houston, TX
Memorial Day Ceremony – Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp
Washington/Glenwood Cemeteries, 2911 Washington Ave., Houston, TX

Department of Texas with Louisiana



2022 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND STAFF

Dept. Commander	Tony 'Bo' Vets
Dept. Sr. Vice-Commander	Tony 'Bo' Vets (<i>acting</i>)
Dept. Jr. Vice-Commander	Richard W. Erder (<i>recruiting</i>)
Dept. Secretary/Treasurer	Donald L. Gates

Dept. Patriotic Instructor	William Elliott	Dept. Signals Officer	John Vander Meulen
Dept. Chaplain	Stephen D. Schulze	Dept. Assistant Signals Off.	Larry Joe Reynolds
Dept. Historian	Michael L. Lance	Dept. Eagle Scout Coord.	John Schneider Sr.
Dept. Civil War Mem. Off.	Charles W. Sprague	Dept. Council Member	Dr. Stevenson Holmes
Dept. Graves Registr. Off.	Harrison G. Moore IV	Dept. Council Member	Charles W. Sprague
Dept. Counselor	John E. Schneider Sr.	Dept. Council Member	Lewis Eugene Willis
Dept. Organizer	Brian R. Glass	Dept. Newsletter Editor	Michael L. Lance
Dept. Assistant Organizer	David K. LaBrot	Dept. Assist. Newsletter Ed.	Daniel B. Pourreau

2022 CAMP OFFICERS

Gen. James J. Byrne Camp #1 - Fort Worth

Camp Cmdr.	Dr. Paul L. Kendall
Sr. Vice-Commander	Beau Moore
Jr. Vice-Commander	Todd Wilber (<i>recruiting</i>)
Secr./Treas.	David B. Appleton

Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN Camp #2 - Houston

Camp Cmdr.	Ben C. Bonnett
Sr. Vice-Commander	John C. Vander Meulen
Jr. Vice-Commander	Daniel B. Pourreau (<i>recruiting</i>)
Secr./Treas.	Stephen D. Schulze

Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp #5 - Shreveport

Camp Cmdr.	John A. Prime
Sr. Vice-Commander	Michael Heller
Jr. Vice-Commander	Tony Vets II (<i>recruiting</i>)
Secr./Treas.	William Elliott

Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp #18 - Dallas

Camp Cmdr.	David M. Rediger
Sr. Vice-Commander	David Krueger
Jr. Vice-Commander	Michael K. Schneider (<i>recruiting</i>)
Secr./Treas.	Donald L. Gates

MEDIA LINKS

Websites: [Department of Texas with Louisiana](#)
[Fort Worth Camp](#)
[Houston Camp](#)
[Shreveport Camp](#)
[Dallas Camp](#)
[National Headquarters, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War](#)

Facebook: [Department of Texas with Louisiana](#)
[Houston Camp](#)

Newsletter: The Department newsletter, *The Unionist*, is published quarterly (*Feb, May, Aug, and Nov*). Send questions or comments concerning the newsletter to the Editor at: mlance387@gmail.com



Roster of Camps

Department of Texas with Louisiana



Gen. James J. Byrne

Namesake of the Fort Worth Camp



Killed in Action on the USS Harriet Lane

Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea

Namesake of the Houston Camp



Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey

Namesake of the Shreveport Camp



Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth

Namesake of the Dallas Camp