



THE UNIONIST

The Official Newsletter of the
Department of Texas and Louisiana
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



Feb 2024

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Cover Image "Charge" - Charge of the 8th Pennsylvania Cavalry at the *Battle of Chancellorsville*, Virginia on May 2, 1863 - *artwork by Don Troiani*

Grand Army of the Republic – Department of Texas - 1902

The following is a summary of the official *Journal of the 17th Annual Encampment of the Department of Texas, Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)*. The *Journal* is a word-for-word transcription of the multi-day *Encampment* proceedings, including the full text of addresses, reports, motions, etc. This summary includes only snippets and highlights of the content. The *Encampment* was held in Beaumont, Texas on April 24-26, 1902, and was hosted by *Lawton Post 80* located in that city. Philemon B. Hunt of *Rousseau Post 60* of Graham, Texas was the presiding Commander of the Department.

By way of *General Order No. 7*, issued in March 1902, Commander Hunt promoted attendance for the *Encampment* by stating (*in part*):

“The comrades and citizens of Beaumont are actively and earnestly at work to render this Encampment an enjoyable one to all, and a profitable one in the interests of the Order. Comrades are urged to attend, and it is hoped every Post will be represented. Various plans for pleasure are being arranged, and with its great oil geysers, Beaumont is one of the wonders of the world. The opportunity to see all should not be lost.”

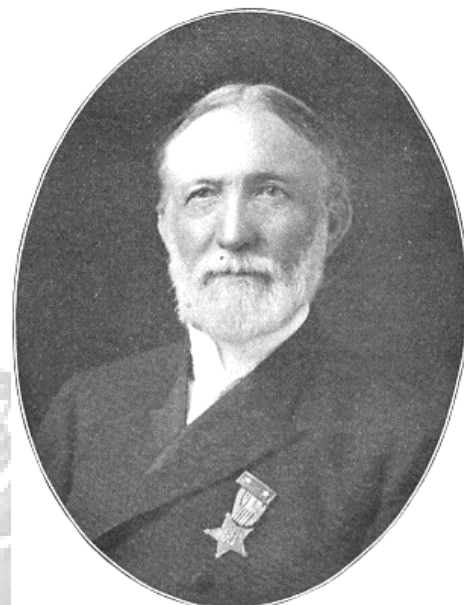
He concluded his address with the sad news of the February 23, 1902 death of Dr. Joseph Jones. Comrade Jones was a member of *Ord Post 3* of San Antonio and was also serving as Medical Director of the *Department of Texas*.

During the *Encampment*, Department HQ was transferred from Dallas to Beaumont and re-established on Main Street at the New Clarendon Hotel. Both the *Committee on Credentials* and the *Department Council of Administration* met at that location at 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 24, 1902. An hour later, the *17th Annual Encampment of the Department of Texas* began with a reception at Kyle Opera House in Beaumont. The Department was honored to have Commander-in-Chief, Eli Torrance, and his wife in attendance. At noon, Commander Hunt called the official meeting to order in Elks Hall in the same building.

The proceedings began with addresses and greetings given by several speakers, including Beaumont City Attorney Sonfield, who gave a welcoming address in place of Beaumont Mayor Langham, Department Commander Hunt, CinC Torrance, his wife, and the wife of *Lawton Post* Commander R. Byron Underhill. A recess was called after the last of the eloquently-worded speeches ended.

The evening session was subsequently gavelled to order at 3 p.m. Fifty-nine Texas *GAR* veterans from around the state answered the roll call - with more expected to arrive soon. Eventually, sixty-six Union veterans arrived to claim their seats at the *Encampment*. Of the thirty-nine Posts referenced on the Department Roster, eighteen were not represented by any attending Delegates. The following summary of the roll lists the tally of names of Post Officers and credentialed Delegates mentioned in the *Journal*, and whether or not they were present (*Editor’s note: the names and credentialed status of all names are available on request*).

<u>Post Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
<i>McPherson Post 1</i>	Sherman	5	6
<i>Hancock Post 2</i>	Galveston	5	9
<i>Ord Post 3</i>	San Antonio	4	22
<i>Parmly Post 4</i>	Fort Worth	0	8



COL. P. B. HUNT.
Department Commander.

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Department Updates

December 2023 – February 2024 - Installation of 2024 Camp officers

By the power and authority vested in me as Commander of the *Department of Texas and Louisiana*, I duly installed the following Brothers as the 2024 Officers of their respective Camps:

- **January 20, 2024** - *Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1* of Fort Worth, Texas.
 - Commander Clifford F. 'Butch' Durham
 - Sr. Vice-Commander Michael E. Belcher
 - Jr. Vice-Commander vacant
 - Secretary Ky W. White
 - Treasurer David B. Appleton

- **January 6, 2024** - *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN, Camp 2* of Houston, Texas
 - Commander John C. Vander Meulen
 - Sr. Vice-Commander Daniel B. Pourreau
 - Jr. Vice-Commander Vincent T. Trovato
 - Secretary/Treasurer Stephen D. Schulze

- **December 13, 2023** - *Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5* of Shreveport, Louisiana
 - Commander Michael A. Heller
 - Sr. Vice-Commander John A. Prime
 - Jr. Vice-Commander Ralph L. Diamond
 - Secretary/Treasurer William M. 'Bill' Elliott

- **February 6, 2023** - *Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp 18* of Dallas, Texas
 - Commander Michael K. Schneider
 - Sr. Vice-Commander David M. Rediger
 - Jr. Vice-Commander Kevin J. Ennis
 - Secretary/Treasurer Donald L. Gates

Tuesday, 27 Feb 2024 – Update - 144th National Encampment in 2025

Ten leaders of the *Department of Texas and Louisiana* met virtually on February 27, 2024 to review the progress and status of plans to host the 2025 National Encampment of the *SUVCW*. Host Committee Chairman, John E. Schneider, PDC, announced that he has received confirmation that the *Department* has been officially selected to host the National Encampment in Houston in August 2025. With that confirmation, Brother Schneider declared that the real work now begins.

The goal is to ensure that the 2025 Encampment will be successful and memorable - one that folks will talk about for years to come. Members of the Department are asked to step forward and volunteer to serve on one of the various committees. Some areas where help is needed include fundraising, the banquet and other meals, and sightseeing activities.

Timelines for this work have been established and volunteers are needed immediately. Please support the Department by lending a hand. For more information about how you can help, contact the Host Committee Chair Schneider at schneider1@sbcglobal.net or your Camp Commander.



Michael L. Lance, DC - Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp No. 2, Houston

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

Saturday, 20 Jan 2024 – Belton, Texas

Three new Camp officers were installed in the private event room at *The Gin at Nolan Creek* in Belton, Texas on January 20, 2024. Department Commander Michael Lance and Department Signals Officer John Vander Meulen traveled to Belton from the Houston area to perform the installation ceremony.

Clifford F. 'Butch' Durham was duly installed as Commander of *Gen. James J. Byrne Camp No. 1* of Fort Worth. After receiving the gavel, the emblem of authority, from DC Lance, Brother Durham's wife, Sheri, attached the badge of office to his jacket. Brother Michael E. Belcher was installed as Sr. Vice-Commander of the Camp, and Brother Ky W. White was installed as the new Camp Secretary. It was obvious that the new officers of the *Byrne Camp* are motivated and energized to lead the Camp to a bright future!



Top Row Photos - L-R:

Michael Belcher, Butch Durham, and Ky White stand and listen during the installation ritual.
Commander Butch Durham receives the gavel from Dept. Commander Michael L. Lance.
Sheri Durham pins the Camp Commander's badge on Commander Durham's jacket.

Bottom Group Photo L-R:

Dept. Signals Officer John C. Vander Meulen, SVC Michael E. Belcher,
Commander Butch F. Durham, Secretary Ky W. White,
and Dept. Commander Michael L. Lance

*... submitted by Butch Durham, Camp Commander
... photos by Sheri Durham*

Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 - Houston

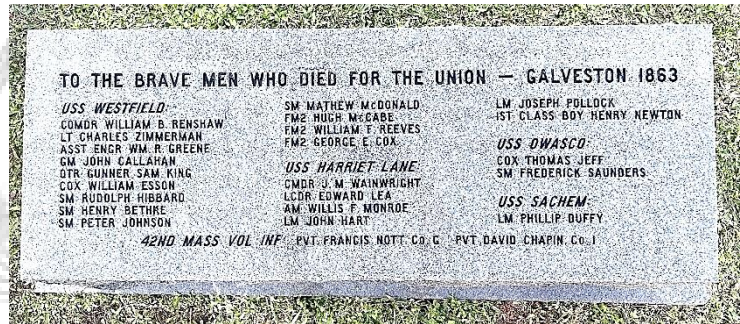
Saturday, 6 Jan 2024 – Galveston, Texas

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

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

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

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



Camp Commander John C. Vander Meulen at the Podium - Color Guard at Rest

Color Guard L-R: John E. Schneider, Sr. (Capt.), Donald L. Gates, Michael K. Schneider, Lee R. Wallace (not visible)

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Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 – Houston *(continued)*

Saturday, 6 Jan 2024 – Galveston, Texas (continued)



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

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



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

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



Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 – Houston (continued)

Saturday, 17 Feb 2024 – Houston, Texas

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

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



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

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

Left: Ceremonial bell on stand and attached Revenue Cutter emblem.



*... Bell donation and photos by Daniel B. Pourreau, SVC
Edward Lea Camp 2 Houston*

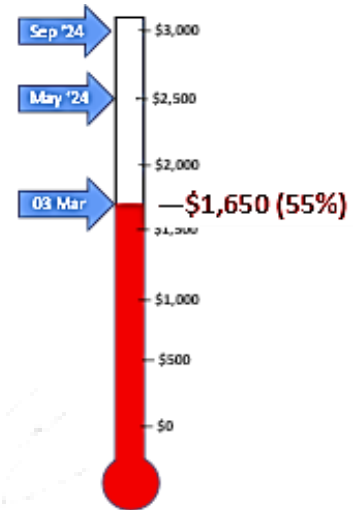
Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 – Houston (continued)

February – Houston, Texas

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

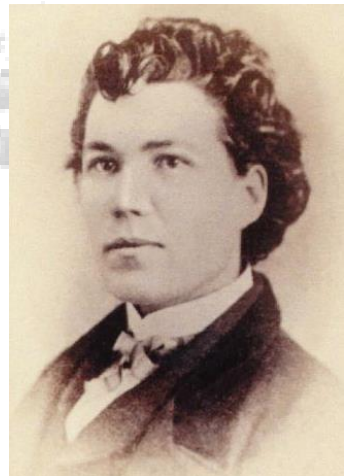
The *GAR Marker Project* immediately received a \$250 gift from *Sarah Emma Seelye Ladies Auxiliary No. 1*. In addition, the *Lea Camp* unanimously voted to approve the donation of \$500 from the Camp's reserve funds to the project. The project fund has since swelled to \$1,650 thanks to individual donations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

Right: Fundraising Goal Target Tracker



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

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



Sarah Emma Edmonds/Seelye



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

Left: *GAR* membership badge

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

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

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Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 – Houston *(continued)*



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

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

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



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

Thursday, 25 Jan 2024 – Conroe Texas

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

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

Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp #5 - Shreveport

Tuesday, 20 Feb 2024 – Marshall, Texas

At the Feb. 20th meeting of the *W. W. Heartsill SCV Camp #314*, the guest speakers were Hart and Owen Hudson. Both young men are members, along with their father Joey Hudson, of the *Heartsill SCV Camp*. Their presentation was about the projects they undertook to earn their *Eagle Scout Awards*.

During the meeting, the two young men were presented with *SUVCW Eagle Scout Certificates* by Robb McMahan and Bill Elliott, both members of *Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey SUVCW Camp 5* of Shreveport, Louisiana. They were also presented with *National SCV Eagle Scout Achievement Certificates* and the *Texas Division SCV Jefferson Davis Leadership Award*.

These prestigious awards will be presented again to the two outstanding Scouts at their formal *Court of Honor* scheduled for Sunday, March 10, 2024 in Marshall. The young men opted to have their *SCV* and *SUVCW* awards presented at the February meeting. They also requested that the members of the *SCV* and *SUVCW* Camps attend their formal affair in March.

Robb McMahan is the 2nd Lt. Commander of the *Heartsill Camp* and a new member of the *SUVCW* as of January 2024. Bill Elliott is Commander of the *Heartsill Camp* and the Secretary/Treasurer of *Brig. Gen Joseph Bailey SUVCW Camp #5* of Shreveport.



Left top: Eagle Scout Hart Hudson with Brother Robb McMahan, Bailey Camp 5, SUVCW and Heartsill Camp 314, SCVCW

Left bottom: Eagle Scout Owen Hudson with Robb McMahan.

Bottom Right L-R: Joey Hudson, Owen Hudson, Hart Hudson, Robb Hudson, and William 'Bill' Elliott.



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Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp #5 - Shreveport (continued)

After obtaining permission from the State of Louisiana Parks system to install a memorial marker, Shreveport-based *Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5* of the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* procured a memorial plaque for placement at the *Mansfield State Historic Site* near Mansfield, Louisiana. The plaque honors the numerous Union Army units that fought on April 8-9, 1864 at Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, Louisiana - the site of one of the last major Confederate victories in the Civil War.

The marker lists the names of the various federal units under the Command of Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Banks that took part in the following day's *Battle of Pleasant Hill*. These two events, often referred to by historians as the *Battle of Sabine Crossroads*, marked the turning point of the failed Union's *Red River Campaign* – an attempt to capture the city of Shreveport and cut Texas off from the Confederacy.

Numerous memorials honoring the Confederate leaders and units that fought there have been previously placed at the battle site, but none to recognize or honor the Union units. Just under 30,000 soldiers participated in the battles - 9,000 Confederate and 20,000 Federal. About 1,000 Confederates and just over 2,200 Union soldiers were killed, wounded, or missing.

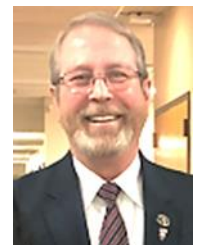


Union Forces serving under Major General Nathaniel P. Banks Battles of the Sabine Crossroads April 8th & 9th, 1864

Delaware: 1st Battery
Indiana: 1st Battery, 3rd Battery, 9th Battery, 16th Mounted, Inf. Regt. 46th, 67th, 89th
Illinois: 2nd Cavalry, Inf. Regt. 41st, 47th, 49th, 58th, 77th, 81st, 95th, 87th, Mounted, 117th, 119th, 130th, Chicago Mercantile Battery.
Iowa: Inf. Regt., 3rd, 14th, 24th, 27th, 28th, 32nd, 35th.
Kentucky: Inf. Regt. 19th,
Louisiana: 1st Cavalry, 2nd Mounted
Maine: Inf. Regt., 13th, 15th, 29th, 30th
Massachusetts: 2nd Battery, 3rd Cavalry
Minnesota: 5th Inf.
Missouri: 1st Light Artillery, 6th Cavalry Battery, Inf. Regt., 24th, 33rd
New Hampshire: 2nd Cavalry
New York: 2nd Cavalry, 14th Cavalry, 18th Cavalry, Inf. Regt., 47th, 49th, 114th, 116th, 153rd, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 165th, 173rd, 178th
Ohio: Inf. Regt., 48th, 56th, 83rd, 96th, 2nd Battery Light Artillery
Pennsylvania: Inf. Regt., 47th,
Rhode Island: 3rd Cavalry
Vermont: 1st Battery
Wisconsin: Inf. Regt., 3rd, 8th, 14th, 23rd, 29th
US units: 1st Artillery, 5th Light Artillery, USCT "Corps d' Afrique" 73rd, 75th, 84th, 92nd.
Marker provided by the Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey SUVCW Camp # 5, Shreveport, LA.

The goal of the *Bailey Camp* is to have the memorial marker installed by April 2024, in time for the 160th anniversary of the battle.

The marker will be erected near the front doors of the museum at the site. It has the SUVCW logo at the top and the *Bailey Camp* credited at the bottom. The table-top style marker will be easy for children and wheelchair-bound visitors to read.



... submitted by William 'Bill' Elliott, Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5, Shreveport

Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp #18- Dallas

Monday, 12 Feb 2024 – Washington, DC

On February 12, 2024, John E. Schneider and his wife, Jill, attended the 102nd Lincoln's Birthday Commemoration at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. Brother Schneider is a member of *Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp 18* of Dallas and a past Commander of the *Department of Texas and Louisiana, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*.

Brother Schneider is also a long-time member of the *Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS)*. That organization was the original sponsor of this time-honored tribute to Abraham Lincoln, which began immediately after the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial in 1922. Today, MOLLUS, along with the *SUVCW, Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR)*, and the *Auxiliary to the SUVCW*, are among the members of the event's organizing committee.



The SUVCW wreath was laid by National Senior Vice-Commander Kevin Martin.



Wreath laid by the Auxiliary

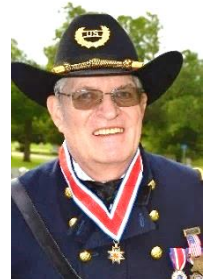


Wreath laid by the Sons of Veterans Reserve



This solemn ceremony is the only event sanctioned inside the Lincoln Memorial by the National Park Service. The free-to-the-public program included music by a United States Navy quintet, award presentations, wreath laying, and a reading of the *Gettysburg Address*.

... submitted by John E. Schneider, Sr., PDC - Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp 18, Dallas



Ancestor Profile – Pvt. Edwin Hemmerly

Edwin H. Hemmerly was born January 19, 1839 in Springfield Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. His father, John Hemmerly, was a Mennonite of German heritage and worked as a blacksmith in Springfield township. His mother, Catharine Wimmer, was also a descendant “of early German settlers in Upper Bucks or Lehigh County”, Pennsylvania. She died in 1849 when Edwin was 10 years old after blessing him with seven brothers and sisters. After his father remarried, Edwin gained five half-siblings. He grew up in the Springfield township farming community and obtained a limited education in the public schools.

In August 1856, the *Springfield Pioneers* militia was organized in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. It was a rural militia infantry company made up of men from the small community of Springtown in Springfield township located in extreme northern Bucks County. It was commanded by Captain Edward T. Hess, who later served during the Civil War as Lt. Col. with the *174th Pennsylvania Vol. Infantry*.



Capt. Edward T. Hess

Members of this militia company wore a uniform consisting of a “*Sky blue Round-about with Red and yellow trimmings at the collar, and regulation brass buttons. The Pants of same material with a Red stripe and yellow border. The Regulation Cap with Red Pompom, brass plate and Eagle White Cotton Gloves.*” Every new member was required to equip himself within six months of joining the organization.

The various rural militias in the area assembled each year to form a battalion. It was an occasion highly anticipated by both young and old. The citizens turned out in droves to observe the citizen soldiery as they fired cannons, engaged in battalion drills and maneuvers, and held target shooting contests. The music of fife and drum filled the air. The patriotic enthusiasm exhibited by the troops and the holiday atmosphere thrilled participants and observers alike. The festivities included street vendors selling refreshments, sideshows, ambrotype photographers doing a booming business, dances at the tavern to the tunes of a fiddler, and rides on the horse-drawn “*Flying Coach’ or Flying Circus’ known today as the merry-go-round*”. These were all popular attractions during the massing of the local rural militias - with the formal dress parade being the crowning feature of the day.

As a teenager, Edwin Hemmerly joined the *Springfield Pioneers* militia as a Private and as such, most likely witnessed and participated in many of these martial and amusement activities. In December 1860, at age 21, he married Eliza Landis. As newlyweds, they followed farming. However, the Civil War soon erupted.

On October 29, 1862, Levi Hemmerly, Edwin’s brother, enlisted with *Co. A, 174th Pennsylvania Vol. Infantry*. Three days later, Edwin followed suit by also enlisting with the *174th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry* – but wound up as a Private in *Co. F*. His term of service was nine months.

The following month, the *174th Pennsylvania Infantry* was quickly dispatched to Washington, DC, and then to Suffolk, Virginia. At the end of December 1862, the regiment was ordered to move again, this time to North Carolina by ship. After arriving in North Carolina, it was mainly “*engaged in the routine of camp and garrison duty*” until June 1863. At the end of July 1863, Edwin’s regiment was ordered back to Philadelphia, where it was mustered out on August 7, 1863.

Edwin’s brother, now Sergeant Levi Hemmerly, was mustered out on that date, but ‘wagoner’ Edwin was absent on the roll due to sickness. Company F had not lost any men from battle action during its term of service, but it did lose five men to disease. Desertions from the company were excessive with nearly 22% of the men falling out. The Hemmerly brothers served honorably.

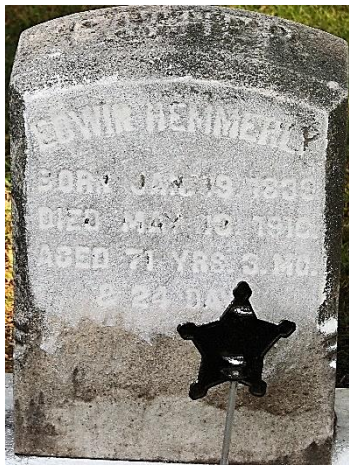
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Ancestor Profile – Private Edwin Hemmerly *(continued)*

In September 1864, Edwin Hemmerly re-enlisted for a one-year term with the 2nd *New Jersey Cavalry* at Memphis, Tennessee. It is surmised that Edwin joined the 2nd *New Jersey* because that unit, which was serving in the field at Memphis from August 31, 1864 to December 20, 1864, was advertising for recruits. An added incentive for Edwin to re-enlist was the generous bounty being offered to volunteers who enlisted for a 9-month term. Unmarried men with military experience, like Edwin, were being offered bounties of \$674 to \$746 – *which would be about \$14,600 in 2024 dollars!*

The 2nd *New Jersey Cavalry* soon left the Memphis area and shifted operations southward into Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama. In April 1865, The regiment was positioned briefly in Georgetown, Georgia, before moving back westward, concluding its service in Mississippi. It mustered out at Vicksburg on November 1, 1865. However, Private Edward [sic] Hemmerly had been discharged a little earlier from the 2nd *New Jersey Cavalry*. His discharge document indicates he was 26 years old and discharged at Trenton, New Jersey on June 30, 1865. A handwritten note on the document indicates he was owed \$55.55 in back pay.

Edwin Hemmerly returned to his home and wife in Pennsylvania to resume farming. On October 12, 1866, He and Eliza became the parents of a son, Clinton Hemmerly, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. They would eventually be blessed with seven more children.



In 1875, Edwin purchased a 50-acre farm. As a Republican, he served a four-year term as township Supervisor, and in 1902 “*was the candidate for county commissioner, but was defeated.*”

Edwin was a member of the Lutheran Church and a member of the *Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)*, affiliated with *Gen. Robert L. Bodine Post No. 306* of Doylestown.

He died on May 12, 1910 in Doylestown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania at age 71, and was buried in Doylestown Cemetery.

*... submitted by great-grandson Donald L. Gates, PDC/Dept. Secretary/Treasurer
Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp 18*



Trivia – Flying Coaches

The ‘Flying Coaches’ referred to in the ancestor profile of Edwin Hemmerly were not propelled by a motor, nor was the music furnished by an orchestrion. Instead, the ‘power’ was provided by a horse going round and round near the center - and the music was furnished by a fiddler sitting on a perch.

The contraption was a crude, homemade creation nestled under a soiled canvas tent. The ‘coaches’, or seats, resembled old sleigh bodies without runners, their blue paint nearly worn off. They were suspended with iron rods from wooden arms extending out from a heavy center pole around which the horse walked. As the tethered horse stepped forward, the apparatus revolved around the pole.

The cost of a ride was three cents and the jingle of a tiny bell signaled the end of the ride. The ringmaster and the horse then both needed to use all their strength to bring the coaches to a stop. The ‘Show’, as some called it was very popular, with the lads and their lasses enjoying the novelty of the rides.

... based on an account in The Pennsylvania-German Vol. 9, No. 3 – March 1908

Department Patriotic Instructor's Message

4 Jan 2024 – Authored by Brian D. McManus, PDC, National Patriotic Instructor

On honoring our country's fallen military servicemen and women: Today, I had the privilege to honor one of our fallen World War II U.S. Army veterans. Many years ago, a friend of mine showed me a shoebox in his basement filled with World War II Army memorabilia from his uncle, John F. Wagner. Also included were many items from his father, a World War II Marine.

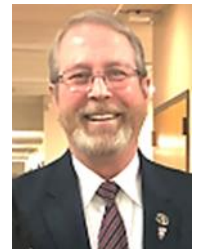
Researching his uncle's story for his niece, I learned he had served as a PFC with the *126th Regiment, 32nd (Red Arrow) Division*. While serving as a scout, his patrol was sent to reconnoiter the area near the Mot River in Aitape, New Guinea. During their patrol, they encountered a numerically superior Japanese force. PFC John F. Wagner shouted to the rest of his patrol to cross back across the Mot River while he held them off. Standing alone, he held the Japanese force at bay with his Browning automatic rifle while his patrol made it safely across the river. PFC Wagner was eventually killed by the Japanese force.

Wagner's bravery and unwavering courage was reported back to his Company Headquarters. He was subsequently awarded the *Army Distinguished Service Cross* documented by U.S. Army *Far East Command General Order # 23* under General Douglas MacArthur dated 1944. He now rests in honored glory in the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippine Islands.

So today, we had a simple remembrance ceremony at the *War Memorial Center* in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to commemorate the 80 years since he was killed. Attendees included *War Memorial* representatives, PFC Wagner's niece and her husband, myself and my wife (a *WRC* member), and PCC Tom Mueller, a noted local historian who helped with PFC Wagner's research.

I am humbly requesting our Brothers and members of the Allied Orders seek out and find the remaining living World War II Veterans to find out their stories. If you are unable to find any living World War II Veterans, research the Veterans in your family, and friends' families. Most of these Veterans are now in their mid-90s and soon will be leaving us much like Frank Buckles (World War I) and our honored Civil War Veteran, Albert Woolson. May the honor and courage of all our Veterans be held dear in our hearts.

... submitted by Dept. Patriotic Instructor, William Elliott 'Bill' Elliott
Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5, Shreveport



Trivia – From the Beginning to the End

Often referred to as the *First Battle of Manassas*, this was the first major battle of the Civil War, fought on July 21, 1861, near Manassas, Virginia. While not directly on Wilmer McLean's farm, the battle did take place in the vicinity of his property. McLean's house served as a headquarters and field hospital during the battle. This initial clash signaled the beginning of a brutal and protracted struggle that would engulf the country for four long years.



Wilmer McLean

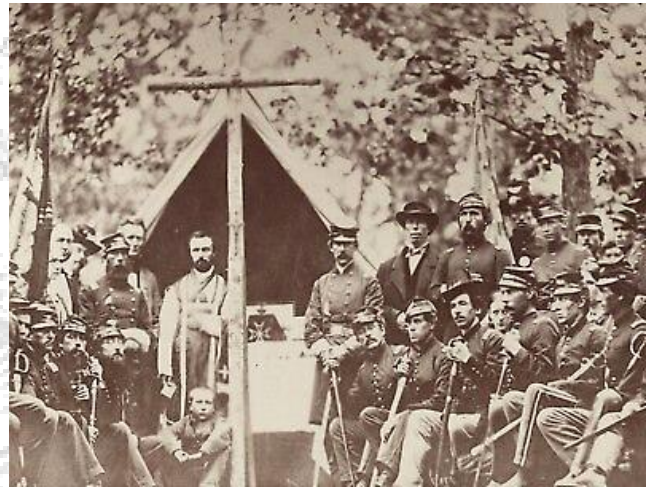
Seeking a calmer and safer place to live, McLean moved his family to the relative safety of a 2-story house on the Lynchburg-Richmond Stage Road in the small village of Appomattox Court House. However, as fate would have it, this 'calmer' residence gained even greater significance at the war's end. On April 9, 1865, nearly four years after the first shots were fired, McLean's farm in Appomattox County, Virginia, became the site of the surrender of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee to Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. This momentous event marked the symbolic end of the Civil War. McLean's farms thus bookended the Civil War.

Department Chaplain's Corner

At the beginning of the Civil War, there was no set role for military Chaplains. The selection of Chaplains was left to the various denominations. The Union Army eventually had 2,398 Chaplains and each one was paid \$100 per month. They were also issued a horse and an orderly to assist them in their duties. The Union Army attempted to have at least one Chaplain for every regiment. Initially, *General Order No. 15*, which established the position of Chaplain in the Union army, stipulated that the Chaplain must represent a Christian denomination. This was revised in 1862 to allow Rabbis to represent Jewish soldiers. The sizeable Irish Catholic contingent of the Union Army was also represented, although Catholic priests were frequently at loggerheads with Protestant counterparts over matters of doctrine. Fourteen African American men served as Chaplains among the *United States Colored Troops (USCT)*, where they faced much of the same discrimination and prejudice encountered by black soldiers.

A significant number of Chaplains were assigned to the growing networks of military hospitals. They tried to carry out their religious duties as best they could but faced significant obstacles in preaching and holding prayer meetings. Among the biggest problems was finding somewhere to hold a service. Chaplains wrote frequently of their frustration at finding somewhere suitable – an empty room, a spare tent – only to have the hospital authorities commandeer the space for extra beds, storage, or an impromptu operating theatre. Many Chaplains resorted to preaching in the open air.

Army Chaplains slept on the same hard ground as the soldiers to whom they ministered, ate the same food, endured the same hardships, and confronted the same life-and-death issues. They visited hospitals, comforted the sick and dying, followed the army into battle, offered counsel and religious instruction, and did whatever was necessary – sometimes helping to carry the wounded from the field of battle, sometimes dressing wounds, sometimes assisting surgeons in field hospitals.

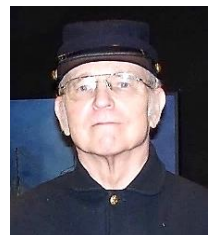


Open air service – 9th MA Inf., Camp Cass, VA

Chaplains provided many services to the troops. Some of their duties included:

- Providing spiritual support to soldiers, offering prayers, sermons, and counseling.
- Comforting soldiers during difficult times, such as before battles or after losses.
- Conducting religious services, including Sunday worship, Bible studies, and prayer meetings. These were often held in makeshift chapels or open fields near the front lines.
- Assisting with medical care, tending to wounded soldiers, and providing comfort to those on their deathbeds.
- Writing letters home for soldiers who couldn't read or write, ensuring communication with their families.
- Performing funeral services and burial rites for fallen soldiers.
- Offering last rites and prayers for dying soldiers, regardless of their faith.
- Encouraging soldiers to maintain their sense of duty, honor, and patriotism, and helping prevent desertion by emphasizing the importance of their cause.
- Fostering a sense of community among soldiers, creating a space for shared faith and camaraderie.

By distributing religious literature, hymnals, and Bibles to soldiers, Chaplains played a vital role in spreading faith-based messages and encouraging spiritual reflection. Despite the challenges of low pay and lack of structure, Chaplains made significant contributions to the soldier's well-being during the war.



... submitted by Department Chaplain Stephen D. Schulze - Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2, Houston

GAR – Department of Texas - 1902 (continued from page 3)

The following summary continues the tally of the number of names of Post Officers and credentialed Delegates listed in the *Journal of the 17th Annual Encampment of the Department of Texas, held in Beaumont Texas on April 24-26, 1902*, and whether or not they were present (*note: the names and credentialed status are available on request ... Editor*).

<u>Post Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Lyon Post 5	Denison	10	8
Thomas Post 6	Dallas	1	14
McClellan Post 9	Houston	10	9
Mower Post 10	Austin	5	3
Dix Post 11	Dallas	4	16
Hurst Post 13	Terrell	0	7
Lewis Post 17	Brackettville	0	5
Crawford Post 19	El Paso	0	12
Kearny Post 20	Lampasas	1	6
Logan Post 23	Denton	0	11
Sheridan Post 25	Georgetown	0	4
Wright Post 26	Paris	0	9
Custer Post 32	Bonham	1	4
Meade Post 35	Decatur	0	6
Kilpatrick Post 40	Belton	2	3
Randall Post 45	Weatherford	2	6
Canby Post 48	Jacksboro	2	4
Sherman Post 51	Granbury	2	3
Opdyke Post 53	Jefferson	0	5
Davis Post 54	Corpus Christi	0	5
Houston Post 55	Dublin	2	7
Burnside Post 56	Springtown	0	6
Holcomb Post 57	Mason	0	7
Rousseau Post 60	Graham	1	3
Terry Post 64	Fredericksburg	0	5
Travis Post 66	Abilene	0	5
Barney Post 67	Brownsville	0	4
Raum Post 71	Gibtown	0	7
Wainright Post 72	Alvin	2	7
Carson Post 74	Waco	1	10
San Jacinto Post 75	La Porte	1	7
Vardiman Post 78	Gatesville	0	4
Hooker Post 79	Laredo	0	6
Lawton Post 80	Beaumont	2	2
Liscum Post 81	Orange	2	3

The low numbers indicated for most of the Posts on this roll seem to show that the now elderly GAR comrades could not afford to travel to Beaumont from distant Texas towns, or they were simply apathetic about their GAR membership. Health and mobility issues or lack of rail service may have also played a part. One striking detail is the substantial number of absent comrades who had been 'elected' as Delegates or Alternates, but failed to attend the Encampment to represent their Posts.

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GAR – Department of Texas - 1902 (continued)

Before rising to deliver his lengthy Annual Report, Department Commander Hunt called on John W. Parks to fill his vacant chair. He began his address by recognizing CinC Torrance and his wife, and then offered his thanks for being given the honor of serving as Department Commander, stating:

“...for it has been the highest ambition of my life to be the Department Commander of this great State. No man’s heart beats more in unison with the weary and battle-scarred veteran, who carried his musket from ‘61 to ‘65 in defense of our country and its flag.”

He also stated, *“To me, the tattered commission as an officer in a Kentucky Regiment and the sword sleeping in its scabbard, are the best that I can leave to my son, if it will serve to remind him and his posterity of the true love of country that animated his father, and those who fought under and for the preservation of the flag.....We should earnestly cultivate this sentiment in our children – the beautiful sentiment implied in the observance of Memorial Day.”*

Commander Hunt then lamented that some Posts had been indifferent to patriotic observances, sometimes even omitting Memorial services, and *“not properly attending to the decoration of the soldier’s graves with flowers....”* But he added that things had improved somewhat in 1901 with 28 Posts having observed Decoration Day. To help improve the situation, Commander Hunt mentioned one thing he had done to promote participation in Memorial activities:

“In order that every Post might find it more convenient this year to decorate and to guard against the insufficient supply of flowers for that purpose – which has often been our experience in Texas – I made requisition on the Commander-in-Chief on the 22nd of February [1901] for 3,000 flags and \$100 in money, so that each Post could be supplied from these headquarters with flags and flowers for decoration, believing that in that way every Post could observe Memorial Day.”

He stressed his belief in the importance of observing Memorial Day by saying *“I wish again to urge upon you, dear comrades, to observe Memorial Services strictly, and see that they are never neglected, and that as far as each one can, offer a helping hand to mark a grave by a flag or a flower.”*

Commander Hunt then gave credit to the *Woman’s Relief Corps* - not only for being the *Auxiliary* to the *GAR*, but also for adding *“backbone and strength to the organization”*, and thanked his staff for their service during the year, specifically naming Assistant Adjutant-General J. W. Ridge of *Dix Post 11* of Dallas; Department Inspector W. Z. Manchester of *Parmy Post 4* of Fort Worth; Chief Mustering Officer D. M. Baker of *Dix Post 11* of Dallas; Judge Advocate James S. Dunlap of *Thomas Post 6* of Dallas; and Sr. Aide-de-Camp J. J. Weiler of *Dix Post 11* of Dallas.

As usual, the topic of pensions was of interest to the assembled veterans. Commander Hunt said he spent much time and hard work trying to *“unravel this trouble about pensions.”* During the year, he had asked each Post Commander to report on the feelings of their respective members about the conduct of the Pension Office. The feedback he received complained that the Bureau was

“too slow, and in many instances, unjust, and denied pensions which should be allowed; that widows were often denied pensions on technicalities which should be overlooked; and that often improper questions were put to these widows, which were exceedingly mortifying and embarrassing to them”.

It seems that very few veterans in Texas had a favorable opinion of the Pension Office. Some went so far as to complain of *“the Examining Board being composed entirely of Southern sympathizers.”*...with

“... some widows being referred back to Congressmen, who were not at all in sympathy with the ex-Union veterans’ claim for a pension.”

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GAR - Department of Texas - 1902 (continued)

Simultaneously, as the 17th Annual Encampment of the Department of Texas progressed in Beaumont, another grand convention was taking place in Dallas. That city was hosting the Reunion of the United Confederate Veterans. Commander Hunt had a few words to say about those visitors to Texas:

"We have given them a hearty welcome. We are glad they are within our borders. Everyone composing the immense throng is a brother; yea, an American. 'Tis forty years since we met in deadly combat. 'Tis thirty-seven years since we laid down our arms, and our opposing brothers furled their flag, the Stars and Bars.

"Today, myriads of these flags are cast to the breeze in Dallas; but they are meaningless now, and have been for nearly forty years, and will always be so. The war is over, comrades. You did your duty well. Chide not those who fought under the Stars and Bars, for they were worthy of your steel. Those who failed to do their duty then are not satisfied now, but want to make great demonstrations by loud talking. The best evidence of a poor soldier during the Civil War is his loud talking today, about what was done on his side."

E. J. Rust of McClellan Post 9 of Houston was serving as the Department Historian and Custodian of Records during the 1901-1902 term. He had compiled a preliminary draft of the early history of the Department of Texas. Commander Hunt acknowledged the difficulty comrade Rust was having in coordinating a review to approve a final version of the draft by the committee members, due to great distances between them, declaring:

"...the committee to whom the manuscript was submitted has been scattered, causing much loss of time. Believing it should not go to press until another effort was made to add to it, I therefore earnestly requested all Posts or any comrades who had any information or old newspaper clippings pertaining to meetings of Posts or Encampments, covering the earlier years, to send such data to the Assistant Adjutant General at Dallas at once."

The Commander then spoke eloquently about how the September 6, 1901 assassination attempt on President McKinley affected the veterans of the Department of Texas - and the country. It occurred on the eve of the 1901 National Encampment in Cleveland, Ohio. Here is his account (*in part*) of the days before and the days following the shooting:

"On Friday afternoon, on the 6th of September [1901], a little after 4:00 o'clock, a message came to Texas from Buffalo, that our comrade and great President, Wm. McKinley, whom we had expected to greet us at Cleveland, had been stricken down while he extended the friendly hand of welcome to an assassin during a reception in the Temple of Music."

Right: William McKinley (1843-1901), 25th President of the United States.

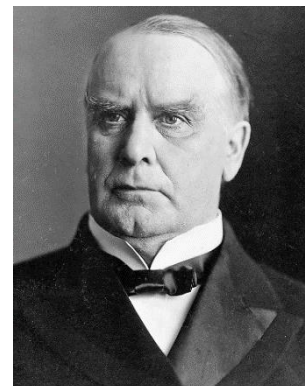
"This announcement cast a gloom over the whole country, such as was never experienced before in these United States. The preparation in Texas for our departure for Cleveland on the evening of the 8th had already been made, and under the sad gloom, not one of us felt in the spirits to make the trip."

"The next morning brought better news from our comrade, and on the next, still better, until we had strong hopes of his recovery. We arrived in Cleveland in due time, and on the morning of the 11th, the day of our parade, when 27,000 Civil War veterans were in line, we felt very hopeful of his recovery."

"On the evening of the 12th, we were informed that Mr. McKinley was growing weaker."

"At the appointed hour, nine o'clock a.m., on the 13th, the [National] Encampment assembled, and it was thought best, owing to the extreme illness of the President, to turn all unfinished business over to the Council of Administration, and elect officers for the ensuing year, adjourn and go home, which was done. The same day

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GAR – Department of Texas - 1902 (continued)

many of us [instead] left for Buffalo, where our beloved President was lying in a dying condition."

"On the morning of the 14th, at 2:15 o'clock, he passed away. It was there in Buffalo we saw the greatest grief we ever witnessed. There we saw the greatest tribute that could be paid to any man, and even on the day of burial at Canton, in Buffalo, at 3:30, all business activity came to a standstill."

"It was arranged by the railway companies and streetcar companies that all power should stop at that moment. The immense crowd knew not the reason why, until the city clock chimed, 'Nearer, my God to Thee', and involuntarily, without suggestion or sign of any kind, men removed their hats and stood in silence, and remained uncovered for five minutes."

"Steam railroads all over the country did the same thing, even to their freight business, and for five minutes the greatest commercial nation on the globe paused in common meditation and sorrow – a tribute unprecedented in the history of the world. What a blow, my comrades, to this country, was the taking away of William McKinley!"

The report of absent Sr. Vice-Department Commander H. C. Adler was then presented by Assistant Adjutant-General, J. W. Ridge. In the report, SVC Adler lamented the recent death of Past-Post Cmdr., E. B. Dwyer of his *Hurst Post 13*, and that several other Post members had moved away, leaving *"but few of the old vets still remain with us; but we hope that they are happily settled."*

Right: Department Sr. Vice-Commander H. C. Adler of Hurst Post 13

Department Jr. Vice-Commander, J. J. Billow, of *McClellan Post 9* of Houston, then reported on his activities during his term of office ending April 26, 1902. His report tells of his visit to *Wainwright Post 72* of Alvin, and of installing the officers of *McClellan Post 9*. He spoke highly of the *Women's Relief Corps* connected to each of those two Posts. He also suggested that all G.A.R. Posts adopt an occasional *'social or open meeting night'* following the example of the *McClellan Post*, to make some meetings *"very enjoyable for the old comrades and their wives, relatives and friends."*

The next report was that of Department Chaplain, W. W. Patterson of *Dix Post 11* of Dallas. Since he was not in attendance, his report was also presented by Assistant Adjutant-General, J. W. Ridge, with the explanation: *"Chaplain S. W. Patterson is now a resident of Illinois, but who yet retains his membership and proves his interest in the Order and the comrades by his carefully prepared and voluminous report..."*

The Chaplain's lengthy report was well-prepared and included a summary of the 1901 *Decoration Sabbath Day* and *Decoration Day* activities that occurred across the Department. His summary was based on the reports he received from the various Posts. Chaplain Patterson concluded his report by writing:

"Department Commander, this closes my report of all the Posts I have heard from – thirty in all. I deeply regret that I cannot be present with you in person; but God has ordered it otherwise. For five years I have been your Department Chaplain. I want to thank you for the continued honor you have bestowed upon me from year to year."



H. C. ADLER,
Senior Vice-Commander



REV. S. W. PATTERSON,
Department Chaplain.

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GAR - Department of Texas - 1902 (continued)

"My removal to the State of Illinois, and my work for the present being in this State, I can only hope that sometime in the future I may be again with you. Our home is in Dallas, and we hope sometime to go back to it. I commit you and the boys whom I tenderly love in the Spirit, to the tender care of the Great Shepherd, who longs to give all a home in the Beautiful World of God. Yours in F. C. and L., [signed] S. W. Patterson, Department Chaplain, Tower Hill, Ill."

The report of Department Historian and Custodian E. G. Rust of *McClellan Post 9* of Houston, dealt primarily with his project to document the early history of the *Department of Texas*. After being elected to his position at the 1901 *Department Encampment* in Galveston, Rust *"purchased a trunk, in which to preserve the archives and data of the Department."*

Rust worked on compiling early Post documents from the years 1885 through 1890 and reportedly finished his work *"shortly after my return from the National Encampment at Cleveland [Sep 1901]."* He sent his draft copy to Department Headquarters, where the Commander assigned it to his newly appointed *Committee of Revision*. The committee was charged with reviewing the assembled draft documents and making revisions where necessary. Echoing the comments made by Commander Hunt, he explained that further progress in producing a final version of the historical work had bogged down *"owing to the scattered location of the committee from San Antonio to Denison, the work of passing upon my compilation has been of necessity slow..."*

General Order No. 8 was thereafter issued by Commander Hunt requesting that any documents, information, or newspaper clippings *"pertaining to meetings of Posts or Encampments, covering the earlier years"* be sent immediately *"to the Assistant Adjutant General at Dallas"* - to have them added to the compilation - before the History Project was finalized. It was suspected that additional uncollected historical information *"not covered by official reports..."* remained at the various Posts and in private collections.

Historian Rust also mentioned in his report that he had *"succeeded during the past two years in picking up here and there two complete files of our printed proceedings from 1890 to the present time."* He recommended that these later files be added to the 1885-1890 compilation and together bound in *"two complete volumes for preservation, one for the office of the Assistant Adjutant General, and one for the Historian and Custodian...."*

The report of Medical Director G. Helbing of *Custer Post 32* of Bonham, was also included in the *Encampment Journal*. Since he did not attend the Encampment, his report was also read by Assistant Adjutant-General J. W. Ridge. It consisted primarily of statistics. In summary, here are some of the highlights:



D. M. BAKER,
Chief Mustering Officer.

- *No. of reports received from Post Surgeons, Cmdrs, or Adjutants:* 25
- *No. of deaths during the year:* 19
- *No. who presumably died of wounds received in the service:* 0
- *No. who presumably died of disease contracted in the service:* 0
- *No. who presumably died from other causes:* 9
- *No. of deserving sick or maimed not receiving pensions:* 13
- *No. of ex-soldiers or sailors in almshouses:* None

The basic message of the report submitted by Chief Mustering Officer, D. M. Baker of *Dix Post 11* of Dallas, was *"No Transactions"*. He stated the obvious by writing:

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GAR - Department of Texas - 1902 (continued)

"There can be no doubt but that the time for getting recruits for our Order has almost, if not entirely, gone by, and it would be hopeless to expect the organization of new Posts or any considerable additions to old ones. We need not expect it, and cannot, because it is not in the nature of things. We don't grow younger as the years go by, and the hour is already late."

The report of Assistant Adjutant-General, J. W. Ridge indicated that forty Posts were on the 1902 Department roster, a gain of one from the previous year. However, despite *"earnest, energetic efforts, repeated from time to time, by correspondence, were made to receive some information from the Posts not reporting..."*, he received information from only thirty-five of those forty Posts – which was three more than had reported the previous year. Of the five Posts that failed to report, the Inspector found himself *"pleading for even a letter, giving some data of existing conditions, if nothing more, but no response was made."*

"The five Posts not reporting are John A. Logan, No. 23, Denton; Geo. G. Meade, No. 35, Decatur; A. H. Terry, No. 64, Fredericksburg; B. F. Stephenson, No. 77, Clarkesville; E. H. Liscomb, No. 81, Orange."

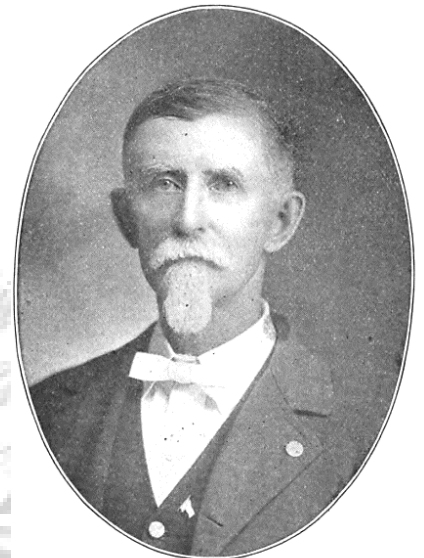
The summation at the end of the report submitted by Department Inspector, W. Z. Manchester of *Parmly Post 4* of Fort Worth, illustrated his frustration at the failure of some Posts to comply with reporting requirements. He stated:

"It would seem the names of the grand old warriors and the historic valor attached to their names should have been a stimulus to the comrades to have kept their Posts alive until the last gun was fired and the last comrade crossed the dark river; but if these posts are to be no more on our records, their names, Logan, Meade, Terry, Liscomb, Stephenson (the latter the founder of the G.A.R.), will live in our memory and the Nation's forever."

The report of Assistant Adjutant-General J. W. Ridge focused on membership details. He reported that the Department had 928 members in good standing on December 31, 1900, and ended the year with 822 members on December 31, 1901. While the *Department of Texas* had gained 126 members in 1901 through transfers-in, newly mustered-in veterans (59), and by reinstatement, it lost 232 members from factors such as death (31), discharges, transfers-out, suspensions, and delinquent reports – resulting in a net loss of 106 men overall.

A.A.G. Ridge also mentioned he was unable to receive reports from *Stephenson Post 77* of Clarkesville and *Meade Post No. 35* of Decatur, but *"All other Posts will appear in good standing, as shown in Credentials Report."* Efforts had been made during 1901 to organize new Posts in Cleburne, Amarillo, Gainesville, and McKinney, but *"without result"*. An attempt was also made to attach the *GAR* veterans living in Mexico City to the *Department of Texas*, but the *Department of Tennessee* had that honor. Finally, commenting on the thirty-one deaths in 1901, Ridge sadly stated:

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



W. Z. MANCHESTER,
Department Inspector.



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

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GAR – Department of Texas - 1902 (continued)

Serving also as Assistant Quartermaster-General, J. W. Ridge reported on the amount of receipts received (\$852.62) and disbursements made (\$488.52) from his office in 1901. The largest source of revenue was the Per Capita Tax (\$511.20) submitted by the Posts. The largest expenditure was the salaries of the Assistant Adjutant-General and Assistant Quartermaster-General (\$200). The Department ended the year with a cash balance of \$364.10 – which would translate to about \$12,985 in 2024 dollars.

On the financial health of the *Department of Texas*, A.Q.M.G. Ridge reported: *“Financially, the Department is in very good standing, with a nice cash balance. The disbursements and expenses have been carefully guarded, as the income is practically fixed by membership, and no other income of consequence.”*



J. S. DUNLAP.
Judge Advocate.

The brief but positive report submitted by Department Judge Advocate J. S. Dunlap of *Thomas Post 6* of Dallas was well-received by the Delegates – and was readily adopted. In his report, Dunlap stated:

“I herewith submit my report and wish to say our Department seems to be in such splendid condition that it is not in need of a Judge Advocate. I have not been called upon to take official action in regard to Department affairs during my term of office. This indicates that the ‘old boys’ are well posted in rules and regulations of the Order, and are obeying orders in the same patriotic manner that they did back in the 60’s.”

After the *Great Storm of Galveston* in 1900, the GAR established a ‘Storm Fund’ to accept charitable contributions from members across the country. The contributions were to be used for the relief of comrades who were adversely affected by the hurricane and floods. Several distressed veterans and their families did receive disaster relief from the fund. However, by the time of the 1902 Department Encampment, there was \$500 still being held in the fund.

L. H. Rowan of *Wainwright Post 75* of Alvin submitted a resolution to the *Committee on Resolutions* to try to have the unspent funds distributed to the Posts most affected by the storm. After deliberation, the *Committee on Resolutions* recommended against Rowan’s resolution, stating:

“much aid having already been given the needy members in the Coast district, that the residue of said fund, some five hundred dollars, be held in trust by future Department Commanders and distributed by them upon proper certification to needy comrades wherever located within the jurisdiction of the Department of Texas.”

A heated debate about the funds’ dispersal issue was followed by a negative vote. The unspent monies were therefore not allocated to the *Gulf Coast* Posts.

A much less contentious resolution was then submitted by John W. Parks of *Dix Post 11* of Dallas and it, understandably, met with a more positive outcome. Comrade Parks wished to thank CinC Ell Torrance for his efforts in dealing with the Pension Department. It stated:

“WHEREAS, Our Commander-in-Chief, Comrade Ell Torrance, having by his untiring energy and sacrifice, endeared himself to every comrade, in his endeavors to secure them justice in the administration of the Pension Department, and in which he has so signally succeeded,

THEREFORE, The sincerest thanks and warmest fraternal feeling of this Department go out and are so conveyed to him by this resolution.”

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GAR - Department of Texas - 1902 (continued)

The primary function of the 1902 Department Encampment was to elect Department Officers for the next term. It began when Comrade Paul La France of *Mower Post 10* of Austin nominated Past-Post Commander A. Gerard, also of *Mower Post 10*, for the office of Department Commander. There would be competition, however, because Comrade Hume of *McClellan Post 9* of Houston quickly nominated Past Sr. Vice-Department Commander C. C. Haskell of Denison for the same office. PDC John Roch of *Houston Post 55* of Dublin seconded Haskell's nomination "*in one of his characteristic and vigorous speeches.*"

But before the voting could begin, the Encampment was distracted by the appearance of a four-woman delegation from the *W.R.C.* The ladies took the stage and warmly addressed the veterans. Afterward, Commander Hunt responded "*to the ladies in a neat speech of welcome and good wishes, after which they retired to their own assembly.*" The election process then resumed.

Candidate Gerard rose and announced his wish to have his name removed from the race for Department Commander. Comrade Haskell's name was now the only one on the ballot. As was the custom, a motion was made, seconded, and carried which directed Assistant Adjutant-General J. W. Ridge to "*cast the entire vote of the Encampment for C. C. Haskell for Department Commander.*" C. C. Haskell thus became the unanimous choice to become the Commander for the 1902-1903 term.

Next came nominations for the position of Department SVC. Three men were put forth as candidates: R. B. Underhill, Commander of *Lawton Post 80* of Beaumont; Israel Stoddard, Commander of *Canby Post 48* of Jacksboro; and Comrade Hereford. The *Journal* indicates that "*Comrade Underhill and Hereford withdrew from the race....and Comrade Israel Stoddard was unanimously elected Senior Vice Department Commander.*"

Only one man was nominated for Department JVC: "*Comrade W. F. Wieland of Weatherford was nominated for Junior Vice Department Commander and unanimously elected to that office.*" Department Chaplain, Father T. K. Crowley of *Lyon Post 5* of Denison, and Medical Director, Dr. G. Helbing of *Custer Post 32* of Bonham, were also both nominated and re-elected to their positions.

Three comrades were then nominated for the two Delegates slots for the *1902 National Encampment*: R. B. Underhill of *Lawton Post 80* of Beaumont; D. G. Gillette of *Ord Post 3*; and W. A. Stoner of *Carson Post 74* of Waco. Comrade Gillette, having received the fewest votes, was subsequently elected as an Alternate, as was William H. Harvey of *Kilpatrick Post 40* of Belton.

Five comrades were selected by a committee as candidates to serve on the *Department Council of Administration*: John L. Tygard of *Lyon Post 5*, of Denison; E. S. Stockwell of *Wainwright Post 72* of Alvin; John H. Bolton of *Ord Post 3* of San Antonio; William B. Milliken of *Dix Post 11* of Dallas; and Alonzo Gerard of *Mower Post 10* of Austin. They were elected.

At the close of business on day two, the attendees were afforded some time to enjoy local sights and pleasures. Their after-hours sightseeing and experiences were chronicled in the *Journal* as such:

"Adjournment was now had, to indulge in the hospitality of Beaumont; a train was soon at the depot, and a free ride for all the W.R.C. and comrades was the pleasant diversion, ending at the great oil wells, south of the city. These are the wonders of the world in their line, and much attention was shown us all there, and some of the gushers were turned loose for us to see as well as to hear, as the force of the flow causes much noise, as well as ejecting much oil."

"With the going-down of the sun, return to the city followed, and at night, all availed themselves of the kind invitation from Mrs. and Comrade F. A. Hyatt, and attended a musicale at their handsome home on Calder

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GAR - Department of Texas - 1902 (continued)

Avenue. The proceedings were interesting and artistic, and were a very pleasant intermission from the regular duties of the Encampment."

On the last day of the Encampment, April 26, 1902, the GAR and the W.R.C. gathered together at 9 a.m. to install their respective Officers for the next term. The ladies installed their Officers first. Then, Past-Post Commander T. M. Wright of *Lyon Post 5*, Denison, received the gavel from Commander Hunt and proceeded to install three of the GAR Officers-elect, including Commander-elect C. C. Haskell of *Lyon Post 5* of Denison; Sr. Vice-Department Commander Israel Stoddard of *Canby Post 48* of Jacksboro; and Assistant Adjutant-General/and Assistant Quartermaster-General, H. A. Johnson of *McPherson Post 1* of Sherman.

Jr. Vice-Department Commander W. F. Wieland of *Randall Post 45* of Weatherford, had been installed the previous day due to his need to leave for home early. Both Chaplain T. K. Crowley of *Lyon Post 5* of Denison and Medical Director G. Helbing of *Custer Post 32* of Bonham, were not present to be installed.

Right: Chief of Staff, J. J. Weiler of Dix Post 11 of Dallas.

After closing remarks were given by newly installed Department Commander Haskell and outgoing Commander Hunt, the *Encampment* came to a close. As one final act of hospitality by the City of Beaumont, the GAR Delegates and ladies of the W.R.C. were:

"...taken in carriages to the wharf, where a steamboat floating on the Neches River, and itself floating the National colors, awaited us, and we were soon steaming down the Neches River, all surprised at its volume of water and size."

"On the boat, music, both vocal and instrumental, were furnished in profusion, and the trip down was a very pleasant one. Arriving at Port Neches, a splendid lunch was spread under the large trees on a beautiful bluff, and after enjoying the views and observing the large oil refinery, we took return passage to Beaumont."

"The trip back was, if possible, more pleasing than going down, and the enjoyment by all was added to by the novelty of the entertainment. It was one of the most pleasant and enjoyable occasions of the entire Encampment."



J. J. WEILER,
Chief of Staff.

GAR in Texas - A Research Project

As Department Historian, I have taken on the task of trying to document the GAR as it existed in the *Department of Texas*. While I have seen mentions of at least 83 individual local GAR Posts in Texas, primary documents and records for them are very hard to come by. The Department held Encampments each year for decades, but so far, I have found digitized journals for only two of them online and accessible. The other journals likely exist in hardcopy form only, waiting to be discovered.

While the GAR did not have a huge presence in Texas, it did have an impact on numerous small communities across the state – from Brownsville to Amarillo and from El Paso to Jefferson. Who were the Union veterans who organized those Posts? Where did they originally hail from, and where are they buried? Their experiences in trying to promote patriotism in a former Confederate state must have been a challenging experience. Yet, promote and organize they did! They all deserve to be identified, remembered, and honored!

... Michael L. Lance, DC

Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients - U.S. Army (Part 9)

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 version of the Medal of Honor

This issue of the *Unionist* presents Part 9 of a 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 the wording of their citation.



- **Norman Francis Bates - Sergeant** – Norman Francis Bates was born in 1839 in Derry, Vermont. He enlisted with the Union Army during the Civil War and served as a Sergeant with the 4th Iowa Volunteer Cavalry. He received the *Medal of Honor* on June 17, 1865 for his actions during a battle at Columbus, Georgia on April 16, 1864. Following his war service, Bates settled in Grinnell, Poweshiek Co., Iowa where he made his living both farming and raising livestock. He died in 1915. His *Medal of Honor* citation reads:

"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Sergeant Norman Francis Bates, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 16 April 1865, while serving with Company E, 4th Iowa Cavalry, in action at Columbus, Georgia. For Capture of flag and bearer."



- **Philip James Baybutt - Private** – Philip James Baybutt was born in Manchester, England in 1844. After journeying to Fall River, Massachusetts to visit his brother, the Civil War broke out. He immediately joined the Union Army. The non-conformist working-class community he belonged to in England was strongly opposed to slavery. This opposition continued during the war despite the hardships the community experienced due to the Union blockade and the consequent 'cotton famine'. Philip would fight in eight major battles and was seriously wounded twice, having two horses shot out beneath him. He was awarded the Medal of Honor after snatching the enemy flag while fighting for the 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry. After the war, he returned to Britain and fathered eight children. He never fully recovered from his injuries. He died in 1907 in Lancashire, England at age 62 and was buried in Southern Cemetery in Manchester, England. His headstone has no mention of his involvement in the Civil War. At a ceremony on the 138th anniversary of the *Battle of Fisher's Hill* in 2002, Baybutt's granddaughter unveiled a commemorative headstone citing his *Medal of Honor*. His Medal of Honor citation states:

"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Private Philip Baybutt, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 24 September 1864, while serving with Company A, 2d Massachusetts Cavalry, in action at Luray, Virginia, for capture of flag."

- **Alexander Mitchell Beattie - Captain** – Alexander Mitchell Beattie (often misspelled 'Beatty') was born in 1828 in Ryegate, Vermont. During the Civil War, he served as a Captain with the 3rd Vermont Infantry from June 1861 until July 1864. He received the Medal of Honor on April 25, 1894, for his actions at the *Battle of Cold Harbor*. Captain Beattie later was a Companion of the Vermont Commandery of MOLLUS. He died in 1907 at age 78. 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 Alexander Mitchell Beatty, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 5 June 1864, while serving with Company F, 3d Vermont Infantry, in action at Cold Harbor, Virginia. Captain Beatty removed, under a hot fire, a wounded member of his command to a place of safety."

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Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients - U.S. Army (Part 9 continued)

- **Powhatan Beaty – 1st Sergeant** – Powhatan Beaty was born into slavery in 1837 in Richmond, Virginia. He moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1849, where he received an education. He gained his freedom sometime before April 19, 1861 - the exact date is unknown and may have been before his move to Ohio. While in school, Beaty developed an interest in theater and made his public acting debut at a school concert. After leaving school, he was apprenticed to a black cabinet maker and eventually worked as a turner. He continued to study acting privately and received training in the field from several coaches.

In August 1862, after the Confederate victory at the *Battle of Richmond*, Kentucky, rumors of an impending Confederate attack on Cincinnati began to circulate. Richmond, Kentucky was only 106 miles from Cincinnati, and no organized Union troops lay between the two cities. An attack by Confederate Col. John Hunt Morgan, who had led his cavalry on a raid behind Union lines in Kentucky the previous month, was also feared.

On September 2, 1862, the men of Cincinnati were organized into work units to build fortifications around the city. Although Cincinnati's African Americans were initially pressed into service at bayonet point, after the appointment of William Dickson as commander of the black troops, their treatment improved significantly.

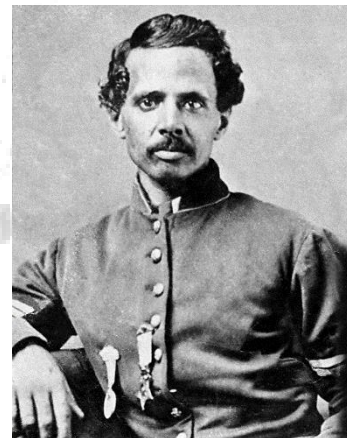
Dickson promised that they would be treated fairly and kept together as a distinct unit, to be called the *Black Brigade*. He then allowed them to return home to prepare for military service, with orders to report the next morning for duty. About four hundred men were released that September day, and the next morning about seven hundred reported for duty.

Among those men who returned was Powhatan Beaty. He served in *Co. No. 1* of the Brigade's 3rd Regiment. Despite the danger of Confederate attack, the unarmed Black unit was assigned to build defenses near the Licking River in Kentucky, far in advance of the Union lines.

1st Sgt. Powhatan Beaty

For the next fifteen days, they cleared forests, constructed forts, magazines, and roads, and dug trenches and rifle pits. The brigade was disbanded on September 20, 1862, after the threat of attack diminished.

Beaty served in the 5th U.S.C.T. Infantry throughout the Richmond–Petersburg Campaign. He received the Medal of Honor for taking command of his Company at the *Battle of Chaffin's Farm*, after all other officers had been killed or wounded.



After the war, Beaty returned to Cincinnati and raised his family. He resumed his career as a turner and pursued amateur acting and public speaking engagements. He gave public readings for charitable causes and became a well-known elocutionist among the African American community of Cincinnati.

Through the 1870s he acted in local theaters and directed music and drama exhibitions. He lived out the rest of his life in Cincinnati and died in 1916 at age 79. He was buried at Union Baptist Cemetery. His Medal of Honor citation reads:

"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to First Sergeant Powhatan Beaty, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 29 September 1864, while serving with Company G, 5th Colored Infantry, in action at Chapin's Farm, Virginia. First Sergeant Beaty took command of his company, all the officers having been killed or wounded, and gallantly led it."

- **Jean J. Beaufort – Corporal** – Jean Joseph Beaufort was born in 1832 in France and later immigrated to the United States. When the Civil War broke out, he was 29 years old and living in New Orleans, Louisiana. A year after Federal forces captured New Orleans, Beaufort volunteered for service in the Union Army, enlisting in May 1863. He served with *Co. A, 2nd Louisiana Regiment Infantry*, eventually attaining the rank of Corporal.

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Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients - U.S. Army (Part 9 continued)

During the summer of 1863, when the 2nd Louisiana Infantry approached the city of Port Hudson, Louisiana, Beaufort volunteered to take a party of eight people behind enemy lines to destroy a signal station. The mission was a success, giving the Union forces a key advantage in the impending *Siege of Port Hudson*. Beaufort was awarded the *Medal of Honor* thirty-four years later, for his role in leading the assault on the signal station. He died two months later on September 15, 1897 at age 64-65, and was buried at *Arlington National Cemetery* in Virginia. His Medal of Honor citation reads:

"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Corporal John (Jean) Joseph Beaufort, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 20 May 1863, while serving with Company A, 2d Louisiana Infantry, in action at Port Hudson, Louisiana. Corporal Beaufort volunteered to go within the enemy's lines and at the head of a party of eight destroyed a signal station, thereby greatly aiding in the operations against Port Hudson that immediately followed."

- **Eugene B. Beaumont - Major and Ass't Adjutant General** - Eugene Beauharnais Beaumont, son of a U.S. Representative, was born in 1837 in Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne Co., Pennsylvania. He was appointed to the *U.S. Military Academy* in 1856 and graduated in May 1861, ranking 32nd out of his class of 45 cadets. He was assigned to the 1st *Cavalry Regiment* as a 2nd Lieutenant. Soon after entering the Army, Beaumont married his childhood sweetheart, Margaret Rutter.

Beaumont trained federal soldiers in Washington, D.C. until June 1861, then was appointed Aide-de-Camp to Gen. Ambrose Burnside. With Burnside, he participated in the *First Battle of Bull Run*. In September 1861, Beaumont became Aide-de-Camp to Gen. John Sedgwick and served with him in the *Peninsula Campaign* of early 1862 until falling ill with typhoid fever.

In August 1862, after recuperating from his illness, Beaumont returned to duty and again worked as an Aide-de-Camp, this time to General-in-Chief of the Union Army, Henry Wager Halleck. However, Beaumont soon requested to be sent back into the field. In May 1863, he rejoined Gen. Sedgwick as a Captain and took part in the battles at Gettysburg, Rappahannock Station, Raccoon Ford, Mine Run, and the Wilderness



Eugene B. Beaumont

By December 1864, Beaumont was a Major serving as the Assistant Adjutant-General of the *Army of the Mississippi's Cavalry Corps*. At the Harpeth River in Tennessee, he took command of the 4th *Cavalry Regiment* and led a successful mission to capture a Confederate artillery battery. Four months later, at the *Battle of Selma*, Alabama, he led the regiment in an assault on Confederate fortifications.

After the war, Beaumont served with the 4th *Cavalry* throughout the western United States. One of his first assignments was as Commander of the *District of Lampasas*, Texas, in 1869 and 1870. During the Red River War, he fought in the *Battle of Palo Duro Canyon*, where he led the 4th *Cavalry's* leading battalion. From 1875-1879, Beaumont served as a Cavalry instructor at *West Point*. He was then promoted to Major and returned to the west, commanding Fort Reno, in the Indian Territory, and several other forts during his long career. Beaumont finally retired in May 1892, as a Lt. Colonel. He died in 1916 at age 79 in Harvey's Lake, Pennsylvania. 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 Major & Assistant Adjutant General Eugene Beauharnais Beaumont, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 17 December 1864 while serving with Cavalry Corps, Army of Mississippi, in action at Harpeth River, Tennessee. Major Beaumont obtained permission from the Corps Commander to advance upon the enemy's position with the 4th U.S. Cavalry, of which he was a lieutenant; led an attack upon a battery, dispersed the enemy, and captured the guns. At Selma, Alabama, on 2 April 1865, he charged, at the head of his regiment, into the second and last line of the enemy's works."

... series to be continued next issue with part 10

2023-2024 Department Officers and Media Links

Elected Officers

Department Commander	Michael L. Lance
Department Sr. Vice-Commander	Timothy M. Phillips
Department Jr. Vice-Commander	Richard W. Erder (for membership info)
Department Secretary/Treasurer	Donald L. Gates
Department Council Member	Charles W. Sprague
Department Council Member	Dr. Stevenson T. Holmes
Department Council Member	Lewis Eugene 'Gene' Willis

Staff Officers

Dept. Patriotic Instructor	William M. 'Bill' Elliott	Dept. Organizer	Blair G. Rudy
Dept. Chaplain	Stephen D. Schulze	Dept. Signals Officer	John C. Vander Meulen
Dept. Historian	Michael L. Lance	Dept. Eagle Scout Coordinator	John E. Schneider Sr.
Dept. Civil War Mem. Off.	Charles W. Sprague	Dept. Assistant Signals Officer	Larry Joe Reynolds
Dept. Graves Registr. Off.	Terry T. Sutton	Dept. Newsletter Editor	Michael L. Lance
Dept. Counselor	John E. Schneider Sr.		

Department Website

Department Facebook Page

Department Newsletter:

The Unionist newsletter is published quarterly (Feb, May, Aug, and Nov).

Send comments, articles, or photos to the Editor at:

mlance387@gmail.com



2024 Camp Officers and Media Links

Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1 - Fort Worth, Texas

Camp Commander **Clifford F. 'Butch' Durham**
Camp Sr. Vice-Commander **Michael E. Belcher**
Camp Jr. Vice-Commander **vacant**
Camp Treasurer **David B. Appleton**
Camp Secretary **Ky W. White**

Gen. James J. Byrne
Namesake of Camp 1



Camp 1 Website
Camp 1 Facebook

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

Camp Commander **John C. Vander Meulen**
Camp Sr. Vice-Commander **Daniel B. Poureau**
Camp Jr. Vice-Commander **Vincent T. Trovato**
Camp Secretary/Treasurer **Stephen D. Schulze**



Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea
Namesake of Camp 2
Killed in Action on the *USS Harriet Lane*
1 Jan 1863

Camp Website
Camp Facebook

Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5 - Shreveport, Louisiana

Camp Commander **Michael A. Heller**
Camp Sr. Vice-Commander **John A. Prime**
Camp Jr. Vice-Commander **Ralph L. Diamond**
Camp Secretary/Treasurer **William M. 'Bill' Elliott**

Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey
Namesake of Camp 5

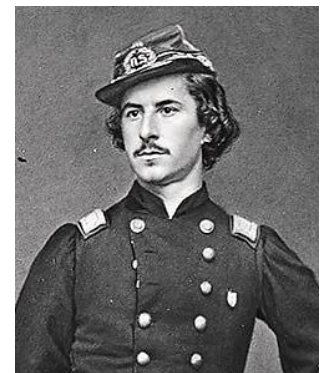


Camp Website
Camp Facebook

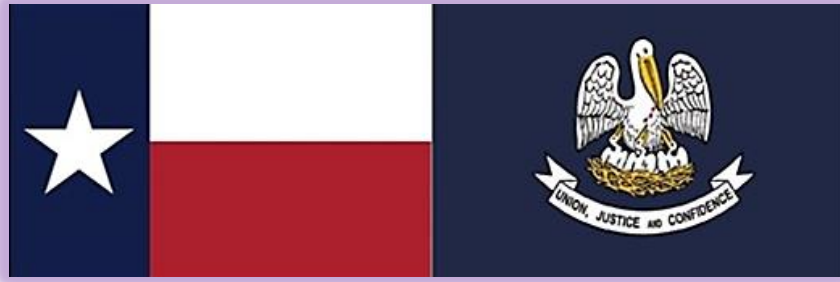
Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp 18 - Dallas, Texas

Camp Commander **Michael K. Schneider**
Camp Sr. Vice-Commander **David M. Rediger**
Camp Jr. Vice-Commander **Kevin J. Ennis**
Camp Secretary/Treasurer **Donald L. Gates**

Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth
Namesake of Camp 18

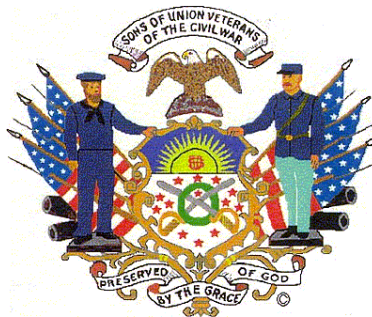


Camp Website
Camp Facebook



**DEPARTMENT
OF
TEXAS
AND
LOUISIANA**

Honoring Our Union Ancestors by Keeping their Legacy Alive



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR