



# THE UNIONIST

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



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**Cover Image "The Battle of Antietam"** - digitally restored vintage painting depicting Union and Confederate troops fighting at the *Battle of Antietam*, also known as the *Battle of Sharpsburg*.



## Hackley Park

Hackley Park is a National Historic Designated Park dedicated to honoring the memory of Civil War veterans. It occupies a nearly-square 2.3-acre block in the city of Muskegon, Michigan, not far from the shore of Muskegon Lake. The park was created on land donated to the city in 1890 by wealthy Muskegon lumber baron and philanthropist, Charles Henry Hackley.

The park grounds were designed to showcase an impressive centrally-located Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Monument. Today the well-manicured park continues to be a small, flat oasis of trees and greenery within Muskegon's historic residential district. It is often used to host various ceremonies, rallies, concerts, and sight-seers.

*Right: Aerial view of Hackley Park*

The Civil War monument itself is a massive Corinthian-style granite column that rises eighty-two feet from its granite base. It was created by sculptor and stone mason, Joseph B. Carabelli.



Gracing the top of the column is a 14-foot tall bronze statue of the Goddess of Victory. She holds a sword in her left hand and a furled flag in her upraised right hand. The inscription near the base of the column reads:

*Not conquest but peace and a united people.  
To the soldiers and sailors who fought,  
and to all patriotic men and women who helped  
to preserve our nation in the War of the Rebellion*

Four 7.6-foot-tall bronze statues, representing a Sailor, Cavalryman, Infantryman and Artilleryman, stand on pedestals near the base of the column. Each of the pedestals face a cardinal direction on the compass, with the Cavalryman facing north, the Sailor facing west, the Artilleryman facing south, and the Infantryman facing east. Each of the four statues is depicted in action.

*Left: Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Hackley Park, Muskegon, Michigan*

Relief emblems just below and between the four statues depict the equipment of the service branches: crossed sabers and a saddle (*Cavalry*), capstan and drooping pennants (*Navy*), a cannon with crossed rammers and equipment (*Artillery*), and crossed muskets and a knapsack (*Army*).

The monument is surrounded by an intricate ornate cast-iron fence which incorporates symbols significant to the cessation of the war. The monument was dedicated on Memorial Day in 1892.

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## 2023 Encampment of the Department of Texas and Louisiana

**Saturday – 29 Apr 2023 - Houston, Texas**

The 29<sup>th</sup> annual encampment of the *Department of Texas and Louisiana* was hosted by Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 and conducted in Houston, Texas on Saturday, April 29, 2023. Brothers from across the Department gathered in the Tea Room of the historic *Houston Heritage Society Museum*. Members of the *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1* and *SUVCW* Commander-in-Chief Bruce Frail also attended as guests. The ladies of the *Auxiliary* provided and served coffee and doughnuts to early arrivers – and supplied handmade patriotic cockades to all Delegates.



After the Encampment was called to order by Commander Michael L. Lance, the Colors were advanced and posted by Color Bearer William D. Myers. The Divine Blessing was offered by Chaplain Stephen D. Schulze.

**Left: Color Bearer William D. Myers advancing the Colors**

Special guest Bruce Frail, Commander-in-Chief of the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* was then announced and escorted by Guide Thomas F. Coughlin to a seat at the head table.

Commander Lance presented Commander-in-Chief Frail with a gift from the Department – a customized Dallas Cowboy football jersey. Anna Frail, his wife, and an active member of the *Auxiliary*, was then escorted to the head table by Vali Reyes, President of the *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1*. A Clara Barton Appreciation Award, consisting of an elegant brooch/pin and certificate, was presented to Mrs. Frail by *Lea Camp* Cmdr. John C. Vander Meulen.

**Right: CinC Bruce Frail shows the customized gift he received from the Department of Texas and Louisiana**

A tribute was given to the memory of all Brothers-in-Arms who were killed, captured, or missing in action. Brother Larry Joe Reynolds pointed out the items displayed on an elaborate *Missing Man Table* as Camp Cmdr. Vander Meulen orated the meaning of each item. The memorial also included the reading of a biographical sketch of recently departed Brother George Russell Lang Jr. by Chaplain Schulze, followed by a moment of silence.



Following the reports of Department Officers and Staff, Camp Commanders, and Committees, a number of Length-of-Service Award certificates were presented to 10, 15, and 20 year members of the Order. After those service awards were issued, the Camp Commanders then announced their Brother-of-the-Year selections for their respective Camps. Congratulations and a tip of the kepi goes to Todd Wilber of *Camp #1*, Daniel B. Pourreau of *Camp #2*, William M. Elliott of *Camp #5*, and Donald L. Gates of *Camp #18* for their much-deserved awards.

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## 23<sup>rd</sup> Encampment of the Department of Texas and Louisiana *(continued)*



### Camp Commanders and recipients of Brother-of-the-Year Awards

L-R: **Cmdr. John C. Vander Meulen**, recipient **Daniel B. Poureau** (*Camp 2*), recipient **Donald L. Gates** (*Camp 18*), **Cmdr. John A. Prime**, **Cmdr. Brook J. Thomas**, recipient **Bill M. Elliott** (*Camp 5*), and **PCC Paul L. Kendall**.

After enjoying a delicious catered BBQ lunch, the business of the Department continued during the afternoon session. Motions and discussion about several important issues were considered. The Brothers who were credentialed as voting Delegates, cast their votes on each issue by raising their blue voting cards.



### Encampment Delegates casting their votes



### CinC Bruce Frail clarifying an issue

The next order of business was the nomination, election, and installation of Department Officers for the 2023-2024 term. The slate of nominees was announced by Nomination Committee Chairman, Brook Thomas. All Officers from the previous year were nominated to serve a second year. Since no additional nominations came from the floor, a vote to accept the slate as presented by acclamation was taken – and approved.

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## 23<sup>rd</sup> Encampment of the Department of Texas and Louisiana (continued)

Michael Lance will continue for a second year as Department Commander, Timothy Phillips will continue as Department Sr. Vice-Commander, Richard Erder will continue as Department Jr. Vice-Commander, and Donald Gates will again serve as Department Secretary/Treasurer. The three returning members of the Department Council include Charles Sprague, Stevenson Holmes, and Eugene Willis.

After Commander Lance announced his staff appointments, all newly elected and appointed officers gathered at the altar to give the oath of office. Commander-in-Chief Frail presided over the installation.

*Right: Installation of Officers and Staff*



*Right: Michael L. Lance receives a lapel pin from CinC Frail in recognition of completing the Memorial University course*



*Below Left: Flowers were presented to Anna Frail by Stephen D. Schulze*

*Below Right: Rose bouquets were presented to the Sisters of Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1 - Norma Pollard, Vali Reyes, and Jana Marsh*



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## Department of Texas and Louisiana *(continued)*



### **2023 Encampment - Brothers of the *Department of Texas and Louisiana***

*Front row sitting L-R: Stephen D. Schulze, Donald L. Gates, Timothy M. Phillips, Michael L. Lance, CinC Bruce Frail, and Stevenson T. Holmes.*

*2<sup>nd</sup> row L-R: Ronald 'Steve' Brock, Larry Joe Reynolds, Terry T. Sutton, David M. Rediger, Brook J. Thomas, William M. Elliott, Tommy J. Henigan, and Thomas F. Coughlin.*

*3<sup>rd</sup> row L-R: Mark H. Andrus, Paul L. Kendall, William D. Myers, Blair G. Rudy, Clifford 'Butch' Durham, John E. Schneider, William C. Boyd, and Daniel B. Pourceau.*

*4<sup>th</sup> row L-R: Robert G. Riley, John C. Vander Meulen, Jason D. Hoffman, and Herbert W. Powers.*

*Not shown: John A. Prime, Charles F. Reed, Michael K. Schneider, and John A. Bennett*

### **Message from the Department Commander**

Thank you for entrusting me to serve you as Commander for another term. Because of the efforts of the Department Officers and Staff, and many of the Officers and Brothers of the individual Camps, I believe we made significant progress in several areas during the past year, including:

- Our social media presence and engagement has expanded.
- Our new member on-boarding and orientation procedures were improved.
- Our Union veteran graves identification and registration efforts kicked into a higher gear.
- The appearance and content of our websites have been upgraded.
- And communications and interaction between the Camps has increased.

I sincerely thank each of you for your contributions to these improvements. We are fortunate that all of the 2022-2023 Department Officers and Staff have agreed to serve for another year. This continuity allows us to 'stay the course' to continue raising the bar. By working together, we will have a successful and productive 2023-2024 term. My pledge to you is to do all I can to assist you in your areas of interest within the Order. In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,  
**Michael L. Lance, Cmdr.**



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

### Recruiting Event - Saturday, 6 May 2022 – White Settlement, Texas

On May 6, 2023, five Brothers of *Gen. James J. Byrne Camp No. 1* conducted a recruiting event at the *Texas Civil War Museum* in White Settlement, Texas, a western suburb of Fort Worth. The museum was very welcoming and accommodating, allowing us to set up a display inside in the Cavalry Gallery. Our display featured various weapons and accoutrements on two tables.



**L-R: PCC Timothy Phillips, SVC Todd Wilber, Treasurer David Appleton, Secretary Mark Parkison, and Cmdr. Hal Hughes.**

A steady stream of museum visitors came by, with many of them stopping to speak with us and view our items. We are confident that we planted a few seeds in the minds of the next generation of Civil War enthusiasts.

Although we did not gain any recruits on the spot, a number of visitors took informational brochures to review later. At a minimum, our presence at the museum created some awareness of our Camp and of our Order.

The Camp hopes to conduct another recruiting event at the museum before the end of the year.

**Left: Busy recruiting display tables**



Sadly, the *Texas Civil War Museum* is scheduled to permanently close on December 30, 2023. It will be missed!

*... submitted by SVC and GRO Todd Wilber, Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1, Fort Worth*



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## Gen. James J. Byrne Camp #1 – Fort Worth (continued)

### Recent Union veteran grave discovery - Tarrant County, Texas.

Camp Graves Registration Officer and Sr. Vice-Comdr. Todd Wilber recently identified the grave of yet another Union Army veteran. This latest 'discovery' was in Hebrew Rest Cemetery in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas.



Although the grave marker of Pvt. Nathaniel Jessel bears no indication of Civil War service, Brother Wilber conducted some research to bring to light a bit of the veterans military and personal history. A military pension card and Veterans Administration Master Index Card, along with a Find A Grave memorial were found.

#### Left: Grave marker of Pvt. Nathaniel Jessel

Nathaniel Jessel was born in England in 1835, a son of Moses and Elizabeth Jessel. He immigrated to the United States and eventually became, by trade, a cigarmaker.

On Christmas Eve, 1864, Nathaniel was 30 years old when he enlisted in the Union Army for a 3-year term. He was mustered-in at New York City as a Private with *Co. E, 65<sup>th</sup> New York Inf.* He mustered-out in July 1865 in Virginia.

Jessel died in 1916 and was buried in Hebrew Rest Cemetery in Fort Worth, Texas. On September 17, 1916, the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* published his obituary, which reads: "Nathaniel Jessel died Saturday at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. L. Philipowski, 1121 Travis avenue. The funeral will be held at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, with interment in the Hebrew cemetery."

... submitted by Camp GRO Todd Wilber, Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1, Fort Worth

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

### Clara Barton Recognition Award – ongoing project – Houston, Texas

In 2022, the Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea USN Camp 2 embarked on a project to honor accomplished women who have supported and contributed to the efforts of the Camp in perpetuating the memory of the *Grand Army of the Republic*. A Clara Barton Appreciation Award was created to be presented to ladies deserving special recognition. The award consists of an elegant limited-edition Clara Barton commemorative brooch/pin and a customizable Certificate.

The brooch/pin along with a certificate has been presented to leaders of the Allied Orders and other women who have participated in or supported *Lea Camp* activities. The award is also offered as a premium in gratitude for monetary contributions to the Camp.

Since the inception of the program, the *Lea Camp* has presented 45 Barton Awards. Recent recipients include: Allison Pollitt, National President of the *Auxiliary to the SUVCW*; Anna Frail, Auxiliary member and wife of the current *SUVCW* Commander-in-Chief; and guest speaker Mary Anthony Startz, *Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War*.



Clara Barton Pin

In addition to the presentations made by the *Lea Camp*, several Barton Awards have been obtained by other Allied Orders and hereditary organizations for presentation to *their* deserving recipients. Today, deserving members of *Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War*, *Daughters of the American Revolution*, *Daughters of 1812*, and others proudly wear the sparkling Barton brooch/pin on their clothing or sash, or as a neck pendant. The *Lea Camp* appreciates all those who have supported our efforts - and we extend our congratulations to all the deserving Award recipients!

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



## Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp #5 - Shreveport

Friday, 3 Mar 2023 - Greenwood Cemetery, Marshall, Texas

The grave of Union veteran Truman Alvin Hodgkins was originally covered by a large flat granite slab emblazoned with his name, birth and death dates, and the symbol of Freemasonry. Over the years, the marker disappeared from view under layers of dirt. That sad condition changed recently when members of *W. W. Heartsill Camp #314* installed a new military marker over the grave. The *Heartsill Camp* is a *Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp!* Brother William 'Bill' Elliott of *Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp #5, SUCVW*, is also Commander of the *Heartsill Camp*, and participated in the project.

**Right: Original granite slab of Union veteran Truman Hodgkins revealed**

Truman Alvin 'Timothy' Hodgkins was born in 1841 in Erie County, New York. In July 1860, less than a year before the outbreak of the Civil War, Truman was 19 years old, unmarried, and living in rented quarters in Steuben County, Indiana.

In August 1861, a few months after the war began, twenty-year-old Truman Hodgkins enlisted as a Private in the Union Army at Ann Arbor, Michigan. He served with *Co. H, 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Infantry*.



Hodgkins was wounded in May 1863 at Chancellorsville, Virginia. He mustered-out as a Corporal in January 1864 at Washington, DC.

Following his military service, Hodgkins made his way back to Michigan and married Michigan-born Louise Kane in 1866. They would become the parents of two daughters. The family later moved to Rockford, Illinois.

In 1880, Truman was a 39-year-old married commercial agent 'on the road mostly', but was enumerated as living (*probably temporarily*) in Kalamazoo, Michigan. His wife, Louise, and their two daughters were not recorded as living with him at the time

About 1889, the family moved to Harrison County, Texas. By June 1900, Hodgkins was 59 years old and had now been married 35 years. He was employed as a General Surplus Merchant, and living with his wife, one daughter, and three young grandchildren. In April 1910, Truman was a 68-year-old automobile repair mechanic living in the town of Marshall in Harrison County. He was living with his wife, Louise, and his 67-year-old unmarried brother, Union Army veteran Charles D. Hodgkins.

**Right: Brother William Elliott (kneeling on far left) with members of the *W. W. Heartsill SCVCW Camp* - and the newly installed military marker.**

In July 1914, Truman Hodgkins died at age 73 at his home in Marshall, and was laid to rest in Greenwood Cemetery. His Certificate of Death lists his occupation as 'carpenter'. He was a member of the Masonic lodge and the *Grand Army of the Republic*. His is the only visible marked grave in the Hodgkins Plot in Marshall's Greenwood Cemetery.



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



**Gen. James J. Byrne Camp #1**  
**And**  
**Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp #18**

**Saturday, 22 Apr 2023 - Medal Of Honor Parade - Gainesville, Texas**

On Saturday April 22, 2023, members of *Gen. James J. Byrne Camp #1*, *Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp #18*, and *Co. K, 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Infantry, SVR* joined forces to supply a Color Guard for the annual *Medal of Honor Parade* in Gainesville Texas. The event honored all *Medal of Honor* recipients – nine of whom were present to participate in the parade.



The parade kicked off at 10 a.m. The participating Brothers from the *Byrne Camp* included: Department SVC Tim Phillips, who led the Guard as Color Sergeant; Secretary and SVR Private, Mark Parkison, who carried the National Colors; and SVC Todd Wilbur, who carried the Camp 1 Flag.

**L-R: Mark Parkison, Timothy Phillips, Todd Wilber, Donald Gates, Brook Thomas, and Robert Mathis**

Behind them marched the riflemen from the *Ellsworth Camp*; Camp and SVR Commander, Brook Thomas, and Department and Camp Secretary/Treasurer and SVR adjutant, Donald Gates. Robert Mathis, a member of the *North Texas Reenactment Society* rounded out the unit. The parade route covered about a mile, and afterwards all enjoyed a hearty lunch and good fellowship.

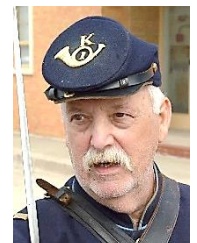


**Left: Color Guard Marching in Parade**

**Rear Rank L-R: Robert Mathis, Donald Gates, and Brook Thomas**

**Front Rank L-R: Todd Wilber, Timothy Phillips, and Mark Parkison**

*... report submitted by Donald Gates, PDC, Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp 18*  
*... photos by Paul Ridenour, Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp 18*





## Department Patriotic Instructor's Message

### *Apr 2022 – From the Office of the National Patriotic Instructor*

The time has now come. The weather has turned, and we can finally get outside and do some of our most meaningful work. We can get outside in our communities and hold educational programs or clean ups and ensure that those who fought to preserve the Union are not forgotten. I have already seen Camp and Department social media pages flooded with these efforts and I could not be prouder. I am seeing Camps and Departments teaming up with local groups and towns to work together in these endeavors.

With that being said, there is always more that we can do to help further our mission. Each Camp and Department should always be focused on the goal of Recruiting. At every event that we host, or assist with, we come across people who are of like mind and want to ensure that the memories of our ancestors are not forgotten.

In today's day and age, we must leverage the technology at our fingertips, literally, and get the information about our Order, and the Sisters of the Allied Orders, into their hands. Most people have smartphones these days, so we can quickly email the National Website ([www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org)) to them, or share with them the National Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Reddit, or YouTube pages.

We also have free pamphlets through the National Quartermaster Store that you can order and bring with you to events to hand out. Have the contact information for your Camp and Department available to hand out with the pamphlet. Once visitors see the great work we do across the United States and abroad, or the great work we are doing right in front of them, it is an easy segway to ask if someone wants to join our ranks, or the ranks of the Allied Orders. By growing our ranks, we ensure that our mission continues, and by continuing our mission we are being Patriotic.

A little known fact is that the Order has a few recruiting awards which individual Brothers or Departments can earn, including:

- The David R. Medert Award – Presented to the Individual Brother that recruits the greatest number of new members during the period from 1 April through 31 March.
- The Augustus P. Davis – Conrad Linder Award – Presented to the Department with the greatest number of members during the period 1 April through 31 March.
- The U.S. Grant Cup – Presented to the Department with the greatest percentage increase in membership during the period of 1 April – 31 March.
- The Under Forty Award – Presented to the Department with the greatest number of new members under age forty during the period of 1 April – 31 March.
- The National Aide Award – Presented to a Brother who has recruited five (5) or more new members during a Commander-in-Chiefs term in office.

My challenge to you this month is to actively recruit! By growing our ranks, we ensure our Order will long exist and we will be able to carry out our mission of preserving the memory of our veteran forefathers!

In Fraternity Charity and Loyalty,

Br. Ben Frail, PDC and National Patriotic Instructor



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



## Department Chaplain's Corner

"Come gather 'round people wherever you roam,  
And admit that the waters around you have grown  
And accept it that soon you'll be drenched to the bone.  
If your time to you is worth saving,  
Then you better start swimming, or you'll sink like a stone,  
For the times, they are a changing."  
*Bob Dylan*

We seem to be living in a time when the general consensus is that there is no pathway forward that offers any hope. It is a time of desperation. Grace, Love and Joy are an impossible dream. Everyone is split apart and pitted against each other. There will be no second chances. No way, impossible, we are doomed!

We watch our life situations change daily. That's the one thing you can count on. Children grow up. Friends move away. Loved ones die. You once lived in the country and watched deer graze in the acreage behind your house, right there, where the Wal-Mart parking lot is now. Part of successful living is learning to expect - and adapt to change.

Sometimes we will only change when it is forced upon us. My Pastor told me that ten years ago, just two weeks before he had heart surgery, that he had to "quit a dangerous habit". He said, "I talked to God about it. I am changing this, for good, forever. It might be too late. I can live with that. Your will be done." Turns out it is healthier to adapt to change. It might even be helpful to seek out change.

Nicodemus was a seeker. He was a leader of the Pharisees, a judge, a man devoted to conserving the spiritual treasures of Judaism, an esteemed elder searching for a redeeming future path in an impossible time. He sought out Jesus and said to him "Teacher, I know you are straight from God. Measure my life and tell me what I can do next." Jesus replies, "Be reborn. Let go and start over. God will catch you and re-create you. So count on it!"

The next time we see Nicodemus, he is going with Joseph of Arimathea to the tomb of Jesus, prepared for anything. He is thinking 'No way', but carries his ointment and myrrh and spices for embalming. Just in case. He knows intellectually that there is no way he will be able to understand Resurrection, but Jesus said, "WAY", so he's betting on that.

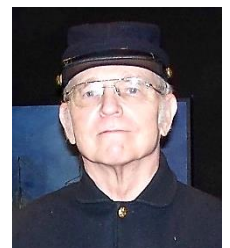
Born again in the Gospel is somewhat of a commission, but it is also a relief. It is a re-start. A second chance. A way out of 'No Way'. It is not getting turned into a Super-Christian. It is starting a fresh new process of spiritual growth. You don't always have to be what you have become up to this point. It can get better. 'You must be born again' is an offer we can't afford to refuse. It is courage in the face of the impossible.

The courage of Nicodemus and his hope for the future is inspiration for all Christians. Like Nicodemus, we are here to impart courage to the next generation. To show them how to live. To show them our own lives lived in faith and grace. We don't cast despair into the future, even in the face of the impossible. Instead, we cast forward a hope we can't even imagine or describe. We are as young as our faith, but as old as our doubt, as young as our hope, but as old as our despair.

It is so much fun to witness the impossible happen. It is the freshness of the Holy Spirit blowing where it wills, leaving a trail of scattered blessings for all who can see. Reborn in the Spirit, we can see God's will in all things. What a joy, to be so caught up in God's love, that everything else receives meaning and purpose in the context of that love. Jesus was sent to us, not to judge us or condemn us, but to breathe life and salvation into us.

"No Way?" "YES.....WAY!!!!!!!"

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





## Department Graves Registration Officer Update

In 2022, as the newly appointed Department Graves Registration Officer (GRO), I had many questions about the scope of the job I had volunteered to do. I wanted to know what had already been done, how many Union soldiers had been located within the Department and where, and the specific geographic range of the *Lt. Edward Lea Camp*, of which I am a member.

I recently completed a project that answered some of those questions. I found that seventy-nine counties fall under the bailiwick of the *Lea Camp*. This area is based on distance from Houston. I then searched the current *SUVCW* Graves Registration database by county to determine the number of soldiers registered in each of those 79 counties. High level metrics show 1,050 soldiers are buried in the 79 counties. The counties with the most Union soldier burials are Bexar County, with 468 Union veteran gravesites, and then Harris County, with another 98 Union burials. The National Cemetery in San Antonio is the final resting place of all the registered Bexar County Union veterans.

I have discovered that many of these Union veterans have very interesting personal stories. One example is Geronimo Ramirez, who is buried in the historic El Colorado Ranch Cemetery in Jim Hogg County. It is a private cemetery and Ramirez is the only Union veteran buried there. Ramirez was a veteran of the *2<sup>nd</sup> Texas Cavalry* - like many of the Union veterans buried in South Texas.

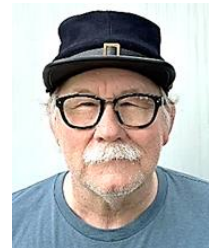
*Right: Historic Texas Cemetery sign at El Colorado Ranch Cemetery*



I also enjoyed visiting the gravesite of Thomas James Handy at the Handy family cemetery in Hidalgo County. Handy served as a Sergeant with the *4<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Cavalry*. He was stationed near the U.S. border with Mexico, and was tasked with carrying the Union mail along the Military Highway between Brownsville and Laredo. After the war, Handy decided to remain in Texas and, in 1866, married Angelita Cavazos. The couple eventually became successful ranchers and major landowners.

*Left: Texas Historical Marker commemorating the life of Thomas James Handy*

These are just a couple of the wonderful - and sometimes sad stories - I see every day. It is an honor to serve as GRO to help keep alive the memory of these Union veterans.



*... submitted by Department GRO Terry T. Sutton, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2, Houston*



## Ancestor Profile – Pvt. William Henry Hubbard

William Henry Hubbard, born in Waterville, Maine, was my 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandfather on my mother's side. His service records indicate he served as a Musician with *Co. C. 17<sup>th</sup> Maine Vol. Infantry Regiment* during the Civil War. He was a 31-year-old married farmer living in Augusta, Maine when he enlisted. He stood 5' 7" tall with hazel eyes, brown hair, and a light complexion. On August 22, 1863, Pvt. Hubbard mustered-in at Waterville, either as a conscript or a substitute. Various records indicate both circumstances. Near the end of the war, on June 4, 1865, Pvt. Hubbard was transferred to the *1<sup>st</sup> Maine Heavy Artillery*. He was finally honorably discharged on September 11, 1865 at Washington, D.C.



**Left: Musician Pvt. William Henry Hubbard** (wartime studio photo)

The *17<sup>th</sup> Maine* was organized in August 1862, and entered federal service during the war as a part of the *1<sup>st</sup> Division, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, Army of the Potomac*. The regiment proudly wore a red diamond-shaped corps badge on their caps. When the regimental history was written years later, it was entitled: *Red Diamond Regiment*. When the *17<sup>th</sup> Maine* was transferred to become part of the *3<sup>rd</sup> Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps* in March 1864, the men were allowed to continue wearing their red diamond badges, even though the official badge of the *2<sup>nd</sup> Corps* was a trefoil (like on the ace of clubs).

Pvt. William H. Hubbard's enlistment, whether as a conscript or substitute, was part of the replenishment of the July 1863 losses suffered by the *17<sup>th</sup> Maine* at Gettysburg. Following his enlistment, he joined his regiment in Virginia and was thereafter involved in several major campaigns, including: the *Bristoe Campaign*, the *Mine Run Campaign*, the *Overland Campaign* (which included the Battle of the Wilderness, the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, and the Battle of Cold Harbor), the *Richmond-Petersburg Campaign* (including the Siege of Petersburg), and the *Appomattox Campaign*. While at Petersburg, Pvt. Hubbard's regiment was, at various times, posted to Fort Sedgwick (nicknamed "Fort Hell"). It was at Petersburg that my ancestor was injured in the ankle by shrapnel.

After the war, William Henry Hubbard settled in Lisbon, New Hampshire. In March 1882, he applied for, and received, a disability pension based on his Civil War service. In 1884, the veteran moved to Nashua, New Hampshire, and became a member of *John G. Foster Post No. 7* of the *Grand Army of the Republic*.



**Right: William Henry Hubbard – as a member of J.G. Foster Post No. 7**



On November 22, 1906, after working 11 years as a carpenter at the Jackson Company mill, Hubbard died at age 74 from injuries suffered in a workplace accident. He got caught up in the mill's shafting, was whirled around, and suffered serious bruising about the head and neck as well as a broken right arm, and died that same day. His funeral was attended by members of the *John G. Foster G.A.R. Post*, who performed their traditional burial ritual. The four pallbearers were also *Post* members. Hubbard was buried in Edgewood Cemetery in Nashua, next to his first wife.

**Left: David B. Appleton at grave of his ancestor in 2022**

... submitted by David B. Appleton,  
Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1, Fort Worth



## The Hackley Park *(continued from page 3)*

Diagonal walkways radiate out from the central monument to the park's four corners. Each corner features a larger-than-life bronze statue depicting a Civil War-era hero on a granite pedestal. The statues were also presented by philanthropist Charles H. Hackley as gifts to the City of Muskegon, and were formally dedicated on Memorial Day in 1900. They include:



*Left:* **Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, by sculptor John Massey Rhind. A memorial wreath on the front of the pedestal surrounds an inscription, which reads: "1822 Grant 1885"**



*Right:* **Adm. David G. Farragut, by sculptor Charles H. Niehaus. A memorial wreath on the front of the pedestal surrounds an inscription, which reads: "1801 Farragut 1870"**



*Left:* **Abraham Lincoln, by sculptor Charles H. Niehaus. Lincoln is depicted seated with his left leg crossed over his right knee. He is holding a document across his lap in both hands. A memorial wreath on the front of the pedestal surrounds an inscription, which reads: "1809 Lincoln 1865"**



*Right:* **Gen. William T. Sherman, by sculptor John Massey Rhind. A memorial wreath on the front of the pedestal surrounds an inscription, which reads: "1820 Sherman 1891"**

While Hackley Park has been a highly visible and impressive tribute to the Union soldiers and sailors of the Civil War for over 125 years, a bit of controversy and intrigue lurks behind the scenes. A couple of Muskegon-area history buffs claim that a large part of Charles H. Hackley's vast fortune came from missing Confederate Gold - and that the park may have a second meaning – *a hidden tribute to the Confederacy!* As farfetched as those claims sound, they gained traction recently by series of [documentary episodes](#) aired by the *History Channel*.

*... continued on next page*



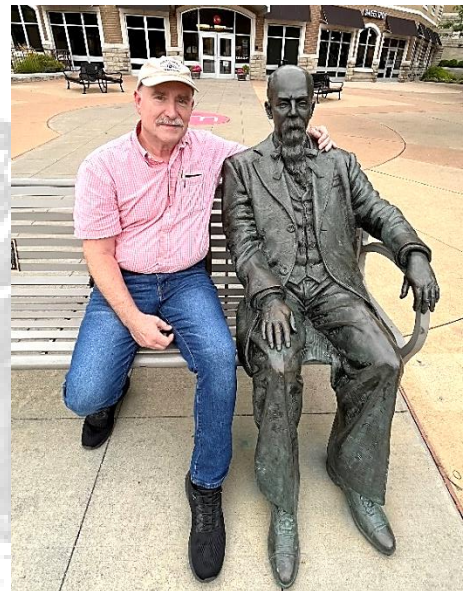
## The Hackley Park *(continued)*

*"The layout of the park bears resemblance to the Confederate flag. How did Charles Hackley pay tribute to the Confederacy? Because he would have - he would have almost felt duty bound to do it. But he would do it in such a way that people wouldn't pick up on it, unless they knew to look for it. An aerial view of the park gave it away. Its diagonal crossed sidewalks could be seen as an outline of the stars and cross Confederate Flag. Its curved sidewalks that connect the diagonal ones form an open Bible" says Kevin Dykstra of Fruitport, Michigan, a self-proclaimed history buff who's been seeking answers to the missing Confederate Gold mystery for about seven years.*

Dykstra and his research partner, Brad Richards, believe the donation of the park is one piece of proof that Charles H. Hackley received a share of the Confederate gold that went missing at the time of Confederate President Jefferson Davis's capture in 1865. They also point to clues in the speech Charles Hackley delivered at the park dedication ceremony in 1900.

*"Within your sight stands a library built and endowed by part of that same fortune, which the donor regards as a trust for the people with whom he has been associated for more than 40 years, .... If mistakes have been made in appropriating the money generously tendered to the public, those mistakes have been mistakes of the head, not of the heart." Dykstra believes the way Hackley refers to the money and his donations suggests he didn't view them as his own.*

**Right: Michael L. Lance with life-size sculpture of Charles H. Hackley on the plaza in front of Baker College Culinary Institute of Michigan - with a straight-on view of Hackley Park, August 2022.**



Whether Charles Hackley was actually involved with the missing Confederate gold or not, his philanthropy did lead to the creation of a wonderful park and a lasting tribute to our Civil War veterans. We will likely never know if the design of Hackley Park was intended to include a hidden tribute to the Confederacy, as a show of gratitude for receiving a monetary windfall – or if it is simply a stretched coincidence. The Confederate gold is probably lost forever, but with Hackley Park, Muskegon and the country as a whole, gained a lasting beacon of respect and honor for our veterans - *which will likely last forever.*

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

Charles Henry Hackley was born in 1837 in Michigan City, Indiana. His family moved to Kenosha, Wisconsin in 1847, where his father was employed in the building trades. By age 14, Hackley had left school and was employed driving a horse for 15 cents a day. In 1856, at age 19, he worked his way from Kenosha to Muskegon, Michigan on the schooner *Challenge* to join his father, who had been commissioned to build a sawmill along Muskegon Lake. The day after his arrival in May 1856, young Hackley went to work shoveling sawdust into a boiler in a lumber yard for \$22 per month. In his spare time, he took it upon himself to learn office procedures and the basics of the lumbering business. In time, he assumed charge of the company's books, the supply store, and lumber shipments.

The Hackley family then founded their own lumbering firm, *Hackley and Sons*. Charles Hackley would later form a lucrative partnership with Thomas Hume, which became one of the largest lumber firms in the country, cutting 30 million feet of lumber in 1894. Hackley eventually amassed a fortune of \$18,000,000, one third of which he donated to the city of Muskegon. His first gift, given in May 1888, was for the construction of Hackley Public Library. He served on the Board of Education of the Muskegon Public Schools for twenty years, was an alderman, and a state delegate to two National Republican conventions. He died in February 1905, and lay in state in what is now the Children's Room of the Hackley Library. More than 7,000 mourners reportedly passed by the casket to pay their last respects ... *Editor*



## Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients - U.S. Army (Part 6)

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 6 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 if available, the wording of their citation.



- **Frank D. Baldwin – Brigadier General** – Frank D. Baldwin was born in 1842 in Manchester, Michigan. He is one of only 19 servicemen to receive the Medal of Honor twice. During the Civil War, he received his 1<sup>st</sup> award for his actions during the Atlanta Campaign. He received his 2<sup>nd</sup> Medal of Honor for conspicuous bravery in 1874 during the Indian Wars.



**Gen. Frank D. Baldwin**

During the Civil War, Baldwin initially served as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. with the 19<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry. He fought in all that regiment's battles from 1862 to 1865. In 1864, then-Capt. Baldwin participated in Gen. Sherman's famous *March to the Sea*. On July 20<sup>th</sup> that year, he earned his 1<sup>st</sup> Medal of Honor while leading his men and capturing two commissioned Confederate officers during the *Battle of Peachtree Creek*. Immediately after the war, Baldwin became a student at Hillsdale College. But in 1866, as the Regular Army reorganized, he joined the 19<sup>th</sup> U.S. Regular Infantry as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. In January 1867, he married Alice Blackwood and they became the parents of a daughter, Juanita Baldwin.



**Frank D. Baldwin (on right) with Buffalo Bill, 1891**

Eventually, Baldwin was assigned to the 5<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry, with whom he fought in various frontier conflicts with the Indians. He served with distinction as Chief of Scouts under General Nelson A. Miles during campaigns against Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse. In November 1874, while commanding a scout company on escort duty, he led a surprise attack on the large Indian camp of Grey Beard, rescuing two young sisters whose parents and brothers had been killed by another Indian band. He was awarded his 2<sup>nd</sup> Medal of Honor for this action.

In December 1876, during an attack on an Indian village on the Red River in Montana, Baldwin's actions earned him a brevet of Captain, U.S. Regular Army. He also served in the Philippines during the Spanish–American War. He was promoted to Brig. Gen., U.S. Regular Army in June 1902, and then retired in 1906.

In 1917, during World War I, Baldwin came out of retirement to be appointed as Adjutant General of the *Colorado National Guard*, serving until he retired again in 1919. He was also a companion of the Michigan Commandery of the *Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States*. He died at age 80 in Denver, Colorado in 1923, and is buried with his wife Alice in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

... continued on next page

## Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients - U.S. Army (Part 6 continued)

- **Frederick Archer Ballen - Private** - Frederick Ballen was born in Germany in 1843. After immigrating to the United States, he enlisted with the Union Army and served with *Co. B, 47<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry*. In November 1908, Ballen received the Medal of Honor for his actions at Vicksburg, Mississippi. He died in 1916 at age 72 and is buried in Carleton, Michigan.

*Right: Private Ballen's grave marker reads:  
"FRED'K BALLEEN, CO. B. - 47 OHIO, INF."*

His Medal of Honor citation reads:

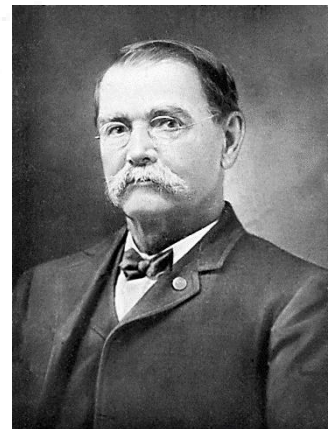
*"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Private Frederick A. Ballen, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 3 May 1863, while serving with Company B, 47<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry, in action at Vicksburg, Mississippi. Private Ballen was one of a party that volunteered and attempted to run the enemy's batteries with a steam tug and two barges loaded with subsistence stores."*



- **George L. Banks - 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant** - George Lovell Banks was born in 1839 in Lake County, Ohio. He joined the *15<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Indiana Infantry* in June 1861. On November 25, 1863, the *15<sup>th</sup> Indiana* was ordered to capture the Confederate rifle pits at the foot of Missionary Ridge. Choking clouds of musket smoke filled the air as the *15<sup>th</sup> Indiana* charged into the battle. A hail of Confederate lead forced the regiment face down on the road, well up the Ridge. Then came the desperate order from the regiment's Major White: "Men, for God's sake forward!"

*Right: George Lovell Banks - Kansas State House member, ca. 1905*

Color-Sergeant George L. Banks immediately rose to his feet and, while waving the Regimental Standard, called for his comrades to follow the Colors. The regiment surged forward to rally around the flag. Banks, already wounded in the left thumb, was then struck in the chest by a minie ball - and knocked to the ground. The Colors were then carried forward into a storm of bullets by a succession of 4 other soldiers. Of the four, 2 were wounded and 2 were killed.



Banks soon regained his senses. Fortunately, he had not been seriously wounded. The ball had struck a book and two letters tucked inside his shirt. After rising, he sprinted up the hill and seized the flag just as it was going down for the 5<sup>th</sup> time. Once more, Banks raised the Colors and called on his comrades to follow the Colors!

As the *15<sup>th</sup> Indiana* reached the crest of the Ridge, they saw the Confederates lower their guns to fire. The Federals dropped to the ground to avoid the volley. Then, before the Confederates could reload, the boys in blue charged - while chanting "Chickamauga! Chickamauga!" Banks scrambled up the earthworks waving the Colors as the regiment captured the works. He then suffered a 3<sup>rd</sup> wound. A ball struck him on the side of his head, knocking him backwards off the earthworks. Again, he would recover.

Banks mustered out as a 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. three years later. He received the Medal of Honor in 1891 for his actions at the *Battle of Missionary Ridge*. In 1924, he died at age 84 at his home in Independence, Kansas. His citation reads:

*"As Color Bearer, led his regiment in the assault, and, though wounded, carried the flag forward to the enemy's works, where he was again wounded. In a brigade of 8 regiments, this flag was the first planted on the parapet."*

*... series to be continued next issue with Part 7*



## Upcoming Activities - Department of Texas and Louisiana

- May 6, 2023**      **Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1** - Recruiting Event  
Texas Civil War Museum, 760 Jim Wright Fwy North, Fort Worth, Texas
- May 10, 2023**      **Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5** - Business Meeting - 5:30 pm.  
Waskom Community Center, 465 West School Ave., Waskom, Texas
- May 16, 2023**      **Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp 18** - Business meeting - 7:00 p.m.  
Heritage Farmstead Museum, 1900 W. 15<sup>th</sup> St., Plano, Texas
- May 18, 2023**      **Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1** - Business Meeting - 7:00 p.m.  
VFW Hall 5617, 580 S. Cherry Ln., White Settlement, Texas - 7:00 p.m.
- May 20, 2023**      **Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2** - Monthly Business Meeting - 10 a.m.  
Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, TX
- May 29, 2023**      **Memorial Day 2023 – Byrne Camp** - Graveside ceremony - 10 a.m.  
Oakwood Cemetery, 701 Grand Ave., Fort Worth, Texas
- May 29, 2023**      **Memorial Day 2023 – Lea Camp - G.A.R.** plot graveside ceremony - 10:30 a.m.  
Washington Cemetery, 2911 Washington Ave, Houston, Texas
- May 29, 2023**      **Memorial Day 2023 – Lea Camp** - Ceremony, musket salute, cannon firing - 9:00 a.m.  
Houston National Cemetery, 10410 Veterans Memorial Dr, Houston, Texas
- May 29, 2023**      **Memorial Day 2023 – Ellsworth Camp** - Ceremony, musket salute, cannon firing - 9:00 a.m.  
Fairview Cemetery, 1501 N. Hwy 91, Denison, Texas
- Jun 10, 2023**      **Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2** - Monthly Business Meeting – 10 a.m.  
Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, TX
- Jun 14, 2023**      **Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5** - Business Meeting - 5:30 pm.  
Waskom Community Center, 465 West School Ave., Waskom, Texas
- Jun 15, 2023**      **Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1** - Business Meeting - 7:00 p.m.  
VFW Hall 5617, 580 S. Cherry Ln., White Settlement, Texas - 7:00 p.m.
- Jun 10, 2023**      **Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp 18** - Business meeting - 7:00 p.m.  
Heritage Farmstead Museum, 1900 W. 15<sup>th</sup> St., Plano, Texas
- Jul 12, 2023**      **Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5** - Business Meeting - 5:30 pm.  
Waskom Community Center, 465 West School Ave., Waskom, Texas
- Jul 8, 2023**      **Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2** - Monthly Business Meeting - 10 a.m.  
Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, TX
- Jul 18, 2023**      **Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp 18** - Business meeting - 7:00 p.m.  
Heritage Farmstead Museum, 1900 W. 15<sup>th</sup> St., Plano, Texas
- Jul 20, 2023**      **Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1** - Business Meeting - 7:00 p.m.  
VFW Hall 5617, 580 S. Cherry Ln., White Settlement, Texas - 7:00 p.m.



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# Department of Texas and Louisiana



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Dept. Jr. Vice-Cmdr. **Richard W. Erder** *(for membership info)*  
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## Media Links

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

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**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](mailto:mlance387@gmail.com)





Department of Texas and Louisiana

**CAMP NAMESAKES**



**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



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