



THE UNIONIST

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Department of Texas and Louisiana
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



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BOONVILLE DAYS
BRYAN, TEXAS
Page 4



WASHINGTON CEMETERY
HOUSTON, TEXAS
Page 6



EAGLE SCOUT PATCH
SUVCW AWARD
Page 10

Features

- 3** **Department Updates** - Recent news from the *Department of Texas and Louisiana*.
by Department Commander Michael L. Lance
- 4** **News from Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2 of Houston** - Descriptions and photos
of recent Camp activities.
by Michael L. Lance and Frank 'Nick' Nichols, Jr.
- 10** **News from Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp 18 of Dallas** - Descriptions and photos
of recent Camp activities.
by John E. Schneider, Sr., PDC
- 13** **Primary Patent Examiner Charles Gilbert Gould** – *From the Medal of Honor to the
Patent Office: The story of U.S. Army veteran and Patent Examiner Charles Gould.*
By John E. Schneider, Sr., PDC
- 14** **Ancestor Profile** – Pvt. George T. Ridenour - Sixteen-year-old recruit from Indiana with a
distinguished and lengthy lineage who migrates to Texas and leaves behind a relic.
by Paul Ridenour
- 16** **Cpl. Andrew O. Apple** – Medal of Honor Recipient – A young Corporal was the only volunteer
to survive carrying the Colors of the *12th West Virginia Infantry* during the *3rd Battle of Petersburg*.
by Michael L. Lance

Departments

- 11** **Department Patriotic Instructor's Message** – Remember the soldiers who '*saw the elephant*'.
- 12** **Department Chaplain's Corner** – Liturgies remind soldiers of home.
- 12** **Trivia – Hospital Chaplains** – Clergymen witnessed the horrors of war.
- 18** **Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients - U.S. Army (Part 8)** - How the honor was earned.
- 21** **Upcoming Department Activities** - Calendar of the *Department of Texas and Louisiana*.
- 22** **2023-2024 Department Officers and Media Links.**
- 23** **2023 Camp Officers and Media Links** – And Camp namesakes.

Cover Image "Vicksburg" – The *1st Battalion, U.S. Infantry* fighting its way up the steep slope to the
top of the Confederate lines at Vicksburg, Mississippi, 19 May 1863 – *art by H. Charles McBarron Jr.*

Department Updates

Friday, 6 Oct 2023 – Proposal to Host the 144th National Encampment in 2025

A formal proposal to host the 144th National Encampment by the *Department of Texas and Louisiana* in 2025 was submitted to the *National Site Selection Committee* on October 6, 2023. The documents requested that the 2025 Encampment be held in the Houston area. After a review, plans were made for two of the *Site Selection Committee* members to visit Houston on December 1, 2023 to conduct site inspections. During this visit, the National representatives will be hosted by Houston-area members of the *Department Host Committee* to tour two of the hotels recommended as possible Encampment venues. It was noted by National that the *Department of Texas and Louisiana* has done an excellent job preparing and pre-planning for the event. As a result, prospects are excellent for this *Department* being selected to host the 144th National Encampment!

Saturday, 28 Oct 2023 – Special Department Encampment - Virtual

The scheduled *Special Department Encampment* was held virtually via Zoom on Saturday, October 28, 2023. The one item of business addressed during the Encampment was the ratification of the Recommendations for the changes to the *SUVCW* Constitution that were previously approved at the 142nd National Encampment in August 2023. Twenty-five Delegates attended the *Special Encampment*. One Alternate was promoted to voting Delegate status during the Encampment due to the absence of an elected Delegate. By Camp, the representation was:

- *Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1* 4 Delegates
- *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2* 11 Delegates
- *Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5* 5 Delegates
- *Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp 18* 6 Delegates

The vote to ratify the Recommendations was 21-4 in favor – with 1 Delegate not voting due to an unexpected loss of internet connection.



Monday, 30 Oct 2023 – Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1 – Virtual Meeting

On October 30, 2023, with the assistance of Department Signals Officer, John Vander Meulen, I hosted a virtual meeting via Zoom with the leadership of the *Gen. James J. Byrne Camp* of Fort Worth. Six Brothers of the *Byrne Camp* attended, including: Cmdr. Todd Wilber, JVC Michael Belcher, Treasurer David Appleton, Butch Durham, PDC Timothy Phillips, and Brother Ky White. Discussion involved sharing ideas about the challenges and opportunities of the Camp as it moves into the new year.

Saturday, 18 Nov 2023 – New Camp Formation – San Antonio, Texas

Department Camp Organizer Blair Rudy organized and conducted a meeting on November 18, 2023 at the *San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society*. Several interested parties attended the meeting. The discussions focused on the logistics and benefits of forming a new *SUVCW* Camp in Central Texas based in the San Antonio area. Possible Officer candidates were put forth along with a meeting schedule for future discussions. The group has also initiated the required paperwork to begin the Camp formation process. This news has been well received by me and the other members of the *Department*.



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

Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 - Houston

Saturday, 14 Oct 2023 – Boonville Days – Bryan, Texas

A beautiful sunny morning greeted members of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp* in Bryan, Texas on October 14, 2023. Brothers Michael Rappe, Daniel Pourreau, and Michael Lance assembled on the grounds in front of the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History. They promptly set up an attractive recruiting tent display. The display was just one of dozens set up for the annual *Texas Heritage Festival 'Boonville Days'* living history event.

Ideally positioned beside the sidewalk to the main entrance of the museum, the blue-clad men attracted a lot of attention. The museum had supplied two tables, a tent canopy, and four chairs for the display. Two unneeded tables from an adjacent display were also added to the setup to facilitate the large number of Civil War uniform items, weapons, and accoutrements that were brought to show – mostly supplied by SVC Daniel Pourreau.



Display table for accoutrements and other gear.
(Notice the white canteen on the far left with the red lettering - supplied by Michael Lance).



Display table for uniform items depicting the various branches of the Union forces.

Numerous family groups and teenagers stopped at the tables to gaze at the display items and ask questions. Brother Pourreau was constantly at work entertaining and educating visitors about the different uniforms and weapons. Brothers Lance and Rappe also assisted with some demonstrations, while focusing primarily on recruiting activities. Camp newsletters, *SUVCW* brochures, and Civil War relics and photos were displayed for that purpose.

Overall, all three men had an enjoyable time working together on that pleasant fall morning. The interaction with an appreciative and receptive public was very positive - and also quite successful with promoting awareness of, and the mission of, the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*. All vowed to return to do it again in 2024!

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

Boonville Days (continued)



Above far left:
Daniel Purreau showing Minié balls and powder to enthralled youngsters.

Above center:
Daniel Purreau demonstrating musket loading procedures.

Above far right:
Michael Rappe explaining Civil War relics and photos.

Left L-R:
Michael Lance, Daniel Purreau, and Michael Rappe

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

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

Saturday, 4 Nov 2023 – Washington Cemetery – Houston, Texas

On Saturday morning, November 4, 2023, several members of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2* assembled at the G.A.R. plot in Houston's historic Washington Cemetery. Their mission was to clean the headstones of the ten Union veterans buried in the G.A.R. plot. Sarah Emma Seelye, the namesake of our *Auxiliary*, was one of the veterans buried there. Sister Norma Pollard of the *Auxiliary* joined *Lea Camp* Brothers Daniel B. Pourreau, Robert G. Riley, Herbert W. Powers, and Michael L. Lance for the cleaning project.

Several applications of D/2 Biological Solution was sprayed on each headstone, followed by gentle brushing, and then rinsing with clean water. The process was repeated on most of the headstones to eventually bring out the beautiful colors, patterns, and sparkle of the marble.

Right: Michael Lance and Daniel Pourreau preparing the D/2 cleaning solution and rinse canisters.

After the gravestones were cleaned, a small 35-star flag was placed beside each one. A decorative wreath was positioned behind the Seelye grave, followed by a short remembrance ceremony by the work crew.



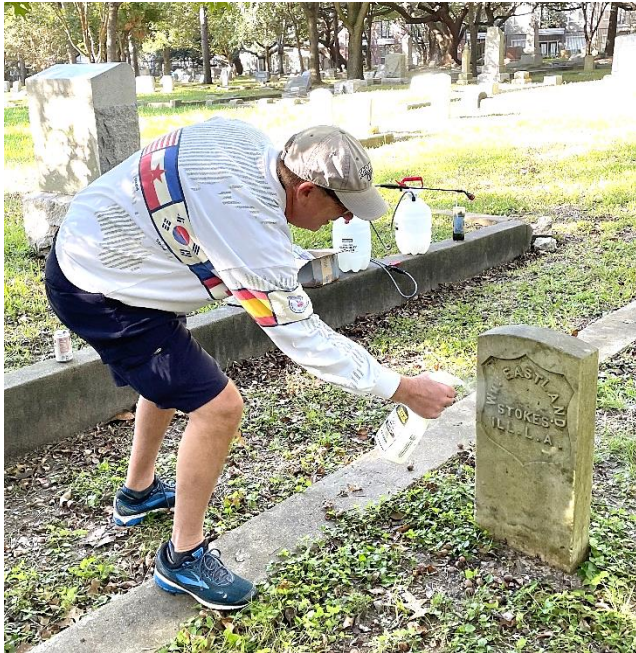
Herbert Powers gently scrubs with a soft brush.



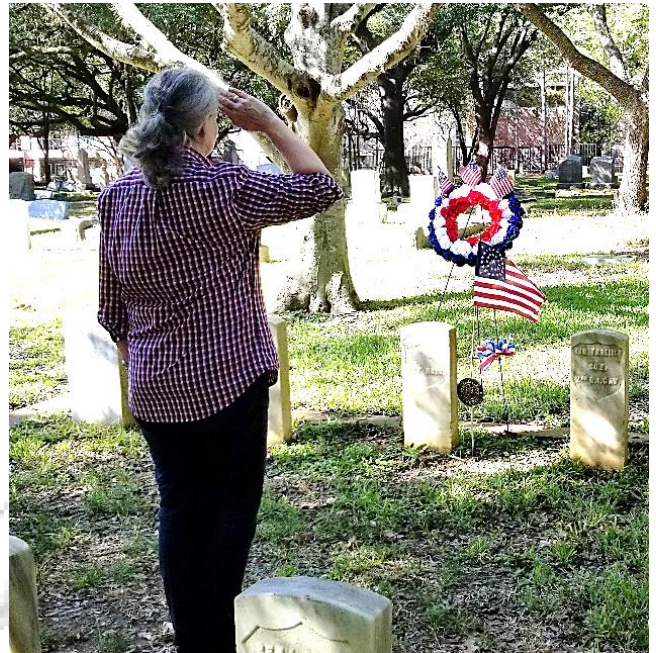
Norma Pollard applies some final touches.

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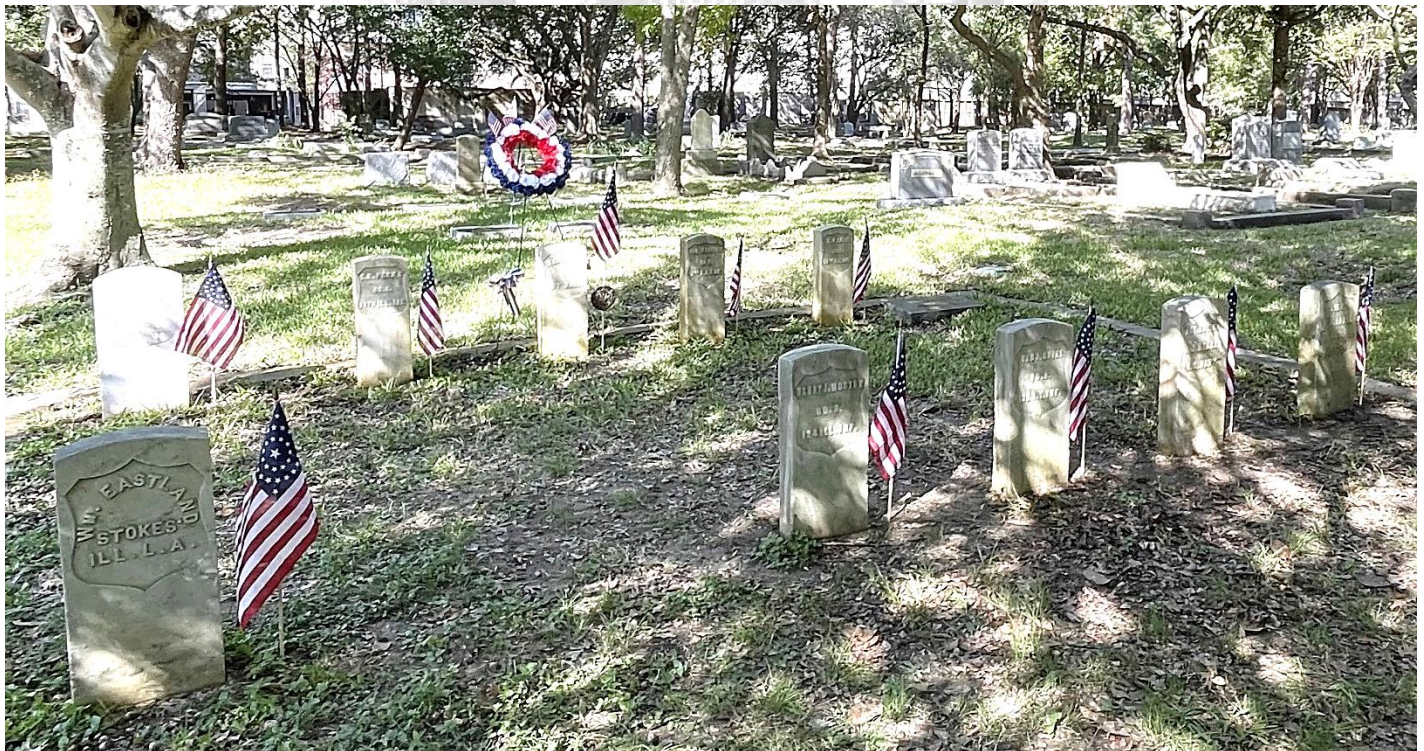
Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 - Houston (continued)



Robert Riley applying D/2 solution



**Sister Norma Pollard salutes
Union veteran Sarah Emma Seelye**



Even in shadow, the marble of the cleaned Union veteran gravestones sparkle!

*... report submitted by Michael L. Lance, DC/PCC
... photos submitted by Robert Riley and SVC Daniel Pourreau
Members of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2, Houston*

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

Saturday, 11 Nov 2023 - Veterans Day – Houston, Texas

At 2:00 p.m. on Veterans Day, ten members of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp* met online via Zoom to honor our nation's military veterans. They were joined by Sisters Susan Barry and Mary Anthony Startz of the *Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War*. Sister Barry is a member of the local *DUVCW* Tent in Houston, and Sister Startz is a member of the Tent in San Antonio.

After an invocation by Department Chaplain Stephen Schulze and the *Pledge of Allegiance*, Camp Commander John Vander Meulen called on Sister Barry to read the moving poem, "When the Boys in Blue are Gone". He then offered inspirational remarks about the importance of 'remembering' and honoring our ancestors. Each attendee was given a few minutes to call out the names of their military ancestors, both Civil War and later era servicemen, and give a brief description of their service.

Normally on Veterans Day, members of the *Lea Camp* would participate in the official ceremonies conducted on the grounds of Houston City Hall. After firing a 3-volley musket salute, they would then take their assigned position and march in the parade through downtown (photos from previous years below).

But this year, since inclement weather forced a cancellation of the 'normal' Veterans Day activities, the Brothers of the Camp sought an alternative method to honor our nation's heroes. Commander Vander Meulen put together a nicely crafted memorial program for the occasion, allowing the Camp to render honors virtually. He was joined by Brothers Stephen Schulze, PDC, Michael Lance, DC, Larry Nuckels, Robert Clements, JVC Jason Hoffman, Herb Powers, Michael Rappe, William 'Bill' Myers, and Robert Riley. All involved enjoyed the moving and inspirational memorial service.

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



2022



2021



2019



2017

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

Wednesday, 15 Nov 2023 – Grave Ceremony – Rome, Georgia

On page 6 of the December 2022 issue of the *Harriet Lane* Camp newsletter, I related how, after doing years of research on my great-grandfather, Julius Oluf Krag, I discovered that he was buried at Myrtle Hill Cemetery in Rome, Georgia. He had served as a Private with *Co. G, 15th New York Heavy Artillery* during the Civil War. I then began the process of ordering a new VA headstone for his grave.

First, I spoke with the Cemetery Director and learned that they did have a record of my ancestor's burial – but unfortunately, not his actual burial location. The cemetery also had a record of the burial of my ancestor's wife, but neither record indicates their actual plot location. But, it turned out that there was already an established location within the cemetery for Civil War veterans, both Union and Confederate, who were buried with and without headstones. So, I asked the Director if he would be receptive to placing a headstone for my ancestor in that area - if I provided one. The answer was 'yes', and that the installation would be done by the cemetery at no charge! So Private Krag would soon finally be memorialized with a VA military headstone.

After the new headstone was installed, I communicated with Patricia Millican at Myrtle Hill Cemetery and asked if she knew of anyone from a *SUVCW* Camp who performed graveside honors. I wanted to have a wreath placed at Private Krag's grave during the upcoming *Wreaths Across America* Day in December. She did not know of any, but she did put me in contact with a Brother of the *Sons of Confederate Veterans of the Civil War*. After several e-mails back and forth with him, he did locate my ancestor's new headstone and placed an American Flag beside it.

Since there was no *SUVCW* Camp based in Rome, Georgia, I looked for one in the surrounding area. I discovered that the closest *SUVCW* Camp was *Kennesaw Mountain Camp #3* in Marietta, Georgia, about 90 miles away. I contacted them and asked if they planned to participate in the upcoming *Wreaths Across America* day. Brother Reither of that Camp confirmed that they did, in fact, have plans to place wreaths that day – but in their local area.

After I told him about my ancestor's new VA gravestone in Rome, his response to my request for assistance was very positive. He said their Camp would be honored to travel to Myrtle Hill Cemetery in Rome on a day in November, locate my ancestor's headstone, place a wreath, and render honors.



Brother Reither also mentioned that he, on his own, purchases a lone wreath for a veteran who was laid to rest in a small private cemetery in Marietta that he takes care of. As a gesture of appreciation, I ordered an extra wreath for him to honor his veteran.

On November 15, 2023, Brothers Bryja and Born of the *SUVCW* Camp in Marietta (photos on left) went far and above what I expected in honoring my great-grandfather, Private Julius Oluf Krag. They performed a very nice ceremony during a wreath-laying. I can't thank them enough!

"Mission Accomplished!"



Brothers Born and Bryja render Honors to Pvt. Julius Oluf Krag

... submitted by F. S. (Nick) Nichols, Jr. - Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN, Camp 2, Houston

Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp #18

SUVCW Eagle Scout Awards

Department Eagle Scout Coordinator John E. Schneider, Sr., PDC, of *Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp 18* of Dallas, has been very active in recent weeks with facilitating the presentation of *SUVCW* Eagle Scout Awards to deserving Scouts from across the Department. This special *SUVCW* recognition includes an attractive Certificate and an Eagle Scout Patch. Brother Schneider provided awards for the following exceptional Scouts during the last quarter:

North Texas

Oliver Bruke	Dallas
Gary Hill	Dallas
Jalen Wells	Dallas
Arlen M. Hansen	Hurst
James Humphrey	Fort Worth
Anthony Moore	Plano
Everett Early	Rowlett

Southeast Texas

Deegan T. Collins	Baytown
Michael Robson	Fulshear
Sydney Cunningham	Houston
David A. Nutbrown	Houston
John William Falkman	League City
Connor Walsh	Seabrook

Congratulations to each of these outstanding award recipients!



Eagle Scout Patch

Left: Eagle Scout Certificate



*... submitted by John E. Schneider, Sr., PDC
Department Eagle Scout Coordinator - Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp 18, Dallas*

Department Patriotic Instructor's Message

October 2023 – by Brian McManus, PDC, National Patriotic Instructor

With Remembrance Day coming soon in November and the annual Memorial Service at Woolson's Memorial, one might ask the question, 'why do we gather to remember Albert Woolson?' Even though he was the last surviving member of the G.A.R., he never saw action and served less than one year. Whereas Corporal Horatio D. Chapman of the 20th Connecticut Volunteers experienced the following:

... the dead in some places were piled upon each other, and the groans and moans of the wounded were truly saddening to hear. Some were just alive and gasping, but unconscious. Others were mortally wounded and were conscious of the fact that they could not live long; and there were others wounded, how bad they could not tell, whether mortal or otherwise, and so it was they would linger on, some longer and some for a shorter time - without the sight or consolation of wife, mother, sister or friend. But such is war and we are getting used to it and can look on scenes of war, carnage, and suffering with but very little feeling and without a shudder."

Albert Woolson did not have this type of experience. Nor was he with Joshua Chamberlain who described the end of the first day's fighting at Fredericksburg as follows:

"But out of that silence rose new sounds more appalling still; a strange ventriloquism, of which you could not locate the source, a smothered moan, as if a thousand discords were flowing together into a key-note weird, unearthly, terrible to hear and bear, yet startling with its nearness; the writhing concord broken by cries for help, some begging for a drop of water, some calling on God for pity; and some on friendly hands to finish what the enemy had so horribly begun; some with delirious, dreamy voices murmuring loved names, as if the dearest were bending over them; and underneath, all the time, the deep bass note from closed lips too hopeless, or too heroic to articulate their agony...It seemed best to bestow myself between two dead men among the many left there by earlier assaults, and to draw another crosswise for a pillow out of the trampled, blood-soaked sod, pulling the flap of his coat over my face to fend off the chilling winds, and still more chilling, the deep, many voiced moan that overspread the field."

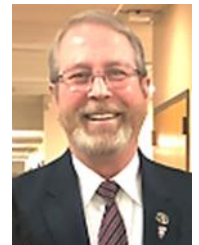
The combat soldier experiences various traumatic stressors such as: witnessing death or dismemberment, handling dead bodies, traumatic loss of comrades, realizing imminent death, killing others, and being helpless to prevent others' deaths. If you survived your war you still had to face a formidable foe: The Aftermath!

- Countless veterans left the war with diseases, wounds, destitution, hearing loss, and mental disorders.
- Many soldiers suffered from Old Soldier's Disease, a term applied to soldiers addicted to painkillers.
- There was no shell shock, battle fatigue, or (PTSD) to help explain mysterious conditions.
- Tens of thousands of veterans were homeless and VA benefits and assistance were not available.
- Many suffered a disability that prevented them from enjoying life's basic tasks and responsibilities.

Cpl. Charles Morey, 2nd Vermont wrote: *"Society will not own the rude soldier when he comes back, but turn a cold shoulder to him, because he has become hardened by scenes of bloodshed and carnage. I tell you, dear sister, there are feelings, tender feelings, down deep in the soldier's breast, which when moved will prove that all that is good is not quite dead."*

Albert Woolson did not see combat. However, he served and was willing to do so. He did not go untouched by the war, because like so many, he lost his father to wounds incurred at Shiloh. The G.A.R. started as an organization for Veterans to network and maintain connections with each other. It became an advocate for these Veterans. Albert Woolson, as the last member of the G.A.R. and last Union Veteran of the Civil War, also died being the last living soldier advocate and representative of the Boys in Blue. That is why we remember Albert Henry Woolson. Today, we the members of the SUVVCW represent those soldiers who 'saw the elephant'. Let us ensure that we do so in *Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty*.

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



Department Chaplain's Corner

The Religious Services of Civil War Chaplains – In Their Own Words

Chaplain Thomas K. Beecher (141st New York) - 1862

“Shall I tell you of our Sunday? At first dawn, you may easily hear that ‘tis Sunday, for the camp is far quieter than usual, even though a soldier’s duty does not cease on any day. At a quarter of ten, our Adjutant forms parade, while the Chaplain fixes a box pulpit out in a neighboring meadow. Then the battalion marches out and forms in front of the Chaplain – close, compact and attentive. A short prayer of invocation – a hymn – a passage or two from the articles of war – a short lesson from Scripture, with very few words of explanation or reminder – a prayer – and the sung doxology, complete a catholic regimental service. As we close, the village bells tell us other assemblies, at which many of us attend.”

“At the Episcopal Church, my brother and I attended, and for the first time in our lives took the sacrament of our lord together. That the liturgy laid hold of our hearts – that the Scripture lessons seemed strangely fresh and instructive – that pensive and devout memories crowded us unspeakable – and we prayed tear blind, “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven” – need not be told to you.”

“No wonder that soldiers, sailors and all travelers love liturgies. To hear in a strange land the same words one has learned to love at home; to remember the uncounted thousands who are using those same words with us, brings one to a conscious “communion of saints” - “The holy church throughout all the world doth acknowledge Thee.”

Hope you find this interesting.

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

... source: Thomas K. Beecher, “Letter from Chaplain Beecher,” *Elmira Weekly Advertiser and Chemung County Republicans* (Elmira, New York), 10 October 1862.



Trivia – Hospital Chaplains

Sometimes the work was physical and exhausting. Chaplains, in the short-staffed and overcrowded hospitals, were frequently enlisted to help lift patients, carry supplies, and erect temporary structures. Some performed basic medical procedures like dressing wounds. Just like their counterparts on the battlefield, hospital chaplains had to be fit and healthy – and in the hospitals they were exposed to contagion and disease on a daily basis.

Even though they were not on the front lines, hospital Chaplains could not escape the carnage of the Civil War. They were forced to confront gruesome wounds and to become hardened to the screams of the dying and the overpowering smells of gangrene and decay. William Corby, decades after his wartime service had ended, could still recall vividly the tangle of hastily-amputated legs, arms, hands, and feet piled up outside one hospital. “The picture can be compared with nothing but a butcher shop, or slaughter-house, where meat is cut and piled up,” he wrote.

A Chaplain’s work was harrowing, improvised, and all too often underappreciated. Charles Humphreys spoke frankly of his coping strategy for dealing with the unpredictability and tribulations of the job. “If there is any single rule that runs through all my work,” he concluded to his friend Edward Hall, “it is this: to be kind to all...I think my work will be surer if I do not assume any premature dignity or unwarranted authority, but trust to the pervasive influence of charity and love.”



... source: civilwar.org/chaplains

Primary Patent Examiner Charles Gilbert Gould

From the Medal of Honor to the Patent Office: The story of U.S. Army veteran and patent examiner Charles Gould.

Before he was a Patent Office employee, Charles Gilbert Gould served with the United States Army during the American Civil War. This account was written by Rebekah Oakes, Historian, United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). This article originally appeared on the USPTO employee website and is published here with the permission of the author and the USPTO.



Veterans Day provides an opportunity to recognize those who have served in our nation's armed forces. For many veterans, including USPTO employees both past and present, public service continues even after their military service ends. Before he was a Patent Office employee, Charles Gilbert Gould served with the United States Army during the American Civil War.

Born in Windham, Vermont on May 5, 1844, Gould enlisted in the U.S. Army at age 18. Having enlisted during wartime, Gould soon saw combat, first in the defenses of Washington, D.C., and later during the *U.S. Army of the Potomac's* Overland Campaign. As a captain with the *5th Vermont Infantry*, he was widely credited as being the first Union soldier to break through the Confederate defenses surrounding Petersburg, Virginia on April 2, 1865, contributing to the fall of Richmond and eventually the end of the war later that month. Gould suffered a bayonet wound to the face and was struck several times with clubbed muskets but held his ground. For his heroic actions, Gould was awarded the Medal of Honor.

After the war, Gould returned briefly to his home state of Vermont, but the wounds he sustained during the *Battle of Petersburg* soon caused him to seek a warmer climate. He entered civilian federal service in Washington, D.C., first accepting a clerkship at the U.S. Pension Office. After stints with the District of Columbia's Registrar's Office and the War Department, Gould finished a degree in patent law at what is now George Washington University. In 1877, Gould was hired as a clerk at what was then called the Patent Office. Eventually, he was promoted to principal examiner and held this position until he retired in 1916.



Left: **Charles Gilbert Gould**

Gould was also an inventor himself, receiving U.S. patent no. 143,139 for an improvement in gun cleaners in 1873. He was working as a patent examiner when the Patent Office granted a design patent to fellow veteran George Gillespie for the redesigned *Medal of Honor*, by then the nation's highest military award.



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

Editor's note: Captain Gould's Medal of Honor citation reads: "The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Captain (Infantry) Charles Gilbert Gould, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 2 April 1865, while serving with Company H, *5th Vermont Infantry*, in action at Petersburg, Virginia. Among the first to mount the enemy's works in the assault, he received a serious bayonet wound in the face, was struck several times with clubbed muskets, but bravely stood his ground, and with his sword killed the man who had bayoneted him."award issued 30 Jul 1890.

Ancestor Profile – Pvt. George T. Ridenour

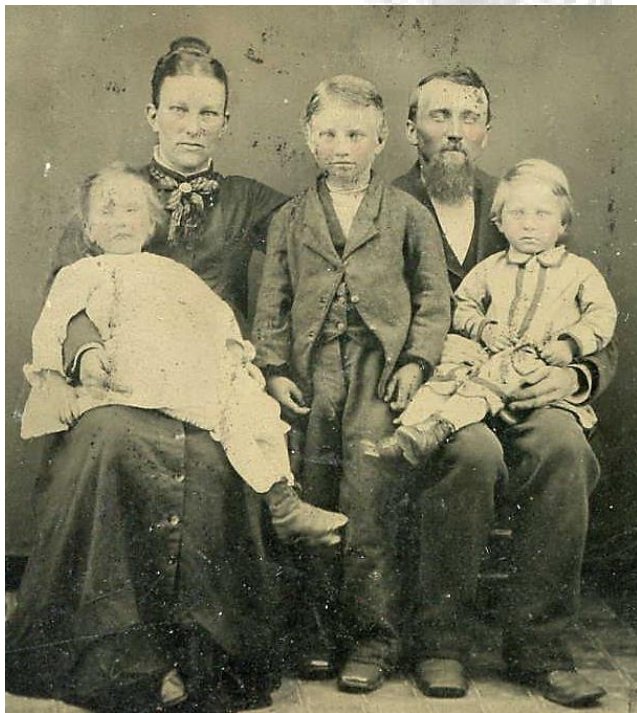
My 2nd great-grandfather, George T. Ridenour, was born on March 28, 1845, in Wabash, Indiana. His parents were David Ridenour, Jr. and Sarah Shauver. George's 5th great-grandfather, Mathias Ridenour, was an American Revolutionary Patriot from Maryland, and Mathias' father, Nicholas Reitenauer II, along with his brother-in-law, John Hager and others, founded the town of Hagerstown, Maryland.

In 1861, George T. Ridenour began serving in the military in Indiana when he was just 16 years old. He mustered in at Indianapolis on August 23, 1861, with *Co. E, 10th Regiment Indiana Infantry*. The *10th Indiana Infantry* was reorganized at Indianapolis and mustered in for three years of service beginning on September 18, 1861.

Some of the *10th Regiment Indiana Infantry* saw action at the *Battle of Mill Springs, Battle of Perryville, Battle of Chickamauga, Siege of Chattanooga, Missionary Ridge, Battle of Resaca May, Dallas, New Hope Church, Allatoona Hills, Lost Mountain, Kennesaw, Siege of Atlanta*, and the *Battle of Jonesboro*. It was stationed at six different locations during the three-day *Battle of Chickamauga*. During the war, the regiment lost a total of 186 men, including three officers and 64 enlisted men killed or mortally wounded, and five officers and 114 enlisted men died of disease. The *10th Indiana Infantry* mustered out of service on September 19, 1864, as did George.

On October 17, 1867, George Ridenour was 22 years old when he married Mary Ellen Bent in Wabash, Indiana. Mary's great-grandfather, Silas Bent, participated in the Boston Tea Party by dressing up as an Indian and throwing tea into the harbor. George and Mary became the parents of six children, including Albert Ridenour (born 1870 in Indiana), Nora Ridenour (1874 Indiana), Errol Thurlow Ridenour (1876 Nebraska), Charles Ridenour (1882 Nebraska), Martha Ridenour (1884 Nebraska), and George Francis Ridenour (1888 Texas).

George's wife, Mary, was often ill and needed to live in a dryer area, so they left Indiana for Lincoln, Nebraska, where George came to own 160 acres of land. Still not dry enough for Mary, they moved further south to Texas in 1885, settling in Buffalo Gap, Taylor County, Texas.



George and Mary Ridenour with his first three children in Nebraska, ca. 1880.



George and Nancy Ridenour with his last three children in Abilene, Texas, after 1891.

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Ancestor Profile – Private George T. Ridenour (continued)

After Mary passed away in 1890 at age 41, George married local Buffalo Gap pioneer Nancy Pimela (Ashford) Chapman. He died December 29, 1911, in Buffalo Gap in the home of his daughter, Martha Proctor, and was buried in the Buffalo Gap Cemetery between his two wives.

George and Mary's son, George Francis Ridenour, was killed just days before the Signing of the Armistice during WWI. He was a Private in *Co. B, 359th Infantry, 90th Division*, and he is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. He is listed on the Taylor County War Memorial in downtown Abilene, Texas.



Sometime between 2004 and 2007, Tom Perini of *Perini's Steakhouse and Ranch*, bought the 1885 Ridenour home, moved it a few yards, restored it, and made it his main ranch B&B.

Left: George T. Riddenour's 1885 home as the main B&B at Perini's Ranch

Tom Perini was well-known and cooked in the White House for President George W. Bush. Russian President Vladimir Putin even flew him to Moscow to teach his cooks. Tom's good friend, actor Robert Duvall, often stays at the main B&B. *Perini's* was voted 3rd best ribeye in Texas.

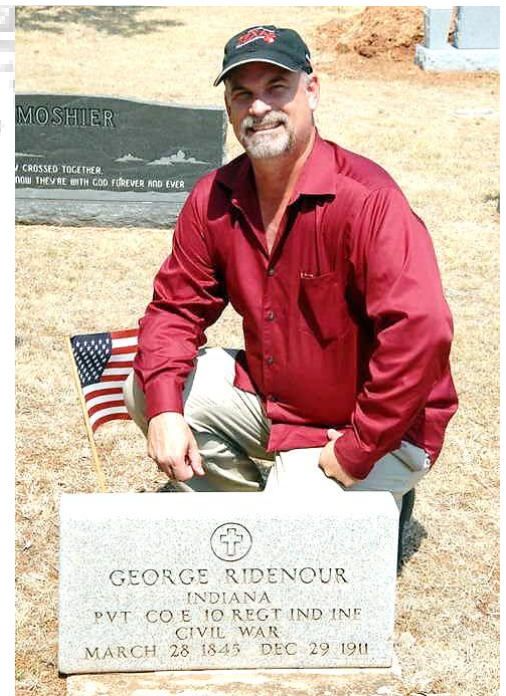
Before Tom Perini owned the Ridenour house, a couple from New York named Leonard Majzlin and Carol Hall owned it for about 10 years. Carol wrote the music and lyrics to "*The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas.*"



Left: Ridenour brand

In 2016, Kristopher Kuppin and his wife found an "R" brand in their backyard in Buffalo Gap. After much research, they concluded it was the Ridenour brand - and they gave it to me on November 20, 2016.

Right: Paul Ridenour by the grave of his ancestor, Pvt. George T. Ridenour



... submitted by Paul Ridenour, GRO - Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp 18, Dallas

Cpl. Andrew O. Apple – Private to Fire Marshall

Andrew Oliver Apple was born in 1845 in Northampton, Pennsylvania. He was one of nine children born to a distiller. At about age 15, Andrew's family moved from Pennsylvania to New Cumberland, Virginia. The Civil War would soon break out. Andrew was just 17 years old when he enlisted with the Union Army at nearby New Manchester, Virginia. He served with *Co. I, 12th Regiment, West Virginia Infantry*.

Andrew saw action in twelve different battles between June 1863 and April 1865, and eventually rose in rank to Corporal. But it was his actions in April 1865 during the federal siege of Confederate positions at Petersburg during the *Third Battle of Petersburg* that would establish his honored place in history.

During the final attack by the Union Army, Corporal Apple saw his regiment's battle flag fall when the Color Bearer was mortally shot. He bravely picked up the flag and continued forward - probably aware that the unfortunate flag bearer was not the first to fall carrying it that day. He later described that during most of the chaotic 6-hour assault, there was no time to even reload muskets. Most of the soldiers were forced to use their bayonets as they moved forward, sometimes fighting hand-to-hand as they stormed over the ramparts of Fort Gregg. The ultimate capture of that Confederate fort was one of the final successful actions that allowed Gen. Grant's Union forces to finally capture Petersburg.

Right: Corporal Andrew Oliver Apple



As fate would have it, Corporal Apple was the only survivor among the four men who carried the battle flag of the *12th West Virginia Infantry* during that final assault. The other three flag carriers were shot and killed while bearing those Colors. He would subsequently participate in two more battles as his regiment was tasked with pursuing the remnants of Gen. Robert E. Lee's army. The Union pursuit ultimately concluded with the surrender of Gen. Lee at Appomattox on April 9th, 1865. Just over a month later, in May 1865, Apple was awarded a *Medal of Honor* for his bravery during the earlier siege of Petersburg.

After being honorably discharged in June 1865, Apple returned to his native state of Pennsylvania. But in 1868, he moved westward to Illinois, settling in the town of Elgin. He was initially employed as a hotel bartender. In late 1869, he married his boss's daughter and eventually became the father of 6 children. Meanwhile, he began working as a fireman and, in time, was promoted to Assistant City Fire Marshall. In May 1889, Apple obtained the position of Fire Marshal of Elgin, Illinois.

In January 1890, shortly before his death, Fire Marshall Andrew O. Apple was interviewed about his being given the Medal of Honor. During the interview, he described how events unfolded in May 1865 and the subsequent presentation of the prestigious award.

"The first I knew that I had done anything out of the ordinary line was, one morning while we were in camp at Richmond, after coming from the scene of Lee's surrender, the orderly sergeant stopped at my tent and asked if I wanted to go home. I told him that we would all go so soon that I had better wait for the regiment. [T]here was an intense satisfaction in being inside the city which had so long resisted our efforts."

"Instead of being content with my answer, the sergeant told me to fix up and report to regimental headquarters. I had but little choice as to the clothes I should wear, and at best looked more like a tramp than a respectable soldier. We had not drawn any garments for three months, and I was ragged, dirty, and with shoes that would have disgraced an ash barrel. The orders had to be obeyed, however, regardless of personal appearance, and on reporting I found a lieutenant and one private waiting for me. We three were then told to

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Cpl. Andrew O. Apple – Private to Fire Marshall *(continued)*

go to brigade headquarters, where were two men from the 23rd Illinois and one from the 116th Ohio.”

“From here we were sent to the corps commander, and he in turn ordered us to the landing, where about forty had gathered, none of whom knew any more about their reason for being there than I did. A steamer was tied up to the bank. We lounged around a long while, and finally the order came for us to go on board as guard to the boxes. The steamer was bound for Washington, and on arriving there we were to escort the freight to the White House.”

“Even then, none of our party realized what it was that we were to take such wonderful care of, and not until the cases had been opened in our presence before all the cabinet members did we learn that they contained General Lee's battle flags. [W]e were placed in front of a camera, and then Secretary of War Stanton gave us the freedom of the city, two months' pay, a furlough of thirty days, together with free transportation to our homes and back.”

“I enjoyed every one of the thirty days, and went back to the front believing that I had been amply awarded for all that had been done in the assault on Fort Gregg, but the full payment for that day's work had not been made. We went into camp like schoolboys who had earned an unexpected holiday, and without the slightest idea that anything more was to follow. The whole corps was drawn up in a hollow square [at their camp in Richmond], and the name of each member of the furloughed party was called in turn.”

“As we stepped forward, General Ord's daughter came up and pinned a Congressional medal of honor on the breast of each one, and for the first time we understood that the country had decorated us with the highest possible gift as a reward for bravery. It is not necessary to speak of the pride I felt at being singled out from so many brave fellows. If I had earned it unwittingly, it was none the less precious, and I value it more highly than words can tell.”



Medal Of Honor

In June 1890, Andrew Apple passed away in Elgin from complications of Bright's Disease (chronic inflammation of the kidneys). He was just 45 years old. Fire Department and City Officials escorted his funeral procession to his burial site in Bluff City Cemetery in Elgin.

Apple's Medal of Honor citations reads:

“The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Corporal Andrew O. Apple, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 2 April 1865, while serving with Company I, 12th West Virginia Infantry, in action at Petersburg, Virginia, for conspicuous gallantry as Color Bearer in the assault on Fort Gregg.”



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

Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients - U.S. Army (Part 8)

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 8 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.



- **Charles L. Barrell – 1st Lt.** – Charles L. Barrell was born in 1842 in Conquest, Cayuga County, New York. On the day after his 20th birthday in August 1862, Barrell enlisted with the Union Army at Leighton, Allegan County, Michigan. He served as a flag bearer with *Co. C, 102nd U.S. Colored Troops*. Barrell attained the rank of 1st Lt. in January 1863 and was awarded a *Medal of Honor* for his actions near Camden, South Carolina. He eventually attained the rank of Captain. Barrell died in Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1914 at age 71 and is buried at Hooker Cemetery in Wayland, Michigan. 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 Lieutenant Charles L. Barrell, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on April, 1865, while serving with Company C, 102d Colored Infantry, in action at Camden, South Carolina, in hazardous service in marching through the enemy's country to bring relief to his command."



- **Jesse T. Barrick – Corporal** – Jesse T. Barrick was born in Ohio in 1841, but grew up in Minnesota. He enlisted with the Union Army at Fort Snelling, Minnesota in October 1861. He served with *Co. H, Minnesota 3rd Infantry* and attained the rank of Corporal. His wife, Sarah Ann, also enlisted with the Union Army in 1861 as a nurse. While scouting along the Duck River in Tennessee between May and June 1863, Barrick captured two soldiers of the Confederate army and held them captive for eight days. Barrick mustered out at the conclusion of the Duck River event but re-enlisted in December 1863. In July 1864, he was promoted to 2nd Lt. and commanded a black platoon in the *57th U.S. Colored Infantry*. He was discharged a few months later due to disability.



After the war, Barrick was involved in the fur trade in Suquamish, Washington, where he had relocated in 1909. In 1912, he moved to Pasco, Washington where he died in 1923. Barrick was initially buried in an unmarked grave in the Pasco City Cemetery in Pasco, but his remains were exhumed in 2000 and interred in Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Washington. The cemetery's traffic circle is named after him. 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 Corporal Jesse T. Barrick, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on May 26 - 2 June 1863, while serving with Company H, 3d Minnesota Infantry, in action at Duck River, Tennessee. While on a scout Corporal Barrick captured single-handed two desperate Confederate guerrilla officers who were together and well armed at the time."

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Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients - U.S. Army (Part 8 continued)

- **William H. Barringer – Private** – William H. Barringer was born in 1841 in Long Bottom, Ohio. When Gen. Ulysses Grant ordered an assault on the Confederate heights at Vicksburg, Mississippi in May 1862, the plan called for a storming party of volunteers to build a bridge across a moat and plant scaling ladders against the enemy embankment in advance of the main attack. Since the volunteers knew the odds were against survival, the mission was called a ‘forlorn hope’. Only single men were accepted as volunteers and even then, twice as many men as needed stepped forward. Private Barringer thus became a member of the ‘forlorn hope’.



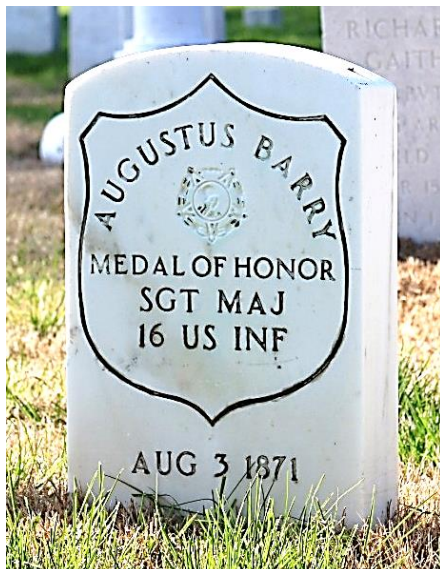
These Union volunteers came under enemy fire immediately and were pinned down in the ditch they were to cross. Despite repeated attacks by the main federal forces, the men of the ‘forlorn hope’ were unable to retreat until nightfall. Of the 150 men in the storming party, nearly half were killed. The 79 survivors were awarded the *Medal of Honor*, including Pvt. William Barringer.

In June 1865, Barringer married Katherine Timely, and they eventually became the parents of 13 children. 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 William H. Barringer, United States Army, for gallantry in the charge of the volunteer storming party on 22 May 1863, while serving with Company F, 4th West Virginia Infantry, in action at Vicksburg, Mississippi.”



- **Augustus Barry – Sergeant Major** – Augustus Barry was born in 1840 in Ireland and eventually immigrated to the United States. Very little is known of his life.



During the Civil War, Barry enlisted with the Union Army from New York, New York. He served with the 16th U.S. Infantry and eventually attained the rank of Sergeant Major. He died prematurely in 1871 at age 31, and was buried at Cold Harbor National Cemetery in Mechanicsville, Virginia. He had served as that cemetery’s first Superintendent.

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 Major Augustus Barry, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 1863 to 1865, while serving with 16th U.S. Infantry, in action at Tennessee and Georgia, for gallantry in various actions during the rebellion.”

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Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients - U.S. Army (Part 8 continued)

- **Richard N. Batchelder – Lt. Colonel** – Richard Napoleon Batchelder was born in 1832 in Laconia, New Hampshire. His father was a state representative, and his mother was the daughter of a prominent pastor. In May 1861, as the Civil War erupted, Richard quit his business and enlisted in the Union Army, commissioned as a 1st Lieutenant. He initially served as Regimental Quartermaster for the 1st New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry. He was promoted to Captain in August 1861, and became a Divisional Quartermaster in March 1862. He was eventually promoted to Lt. Colonel and Chief Quartermaster of II Corps in January 1863. In October 1863, during one of his missions, the corps' supply units came under bombardment. Because of his capable and decisive leadership, his unit was able to successfully accomplish the mission without any loss of supplies. This feat later earned him the *Medal of Honor*. Batchelder was mustered out of service in June 1865, and was transferred to the Regular Army, reverting to the rank of Captain.

Lt. Col. Richard Batchelder

In January 1866, President Andrew Johnson nominated Batchelder for appointment to the rank of Brevet Brigadier General of Volunteers. The U.S. Senate confirmed the appointment 2 months later. Batchelder went on to serve at various commands across the country under the Quartermaster branch for 25 years before he was promoted to Brigadier General in June 1890. With this promotion he was appointed as the 18th Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army. In this position, he was in charge of the creation of the emblem used to identify the Quartermaster Corps. He retired from the Army July 1896.

Brig. Gen. Richard N. Batchelder - in later life

General Batchelder was a member of the *Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States*, the *Sons of the Revolution*, and the *Society of Colonial Wars*. His *Medal of Honor* citation reads:

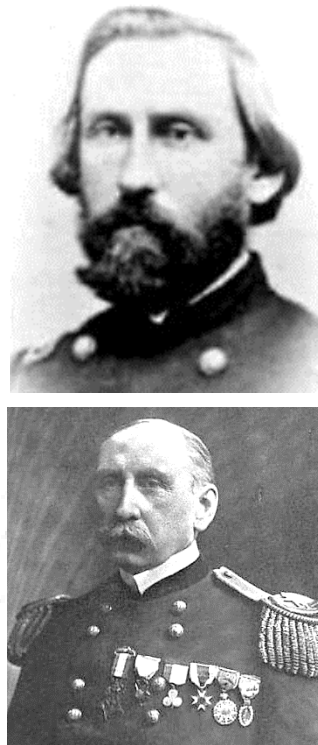
"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Lieutenant Colonel & Chief Quartermaster Richard Napoleon Batchelder, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on October 13 - 15, 1863, while serving with 2d Corps, in action at Catlett & Fairfax Stations, Virginia. Being ordered to move his trains by a continuous day-and-night march, and without the usual military escort, Lieutenant Colonel Batchelder armed his teamsters and personally commanded them, successfully fighting against heavy odds and bringing his trains through without the loss of a wagon."

- **Delavan Bates - Colonel** – Delavan Bates was born in 1840 in Schoharie Co., New York. He enlisted with the 121st New York Infantry in August 1862. Bates was captured at the *Battle of Salem Church* during the *Battle of Fredericksburg* and was held at Libby Prison for about 2 weeks before being released in an exchange. Bates became Colonel of the 30th U.S. Colored Infantry in March 1864. While leading his troops in the *Battle of the Crater* in July 1864, he was seriously wounded in the chest and arms and suffered a bullet to his face. He survived those injuries and received the *Medal of Honor* for his bravery during the battle. By wars end, Bates had been promoted to Brevet Brig. Gen. He honorably mustered out in December 1865. 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 Colonel Delavan Bates, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 30 July 1864, while serving with 30th Colored Troops, in action at Petersburg (Cemetery Hill), Virginia. For gallantry in action where he fell, shot through the face, at the head of his regiment."

... series to be continued next issue with part 9



Upcoming Department Activities

Nov 8	Wednesday	Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5 – Monthly Business Meeting - 5:30 p.m. Dinner Belle Restaurant, 4803 E. End Blvd. South, Marshall, Texas
Nov 11	Saturday	Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2 – Veterans Day Ceremony – 2:00 p.m. Virtual memorial meeting
Nov 16	Thursday	Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1 – Monthly Business Meeting - 7:00 p.m. VFW Hall 5617, 580 S. Cherry Ln., White Settlement, Texas
Nov 18	Saturday	Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2 - Monthly Business Meeting – 10:00 a.m. Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, Texas
Nov 21	Tuesday	Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp 18 – Monthly Business meeting - 7:00 p.m. Heritage Farmstead Museum, 1900 W. 15 th St., Plano, Texas
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Dec 9	Saturday	Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2 - Monthly Business Meeting – 10:30 a.m. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7901 Westview Dr., Houston, Texas
Dec 14	Thursday	Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1 – Monthly Business Meeting - 7:00 p.m. Virtual meeting
Dec 13	Wednesday	Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5 – Monthly Business Meeting - 5:30 p.m. Dinner Belle Restaurant, 4803 E. End Blvd. South, Marshall, Texas
Dec 16	Saturday	Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2 – Wreaths Across America Event – 11:00 a.m. Houston National Cemetery, 10410 Veterans Memorial Dr., Houston, Texas
Dec 16	Saturday	Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5 – Wreaths Across America Event Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery, 7970 Mike Clark Rd., Keithville, Louisiana
Dec 19	Tuesday	Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp 18 – Monthly Business meeting - 7:00 p.m. Heritage Farmstead Museum, 1900 W. 15 th St., Plano, Texas
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Jan 6	Saturday	Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2 – Battle of Galveston Commemoration – 10:00 a.m. Episcopal Church Cemetery, 4001 Ave K, Galveston, Texas
Jan 6	Saturday	Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2 - Monthly Business Meeting – 12:30 p.m. Golden Corral Restaurant, 6200 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, Texas
Jan 10	Wednesday	Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5 – Monthly Business Meeting - 5:30 p.m. Dinner Belle Restaurant, 4803 E. End Blvd. South, Marshall, Texas
Jan 16	Tuesday	Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp 18 – Monthly Business meeting - 7:00 p.m. Heritage Farmstead Museum, 1900 W. 15 th St., Plano, Texas
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Feb 14	Wednesday	Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5 – Monthly Business Meeting - 5:30 p.m. Dinner Belle Restaurant, 4803 E. End Blvd. South, Marshall, Texas
Feb 17	Saturday	Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2 - Monthly Business Meeting – 10:00 a.m. Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, Texas
Feb 20	Tuesday	Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp 18 – Monthly Business meeting - 7:00 p.m. Heritage Farmstead Museum, 1900 W. 15 th St., Plano, Texas

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.	Dept. Assist. Newsletter Editor	Daniel B. Poureau

Department Website

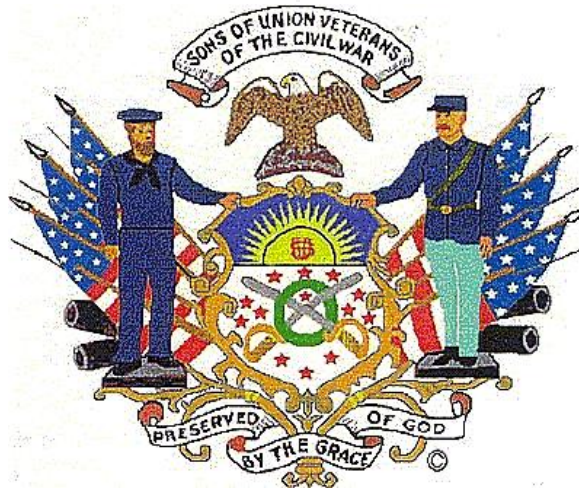
Department Facebook Page

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



2023 Camp Officers and Media Links

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

Camp Commander	Todd Wilber
Camp Sr. Vice-Commander	Matthew H. Parkison
Camp Jr. Vice-Commander	Michael E. Belcher
Camp Treasurer	David B. Appleton
Camp Secretary	Mark D. Parkison

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	Jason D. Hoffman
Camp Secretary/Treasurer	Stephen D. Schulze



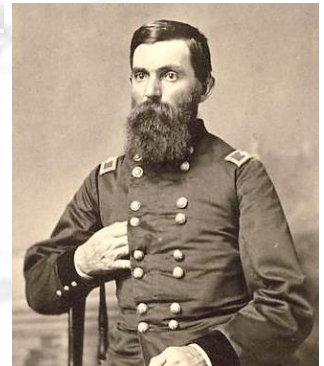
Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea
Namesake of Camp 2
Killed in Action on the *USS Harriet Lane*
1 Jan 1863

Camp Website
Camp Facebook

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

Camp Commander	John A. Prime
Camp Sr. Vice-Commander	Michael A. Heller
Camp Jr. Vice-Commander	Tony L. Vets II
Camp Secretary/Treasurer	William M. 'Bill' Elliott

Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey
Namesake of Camp 5

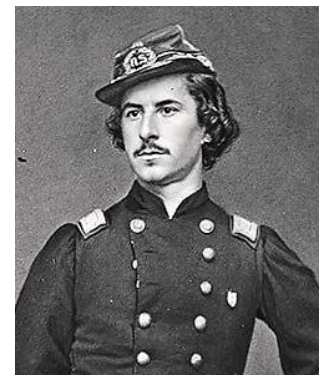


Camp Website
Camp Facebook

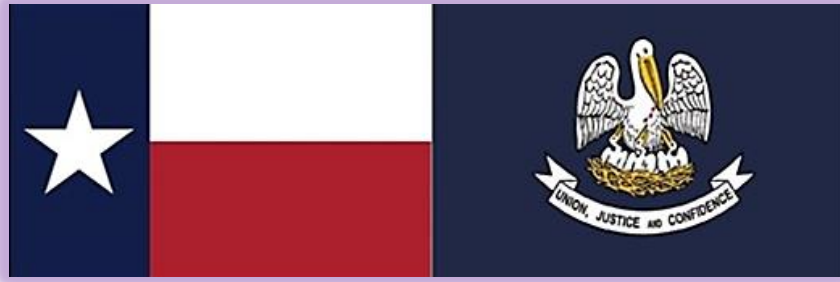
Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp 18 - Dallas, Texas

Camp Commander	Brook J. Thomas
Camp Sr. Vice-Commander	Michael K. Schneider
Camp Jr. Vice-Commander	Kevin J. Ennis
Camp Secretary/Treasurer	Donald L. Gates

Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth
Namesake of Camp 18

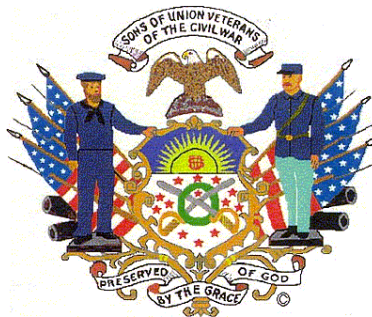


Camp Website
Camp Facebook



**DEPARTMENT
OF
TEXAS
AND
LOUISIANA**

Honoring Our Union Ancestors by Keeping their Legacy Alive



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR