



THE UNIONIST

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SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



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COVER IMAGE - *Fight'n Irish* - *Celebrating the Gallantry and Bravery of the Irish Brigade.*
Artwork by Dale Gallon

GEN. JAMES J. BYRNE CAMP #1 – FORT WORTH

Friday-Saturday, November 14-15, 2025 – Jacksboro, Texas

Members of *Gen. James J. Byrne Camp #1* of Fort Worth traveled to Fort Richardson State Park in Jacksboro, Texas on Friday, November 14, 2025 and assembled to conduct their monthly business meeting. This historic venue was chosen for two reasons: for the business meeting, and for the Camp to participate in the *Pioneer Days* event at the old Fort the following day.

The participants included: Camp Cmdr. Brian R. Glass, PDC; Beau B. Moore, PDC; Timothy Phillips, PDC; Donald L. Gates, PDC; Craig Reves; and Todd Wilber. They were joined by SVR members John E. Schneider, Sr., PDC, and Richard Erder, who are both also members of *Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp #18* of Dallas. Also attending the *Pioneer Days* event with the *SUVCW* members was Jill Schneider of *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1*.



L-R: Timothy M. Phillips, Craig Reves, Beau Moore, young Moore, Brian Glass, and Matson Poole.



Fort Hospital



Officer's Quarters



Bakery

*... by Donald L. Gates – Secr./Treas.
Gen. James J. Byrne Camp #1 – Fort Worth
and
Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp #18 - Dallas*



*... meeting photo by Todd Wilber
Gen. James J. Byrne Camp #1 – Fort Worth*



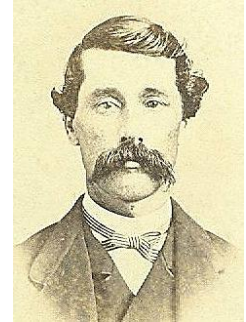
LT. CMDR. EDWARD LEA CAMP #2 – HOUSTON

Saturday, November 1, 2025 – Houston, Texas

Eleven members of *Lt. Edward Lea Camp 2* assembled at Glenwood Cemetery in Houston, Texas on November 1, 2025. They gathered at the gravesite of Capt. Mahlon E. Davis, a Union army veteran, for a memorial and dedication ceremony. Mahlon Davis had served as Captain of *Company A, 21st U.S.C.T. Infantry* during the Civil War.

Right: Mahlon E. Davis

The *Lea Camp* had facilitated the recent installation of a new grave marker for Davis. While an older family grave marker was already in place at the grave, the new marker featured the veterans military service, and was positioned at the foot of the grave.



L-R: Ronald 'Steve' Brock, Stephen D. Schulze, William D. 'Bill' Myers, John E. Schneider, Jr., Cody N. Holcomb, Michael D. Rappe, Robert G. Riley, Daniel B. Pourreau, John C. Vander Meulen, Michael L. Lance, and Herbert W. Powers.

The *Lea Camp* Brothers were graciously supported by Sisters from *Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1 (Aux.)* and *Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4, DUVCW*. Susan Barry (*DUVCW*) read aloud the poem: *When the Boys in Blue Are Gone*, Rebecca Feaster (*DUVCW*) laid an evergreen wreath at the grave, and Lisa Riley (*Aux.*) laid a white rose at the grave.

The following Camp members also participated in ceremonial roles: John Vander Meulen served as Master of Ceremonies; 'Steve' Brock led the *Pledge of Allegiance* as Patriotic Instructor; Stephen Schulze performed the Chaplain's roles; Herbert Powers placed the 'tools of the soldier' at the grave and stood as Grave Guard; Robert Riley laid a grapevine wreath at the grave and operated the video recording; drummer William Myers set the cadences for the marching and musket salute; John Schneider, Jr. served as photographer and music director; and the 4-man musket firing party consisted of Daniel Pourreau, Michael Lance, Cody Holcomb, and Michael Rappe. The ceremony honoring Capt. Davis was conducted well by all involved.

Rest in Peace, comrade Davis!

... additional photos on next two pages

LT. CMDR. EDWARD LEA CAMP #2 – HOUSTON (CONTINUED)



Left: John Vander Meulen, Herbert Powers and Daniel Pourceau listen as Susan Barry, DUVCW, reads the poem: *When the Boys in Blue Are Gone*.

Right: Herbert W. Powers placing the Tools of the Soldier at the grave of Capt. Mahlon Davis.



Right: John C. Vander Meulen advances to place a small U.S. flag at the grave of Capt. Mahlon Davis. Herbert W. Powers posted as Grave Guard.

...continued on next page

LT. CMDR. EDWARD LEA CAMP #2 – HOUSTON (CONTINUED)



**** Honor Guard ****

**L-R: Herbert W. Powers, Daniel B. Pourreau, Michael L. Lance,
Michael D. Rappe, Cody N. Holcomb**



Brothers of Lt. Edward Lea Camp #2, SUVCW and Sisters of the Auxiliary and DUVCW

.. by Michael L. Lance – Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2, Houston, Texas

LT. CMDR. EDWARD LEA CAMP #2 – HOUSTON (CONTINUED)

Saturday, November 8, 2025 – Pasadena, Texas

On November 8, 2025, the *Crown Hill Cemetery Association* hosted a pre-Veterans Day ceremony at the historic Crown Hill Cemetery in Pasadena, Texas. The *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* was represented at the well-attended event by four members from *Edward Lea Camp #2* of Houston: Camp Commander Daniel B. Pourreau; Michael L. Lance, PDC; Robert G. Riley; and Richard J. Carson, Jr.

After a few memorial speeches and a rifle salute by a 3-man unit from *American Legion Post 521*, the event attendees ceremoniously placed flowers at 18 veteran gravesites around the cemetery. The veterans thus honored had served in five different wars, plus one who had served during peacetime.

Two of the five Civil War gravesites were of Union veterans, Milton H. Lakin and Horace G. Plumb. These two Union graves were the focus of the *Lea Camp* contingent. Brother Riley rendered honors at the Plumb headstone by laying flowers and saluting (*below right*), and Cmdr. Pourreau did likewise at the Lakin headstone (*below left*). Following a biographical reading by Bobby Dover of the *Association* about veteran Lakin, a 3-volley musket salute was offered by Michael Lance (*below center*).



*Reported
By
Michael L. Lance*



*Photos
By
Richard J. Carson*

LT. CMDR. EDWARD LEA CAMP #2 – HOUSTON (CONTINUED)

Saturday, Nov 11, 2025 – Houston, Texas

The annual Veterans Day ceremony at City Hall in downtown Houston was once again punctuated by a thunderous salute by a combined unit of blue-clad musketeers. The squad was commanded by Tommy Attaway of the *Texas Rifles*. Cody N. Holcomb and Michael L. Lance of *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2* formed up with Howard Rose and Roy Eanes of *Co. A, 13th Reg't U.S. Infantry* to provide 3 musket volleys near the end of the Veterans Day program.

After the ceremonies at City Hall concluded, Holcomb and Lance stowed their muskets in order to carry flags as the Honor Guard transformed into a Color Guard for the downtown parade. Although the unit was small, it marched the route with precision and class. The flag-waving crowds lining the streets cheered as the Union Color Guard marched by.



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

Tuesday, Nov 11, 2025 – Veterans Day in Texas

In an effort to celebrate and remember the veterans in our collective families, Department Senior Vice-Commander John Vander Meulen hosted a special Zoom session for any and all Brothers of the Department who are veterans or have family members who are, or were, military veterans. About a dozen Brothers attended the virtual meeting.

Most of the attendees had previously submitted images of themselves in uniform, or of their fathers, grandfathers, uncles, or Civil War Union ancestors. Brother Vander Meulen then created a special video montage with those photographs, and presented the memorial compilation during the session, much to the delight of those in attendance. Each Brother was then invited to tell the story of their veteran family member and engage in a Q/A period with each other.

... by John C. Vander Meulen, Dept. SVC, Lea Camp 2, Houston



MAJ. GEN. EDWARD O. C. ORD CAMP #3 – SAN ANTONIO

Saturday, Oct 18, 2025 – San Antonio, Texas

The Department of Texas and Louisiana, SUVCW, was well represented at the Annual Fall Seminar of the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society on October 18, 2025. The Lineage Group forum was attended by Blair G. Rudy, Commander of Gen. E. O. C. Ord Camp #3 of San Antonio, along with Senior Vice-Commander Larry W. Luckett. Twenty-one other legacy and heritage organizations participated in the popular event.

"Larry was a featured speaker on how to join heritage societies. He gave a fantastic presentation, and also won the raffle for the quilt. Good job Larry (I wonder how many \$1 tickets he acquired?)."

"The SAG&HS is wonderful to host our Camp meeting space. It is right and proper we support them. We had a great time and have several solid conversations with potential new camp members."



L-R: Blair G. Rudy and Larry W. Luckett



Blair G. Rudy beside a SUVCW display.



Left: SUVCW display table.

*.... by Blair G. Rudy
Maj. Gen. Edward E. O. Ord Camp 3,
San Antonio*



MAJ. GEN. EDWARD O. C. ORD CAMP #3 – SAN ANTONIO (CONTINUED)

Saturday, November 1, 2025 – San Antonio, Texas

On Saturday, November 1, 2025 several of us gathered to recognize three Union Soldiers interred at the Masonic Cemetery near downtown San Antonio. We were joined by a few Sisters in the local DUV Tent. Our *Camp #3* Graves Officer Brother Frank Kebelman has in recent months identified and registered with National 265 new, with 60 in Bexar County alone, buried Union Soldiers. These were unique men. They came to Texas to begin a new life in the heart of the south and made a difference in our communities. Brother Kebelman did an amazing effort to uncover the bios on these three soldiers. Huzzah!

- **David Wing Rogers** served in the 123rd New York Regiment. He was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant for "Gallantry" at the Battle of Chancellorsville. He was wounded in action and earned his nickname as "the Fighting Quaker". He was active in G.A.R. Ord Post #3.
- **Charles Sykes Broadbent** served in the 137th Illinois Regiment. He developed a large sheep ranch near Val Verde County, was elected as a county commissioner, county judge and finally served as the Postmaster General for Del Rio, Texas.
- **Arthur Ingersoll Lockwood** sailed around The Horn at age 17 to join in the California gold rush. At wars onset, he served in the 1st California Regiment. He arrived in San Antonio with the Army of Occupation and stayed. He became the San Antonio City Marshall, served seven terms on the City Council, and was elected to Mayor of San Antonio 1892-93. He also was very active in the G.A.R. and held a national post.

Unfortunately several of these headstones have been seriously vandalized and the cemetery itself is in poor condition as the city and Masons have yet to resolve ownership and, therefore, maintenance. It was an honor to keep green their memory and we look forward to doing more of these.



L-R: Frank Kebelman,
Blair Rudy, Larry Lockett,
Mike Skiles,
and Randy Fleisher



.... by Blair G. Rudy Maj. Gen. Edward E. O. Ord Camp 3, San Antonio

BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH BAILEY CAMP #5 – SHREVEPORT

The graphic below is a list of the sixteen Union veterans buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Marshall, Texas. So far, two of the veterans listed below have been identified as members of the *Department of Texas, Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.)*: Privates Frank Allen Austin and James Schofield. Austin was a member of *Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas Post 6* of Dallas, and Schofield was a member of *Putnam Post 38* of Marshall. Neither grave is marked by a VA-style military gravestone to indicate their Civil War service.

Right upper: **Gravestone of Pvt. Frank A. Austin**

Right lower: **Headstone of Pvt. James Schofield**



Putnam Post 38 of the *G.A.R.* in Marshall was organized in early 1890 with seventeen Charter members. But the *Post* existed for only a few years, disbanding in 1894. Most of the other veterans listed below lived long enough to have joined that *Post*, but some may not have arrived at Marshall until after *Putnam Post 38* had disbanded.

The Brothers of *Baily Camp 5* are to be commended for their work with identifying and caring for the Union burials in Greenwood Cemetery.

Other Union veteran burials in cemeteries across Texas, in towns big and small, are still waiting to be 'discovered' and 'remembered'. *They deserve no less!*

Surname	First/Mid Name	Rank	Born	Died	Note	Served	Unit
Austin	Frank Allen	Pvt.	3/21/1845	8/5/1923	-	1862-1865	Co. B, 10th VT Inf.
Blood	Charles L.	Pvt.	2/10/1832	1/15/1889	-	-	6th KS Cav.
Halleck	Jefferson	Musician	8/23/1844	Nov15,1932	-	-	4th Reg. NY Hvy. Art.
Hodgkins	Charles D.	Pvt.	8/3/1842	12/9/1911	-	1861-1863	Co. H, 1st MI Inf.
Hodgkins	Truman Alvin	Cpl.	5/21/1841	7/1/1914	wounded	1861-1864	Co. H, 1st MI Inf.
Holston	Levi G.	-	5/21/1827	8/13/1916	-	1864-1865	CO.G.,7th CT Inf.
Hunt	William James	Pvt.	2/3/1843	Oct. 17, 1900	-	1862-1863	Co. E. 61st IL. Vol. Inf.
Muse	James Columbus	Cpl.	3/12/1843	3/19/1904	-	-	Cos. E & M, 5th Reg't. TN Vol. Cav.
Norman	Avery G.	Q. Sgt	3/17/1836	1/18/1890	-	1861-1864	Co. K. 37th IL Inf., 1st. KS. Inf.
Rake	George W.	Cpl.	2/26/1831	3/29/1890	-	1862-1865	Co. H, 124th IL Inf.
Saulsbury	James W.	Pvt.	10/14/1848	8/9/1928	-	-	CO.C., 12th IA Inf.
Schofield	James	Pvt.	2/22/1843	1/7/1907	-	1861-1864	Co. K, 1st WV Cav. - Co. A 1st VA Inf.
Seeber	Nelson W.	Pvt.	8/31/1837	4/6/1917	-	1863-1865	CO.F.,10th NY Art.
Stedman	James Elliott	Surgeon	6/29/1831	1/14/1895	-	1862-1865	Co. C. 5th MI Cav.
Thompson	Richard W. Jr.	Capt.	11/17/1841	12/3/1919	-	1861-1864	Co. C. 11th IN Vol. Inf.
Vannest	Andrew M.	Sgt.	6/27/1836	1/6/1908	-	1861-1865	Cos. A & M, 9th NJ Inf.

... information submitted by Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5 of Shreveport

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR'S MESSAGE

On Patriotism - My short time with SUVCW has given me a new sense of patriotism. The patriotic music and video found on the Internet really stir my spirit. The *Sons of Veterans Reserve* does a bang-up job presenting the colors and promoting respect for veterans and our national institutions. We collected many accolades at the National Encampment in Houston for our use of ceremony.

Taking a broader look at things, those ringing lines from the Declaration of Independence – We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal . . . are more than masterful prose. They are a framework for a responsible government and a society that was hardly dreamed of in the 18th century. The idea that some people were above the law was accepted as naturally as the sun rising in the east. The *Magna Carta* only applied to English nobility. Americans brought forth a radical new type of government and made it work.

Outside the halls of Congress Americans were busy building the nation into an economic juggernaut such as the world had never seen. New products and new ways of doing things sprang up during the late 19th and early 20th centuries

like wild onions after a summer rain. Add our growing military might to the mix, stir in a little space exploration and advances in health care and we have a plethora of reasons to be proud of our homeland.

Cue the naysayers. It has become quite fashionable in recent years to pillory the U.S. over race relations, sexual discrimination, foreign policy, dealings with the Indian tribes.... you get the idea. Is there a nation out there that has no skeletons in the closet? I invite somebody to show me one. Can you imagine this discussion taking place in Pyongyang or Beijing? Even though, I believe, all of us are products of our times, the language of the Declaration and Constitution mostly ranged far ahead of the Founders' understanding. Today women vote, hold elected offices, own property, run major corporations, etc. Slavery is prohibited by the Constitution itself, to forward a couple of examples.

So, with our list of past shortcomings, can we experience that unabashed devotion to our homeland with a straight face? Certainly. Take ownership of all our history and learn from it. As previously stated, our founding documents were way ahead of their time, and failure analysis seems to be something we do pretty well (see RMS Titanic). In summation, I think our homeland deserves our adulation, in the same way a classic car benefits from a good wax job.



... *Patriotic Instructor Timothy Phillips, PDC – Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1, Fort Worth*



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"Go With Me Into This Great Fight for the Dear Life of the Nation"

Chaplain Andrew Leete Stone cared for wounded soldiers of his 45th Massachusetts Infantry while the *Battle of Kinston*, North Carolina, raged around him. Fear gripped him in the midst of shot and shell. During this awful moment, he recalled the words of Christ to Pontius Pilate in Chapter 19 of the Book of John: *"Thou could'st do nothing at all except it were given to thee from above."*

The passage soothed his soul. *"If death comes while doing my duty it is all right for I would fall at my post,"* he thought. Stone shared this personal anecdote in a sermon to the survivors of the regiment days after the December 14, 1862, battle. The courage to tell his story added to the admiration and respect he already enjoyed.

Right: **Chaplain Andrew Leete Stone**
Carte de visite by J.E. Tilton & Co. of Boston, Mass.
C. Paul Loane Collection.



Courage had always been part of Stone's character. A native of Connecticut who graduated from Yale in 1837 and studied at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, he was an ardent abolitionist. He railed on the subject from the pulpit of Park Street Congregational Church in Boston, Mass.

"Dr. Stone early took in this city a bold stand as a Reformer in the days when it cost something to attack slavery and public wrong," stated one of the church members. That writer and 79 other churchmen enlisted in the Union army in the summer of 1862. They composed the majority of Company A of the newly formed 45th. They signed up at Rev. Stone's request: *"Go with me into this great fight for the dear life of the nation."*

The 45th spent the majority of its 9-month enlistment in eastern North Carolina fighting to secure the region for the Union. Chaplain Stone's gifts of communication inspired the men. *"He was always brief, never wearisome, rarely occupying more than twenty minutes in the delivery of his sermon. He had a fine presence, a wonderful voice, and a great ease in his delivery,"* noted the congregant who went off with him to war.

The *Battle of Kinston* proved the regiment's costliest fight, with 58 killed and wounded. The 45th spent two months on provost duty in nearby New Bern. Stone's wife, Matilda, joined him and opened a school for 500 children of color. He established a school for freedmen.

The regiment returned to Boston at the end of its tour of duty and Stone rejoined his congregation. In 1866, he left for a new post in San Francisco. In an emotional farewell speech, he thanked his flock for its war service: *"Oh, had you been recreant in that great crisis of our Nation, and of humanity's long struggle, you and I would have parted long ere this! But I thank God, the record of this church for loyalty, patriotism and valor, at home and in the high places in the fields is without blot or stain."*

Stone died in San Francisco in 1892 at age 76. Matilda survived him and lived until 1904.

... by **Stephen D. Schulze, Department Chaplain – Lea Camp No. 2, Houston**



FROM THE ARCHIVES – WRIGHT POST OF PARIS, TEXAS SPEAKS UP

The following is an excerpt from the published Proceedings of the 9th Annual Encampment of the Department of Texas, Grand Army of the Republic, which was held in Dublin, Texas on April 3-5, 1893 (pgs. 55-57). The text seems to indicate that intrigue existed within the ranks of the G.A.R. in Texas, including a clue of why many Union veterans in the state did not join a local G.A.R. Post. Sad but true.

At a regular meeting of the *George W. Wright Post No. 26, G.A.R.*, at Paris, Texas, their delegate to the Encampment at Dublin was instructed to present the following resolution:

Whereas, A great many old soldiers in Texas have joined the Grand Army Posts for the only purpose of enabling them to procure a pension, after the first payment has once been received they lose all interest in the Grand Army Post meetings and refuse to come up and be active members and pay their dues, but regularly they come around every three months to get some old soldier to witness their pension voucher. Some old soldiers are drawing their pensions in a sneaking way – afraid to let their neighbors know that they are drawing it. They are afraid of incurring the displeasure of their fellow-citizens, and are doing their best to deny their services to the old flag.

It is the opinion of this Post that the Department Encampment should take such steps, by resolution or otherwise, addressed to the committee on pensions at Washington, the House of Representatives or of the Senate, that will require every man who claims a pension to produce a certificate from the Grand Army Post in his neighborhood showing that such soldier is a member in good standing in the Post, and that the Post is willing to vouch for his disabilities on which he claims a pension. Every man drawing a pension in Texas should belong to a Post and none but those too badly crippled or too old should be excused from attending a Post once every three months. Any soldier with a spark of manhood in him should be willing to donate a few paltry dollars per annum out of his pension money to keep up the Grand Army organization and to help to take care of old soldiers and their widows and orphans who do not draw a pension.

Let a live membership in a Post be a *test* for the procurance of a pension. Comrades will then stick together as of yore.... R. Herz, Post Commander

J. R. Golden, Adjutant,

March 12, 1894.

The *Committee on Resolutions* submitted the following report upon the same.

[To] J. W. Parks, Department Commander, G.A.R. Department of Texas:

Dear Sir.

Your committee, to whom was referred the resolutions of George W. Wright Post No. 26, regarding *live* membership in a Grand Army Post as a test for the procurance of a pension, beg to report that inasmuch as the government has already so much red tape to go through with, and, as present conducted, almost impossible for an old soldier to prove his claim and obtain a pension, we do not deem it advisable to recommend the resolution as it would not have the desired effect of making friends for our order, and while we may agree with comrades of Wright Post in the abstract, but to carry out the resolution we consider same utterly impracticable.... Jas. M. Steere, Chairman; E. Ketchum; A. Metzler.

The report of the committee was adopted.

VOICES OF THE PAST - WHAT DID YOU DO WORTHY OF PRAISE?

The following is an excerpt of the Campfire oration given by Dr. Alexander W. Acheson, formerly a Captain of Company C, 140th Pennsylvania Infantry, and later a member of Lyon Post #5, G.A.R., of Denison, Texas. The speech was given during the 8th Annual Encampment of the Department of Texas, Grand Army of the Republic, on March 22, 1893 in Denison - and published in the proceedings of that Encampment (pgs. 55-64).

In 1861, the country was startled by the news that fire had been opened on Sumter. We say startled, because while the whole country was aware of intense excitement existing, few believed war would actually occur, because of a settlement being affected through compromise, concession or acquiescence.



Following the bombardment, the government called for soldiers, and called again and repeatedly, until 2,859,132 had been received into the service, preceding the conclusion of the conflict. We recognize in you some of the men who bore arms during that eventful period, to whom the question might be asked, 'What did you do worthy of praise?'

This war has been referred to as a terrible one – the greatest of modern times. The battles were fierce, the contest protracted, the ground fought over time and again, lost and won, relinquished and regained, as in no other war. This was the most gigantic war of modern times. There is nothing in history which equals it. It stands among other wars like one of those giant forest trees of California surrounded by the sage brush of the desert, an Egyptian pyramid among the sand-grains of the seashore. All of our preconceived ideas of war have to be thrown away when we come to contemplate this one.

The charge and resistance, siege and march, assault and retreat, in fierceness, stubbornness, endurance or bravery excel all acts of like character in modern warfare. Comparison elicits the fact that modern battles dwindle into skirmishes when contrasted with yours. By reviewing the pages of history and securing the facts pertaining to other wars, we are wonderfully impressed with the magnitude of your struggle; the war of the revolution and that of 1812 were carried on in a desultory manner. The men were called out in an emergency, and when that emergency was passed, they were dismissed to their homes. Vastly the greater portion of them never saw an enemy, nor heard a hostile gun fired.

The revolutionary war lasted seven years, and including skirmishes with the Indians, there were only fifty-two engagements, large and small. In three years and more, between the battles of Monmouth and the invadement of Yorktown, the main army under Washington scarcely fired a shot.

During the Mexican War there were about thirteen battles. One of the peculiarities of that war was that Scott marched his army from Vera Cruz in three sections, each section a day's march distant from the other. A movement of that kind during the civil war would have extinguished the army at exactly 4 o'clock p.m.

It is recorded that in the Revolutionary War there were 278,021 enlistments. During the War of 1812, 527,024, and during the Mexican war, 73,260.... while during your civil war, there were 2,859,132 enlistments. The active force under Scott in the march from Vera Cruz upon the City of Mexico did not exceed 11,000 men –

... continued on next page

VOICES OF THE PAST - WHAT DID YOU DO? (CONTINUED)

little more than a brigade in your war. And the army under Taylor was only 5,000 strong – a force not half as large as the government had in convalescent camp at frequent times during the civil war.

When the death roll of the war is brought under consideration, it dawns upon the comprehension that fighting of a fearful character was encountered. In the war of 1812, the number of killed reached 1,877. The entire loss in killed in the Mexican war was 613 – a little more than a half regiment. There were 142 battles in the civil war in which the loss in each exceeded 500 killed.

Alabama sent 3,000 men to the Mexican war and never lost one. California did not lose a man killed, neither did Florida, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Virginia, nor Wisconsin. South Carolina met with the severest loss, having fifty-six men killed – a little over a half company. In some of the high-sounding battles of that war, the number of killed would not equal an ordinary train wreck of the present time. Resaca-de-la-Palma, for instance, furnished a death roll of two killed during the entire battle, while Palo Alto yields nine.

History records that “upon many a single campaign, like that of Vicksburg, for instance, you lost more men than England has lost in any whole war during the last seventy-five years; that England’s total and entire loss in the Crimean war was not equal to what your army lost in ten minutes at Cold Harbor; moreover, that your loss in the entire war of four years was greater than England has sustained in all the wars she has ever had in the last eight hundred years.

Up to the breaking out of this war, this was but an aggregation of states, liable to disruption at the nod of the agitator. People cowered and shrank from those in authority, and feared to express their opinions as to what was right or wrong. When you emerged from that war victorious – a nation full panoplied, powerful, conscious of its power, and disposed to contend with the world for its rights, you gave an impetus to individuality. You filled this land to overflowing with people possessing that highest type of courage. You said to the crouching, stunted humanity, “stand up, be men.”

God bless you, soldiers! For out of a heterogeneous mass of wavering mortals you have welded a nation, bold, determined and defiant. You were contending for no geographical entity called the “North,” but fighting battles for the world, God, progress, civilization, the elevation of mankind, and when the glad news circled the earth that you were victorious, all lovers of free government rejoiced and took a fresh hope.

You demonstrated that powerful and mighty as hate was, love was yet stronger; that while you could fight as none other except your brother, yet, when the conflict was over, you could extend the right hand of fellowship in forgiveness, and welcome back to citizenship the wayward.



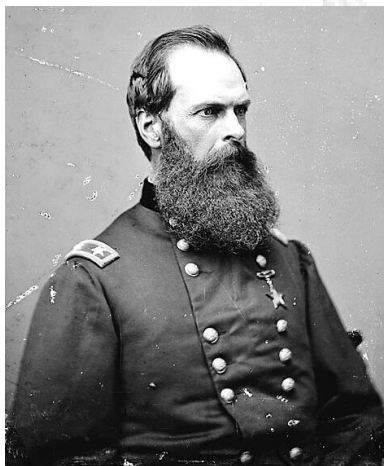
TRIBUTE TO A G.A.R. VETERAN – CAPT. JOHN WEBSTER PARKS

John Webster Parks was born in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania on July 17, 1843. When he was a young boy, the Parks family moved to Germantown, a suburb of Philadelphia, where he grew up and attended school. In 1850, when John was 7 years old, his father, Joseph Wilson Parks, was employed as a clerk, and his mother, Jane, stayed home to raise their five children.

By June 1860, with the Civil War just around the corner, John was 17 years old and living his parents and 5 siblings on the family farm in Philadelphia.

On April 16, 1861, John enlisted as a Private with the Union army, just four days after Fort Sumter was bombarded. He was 18 years old and signed on for a three-month term. His unit was Company F of the 23rd Pennsylvania Infantry. At the end of the three months, John re-enlisted at Philadelphia as a Sergeant in Co. P of the 28th Pennsylvania Infantry, this time for a 3-year term.

John proved to be a capable soldier, and continued to be promoted up through the ranks. In November 1862, when his company became part of the newly organized 147th Pennsylvania Infantry, John was promoted to Sergeant-Major. A promotion to 1st Lieutenant of Company H soon followed, and later he was commissioned as Captain of that Company.



John served under Brig. General John J. Geary (later Governor of Pennsylvania 1867 to 1872) for most of the war. He saw action in many major battles, including "Gettysburg and Sherman's march to the sea. He also took part in the Carolina campaigns and at the grand military review at Washington, the most impressive closing pageant of the war, he had the honor of commanding two companies of his regiment." John mustered-out of the army as a veteran volunteer on July 15, 1865.

Left: Wartime image of John W. Geary - 16th governor of Pennsylvania.

"After the war, Captain Parks returned to Philadelphia, where he became superintendent of the Keystone Knitting Mills." He also married Elizabeth A.

Hinkle in 1865, and on July 16, 1866, they became the parents of their only child, Howard Webster Parks.

In February 1868, John Parks sent a letter to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton requesting an honorary brevet commission to Major. It reads:

Hon. E. M. Stanton, Sec'y of War

Germantown, Pa.

Dear Sir

Feb'y 24th 1868

I have the honor to apply for a commission as Brevet Major if you think me worthy. Enclosed please find the recommendation of His Excellency Gov. Geary in whose regiment and under whose command I served throughout the war. I was honorably discharged as the senior Cap't of the 147th Reg't Penn'a Vol's July 15/65. It is needless for me to say more as the Gov. gives the particulars in his letter, with the hope that you will think me worthy to receive the honorary title.

I am Very Respectfully Your Ob't Serv't

John W. Parks, late Cap't Co H 147th Reg't PA.

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G.A.R. VETERAN – CAPT. JOHN WEBSTER PARKS (CONTINUED)

The letter of recommendation from Gov. Geary, dated 4 days earlier, which John included with his request letter reads:

“Permit me to recommend to your favorable consideration the application for a brevet commission as Major of Captain John W. Parks. I am well acquainted with the Captain and can strongly endorse him as an excellent gentleman and a gallant soldier.... When the 147th Reg’t was formed from my surplus companies, he was transferred to that regiment, and for meritorious conduct was promoted to the rank of Captain of Co. H. He served throughout the war and was in nearly all the engagements with Sherman’s army in its march to Atlanta, and thence to the sea, and on several occasions received special notice for good conduct in official reports.

Very Respectfully Yours,

Jno. W. Geary

John’s request letter languished within the bureaucracy for several months without a reply. Meanwhile, in May 1868, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton left office without having taken any apparent action on John’s request. However, in July, the languishing letter caught the attention of C. N. Taylor, of the 5th Pennsylvania, who forwarded the wayward letter to Stanton’s successor, Gen. John M. Schofield. It included the following brief handwritten postscript:

H. R. July 25, 1868

Gen’l J. M. Schofield

Sect’y of War

I heartily recommend the foregoing to your most favorable consideration.

Yours Truly,

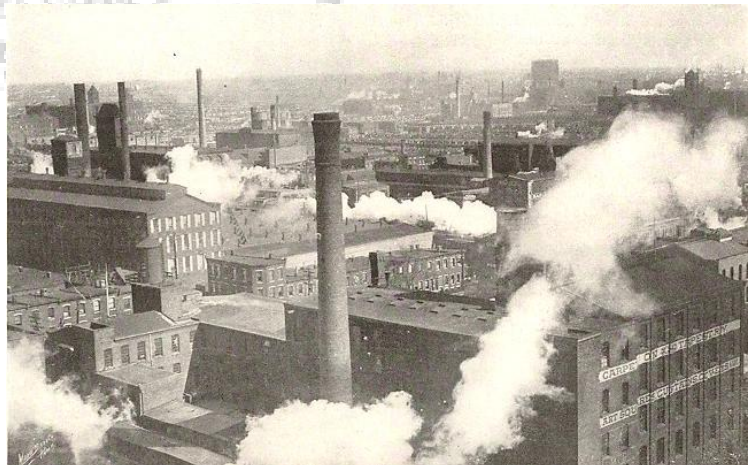
C. N. Taylor, M. C. 5th Pa.

It is not known for certainty if Secretary Schofield granted or denied John’s request for honorary brevet to Major.

In June 1870, John Parks was 27 years old and still living with his wife, Elizabeth, and their 4-year-old son, Howard, in Philadelphia. According to the 1870 census, he was employed at a cotton mill.

Right: Kensington Mill District in Philadelphia

Then in 1874, *“through the friendship of Colonel Noble of Pennsylvania, who at that time was Colonel Scott’s chief representative in the construction of the Texas and Pacific railway, he obtained a position in the general offices of that company at Marshall, Texas, being assigned to the stock claim department.”*



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G.A.R. VETERAN – CAPT. JOHN WEBSTER PARKS (CONTINUED)

In 1875, as a result of this employment opportunity, John W. Parks relocated his family to Texas to accept the position of Stock Claim Agent with the *Texas & Pacific Railway Company* at Marshall, settling in that east-Texas community. He worked in positions of trust and responsibility with the railway company for many years.

In June 1880, John was 35 years old and still living in Marshall with his wife, Elizabeth, and their 13-year-old son, Howard. John's younger sister, Marie D. Parks, had joined the household and both she and John were employed as railway office clerks, according to the 1880 census.

In 1884, John's son, Howard, married Lula Edna Smithson. This young couple would give John and Elizabeth at least two grandchildren, Lily May Parks (b. 1891) and Earl W. Parks (b. 1894). The Parks were apparently a close-knit family as they all lived together as a multi-generational family for many years.

On March 20, 1890, John successfully filed for an Invalid pension based on his service during the Civil War. In June 1890, when the Federal Census was taken, John W. Parks was enumerated on the *Special Veterans Schedule* as still living in Marshall. The description of his debility from his wartime service is smudged and nearly illegible, but appears to indicate that he suffered from the effects of typhoid fever. The census sheet also indicates John reported that he had enlisted as a Private on April 16, 1861, served as Captain of *Company H, 147th Pennsylvania Infantry*, and was discharged as a Captain in July 1865 after serving 4 years and 3 months.

In 1885, the *Department of Texas, Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.)* had been organized by Union veterans living in the Lone Star state. A local G.A.R. *Post, Putnam Post 38*, was established in Marshall in 1890. John was a Charter member of that *Post* and served as its first Commander.

In 1891, after a series of steady advancements with the railway company, John was again promoted. He "was made general stock claim agent for the Texas and Pacific [Railway] system and his office transferred to Dallas, which has since been the scene of his thoroughly appreciated labors."

Despite his relocation to Dallas with the railroad company, John maintained his G.A.R. membership with *Putnam Post 38* of Marshall. In March 1891, he represented *Putnam Post 38* at the 6th *Encampment of the Department of Texas* in Dallas, credentialed as a Past Post Commander. During the elections, he was nominated for Department Sr. Vice-Commander and was unanimously elected without a challenger.

In March 1892, John attended the 7th *Encampment of the Department of Texas, G.A.R.*, in El Paso as Commander of *Putnam Post 38* of Marshall.

A year later, in March 1893, he attended the next annual Department Encampment at Denison, again representing *Putnam Post 38* as its Post Commander. During the election of officers, John was nominated and unanimously "elected Department Commander by a handsome majority over four popular and distinguished opponents." John's comrades had honored him by entrusting him to serve as the highest ranking G.A.R. officer in the state.



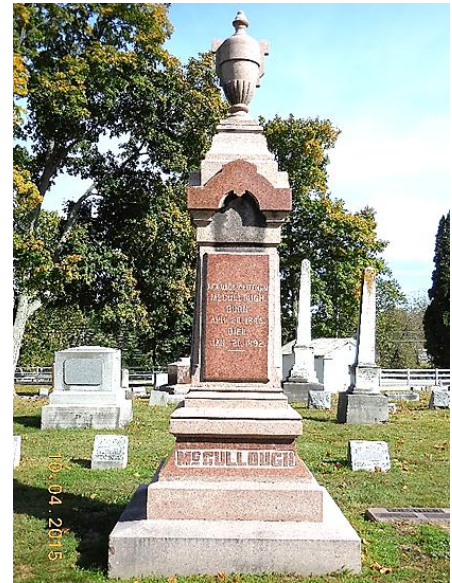
Fraternally Yours
John W. Parks
Comdr Dept Texas G.A.R.

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G.A.R. VETERAN – CAPT. JOHN WEBSTER PARKS (CONTINUED)

Later in 1893, along with John C. Bigger of *Dix Post 11* of Dallas, John traveled to Sidney, Ohio for the unveiling of a memorial monument erected there by the *Department of Texas* in honor of their recently deceased *Dix Post 11* comrade, Benjamin Whiteman McCullough. After his death, McCullough's body had been returned to Ohio to be buried in his hometown next to other family members. John Parks and the late Benjamin McCullough were likely well acquainted, as both men were members of the G.A.R. and both were employees of the *Texas & Pacific Railway Company* in Dallas.

Right: Monument for Benjamin Whiteman McCullough – donated by the Department of Texas, G.A.R.



In April 1894, as Department Commander, John presided over the proceedings of the 8th *Encampment of the Department of Texas* in Dublin, Texas.

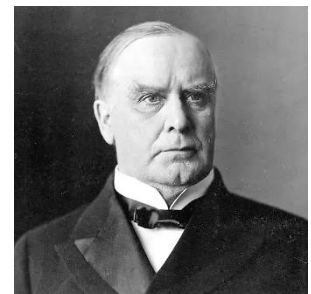
When *Putnam Post 38* in Marshall disbanded ca. 1894-1895, John transferred his G.A.R. membership to *Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas Post No. 6* of Dallas. He remained active in the Order, but again soon moved his G.A.R. membership. Sometime before 1897, he became a member of *Maj. John A. Dix Post No. 11* of Dallas. He faithfully continued to attend the annual Department Encampments year after year and contributed to the success of the Department. During the 1897-1898 term, John served as Chief Mustering Officer.

In June 1900, John Parks was 56 years old and still employed as a Railway Claims Agent. He and Elizabeth owned their Dallas home at 245 Park St. free and clear, and they had been married 34 years. Their 33-year-old son, Howard Parks, was also living in the family homestead with his wife, Edna, and their two young children, 'Lily' and Earl Parks.

In April 1901, John attended the 16th *Encampment of the Department of Texas* in Galveston representing *Dix Post 11* of Dallas, with voting credentials as a Past Post Commander. During the election of officers for the next term, he was elected to the 5-man Department Council of Administration.

Later that year, on September 8, 1901, President William McKinley was shot twice by an assassin in Buffalo, New York. The nation was thrown into shock and disbelief – but yet hopeful that McKinley would recover. The 35th *National Encampment of the G.A.R.* was scheduled to begin four days later in Cleveland, in McKinley's home state of Ohio.

Right: William McKinley – 25th President of the U.S.



The assassination shooting dampened the enthusiasm of the Texas delegation as they prepared to travel to Cleveland to attend the *National Encampment*. John Parks was one of the members of the Texas delegation. After arriving at Cleveland, he marched with the other veterans in the pre-Encampment parade and experienced “making the long and weary march through the heat and dust without

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G.A.R. VETERAN – CAPT. JOHN WEBSTER PARKS (CONTINUED)

a murmur, with an air which seemed to say to the crowd as they passed along, 'We have been here before.'" McKinley died from gangrene caused by his wounds on September 14, 1901 – on the final day of the Encampment. During the election of officers that day, John W. Parks was elected to the National Council of Administration.

John W. Parks of Dallas also attended the 36th National Encampment of the G.A.R. in October 1902 at Washington, DC. He had voting credentials as a Past Department Commander and represented the Department of Texas, and, as mentioned, a member of the National Council of Administration.

In April 1910, John was 66 years old and still employed as a railroad Stock Claim Agent living in Dallas. He and Elizabeth had celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary. Granddaughter Lillie May Parks, now 18 years old, continued to live with her elderly grandparents.

In 1916, John retired from the railway company at age 72. He had been *"connected with the Texas & Pacific for 41 years. For 25 years he was general livestock claim agent for the road."* John had also been *"a member of the Presbyterian church from early manhood, and when he settled in Dallas, he united with the Second Presbyterian church."*

Captain John Webster Parks passed away April 17, 1919 at his home at 1409 Royal St. in Dallas from complications of diabetes. He was 75 years old. His funeral was conducted at his home the next day, with burial at Grove Hill cemetery in Dallas. *"The services were conducted under the auspices of Richard A. Oglesby Post No. 6, Department of Texas, G.A.R."*

Right: Gravestone of Capt. John Webster Parks

About ten days after John's death, Elizabeth Parks successfully filed for a widow's pension based on his Civil War service. She lived until January 1933, when she passed away at age 87. At the time of her death, she was living at 6159 Goliad in Dallas, and was also buried in Grove Hill Memorial Park.

John and Elizabeth's son, Howard Webster Parks, died in November 1930 in Hutchins, Texas at age 64. He was also laid to rest at Grove Hill Memorial Park in Dallas.



*... written by Michael L. Lance, PDC
Dept./Lea Camp #2 Historian*

*... research by Terry T. Sutton
Dept./Lea Camp #2 Graves Regis. Officer*



Department of Texas and Louisiana - Nov 2025

CIVIL WAR MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS - U.S. ARMY (PART 16)

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.

Right - U.S. Army version of the Medal of Honor

This issue of the Unionist presents Part 16 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 citations.



- **George Newman Bliss - Captain** – George Newman Bliss was born in Tiverton, Rhode Island in July 1837. For the first seventeen years of his life, he lived in Fall River, Massachusetts. During the summer of 1854, he moved to Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Two years later, Bliss enrolled in Brown University, but went on to earn his bachelor's degree in 1860 at Union College in Schenectady, New York. Following his graduation, he entered Albany Law School and graduated in May 1861 - and was then admitted to the



New York state bar. However, 24-year-old Bliss enlisted with the Union Army as a Private before the year was out. He served in Co. B, 1st Rhode Island Cavalry and quickly rose among the ranks. His unit was deployed to Washington, DC in March 1862 after five months of training. The cavalry was responsible for aiding other military divisions when an advancement against the enemy was to be made, mainly with reconnaissance of the surrounding land and keeping guard over the soldiers' headquarters. He was promoted to Quartermaster Sgt., then to a full Lieutenant, a position he held until he was named Capt. of Co. C in August 1862.

Bliss saw action in several major battles, including: the *Battle of Second Bull Run*; the *Battle of Middleburg* within the *Gettysburg Campaign*; and the *First Battle of Deep Bottom* as part of the *Siege of Petersburg*. In September 1864, while in command of a provost guard in the Shenandoah Valley, Bliss was captured by the Confederates and spent four months at

Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia. However, his gallant actions at the time of his capture earned him the *Medal of Honor* award.

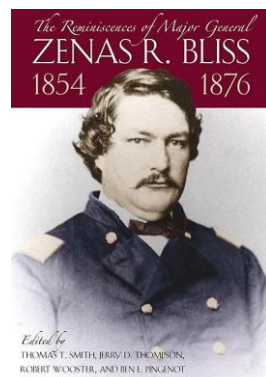
Bliss mustered out of the army in 1865 and married Fanny Amelia Carpenter. He became the father of five children, worked as a lawyer, and served as Superintendent of East Providence schools. He died in August 1928 in East Providence, Rhode Island and was buried at Lakeside-Carpenter Cemetery in Rumford. His citation states:

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Captain (Cavalry) George Newman Bliss, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 28 September 1864, while serving with Company C, 1st Rhode Island Cavalry, in action at Waynesboro, Virginia. While in command of the provost guard in the village, Captain Bliss saw the Union lines returning before the attack of a greatly superior force of the enemy, mustered his guard, and, without orders, joined in the defense and charged the enemy without support. He received three saber wounds, his horse was shot, and he was taken prisoner.

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MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS - U.S. ARMY (PART 16 CONTINUED)

- **Zenas Randall Bliss - Colonel** – Zenas Randall Bliss was born in Johnston, Rhode Island in April 1835. In July 1850, at age 15, he received an appointment to the *United States Military Academy* at West Point, and in 1854, graduated 41st in his class. He was immediately commissioned a Brevet 2nd Lieutenant in the 1st U.S. Infantry and stationed at Fort Duncan, located on the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass in southwest Texas. In 1855, Bliss was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant and transferred to the 8th U.S. Infantry at Fort Davis in far west Texas. He steadily advanced in rank - to 1st Lieutenant in 1860, and then to Captain in 1861.



Just prior to the Civil War, Bliss was stationed at Fort Quitman, located on the Rio Grande 70 miles south of El Paso in far west Texas. After Gen. David Twiggs surrendered the federal forts in Texas to the Confederates in February 1861, Bliss attempted to march his garrison to the Texas Gulf Coast, but it was intercepted by the Confederates just west of San Antonio. He was a POW for eleven months – held first in San Antonio, then at Richmond, Virginia. Bliss was exchanged in April 1862 and returned to Federal service the following month, commissioned as Colonel of the 10th Rhode Island Infantry. Bliss was brevetted to Major in late 1862 for "gallant and meritorious service" at the *Battle of Fredericksburg*, Virginia. He had led his regiment, which had never before been under fire, to within a few yards of the Confederate lines before being repulsed, thereby earning the *Medal of Honor*. His command was then sent West to participate in the June 1863 capture of Jackson, Mississippi and the *Siege of Vicksburg*.

In May 1864, Bliss was promoted to Lt. Colonel for his meritorious service at the *Battle of the Wilderness*. He had been badly injured by a horse at Spotsylvania, but returned to lead his brigade in the *Siege of Petersburg* and the *Battle of the Crater*. The court of inquiry following the fiasco at the Crater censured Bliss, but he remained on duty.



After the war, Bliss remained in the Army and slowly advanced in rank - to Major in August 1867, then to Lt. Colonel in March 1879, and then to Colonel in April 1886. In 1895, Bliss commanded the *Department of Texas* as a Brig. General, and was finally promoted to Maj. General in May 1897. He retired that month. Including his four years at West Point, Bliss had served his country nearly 47 years. He was the father of four children, of which two survived to adulthood. He died in Washington, DC in Jan 1900, at age 64, and was laid to rest alongside his wife in Arlington National Cemetery. His *Medal of Honor* citation reads:

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Colonel Zenas Randall Bliss, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 13 December 1862, while serving with 7th Rhode Island Infantry, in action at Fredericksburg, Virginia. Colonel Bliss, to encourage his regiment; which had never before been in action, and which had been ordered to lie down to protect itself from the enemy's fire, arose to his feet, advanced in front of the line, and himself fired several shots at the enemy at short range, being fully exposed to their fire at the time.

... series to be continued next issue with Part 17

2025 - 2026 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND MEDIA LINKS

Elected Officers

Department Commander	Brook J. Thomas
Department Sr. Vice-Commander	John C. Vander Meulen
Department Jr. Vice-Commander	Clifford F. 'Butch' Durham
Department Secretary/Treasurer	Donald L. Gates
Department Council Member #1	Dr. Stevenson T. Holmes
Department Council Member #2	Blair G. Rudy
Department Council Member #3	Paul L. Kendall

Staff Officers

Patriotic Instructor	Timothy M. Phillips	Camp Organizer	Blair G. Rudy
Chaplain	Stephen D. Schulze	Registrar	Daniel B. Purreau
Historian	Michael L. Lance	Eagle Scout Coordinator	John E. Schneider Sr.
Civil War Mem. Off. ...	Charles W. Sprague	Newsletter Editor	Michael L. Lance
Graves Registr. Off.	Terry T. Sutton	Assistant Secretary	Paul Ridenour
Counselor	John E. Schneider Sr.	Assistant Signals Officer	Larry Joe Reynolds
Signals Officer	John C. Vander Meulen		

Department Website

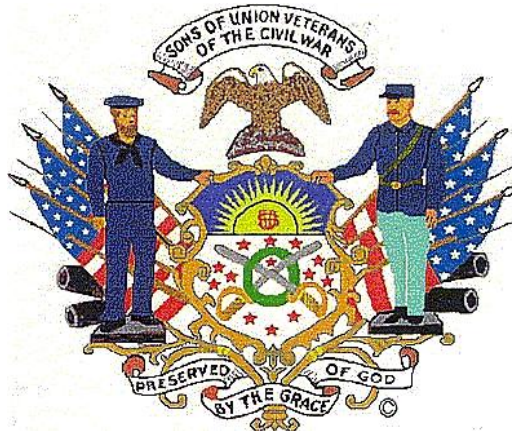
Department Facebook Page

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



2025 CAMP OFFICERS AND MEDIA LINKS

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

Camp Commander **Brian Glass**
 Camp Sr. Vice- Cmdr. **Michael E. Belcher**
 Camp Jr. Vice- Cmdr. **Beau Moore**
 Camp Treasurer **Donald L. Gates**
 Camp Secretary **Donald L. Gates**

[Byrne Camp 1 Website](#)

Gen. James J. Byrne
 Namesake of Camp 1



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

Camp Commander **Daniel B. Pourreau**
 Camp Sr. Vice- Cmdr. **Herbert W. Powers**
 Camp Jr. Vice- Cmdr. **Jason D. Hoffman**
 Camp Secr./Treas. **Stephen D. Schulze, PDC**

[Lea Camp Facebook](#)
[Lea Camp Website](#)

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



Maj. Gen. Edward O. C. Ord Camp 3 - San Antonio

Camp Cmdr. **Blair G. Rudy, PDC**
 Camp Sr. Vice- Cmdr. **Larry W. Lockett**
 Camp Jr. Vice- Cmdr. **Kevin L. Kanter**
 Camp Treasurer **Dustin S. Whittenburg**
 Camp Secretary **Dustin S. Whittenburg**

Maj. Gen. Edward O. C. Ord
 Namesake of Camp 3



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

Camp Commander **Michael A. Heller**
 Camp Sr. Vice- Cmdr. **Ralph L. Diamond**
 Camp Jr. Vice- Cmdr. **Robbie McMahan**
 Camp Secr./Treas. **William M. 'Bill' Elliott**

[Bailey Camp Website](#)

Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey
 Namesake of Camp 5

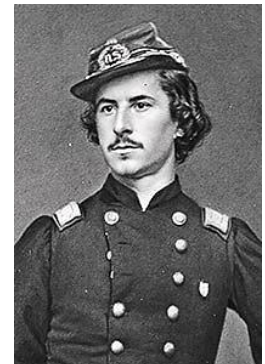


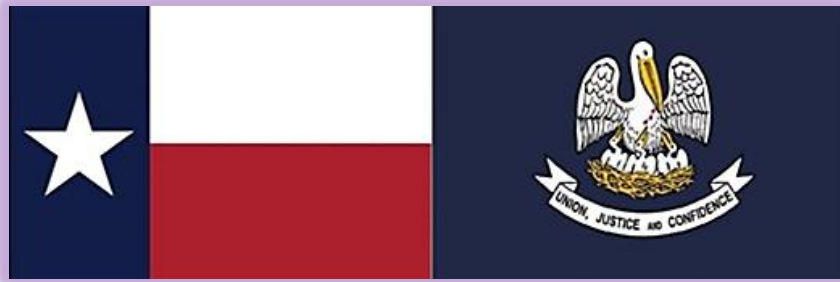
Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp 18 - Dallas, Texas

Camp Commander **Michael K. Schneider**
 Camp Sr. Vice- Cmdr. **Kevin J. Ennis**
 Camp Jr. Vice- Cmdr. **Paul Ridenour**
 Camp Secr./Treas. **Donald L. Gates, PDC**

[Ellsworth Camp Website](#)
[Ellsworth Camp Facebook](#)

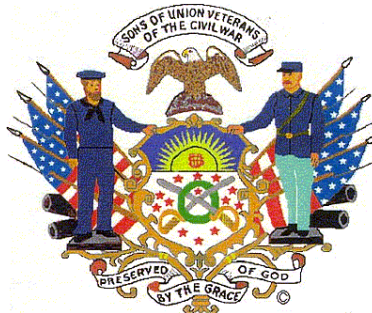
Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth
 Namesake of Camp 18





DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS AND LOUISIANA

HONORING OUR UNION ANCESTORS
BY
KEEPING THEIR LEGACY ALIVE



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR