



THE UNIONIST

The Official Newsletter of the
Department of Texas and Louisiana

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



May 2024

Volume 27

No. 2



MEMORIAL MARKER INSTALLED
MANSFIELD, LOUISIANA

Page 10



MEMORIAL DAY 2024
DALLAS, TEXAS

Page 12



MEMORIAL DAY 2024
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Page 8

Features

- 3** **News from Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1 of Fort Worth** - Descriptions and photos of recent Camp activities.
by Timothy M. Phillips, DC/PCC and Todd Wilber, Camp GRO.
- 5** **News from Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2 of Houston** - Descriptions and photos of recent Camp activities.
by Michael L. Lance, PDC/PCC, and Stephen F. Duncan, Camp Chaplain
- 11** **News from Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5 of Shreveport** - Descriptions and photos of recent Camp activities.
by William M. 'Bill' Elliott, Dept. and Camp Secr./Treas.
- 12** **News from Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp 18 of Dallas** - Descriptions and photos of recent Camp activities.
by Michael K. Schneider, Camp Cmdr.
- 14** **Ancestor Profile – Pvt. James Jarvis** - From Ohio to Illinois, the story of Civil War veteran and member of the *Grand Army of the Republic*.
by William M. 'Bill' Elliott

Departments

- 15** **Department Patriotic Instructor's Message** – The need to revive unity in our country.
- 16** **Department Chaplain's Corner** – Praying men at Andersonville.
- 17** **Coins Left on a Soldier's Headstone – Why?** - The silent special meaning of the different coins left by cemetery visitors.
- 18** **Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients - U.S. Army (Part 10)** - How the honor was earned.
- 20** **2024-2025 Department Officers and Media Links.**
- 21** **2024 Camp Officers and Media Links** - And Camp namesakes.

Cover Image - Battle of Chantilly – Gen. Philip Kearny's fatal charge on September 1, 1862.
Art print by War is Hell Store

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

Saturday, 18 May 2024 – San Angelo, Texas

Department Commander Timothy Phillips, representing the SUVCW, traveled to *Fort Concho National Historic Landmark* in San Angelo, Texas on May 18 to participate in *Armed Forces Day* activities. This day was recognized as a National Holiday to honor all current military servicemen and women.



Brother Phillips spent much of the day with *Co. F, 16th Infantry*. "We fired their mountain howitzer on the hour from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m."

He also interacted with the public, explaining the reason the big gun was being fired, and sharing information about other military hardware. He honored numerous requests for photos with visitors.

Left: Timothy Phillips at his historical display and information post.



"I talked about the SUVCW and my setup to whoever would listen. We also told stories about the frontier."

... respectfully submitted by Timothy M. Phillips, Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1 - Fort Worth.

Editor's Note: Fort Concho (photo below) was established in 1867 along the banks of the Concho River, about 225 miles southwest of Fort Worth. Encompassing more than 1,600 acres, it was an 'open' fort without a stockade and included at least forty buildings built of native limestone. It served multiple functions, including protecting isolated Texas frontier settlements, providing a base for patrols mapping the vast reaches of West Texas, and quelling threats in the region.

Besides serving as regimental headquarters for the 4th and 10th Cavalry, elements of all four regiments of the *Buffalo Soldiers* were stationed at Fort Concho at one time or another. The fort had capacity to support up to 500 men and was commanded by several notable military leaders over the years, including Ranald Mackenzie, Benjamin Grierson, and William 'Pecos Bill' Shafter. Companies of infantry, troops of cavalry, staff officers, and support personnel served and labored within the fort.



After nearly 22 years of existence, Fort Concho was deactivated. In June 1889, the last soldiers marched away from the venerable frontier post. Fort Concho's role in the settling of the vast Texas territory was over. Today, *Fort Concho National Historic Landmark* encompasses most of the former army post and includes twenty-four restored original buildings. The site continues to be the focus of a historic preservation project and includes a museum that is owned and operated by the City of San Angelo, Texas. The landmark's original and re-constructed buildings stand as a permanent tribute to its service to the state of Texas - and to the country - during the second half of the 1800's.

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

Monday, 27 May 2024 – Fort Worth, Texas

At 9:30 a.m. on Memorial Day, members of *Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1* of Fort Worth assembled in Fort Worth at the G.A.R. monument in Oakwood Cemetery for a 10 a.m. ceremony honoring our Nation's fallen servicemen/women. After the ceremony, the contingent made a visit to the grave of the Camp's namesake, Gen. James J. Byrne, in Pioneer's Rest cemetery in Fort Worth.



Front Row L-R: Camp Cmdr. Clifford F. 'Butch' Durham and Department Cmdr. Timothy M. Phillips

*Middle Row L-R: Craig Reves, SVC Michael Belcher, PDC Brian Glass, PDC Paul Kendall,
Todd Wilber, and Donald Woodward*

Back Row L-R: Lucas Turbull, Ian Russeau, and PDC Beau Moore

... photo submitted by Todd Wilber

Editor's Note: Historic Pioneers Rest cemetery, located on a bluff overlooking the Trinity River immediately north of downtown Fort Worth, is the oldest public cemetery in the city. Its use as a burial ground began in the [summer of 1850](#), shortly after the fort there was established by the United States Army. The 3-acre site is the final resting place of many early settlers and veterans of every American war from the *War of 1812* to *World War II*. The first burials were eleven soldiers who likely died from cholera shortly after the establishment of the fort. Sophie and Willie Arnold, two young children of Maj. Ripley Allen Arnold, the officer responsible for establishment of the fort, both perished in 1850 and were also buried in the cemetery. In 1853, Maj. Arnold, considered to be the founder of the city of Fort Worth, was killed in a duel at Fort Graham in present-day Hill County, Texas. He was originally buried at Fort Graham, but his body was moved and reinterred in Pioneer's Rest the following year.

Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 - Houston

Saturday, 25 May 2024 – Bryan, Texas

On May 25, 2024, Camp Commander, John Vander Meulen, and PCC Michael Lance, representing the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*, traveled to Old Bryan Cemetery (aka. *Yellow Fever Cemetery*) in Bryan, Texas to participate in an unveiling/dedication ceremony. The unveiling was made of a State historical marker, and the dedication was of two Civil War military gravestones – one Confederate and one Union.

The event was organized by LeeRoy Lance, Jr., a member of *The Military Order of Stars and Bars* and *Sons of Confederate Veterans*. He invited members of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2, SUVCW* of Houston - which included his distant cousin, Michael L. Lance - to participate in the ceremonies.

The program included: interesting speeches by Henry Mayo of the local *Historical Commission*, and City Councilman, James Edge; laying of wreaths at the two cenotaph gravestones; a musket salute by a combined Confederate and Union Honor Guard; and a 'Canteen Ceremony'. Brother John Vander Meulen captivated the assembly with a poignant inspirational speech near the end of the program.

Regarding the two Civil War veterans buried in the old cemetery, Lee Lance explained: *"The significance of our Confederate soldier is the fact that he is the younger brother of the youngest person killed at the Alamo at the age of 15. He also lost his dad there. The Union soldier came out of New Jersey. Came down here sometime in the middle of August and he passed away of terminal heat stroke."*



Canteen Ceremony

Henry Mayo, Chairman of the *Brazos County Historical Commission*, added: *"There's at least 30 more people, maybe 100 out here buried. Only one grave is marked currently. And we are looking at trying to use some ground penetrating radar and other things to look and try to find more graves in the cemetery, and make sure they're not destroyed in the future."* He also said that identifying and locating the persons buried in the old cemetery is nearly impossible because many records from the 1860s to the 1880s were lost in a fire at Bryan City Hall.



John C. Vander Meulen delivering a poignant speech.



Combined Honor Guard

... continued on next page

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



**Cousins LeRoy Lance and Michael L. Lance
Descendants of Civil War soldiers from each side.**



**A young descendant of a Confederate veteran
learns about a musket from Michael Lance.**

The historical marker reads (in part):

"In some public documents, the cemetery is referred to as the Yellow Fever Cemetery. The name may originate from the large number of yellow fever deaths in Brazos county in 1867 and again in 1873. After many years of deterioration, there is only one marked grave in the cemetery: James P. King (1835-1868). King was a mason and member of the Belmont Masonic Lodge No. 131. King was also a Confederate veteran, having served as first corporal in the spy company of Gonzales county. Another identified burial is that of Union Civil War veteran John Skues. Although little is known about the numerous burials, the Old Bryan City Cemetery represents the heritage of the early settlers of Bryan and Brazos county."



Historical Marker, Confederate and Union Grave Markers, and Ceremony Participants
Michael L. Lance is on the far right, John C. Vander Meulen is beside him, and LeeRoy Lance is 4th from the right.

... report submitted by Michael L. Lance, PDC/PCC, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp - Houston

... photos contributed by LeeRoy Lance, MOSB/SCVCW - Bryan

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

Monday, 27 May 2024 – Houston, Texas

Even though Memorial Day 2024 was very hot and humid, members of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2 combined with members of Co. A, 13th U.S. Infantry at the Houston National Cemetery to form an Honor Guard and a Color Guard. As was customary, the unit assembled to render honors to the nation's fallen military heroes.

L-R: Stacked arms – Roy Eanes, Michael Lance, Howard Rose, Joey Almia, and Daniel Pourreau.

The opening of the official ceremonies within the Hemicycle at the Cemetery was signaled by a perfect volley fired by the Union Honor Guard just outside the entrance. Later in the program, the unit reformed as a Color Guard and marched smartly onto the Hemicycle's parade grounds to render a salute, then marched out.



Unfortunately, as the unit was nearing the exit, one member tripped and fell, striking his head on the pavement. Most likely overcome by the heat, he was quickly tended to by medics and then carried to a waiting ambulance. Later it was learned that after a precautionary examination at a nearby hospital, the injured man was declared fit and was given the all clear to drive home.

Left: The Union Color Guard marches onto the parade grounds of the Hemicycle for a salute.



Meanwhile, Michael Lance and Daniel Pourreau, had then left the National cemetery to attend another Memorial Day event at Glenwood Cemetery in Houston. A memorable Memorial Day, for sure!

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



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

Monday, 27 May 2024 – Houston, Texas

On Memorial Day 2024, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 once again gathered with other members of the Allied Orders to participate in a ceremony to honor our nation's heroes. The event took place at the G.A.R. lot in the historic Glenwood Cemetery in Houston Heights. Camp Commander John C. Vander Meulen welcomed several Sisters of Sarah Emma Seeley Auxiliary No. 1 and the Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4, DUVCW. All were eager to participate in the solemn tribute to veterans of all wars, and specifically to the nine G.A.R. veterans buried at the site.

During the ceremony, Rev. Brother Ross Waggoner offered the Divine Blessing and Benediction. Four Sisters of the DUVCW presented a reading of their memorial ritual. In addition, detailed biographies of two of the veterans buried in the lot were read by Brother Herb Powers. The vintage poem, 'When The Boys In Blue Are Gone' was recited by DUVCW Sister Susan Barry. A yellow rose and a small 35-star U.S. flag was deposited at each of the graves, one at a time. After placing a rose and flag, the ladies called out the name and service unit of the veterans. Brother Steve Brock tolled the ceremonial bell as each lady saluted the grave before her.

As a tribute to the Union soldiers and sailors, an Honor Guard consisting of Michael D. Rappe, Stephen D. Schulze, Daniel B. Pourreau, and Michael L. Lance, fired three musket volleys, and Presented Arms as *Taps* sounded. Brother Robert Riley operated the video and still cameras. To add a special ambience to the ceremony, Commander Vander Meulen played appropriate recorded background music at various points during the program.



John Vander Meulen Conducted the Ceremony



Honor Guard L-R: Lance, Rappe, Pourreau, and Schulze



Left: Sisters of the DUVCW each offer a portion of their memorial ritual.



Right: Rev. Ross Waggoner offers the Divine Blessing.

... continued on next page

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



Herbert W. Powers presents a veteran's biography



Honor Guard Firing One of Three Salute Volleys



Auxiliary Sister Vali Reyes place a Yellow Rose



Ronald S. 'Steve' Brock stationed at the Bell



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

Monday, 27 May 2024 – Galveston, Texas

On Memorial Day, Brother Stephen Duncan visited the historic Episcopal Cemetery in Galveston to decorate the graves of two Union soldiers – Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, the namesake of *Camp 2* who fell in battle, and veteran *Medal of Honor* recipient, 1st Lt. George Frank Robie. Brother Duncan also decorated the marble monument honoring the casualties of the January 1, 1863 *Battle of Galveston*, which was installed and dedicated by the *Lea Camp* in 2004.



Decorated grave of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea



Decorated grave of 1st Lt. George Frank Robie



"I was not able to find wreaths this year (for the first time) so I used red, white, and blue flowers to go with the flags. Memory eternal."

Left: Decorated Union Monument



*... submitted by Rt. Rev. Stephen F. Duncan,
Camp Chaplain*

Wednesday, 19 Jun 2024 – Galveston, Texas

The 1865 *Juneteenth Proclamation* will be read once again at the Ashton Villa Mansion, located at 2328 Broadway in Galveston. Brother Stephen Duncan will again portray Union General Gordon Granger to read the proclamation. He will be escorted by members of the *Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2* serving as armed guards. The event will be held Wednesday, June 19 at 10:00 a.m. Brother Duncan will open the program with welcoming comments, and later read the proclamation to close the program.

Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp #5 - Shreveport

Saturday, 1 Jun 2024 – Mansfield, Louisiana

On June 1, 2024, several members of *Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp #5* of Shreveport assembled at [Mansfield State Historic Site](#) in DeSoto Parish, Louisiana to unveil and dedicate a new Memorial Marker. The marker was installed in remembrance of the dozens of Union Army units who traveled to the wilds of Louisiana as part of the *Army of the Gulf* to participate in the April 8, 1864 *Battle of Mansfield* in DeSoto Parish.

The engagement was the last major Confederate victory during the Civil War. The marker also lists the Federal units that took part in the following day's *Battle of Pleasant Hill*. These two encounters, often referred to by historians as the *Battle of Sabine Crossroads*, marked the turning point of the Union's failed *Red River Campaign*, which was launched with the objective of capturing Shreveport in order to cut Texas off from the Confederacy.

Numerous memorials have been installed at the site over the years to honor the Confederate leaders and units that fought there. But, until today, none had been erected to honor the Union soldiers and units involved. Nine thousand Confederates had clashed with approximately 20,000 Union soldiers. Casualties exceeded 10% on both sides.

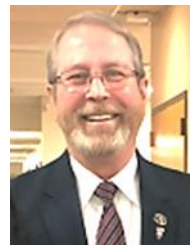
Due to the threat of inclement weather, this memorial project of the *Bailey Camp*, which began months earlier, culminated in an abbreviated formal dedication ceremony. A much more elaborate affair had been planned, including formal Color and Honor Guards, but last-minute adjustments were necessary to accommodate weather conditions. *"What we did was for their honor and memory, so pageantry is just secondary, not a requirement. We are planning for a larger re-Dedication in April 2025 for the 161st anniversary of the Battles."*



L-R: Keith A. Porter (as Confederate), William D. 'Bill' Nichols (dark suit), Larry Joe Reynolds, Robb McMahan (in back barely visible), Ralph L. Diamond Jr., John A. Prime, Paul Gramling Jr. (Past CinC, SCVCW), Michael A. Heller, Tommy J. Henigan III, and William M. 'Bill' Elliott

Editor's note: All men pictured above are members of *Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5* of Shreveport, except for Paul Gramling (gesturing at the marker). Of the nine SUVCW men, six are SOBs ('sons of both' – descendants of both Confederate and Union soldiers).

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



Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp #18 - Dallas

Monday, 27 May 2024 – Dallas, Texas

Eleven members of *Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp 18* of Dallas conducted a formal Memorial Day ceremony at Greenwood Cemetery in Dallas. The ceremony took place at the *Grand Army of the Republic* monument, which stands near the final resting places of numerous Union veterans. The names of over seven dozen Union veterans buried at the site were read by Camp Cmdr. Michael K. Schneider, as well as a reading from Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.



Color Bearers, David Rediger and Michael Steindorf, stand before the Colors.

The impressive six-man Color Guard was commanded by Brook J. Thomas. The unit also included Rob Burrage, Michael Steindorf, David M. Rediger, Donald L. Gates, and Robert Mathis. John E. Schneider Sr. placed a wreath at the *G.A.R.* monument and Camp Chaplain, Larry Johnson, offered the Invocation and the Closing prayer. *Taps* was sounded by bugler Warren Hancock and photos were provided by Paul Ridenour.



The Color Guard, led by Brook J. Thomas, advances the Colors.

... continued on next page

Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp #18 – Dallas (continued)



Front L-R: **Warren Hancock** (Heritage Brass Band), **Larry Johnson**, **Robert Burrage** (NTRS), **Robert Mathis** (NTRS), **John E. Schneider Sr.**, **Brook J. Thomas**, **Donald L. Gates**, and **Michael K. Schneider**.
Back L-R: **Michael Steindorf** and **David M. Rediger**.
Not shown: **Paul Ridenour**

It was a special occasion for new Camp 18 member, Michael Steindorf. His 2nd great-grandfather, Union musician Henry F. Steindorf, is buried at the site. For 104 years, the veteran of Co. G, 34th Iowa Infantry did not have a headstone. But thanks to Brother Steindorf, the grave of his ancestor is now proudly memorialized with a new military headstone.



Left: **Michael Steindorf** poses with his family behind the gravestone of their Civil War ancestor.



... submitted by **Michael K. Schneider**, Cmdr.
... photos by **Paul Ridenour**
Both of **Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp 18, Dallas**

Ancestor Profile – Pvt. James Jarvis

James Jarvis was born January 12, 1836 in Guernsey Co., Ohio. On November 26, 1861, while the North and South were engaged in the first year of the Civil War, he and Anna Marie McClusky were united in marriage. James had enlisted with the Ohio National Guard and was soon assigned to *Co. E, 172nd Ohio Infantry Regiment*. He saw familiar faces in his Company since two relatives of his wife, Charles and Joseph McClusky, were also assigned to the same unit.

The *172nd Ohio* signed on for a 100-day term of service, and functioned as a *Home Guard Infantry* regiment. Colonel John Ferguson commanded the 854-man force. They were initially assigned to guard the government stores at Gallipolis, Ohio. Those government stores were on the Ohio River just forty-four miles from the Confederate stronghold of Charleston, West Virginia. The *172nd Ohio* mustered out of service on September 3, 1864, after losing twelve enlisted men by disease.



In 1864, James Jarvis and his family moved westward to Moweaqua, a small town in southcentral, Illinois. He and Anna eventually became the parents of seven children. James' seventh child was a daughter, Anna Belle Jarvis, who would marry Charles Eugene Elliott on May 31, 1898.

Left: James Jarvis in peaceful times.

James died at his home in Moweaqua, Illinois, on October 30, 1916. His obituary states that he was a Private in *Company E, 172nd Regiment, Ohio Infantry* and was a member of the *Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.)*. He was also a member of the Moweaqua Baptist church and a man of sterling integrity, devoted to his family, a kind neighbor, and left a host of friends and relatives who mourned his loss.

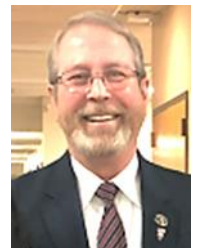
His daughter Anna Belle (Jarvis) Elliott and Charles Eugene Elliott became the parents of four children between 1898 and 1905. But Anna Belle lost her husband in 1905. He was just 30 years old when he passed away.



With her husband's passing, Anna Belle and her four children, moved in to live with her parents, James and Anna Belle Jarvis. James, the subject of this profile, thus was instrumental in raising Anna Belle's children – which included 5-year-old Merrill James Elliott, my grandfather.

Left: Military gravestone of Pvt. James Jarvis

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



Department Patriotic Instructor's Message

Brothers:

As we have again had another Memorial Day come and go, it makes me remember a few things from my past. My father's family came from central Illinois and this is how I became an SOB. After I retired from the Fire Department in May of 2007, my desire was to chase down more family history. The Elliott's had a small family reunion on Memorial Day in the town of our family, Moweaqua, ILL.

I made several other reunions over the years until it fell apart due to age and deaths of the families who made it happen. I went early one year so I could make sure flowers were on our ancestor's graves. I was surprised that at every cemetery I went to, a lot of people were there working and placing some form of flowers on their ancestor's grave. I visited with many of them. They were surprised to meet someone from Texas visiting a grave in Illinois. They all loved my "accent?"

The cemeteries looked great, mowed, cleaned and flowered. Yes, several were older people, but many were not. This was in a town of 2,000 people. But I also found people visiting cemeteries in Decatur, a nearby town of 90,000 people. Both places had American Flags flying on their houses and yards. I was impressed.

Then I thought back to the time just after the attacks of September 11, 2001. Our country came together in patriotism and unity against all that had anything to do with these attacks. I was a proud member of a professional fire department and our citizens supported our careers. We served with pride and we all loved our Country. I was active in every remembrance our community had on the anniversary of 9-11. However, when the 20th anniversary came around, it seemed to be losing support.

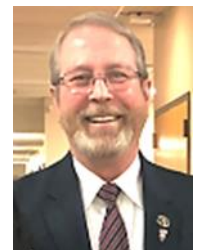
Now we have young people singing praise for the same people who attacked us on 9-11! They are tearing our country apart by supporting those who want to bring our country down. In addition, not many people are visiting cemeteries to honor their ancestors anymore. Cemeteries are not being cared for as they were in the past.

But I will continue visiting, cleaning, mowing and placing flags and flowers, as this is my calling and my enjoyment.

I will also keep taking my grandson with me to help impress upon him that this is our duty. We, together, place flags on the graves of 54 Veterans buried at St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery in Marshall. We have five Union and five Confederates buried in this cemetery, along with men who served from the Spanish American War to the Iraq war. I hope he does this with HIS grandson someday!



Pray for our country to come back together in Unity. Fly your Flags with pride, dignity and respect. Remember you are what you are today, because of what those in these cemeteries did to make a better life possible for you!



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

Department Chaplain's Corner

We Had Some Praying Men At Andersonville

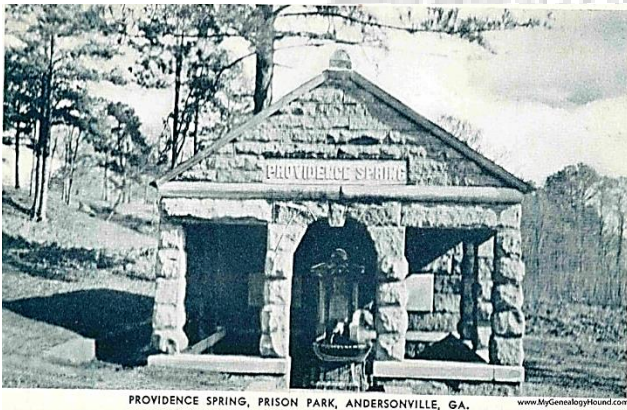
Soldiers prayed for their immediate needs, and perhaps none more earnestly than those who found themselves inside the Confederate prison camp at Andersonville, Georgia. The chief cause of many of the deaths in that Camp was the foul water supply. Andersonville prisoner William N. Tyler recalled the situation:

"They held nightly prayer meetings, and they prayed for water. They prayed like men that meant business, for we were all dying for the want of it. One day after one of these meetings there occurred one of the most fearful rains I ever saw. It washed out the stockade as clean as a hound's tooth. Right between the dead-line and the stockade it washed a ditch about two feet deep and a spring of cold water broke out in a stream large enough to fill a four-inch pipe. The spring is there yet, I am told, and to this day is called Providence spring. It broke out in the very best place it could for our benefit. The stockade protected it on one side from the Rebels, and the dead-line on the other side protected it from the prisoners. The fountain head was thus protected. We had good water from then on."



Veterans revisit Providence Spring in 1897

This past Memorial Day members of the Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp No. 2, along with Sisters of the DUVCW and of the SUVCW Auxiliary went to Houston's Glenwood Cemetery to honor the memory of nine Union veterans who are interred there. I couldn't help noting that one of the men buried there was held in Andersonville Prison for seven months, after which he was transferred to a prison in Florence, South Carolina. My Great Grandfather, Henry Schulze, was also held at Andersonville for seven months, after which he was transferred to same prison in South Carolina. I wonder if they knew each other.



PROVIDENCE SPRING, PRISON PARK, ANDERSONVILLE, GA.

A pavilion was later built over the spring

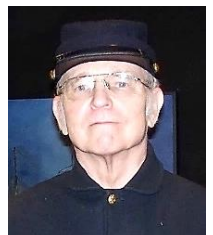


Fountain inside the pavilion

In 1901, a pavilion, aka. Providence Spring House, was erected by the *Woman's Relief Corps*, the *Auxiliary* to the *Grand Army of the Republic*. Two commemorative plaques adorn the walls beside the fountain inside.

"A spring of purest crystal water shot up into the air in a column and, falling in a fanlike spray, went babbling down the grade into the noxious brook. Looking across the dead-line, we beheld with wondering eyes and grateful hearts the fountain spring." John L. Maile, 8th MI Inf., Aug. 15, 1864.

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



Coins Left on a Soldier's Headstone – Why?

Why do people leave coins on top of military gravestones? Similar practices exist in many cultures and have a history stretching back centuries. In modern times, this tradition is a way for service members to honor those who are no longer with us. It also shows the families that someone came to pay their respects and remember their loved ones.

According to the *Department of Military Affairs*, the tradition stretches back to the Roman Empire, where soldiers would insert coins into the mouths of fallen soldiers. The coins enabled them to pay the mythical boatman Charon to take them across the River Styx into the afterlife.

The U.S. military adopted the tradition of placing coins on service members' graves during the Vietnam War. According to the DMA, anti-war sentiment created a charged political climate that could make it difficult to speak with the family members of their fallen comrades. Using the coins provided them a way to pay their respects peacefully. But there's a deeper meaning behind each coin, depending on which was left at the gravesite.



These coins are usually collected from gravesites periodically and used to maintain cemeteries. They can also go toward burial costs for homeless veterans.



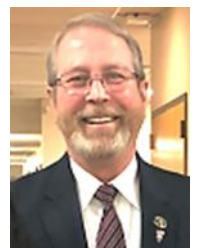
Another coin often left on the graves of military members is a “challenge coin.” These are small coins or medallions with the insignia of an organization or unit. They're presented to service members by their commanders to recognize them for their achievements.

Left: U.S. Air Force 91st Security Forces Group challenge coin

Although there are traditions and rules on how to use the coins in a challenge, they are also given as mementos. A service member might leave one on the grave of a person who served in their unit.

A similar tradition is also practiced in Judaism. Although the origins of the ancient practice are unknown, placing small stones and pebbles on a Jewish gravesite signifies a desire to remember and honor loved ones.

... submitted by William M. Elliott, Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5 – Shreveport
... source: www.counton2.com/news/national-news/coins-on-a-soldiers-headstone-what-do-they-mean



Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients - U.S. Army (Part 10)

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

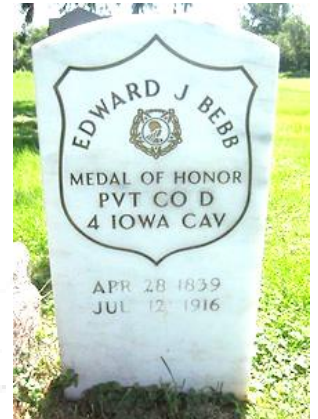
This issue of the *Unionist* presents Part 10 of a comprehensive review of recipients of the *Medal of Honor* who served with the U.S. Army during the Civil War – with a brief description of their heroic actions and the wording of their citation.



- **Edward James Bebb - Private** – Edward James Bebb was born in Ohio in 1839. At age 12, he and his family moved westward to settle in Henry County, Iowa. In September 1861, soon after the Civil War began, Bebb was 23 years old when he enlisted in the Union Army. He served as a Private with *Co. D, 4th Iowa Cavalry*, and reenlisted in late 1863. In April 1865, Bebb participated in an undertaking to capture the Chattahoochee River bridge to gain entry into Columbus, Georgia. Bebb is reported to have captured a flag while the Confederates were fleeing. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his valor at this event.



Edward J. Bebb



After the Civil War, Bebb moved to Jasper County, Iowa where he farmed. He died at the Iowa Soldiers Home in Marshalltown at age 77 and was buried in New Salem Cemetery in Lynnvile, Iowa. 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 Edward James Bebb, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 16 April 1865, while serving with Company D, 4th Iowa Cavalry, in action at Columbus, Georgia, for capture of flag."

- **Wallace A. Beckwith - Private** – Wallace A. Beckwith was born in 1843 in New London, Connecticut. He enlisted with the Union Army at New London and served with *Co. F, 21st Connecticut Infantry*. For his role in the *Battle of Fredericksburg* in 1862, Beckwith became one of five Connecticut soldiers of the *21st Connecticut Infantry* who were awarded the Medal of Honor for action during the Civil War.

Wallace A. Beckwith

In 1868, following the war, Beckwith married Josephine Dart and they became the parents of at least five children. After his wife, Josephine, died in 1878, he remarried to Emma Gould-Douglas. Beckwith died in 1929 in Waterford, Connecticut at age 86 and was buried in Jordan Cemetery in Waterford. His Medal of Honor citation states:



"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Private Wallace A. Beckwith, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 13 December 1862, while serving with Company F, 21st Connecticut Infantry, in action at Fredericksburg, Virginia. Private Beckwith gallantly responded to a call for volunteers to man a battery, serving with great heroism until the termination of the engagement."

... continued on next page

Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients - U.S. Army (Part 10 continued)

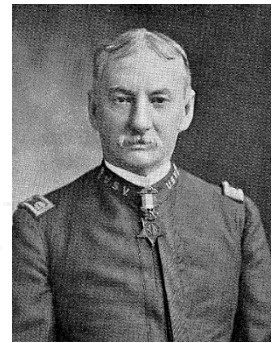
- **Richard Beddows - Private** – Richard Beddows was born in Liverpool, England in 1843. In August 1861, at age 18, he enlisted in the Union army at Flushing, New York and served as a Private with the 34th New York Light Artillery. Beddows served throughout the war, reenlisting in November 1863. He mustered-out of service with his battery in June 1865 at Hart's Island, New York. Beddows died at Mount Vernon, New York in February 1922 at age 78. His remains were interred at the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in New Rochelle, New York. 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 Richard Beddows, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 18 May 1864, while serving with 34th New York Battery, in action at Spotsylvania, Virginia. Private Beddows brought his guidon off in safety under a heavy fire of musketry after he had lost it by his horse becoming furious from the bursting of a shell."



- **William Sullivan Beebe – 1st Lt.** – William Sullivan "Sully" Beebe was born in 1841 in Ithaca, New York. He graduated from West Point in 1863, receiving his commission in the Ordnance branch. In April 1864, Beebe was serving as a 1st Lieutenant during action at Cane River Crossing, Louisiana, and was awarded a Medal of Honor for his battlefield heroism. After the war, Beebe continued to serve in the Army until resigning in January 1874. He was also a Companion of the *New York Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States*. In June 1898, Beebe rejoined the Army at the start of the Spanish–American War and served as Chief Ordnance Officer with the rank of Major. He contracted yellow fever while in Cuba and died in Havana later that year at age 57. He was buried at the United States Military Academy Post Cemetery in West Point, New York. His 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 First Lieutenant William Sully Beebe, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 23 April 1864, while serving with U.S. Army Ordnance, in action at Cane River Crossing, Louisiana. First Lieutenant Beebe voluntarily led a successful assault on a fortified position."



William S. Beebe

- **John Pointon Beech – Sgt.** – John Pointon Beech was born in Staffordshire, England in 1844. In 1849, he emigrated to the U.S. with his family. In August 1861, Beech joined the Union Army at Trenton, New Jersey and served as a Private with the 4th New Jersey Infantry. In June 1862, Beech was captured at the *Battle of Gaines' Mill* and imprisoned at Belle Isle in Richmond, Virginia. He eventually returned to service. In May 1864, during the *Battle of Spotsylvania Court House* in Virginia, after most of the members of an artillery battery, deployed in front of Beech's company, were killed by enemy fire, Beech voluntarily assisted the remaining artillery men - despite being under heavy fire. It is for this act of bravery that he was awarded the Medal of Honor. Beech was discharged in July 1865 as Sergeant of Co. B. After the war, Beech worked as a potter, eventually dying at his home in 1926 and buried in Mercer Cemetery in Trenton, NJ.



John P. Beech

"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Sergeant John P. Beech, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 12 May 1864, while serving with Company B, 4th New Jersey Infantry, in action at Spotsylvania Courthouse, Virginia. Sergeant Beech voluntarily assisted in working the guns of a battery, all the members of which had been killed or wounded."

... series to be continued next issue with part 11

2024-2025 Department Officers and Media Links

Elected Officers

Department Commander	Timothy M. Phillips
Department Sr. Vice-Commander	Brook J. Thomas
Department Jr. Vice-Commander	<u>John C. Vander Meulen</u> <i>(for membership info)</i>
Department Secretary/Treasurer	Donald L. Gates
Department Council Member	Charles W. Sprague
Department Council Member	Dr. Stevenson T. Holmes
Department Council Member	Tony L. 'Bo' Vets II

Staff Officers

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

Department Website

Department Facebook Page

Department Newsletter:

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

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

mlance387@gmail.com



2024 Camp Officers and Media Links

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

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

Gen. James J. Byrne
Namesake of Camp 1



[Camp 1 Website](#)
[Camp 1 Facebook](#)

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

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



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

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

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

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

Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey
Namesake of Camp 5

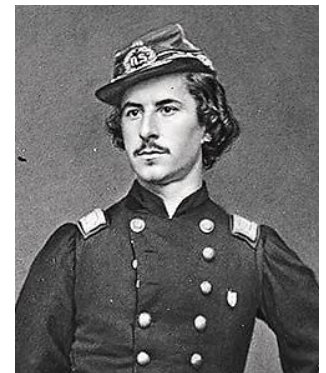


[Camp Website](#)
[Camp Facebook](#)

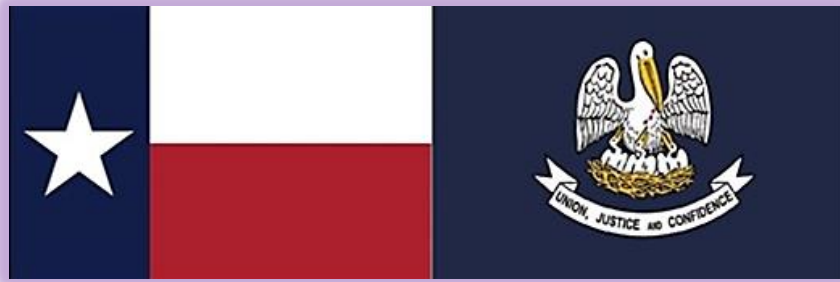
Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp 18 - Dallas, Texas

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

Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth
Namesake of Camp 18



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



DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS AND LOUISIANA

Honoring Our Union Ancestors by Keeping their Legacy Alive



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR