



THE UNIONIST

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



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No. 1



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COVER IMAGE - "***The Battle of Franklin: John Bell Hood's Spiteful Intentions***" - Confederate frontal assault at the *Battle of Franklin* in central Tennessee, Nov 1864 - *Warfare History Network*, Mar 2016, artwork by unknown artist.

New Camp in the Department

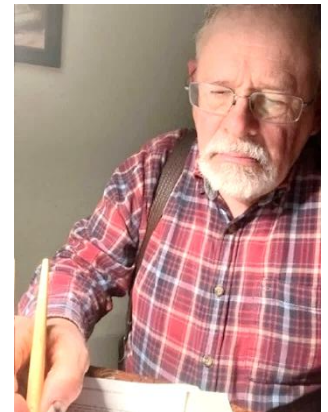
Friday, November 22, 2024



Maj. Gen. Edward Ord

Today I got to enjoy a rare privilege: signing the last form to bring Maj. Gen. Edward O. C. Ord Camp 3 into existence - Form 55 - the Application for Camp Charter. Huzzah! Wish you all could have been here! This gives the new Camp permission to request a Charter and join the family.

The Application for Camp Charter included the names of ten prospective Charter members. Of the ten, some had recently joined the Order, while others had been longer-term members of either Camp 1, Camp 2, or Camp 18. The newer members had joined one of those other Camps pending the successful formation of the new Camp at San Antonio.



DC Timothy T. Phillips Applies His Signature

The Charter Members of Ord Camp 2 Include:

- Blair G. Rudy
- Neal W. Rudy
- William S. Smith
- William F. Haenn III
- Scott P. Peters
- Kevin L. Kanter
- Frank S. Nichols, Jr.
- Dustin S. Whittenburg
- Larry W. Lockett
- Jan Henry Haines

Update:

The long-awaited formation of a new Camp in Central Texas has recently been realized. Maj. Gen. Edward O. C. Ord Camp 3 of San Antonio has been officially Chartered as of December 5, 2024. Now, many of our existing Brothers and prospective new members in the San Antonio-Austin area will have Camp within a more reasonable driving distance. The Charter members have already held elections to choose their Officers for 2025. They include:

Blair G. Rudy, PDC of Blanco, Texas, formerly of Camp 18, will serve as the first Camp Commander.

Larry W. Lockett of San Antonio, formerly of Camp 2, will serve as the first Camp Sr. Vice-Commander.

Kevin L. Kanter of New Braunfels, Texas, formerly of Camp 2, will serve as the first Camp Jr. Vice-Commander.

Dustin S. Whittenburg of San Antonio, formerly of Camp 2, will serve as the first Camp Secretary/Treasurer.

These Camp Officers are scheduled to be formally installed by Department Commander Phillips on March 22, 2025.

... Timothy M. Phillips, Dept. Commander – Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1, Fort Worth, Texas

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS AND LOUISIANA

Saturday, Jan 4, 2025 – Battle of Galveston Commemoration - Galveston, Texas

The Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN, Camp 2 of Houston, Texas hosted their 31st Annual Battle of Galveston Commemoration Ceremony at Trinity Episcopal Cemetery in Galveston on January 4, 2025. This ceremony is the signature event of the Camp each year, as it commemorates the January 1, 1863 sea and land battle that saw Confederate forces recapture Galveston Island - and the death of the Camp's namesake, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, who was mortally wounded during the close fighting onboard the federal gunboat, *USS Harriet Lane*.

The *Lea Camp* was honored to, once again, have the support of members of the other Camps of the Department. Assisting were: Department Commander, Timothy Phillips, representing *Byrne Camp 1* of Fort Worth, who addressed the assembly and served as bugler; PDC Blair Rudy of *Ord Camp 3* of San Antonio, who served as Color Sergeant; PDC Donald Gates and Michael Schneider of *Ellsworth Camp 18* of Dallas, who served as members of the Color Guard; PDC John E. Schneider of *Camp 18*, who served as Officer-of-the-Day; and Brook Thomas, also of *Ellsworth Camp 18*, who served as Captain of the Honor Guard.

Also assisting with active roles were members of the Allied Orders, the 13th Reg't U.S. Infantry, and the Masons of *Harmony Lodge 6* of Galveston. Members of the *UDC* and *SCVCW* were also in attendance. The ceremony was a resounding and moving success, with all participants performing their roles in a solemn and professional fashion.

The following photos depict some of the scenes at the event.



The Color Guard, followed by Camp Commander John Vander Meulen, is closely followed by the Federal Honor Guard during the Opening Procession. They marched to the cadence provided by drummer William Myers leading the way.

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DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS AND LOUISIANA



Left: Ornate glove and sword hilt of Officer-of-the-Day, John E. Schneider, Sr.



Right: Color Bearer Donald L. Gates and Color Sgt. Blair G. Rudy wait for the signal to Post the Colors.



Left: The Ceremonial Bell was tolled after the name of each battle casualty was called out.



Right: Color Bearer Donald L. Gates salutes during the Roll Call of the Dead.



Left: A bouquet of roses laid on the monument dedicated to the Union casualties.



Right: UDC Sister Catherine Gill in a solemn moment.

After the ceremonies concluded at the Union monument, the assembly, led by the Color Guard, transitioned to the gravesite of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea.

Richard Gray, Chaplain of the *Harmony Lodge No. 6* Masons, gave an interesting historical account of the events of 1863. Daniel B. Pourreau, *Lea Camp* SVC, then conducted a 1917 *GAR* Remembrance ceremony, which included: the placing of the *Symbols of the Navy* at the grave, and the laying of wreaths and a rose. The poem, *The Unknown Dead*, was recited by *Auxiliary Sister* Jana Marsh, and Department Commander Timothy M. Phillips also gave an address.

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DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS AND LOUISIANA



Drummer William Myers leads the Transition Procession.



Mason Richard 'Dick' Gray



Dept. Cmdr. Timothy M. Phillips Addresses the Assembly



Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Grave Decorated



Honor Guard Firing One of Three Volleys



Honor Guard Fires Again

The ceremonies concluded with a 3-volley musket salute, followed by Taps, sounded by bugler Timothy Phillips. The Colors were retired and the Color Guard and Honor Guard marched from the ceremonial area to the cadence of the drum after Camp Commander John Vander Meulen closed the event.

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DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS AND LOUISIANA

Battle Of Galveston Commemoration Ceremony Supporting Cast of Participants

Event Moderator	Lea Camp Cmdr., John C. Vander Meulen
Officer-of-the-Day	John E. Schneider, Sr., PDC, Ellsworth Camp 18
Chaplain	Stephen D. Schulze, PDC, Lea Camp 2
Grave Guard	Herbert W. Powers, Lea Camp 2
Capt. Of the Federal Honor Guard	Brook J. Thomas, PCC, Ellsworth Camp 18
Honor Guard Rifleman	Jason D. Hoffman, Lea Camp 2
Honor Guard Rifleman	Michael L. Lance, PDC, Lea Camp 2
Honor Guard Rifleman	Daniel B. Pourreau, Lea Camp 2
Honor Guard Rifleman	Michael D. Rappe, Lea Camp 2
Honor Guard Rifleman	Howard Rose, Co. A, 13 th U.S. Infantry
Patriotic Instructor	Ronald 'Steve' Brock, Lea Camp 2
Color Sergeant	Blair G. Rudy, PDC, Ord Camp 3
Color Guard U.S. Flag Bearer	Donald L. Gates, PDC, Ellsworth Camp 18
Color Guard Department Flag Bearer	Michael K. Schneider, CC, Ellsworth Camp 18
Layer of Evergreen Wreath	Becky Feaster, Sarah Emma Edmonds Tent 4, DUVCW
Layer of White Rose	Vali Reyes, Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary 1
Layer of Grapevine Wreath	Larry D. Nuckels, Lea Camp 2
Masons	Richard Gray, Chaplain of Harmony Lodge 6 of Galveston
Bugler	Timothy M. Phillips, DC, Byrne Camp 1
Videographer	Robert G. Riley, Lea Camp 2
Photographer	John E. Schneider, Jr., Lea Camp 2



Three Generations of the Schneider Family

Front row L-R: **Jill Schneider** (*Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary and DOLLUS*), and daughter-in-law **Bekah Schneider**

Adults Back row L-R: **John E. Schneider, Jr.**, **John E. Schneider, Sr., PDC**, and **Michael K. Schneider**

Youngsters L-R: **Kane Schneider** and **Teddy Schneider** – sons of **Michael and Bekah Schneider**

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DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS AND LOUISIANA



Front row L-R: Steve Brock, Charity Zemzoum, Janet Hicks, Becky Feaster (DUVCW Pres.), Jill Schneider, Vali Reyes (Aux. Pres.), Jana Marsh, Fran Matchett, and Susan Barry (DUVCW PP).

Middle row L-R: Robert G. Riley, Brook J. Thomas (PCC), William Gray, Daniel B. Pourreau (hidden), Steve D. Schulze (PDC), Herb W. Powers, Timothy M. Phillips (DC), and Michael K. Schneider (CC).

Back row L-R: William D. Myers, John E. Schneider, Sr. (PDC), Howard Rose (hidden), Michael L. Lance (PDC), Jason D. Hoffman (mostly hidden), Michael D. Rappe, Donald L. Gates (PDC), and Blair G. Rudy (PDC).

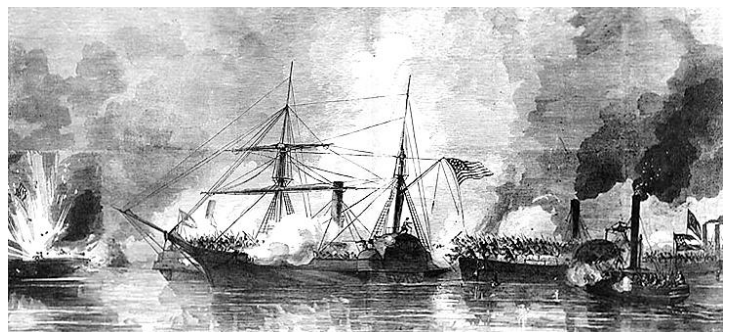
Not pictured: John C. Vander Meulen (CC), John E. Schneider, Jr., Larry D. Nuckels, and Harold K. Henck, Jr. (PCC).

*... submitted by Michael L. Lance, PDC – Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2 – Houston
... * most photos courtesy of Stuart Villanueva, Galveston News photojournalist*

The *Battle of Galveston*, fought on Jan 1, 1863, was a significant moment in Texas history. The Union had succeeded in capturing the city in Oct 1862, and the Union navy, led by Cmdr. William B. Renshaw, sought to maintain control of the vital port in order to disrupt Confederate supply lines and strengthen the Union blockade. However, despite their early success, the Union forces were caught off guard by the Confederate counterattack on Jan 1, 1863.

This battle serves as a reminder of the challenges the Union faced in holding Southern territories, particularly in the face of determined resistance.

Preserving the memory of the *Battle of Galveston* allows us to appreciate the sacrifices made by Union soldiers and sailors who fought to restore the Union. It also helps us to keep history alive. By commemorating this event, we gain a deeper appreciation for the sacrifices made. Historical landmarks, reenactments, and educational programs ensure that future generations understand the impact of this battle on Galveston, Texas, and the United States.



Results of Elections for Camp Officers for 2025

	<u>Camp 1 (Fort Worth)</u>	<u>Camp 2 (Houston)</u>
Commander	Brian Glass, PDC	Daniel B. Poureau
Sr. Vice-Commander	Michael E. Belcher	Herbert W. Powers, Jr.
Jr. Vice- Commander	Beau Moore, PDC	Jason D. Hoffman
Secretary	Donald L. Gates, PDC	Stephen D. Schulze, PDC
Treasurer	Donald L. Gates, PDC	Stephen D. Schulze, PDC
Council	Paul L. Kendall, PDC	Thomas F. Coughlin, PDC
Council	Timothy M. Phillips, DC	Ben C. Bonnett, PCC
Council	Clifford F. Durham, PCC	Stevenson T. Holmes, PDC

	<u>Camp 3 (San Antonio)*</u>	<u>Camp 5 (Shreveport)</u>
Commander	Blair G. Rudy, PDC	Michael A. Heller, CC
Sr. Vice- Commander	Larry W. Lockett	Ralph L. Diamond
Jr. Vice- Commander	Kevin L. Kanter	Robbie McMahan
Secretary	Dustin S. Whittenburg	William M. Elliott
Treasurer	Dustin S. Whittenburg	William M. Elliott
Council	pending	Tony L. Vets Sr.
Council	pending	Homer Ted Cox
Council	pending	Larry Joe Reynolds

	<u>Camp 18 (Dallas)</u>
Commander	Michael K. Schneider, CC
Sr. Vice- Commander	Kevin J. Ennis
Jr. Vice- Commander	Paul Ridenour
Secretary	Donald L. Gates, PDC
Treasurer	Donald L. Gates, PDC
Council	Harold L. Sickler, PDC
Council	Charles W. Sprague, PDC
Council	John E. Schneider, Sr., PDC

* New Camp Date of Ranking: December 5, 2024

LT. CMDR. EDWARD LEA CAMP #2 - HOUSTON

Saturday, 14 Dec 2024 – Wreaths Across America - Houston, Texas

Camp SVC Daniel B. Pourreau, Michael Rappe, Jason Hoffman, and Michael L. Lance, PDC assembled as a unit early on December 14, 2024 to attend the annual *Wreaths Across America* ceremonies at Houston National Cemetery. They took a position just outside the Hemicycle and posed for photos for and with some of the thousands of citizens who gathered to remember our nation's veterans.



Above: The Hemicycle filled to capacity - on both the ground and upper levels.

After the ceremonial program concluded, the *Lea Camp* volunteers recruited a troop of Boy Scouts to assist with the laying of wreaths at dozens of veteran graves. As the unit marched single-file, led by Michael Lance, they halted at grave after grave to allow Daniel Pourreau to loudly call out the deceased veteran's name, rank, and military service unit. Then, after a Scout laid a wreath at the grave, the entire squad saluted in a moment of silence – before marching to the next nearby grave to repeat the ritual.



Posing for a photo with JROTC Cadets before the ceremonies began

L-R: Michael Lance, cadet, cadet, Michael Rappe, cadet, Jason Hoffman, cadet, Daniel Pourreau

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

BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH BAILEY CAMP 5 – SHREVEPORT

Wednesday, Dec 18, 2024 - Marshall, Texas

Members of *Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5* of Shreveport met on Dec 18, 2024 at Café Italia restaurant in Marshall, Texas to conduct the monthly business of the Camp. In addition to the 'normal' business, the attendees enjoyed the camaraderie of a Christmas season gathering, and conducted elections for their 2025 Officers. Since all the incumbent Officers volunteered to serve another term, the elections were dispatched in short order!

The *Bailey Camp* has continuously been active with promoting the Order and honoring our Union Civil War ancestors. They always seem to have a commemorative or restorative project in the works. Their latest project involves obtaining a memorial plaque for placement at *Pleasant Hill Memorial Park*. Their accomplishments are commendable and especially noteworthy due to the fact that the majority of their number are 'SOBs' (sons of both the *SUVCW* and the *SCVCW*) - including six of the eight men in the photo below!



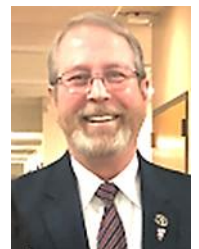
L-R Sitting: **William M. 'Bill' Elliott, Secr./Treas.;** **John A. Prime, PCC;** **Keith Porter;** and **Paul Gramling, PCinC, SCVCW.**

L-R Standing: **Michael A. Heller, Cmdr.;** **Larry Joe Reynolds, Council;** **Robb McMahan, JVC;** owner of restaurant; **T. J. Henigan, Guide;** **H. Ted Cox, Council;** and **Ralph L. Diamond, SVC.**

DID YOU KNOW?

Many gravestones face east, and is the most common orientation throughout the world, but why is this? Early American settlers wanted their feet pointing east and their heads towards the west so they were ready to rise up and face the sun of a new day when they hoped to be reborn.

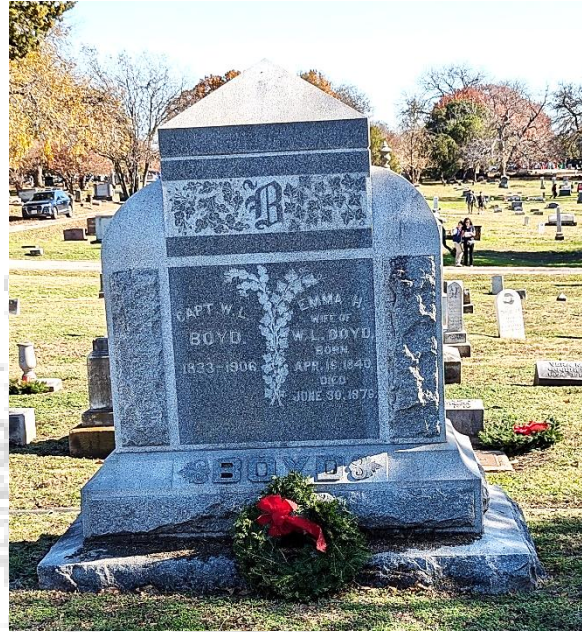
... submitted by *William 'Bill' Elliott,*
Secretary/Treasurer
Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5,
Shreveport, Louisiana



COL. ELMER E. ELLSWORTH - DALLAS

Saturday, Dec 14, 2024 - McKinney, Texas

Yesterday, Jill and I participated in the *Wreaths Across America* program at Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney. By chance, one of the two veterans we drew was a Union veteran buried in what was once the Potter's Field portion of the cemetery. The marker is a plain stone flat on the ground.



Decorated headstone and monument of U.S. Veterans



Left: Decorated flat gravestone of J. W. Estep, a Union soldier



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

ANCESTOR PROFILE – PVT. WARREN W. WHITE

Warren White was born a slave on the Eastern Shore of Maryland on February 26, 1846. On October 5, 1864, he was eighteen years old when he enlisted in *Company K, 44th Infantry of United States Colored Troops* at Dalton, Georgia. He listed his occupation as 'farmer' and his home was in Marietta, Georgia. He signed on for a term of three years and was mustered-in at Chattanooga, Tennessee.

While being transported by train to his first duty station, his company was attacked and captured by confederate troops under the command of General John Bell Hood. While in captivity, he lost two toes due to frost bite. This later became an issue when he applied for a pension around 1884. After being released from captivity, he returned to duty on April 2, 1865.

On April 30, 1866, nearly a year after the Civil War ended, Pvt. White was discharged from service at Nashville, Tennessee. At that time, he was paid his \$100.00 enlistment bounty.

On January 7, 1867, White reenlisted with the *41st Infantry of the United States Army* at Huntsville, Alabama for another three-year term. He gave his place of birth as Baltimore, Maryland, said he was twenty-one years old, and reported his occupation as laborer. He attended basic training at the *Daugherty Plantation*, north of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and was then assigned to Fort Clark at Brackettville, Texas. His company was designated as Buffalo Soldiers.

On January 7, 1870, after completing his second 3-year term of service, Pvt. White was discharged from *Company C, 24th United States Infantry Regiment*, at Fort Clark. After his discharge from the army, he remained in Texas, settling in the small central Texas town of Bastrop.

Then, on January 9, 1872, he married Malinda Jackson, a former slave of the Texas *McGehee* family. They eventually became the parents of fourteen children.

On February 6, 1879, Warren White was a founding member of Zion Chapel Baptist Church in Bastrop.

On April 17, 1890, Warren was divorced from Malinda Jackson. He remarried on October 8, 1894 to Cassie Alford. Warren then became the father of ten more children.



Warren White died February 21, 1917, and was buried in what is now an unmarked cemetery in the Phelan-Piney-Camp Swift, Texas area.

In 1933, a government marker stating: *WARREN WHITE – CO. K – 44 U.S. CLD. INF.*, was placed on his grave.

On November 17, 2004, the *1st Texas Sons and Daughters United States Colored Troops Warren W. White Chapter* was established to remember and celebrate Warren W. White. Membership is open to anyone interested in supporting this effort.

Left: VA gravestone of Warren W. White

*... by descendant Dr. Stevenson T. Holmes,
Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2, Houston, Texas*



DEPARTMENT PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR'S MESSAGE

Medal of Honor Day*

March 25 was chosen as a holiday to celebrate and honor the 24 men who volunteered to participate in the *Great Locomotive Chase*. Twenty-one of those men received a *Medal of Honor* for taking part in that daring raid behind enemy lines. Raid members William Bensinger, Robert Buffum, Elihu H. Mason, Jacob Parrott, William Pittenger, and William H. H. Reddick, were the very first six recipients of the *Medal of Honor*. Their citations were awarded on March 25, 1863, by Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton at the War Department.

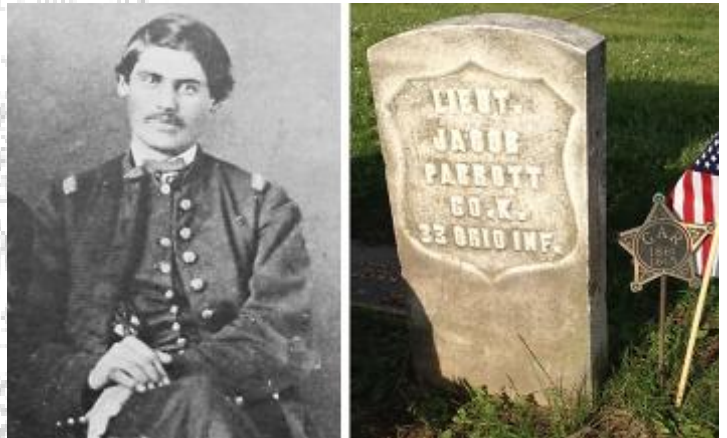
Did you know that we have two *SUVCW* Camps named for one of these first *Medal of Honor* recipients?

- *Jacob Parrott Camp No. 33, Department of Ohio*
- *Sgt. William Pittenger Camp No. 21, Department of California and Pacific*

Both of these Camps are based in the area where their respective namesakes are buried.

Jacob Wilson Parrott (1843-1908) - The 1st Recipient

After the war, Jacob Parrott returned to Kenton, Ohio where he was a cabinet maker and operated a stone quarry south of Kenton. He suffered a heart attack and died on December 22, 1908, while walking home from the county courthouse in Kenton. He is buried in Grove Cemetery.



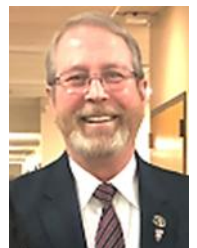
William Pittenger (1840-1904)

Following his discharge from the Army, Pittenger became a Methodist Episcopal minister. In 1890 he moved with his family to Fallbrook, California and served as pastor there from 1893 to 1896 and from 1898 to 1899. He bought a home on a 20-acre property, which is now owned by the Fallbrook Historical Society.

He is the author of the first account of the raid by a participant, entitled: *Daring and Suffering, a History of the Great Railroad Adventurers*. Pittenger died April 24, 1904 and is buried at Odd Fellows Cemetery in Fallbrook.

* *Excerpted from Patriotic Instruction issued by Tad D. Campbell, PCinC - National Patriotic Instructor, Mar 2025.*

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



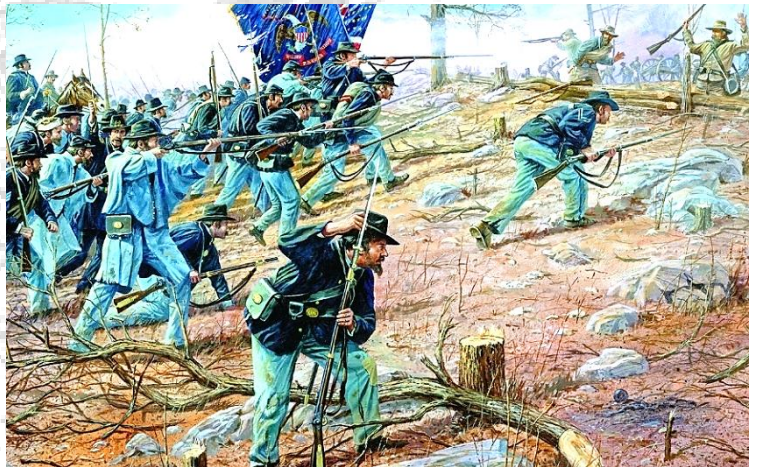
TRIBUTE TO A TEXAS GAR VETERAN – NATHAN H. UNDERWOOD

Nathan Harrison Underwood was born in Jennings County, Indiana on June 26, 1844. He was one of at least 9 children born to Kentucky natives, Julius Underwood and his wife, Mariah Hall. In 1806, when Julius Underwood was a child, he, with his father and other members of the Underwood family, had migrated northward from Kentucky to settle in Jefferson County, Indiana, near Madison. By 1844, Julius had moved to the adjoining county of Jennings, where his son Nathan was born. The Underwoods were a well-known family of pioneer settlers closely connected with the early history of both Jefferson and Jennings counties in Indiana.

On September 16, 1850, Nathan was 6 years old and living with his parents and 6 siblings in Columbia township in Jennings County. His 38-year-old father, Julius, was a farmer working a farm valued at \$200. His mother, Mariah, was 35 years old. Everyone in the Underwood household was listed on the 1850 federal census as born in Indiana, which was only true for the seven children. As previously mentioned, the parents - Julius and Mariah, were both born in Kentucky. Four of the children, including Nathan, were attending school. Nathan's 80-year-old great-uncle, Kentucky-born Colby Underwood, was boarding on an adjacent farm with Nathan's 41-year-old uncle, John Underwood.

Nathan remained on the family farm into his teens, becoming well educated in with the ways of farm life. On June 14, 1860, he was a 15-year-old farm hand, joining his two older brothers, Gideon (*age 20*) and Squire (*age 19*), in helping their 48-year-old father work the farm. Their homestead had increased in value significantly since 1850 - from \$200 to \$2,500. And the elder Underwood owned additional personal property worth another \$1,000. Besides laboring as a farmhand, Nathan continued his school work. His three older siblings were Gideon, Squire, and Delilah Underwood. His five younger siblings were, William, Henry, Selina A., John, and Ida Underwood. A lot of mouths to feed, indeed!

When the Civil War broke out the following year, Nathan was only 17 years old. But he was intent on participating in the action. He managed to enlist in the Union Army on September 18, 1861 for a three-year term, and was assigned as a Private to Co. C of the *37th Reg't, Indiana Infantry*. The *37th Indiana* was engaged in many of the historic well-known battles of the war, including Murfreesboro, Chattanooga, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Battle of Resaca, Lookout Mountain, and the entire Atlanta campaign in the summer of 1864. Nathan proved to be a good soldier and, after serving his 3-year term, was honorably discharged on September 17, 1864.



Action on Missionary Ridge - Artwork

But since the war had not yet concluded, Nathan traveled to Cincinnati and soon reenlisted with *Co. C, 2nd Regiment U.S. Veteran Volunteer Infantry*. This regiment was mustered into service on February 26, 1865 at Tod Barracks in Columbus, Ohio. Nathan then served another year, rising in rank from Private to Corporal. When the war ended in 1865, Nathan was reportedly assigned to provost guard duty in Washington, DC. Afterward, he continued his adventures in the west.

"When the war was over Mr. Underwood returned to his home and soon afterward went to the west. For several years he was on the frontier, mostly engaged in the stock business. He went to Kansas, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico and western Texas, and his life in this state [Texas] dates from about 1870. He established a ranch in New Mexico and drove two herds of cattle there from Texas. He spent much time on the open ranges of this state and had more than one encounter with the Indians, who were frequently very troublesome, making raids upon the herds. About 1876, Mr. Underwood located in San Antonio, although he continued for some years in the cattle business on the western range." (A Twentieth Century History of Southwest Texas Vol 2, pg. 37, Lewis Publishing Co., 1907).

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TRIBUTE TO A TEXAS GAR VETERAN – NATHAN UNDERWOOD (CONTINUED)

On July 29, 1879, Nathan Underwood and 21-year-old Mary Susan Robb obtained a marriage license in Bexar Co. in central Texas. She was born April 7, 1858 in Lafitte, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, and was 'with child'. The couple married, and four months later, in December 1879, they became the parents of a daughter, Georgia Virginia Underwood. Eventually, they would be blessed with five more children.

On June 4, 1880, Nathan Underwood was 34 years old and had settled in San Antonio, Texas with his 23-year-old wife, Mary. Nathan was working in the 'live stock' business, while Louisiana-born Mary kept house. Baby 'George' was now 5 months old. The 1880 federal census enumerator erroneously listed the youngster as a 'son', and also wrongly entered Nathan's place of birth as 'Kentucky'.

Sometime during the late 1880's, Nathan Underwood became a member of the *Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)*, the influential national organization of Union Army veterans. The GAR gained a foothold in Texas in 1885 when the *Department of Texas* was organized. Local GAR Posts were established in cities and towns across the State, including San Antonio.

Right: **GAR hat badge**



Nathan affiliated with *Maj. Gen. Edward O. C. Ord Post No. 3* of San Antonio, and was quite active in Post and Department affairs. He was appointed as an Aide de Camp and Assistant Inspector in 1889, and was elected as a Delegate to several annual Department Encampments.

In 1894, Nathan served as Chief Mustering Officer for the *Department of Texas, GAR*. Meanwhile, he was elected to Officer positions in *Ord Post 3* of San Antonio, eventually attaining the office of Post Commander. He later moved through the Officer ranks at the Department level.

On June 4, 1900, Nathan was a successful 55-year-old stockman living at 1826 Flores in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. He was living with his wife of 21 years, Mary, and their six children – teacher Georgie (*age 20*), bookkeeper Bee (*age 19*), Robb (*age 15*), Harrison (*age 11*), John (*age 9*), and Arthur (*age 8*). The 1900 federal census also shows Nathan was born in June 1844 in Kentucky [*sic*], and his 42-year-old wife, Mary, was born in April 1858 in Louisiana. They owned their house free and clear, and Nathan specialized in raising polo horses.



"For several years past [Nathan] has confined his attention to the raising of horses and is particularly well known throughout the country for his polo horses, which are raised and trained on the Polo ranch in Bexar county, closely adjacent to the city limits of San Antonio on the northwest. His polo horses found great favor and readily sold among the wealthy people who are owners of the polo grounds and buy these horses for use on the polo fields. In the interests of this business he makes regular trips to the east, particularly New York and Boston." (A Twentieth Century History of Southwest Texas Vol 2, pg. 37, Lewis Publishing Co., 1907).

In politics, Nathan was Republican. He reportedly ran for county offices on the Republican ticket more than once. In 1906, Nathan's wife, Mary, was elected as President of the local *Ladies Relief Corps* in San Antonio – which was affiliated with the GAR.

Left: **Nathan Harrison Underwood**

On April 25, 1910, Nathan Underwood was 65 years old and still employed as a stockman on his own account, and was living with his 52-year-old wife, Mary S., at 1826 N. Flores St. in San Antonio. Five of their six children were still living at home - all unmarried Texas-born adults. The Underwood children included: public school teacher Georgia (*age 30*); county deputy Sheriff Robb (*age 25*); shop plumber B. Harrison (*age 21*); bank collector John (*age 19*); and student Arthur (*age 18*). The 1910 census also indicates Nathan and Mary had been married 31 years and all of their children were still living.

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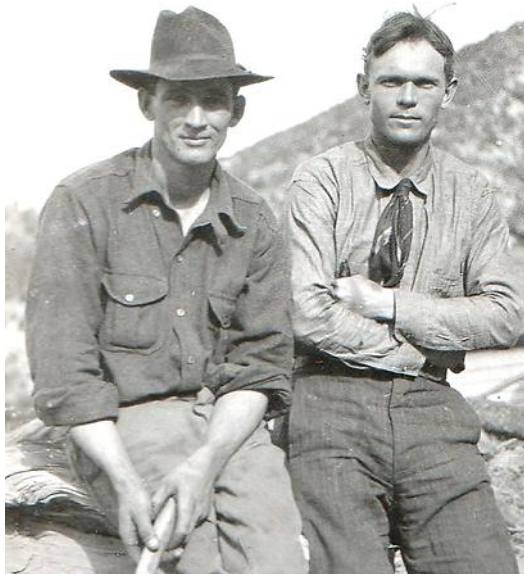
TRIBUTE TO A TEXAS GAR VETERAN – NATHAN UNDERWOOD (CONTINUED)

The 1916 *Roster of Officers and Members of E. O. C. Ord GAR Post No. 3* of San Antonio included Nathan Underwood. He was listed as a past-Post Commander and a current member of the appointed *Conference Committee for the 1916 Department Encampment*. His address was listed as 2223 N. Flores St. in San Antonio.

In mid-May 1917, Nathan traveled from San Antonio to Fort Worth to attend the 32nd *Annual Encampment of the Department of Texas, GAR*. He was credentialed as a past-Post Commander for entrance and voting privileges.

On January 13, 1920, Nathan Underwood was now 75 years old and finally retired. He was still living in San Antonio with his 62-year-old wife, Mary S., and two of their adult children - unmarried teacher Georgia Underwood (*age 40*), and married miner John Underwood. John's wife, Belle, and their two young sons were also enumerated with the household - John L. Underwood (*age 2 years, 9 months*), and Harrison Underwood (*age 16 months*). The Underwoods owned their home free and clear, and the census record again erroneously indicates Nathan's parents were both born in Indiana. His wife, Mary, was correctly listed as born in Louisiana, and their two adult children remaining at home were both born in Texas.

On August 29, 1924, Nathan's son, John G. Underwood, was severely injured in a mine accident in Cochise County, Arizona. He was 34 years old, married, and living in Hill Top, Arizona. John was employed as a mine foreman when the accident occurred. Among his injuries, was a broken back. An emergency operation was conducted at Calumet Hospital in Douglas, Arizona on August 30, but to no avail. He died the next day.



"John came to Arizona as a mining superintendent and was for a time deputy sheriff as stated on his WWI draft record. He married Abbie Belle Rapiere of Safford, Arizona, and they shortly produced two sons. John had just made a down payment on a ranch for his family when he was killed in a mining accident. I found an accounting of his death in a book on living in Paradise Arizona. John had asked a man who worked for him to clear a blockage in the chute, and the man stated he didn't want to do it as it was dangerous, so John Underwood climbed up the chute to dislodge whatever was blocking it, when the blockage gave away crushing John." (Find A Grave contributor, Memorial # 37725506).

John Gordon Underwood (on left)

John's resulting Death Certificate, issued by the *Arizona State Board of Health*, indicates John's wife was the informant. She reported John's father as Indiana-born Nathan Underwood, and his mother's maiden name as Robb, birthplace 'not known'.



On February 5, 1930, Nathan's wife, Mary, passed away in San Antonio at age 71. She was laid to rest in Block 3, Row E in Odd Fellows Cemetery in San Antonio.



On April 11, 1930, Indiana-born Nathan Underwood was an 85-year-old widower living at 2219 N. Flores St. in San Antonio. His house

was valued at \$5,000 and he owned a radio set. His memory seems to have faded significantly based on the responses the 1930 census enumerator recorded on the census sheet, including: his age when he first married was left blank, his parents were both born in Indiana (*instead of Kentucky*), and that he was *NOT* a U.S. Veteran.

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TRIBUTE TO A TEXAS GAR VETERAN – NATHAN UNDERWOOD (CONTINUED)

Or possibly, for some reason, one of his two adult sons living in the household tried to provide the information to the enumerator. Either Nathan's 45-year-old unemployed son, 'Rowb' [Rob] Underwood, or 37-year old unmarried oil refinery manager son, Arthur Underwood, could have spoken for the elderly veteran. Nathan's overall health was probably declining, as he was destined to follow his wife in death a short 13 months later.

On May 9, 1931, Nathan Underwood passed away at 8:30 p.m. at the Station Hospital at *Fort Sam Houston* in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. He died at age 87 years, 3 months, and 13 days. His cause of death was chronic severe nephritis, with chronic severe myocarditis contributing. Nathan was laid to rest with his wife at Odd Fellows Cemetery in San Antonio on May 11, 1931.



Nathan's death was subsequently memorialized on the *Roll of Honor (death roll)* which was included in the 1932 formal report of the *Proceedings of the 47th Annual Encampment of the Department of Texas, Grand Army of the Republic*, which was then submitted to the Library of Congress in Washington, DC.

Researched by Terry T. Sutton – Camp/Department Graves Registration Officer and written by Michael L. Lance, PDC – Camp/Department Historian Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2, Department of Texas and Louisiana, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Houston, Texas January 2025.



TRIVIA - LOOKS ARE NOT EVERYTHING

President Abraham Lincoln's physical appearance has been described many times – and usually not in glowing terms. No one called him handsome, dashing, or regal. In fact, it was usually quite the opposite. Frank M. Vancil of Montana penned the following undated later-in-life description of the 16th President of the United States:



He was six feet and four inches in height, the length of his legs being out of all proportion to his body. When he sat on a chair, he seemed no taller than the average man, but his knees were high in front. He weighed about 180 pounds, but was thin through the breast and had the general appearance of a consumptive. Standing, he stooped slightly forward; sitting, he usually crossed his long legs or threw them over the arms of the chair.

His head was long and tall and narrow, inclining backward as it rose. His ears were very large and stood out; eyebrows heavy, jutting forward over small, sunken, blue eyes; nose large, long, slightly Roman and blunt; chin projecting far and sharp, curving upward to meet a thick lower lip which hung downward; cheeks flabby and sunken, the loose skin falling in folds, a mole on one cheek, and an uncommonly large Adam's apple in his throat. His hair was dark brown, stiff and unkempt; complexion dark; skin yellow, shriveled and leathery.

President Lincoln - Feb 1865

... by Michael L. Lance, PDC, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN, Camp 2, Houston

Source: Civil War Curiosities, by Webb Garrison, 1994, pg. 218

CIVIL WAR MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS - U.S. ARMY (PART 13)

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 13 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.

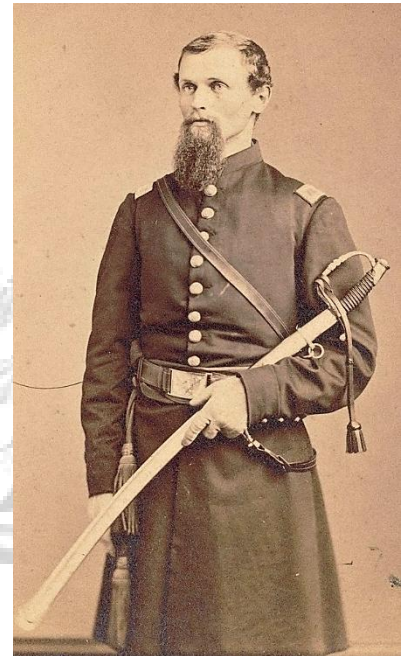


- **Hillary Beyer - 2nd Lt.** – Hillary Beyer was born in 1837 in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. In September 1861, he was 23 years old when he enlisted as a Sergeant with *Co. A, 90th Pennsylvania Infantry* at Philadelphia. A year later, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant of *Co. H* of the same regiment. He earned the *Medal of Honor* during the *Battle of Antietam*, for staying on the open field and carrying another soldier, James H. Gouldy, to safety in a rear area. In May 1864, he received an injury at the *Battle of the Wilderness*, but remained on active duty until his discharge in November of that year, having served a full three years. After the war, he lived in Germantown, Philadelphia, and was manager of the Knickerbocker Ice Company plant there. He later served as Chairman of the *Memorial Committee of the Gettysburg Battlefield Association*.

Beyer's *Medal of Honor* was issued in October 1896. The citation reads:

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Second Lieutenant Hillary Beyer, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 17 September 1862, while serving with Company H, 90th Pennsylvania Infantry, in action at Antietam, Maryland. After his command had been forced to fall back, Second Lieutenant Beyer remained alone on the line of battle, caring for his wounded comrades and carrying one of them to a place of safety.

Beyer died in Norristown, Pennsylvania in Sep 1907 at age 69.



- **Henry H. Bickford - Cpl.** – Henry H. Bickford was born in Ypsilanti, Michigan in 1838. In October 1861, he enlisted in the U.S. Army from Hartland, New York. He served with *Co. E, 8th New York Cavalry*, eventually attaining the rank of Quartermaster Sergeant. He received the *Medal of Honor* on March 26, 1865, for his actions at the *Battle of Waynesboro* in Virginia. He mustered out with his regiment in June 1865 and died in 1917 at Middleport, New York, at age 79.

His citation reads:

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Corporal Henry H. Bickford, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 2 March 1865, while serving with Company E, 8th New York Cavalry, in action at Waynesboro, Virginia, for recapture of flag.



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CIVIL WAR MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS - U.S. ARMY (PART 13 CONTINUED)

- **Matthew Bickford - Cpl.** – Matthew Bickford was born in Peoria County, Illinois in 1839. In 1861, he was 22 years old when he enlisted with the Union Army as a Private. He served in *Co. G, 8th Missouri Volunteer Infantry*, later attaining the rank of Corporal. He received the *Medal of Honor for Gallantry* for his role in the May 22, 1863 charge of the 'Forlorn Hope' volunteer storming party at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

After the war, Bickford lived as a farmer in Doylesport, Barton County, Missouri. He and his wife, Annie, were the parents of at least five children.

The Bickford family moved to Washington State around 1907, and Matthew died there in 1918. He was laid to rest in Bayview Cemetery in Bellingham, Washington. His obituary states:



Civil War Veteran Passes Away - Matthew Bickford of 2603 Woburn Street, a Civil war veteran with a record for bravery, died at a local hospital last night at the age of 79 years. Leaving two sons, Maurice A. Bickford of Kansas City and Frank A Bickford, Bellingham, and three daughters, Mrs. John M. Warnick Weddeburn, Ore; Mrs. J.F. Elzea, Marysville, Wash., and Miss Lizzie Bickford, Bellingham. Mr. Bickford served in the Civil war three and one-half years as a member of Company G, eighth Missouri infantry. He was one of the volunteers on the first attack on Vicksburg and he won there an honor medal for carrying a wounded comrade to a place of safety. He had lived in Bellingham ten years and was a member of the J. B. Steedman post No. 24 G.A.R. The funeral will be held Monday afternoon at Harry O. Bingham's parlors. Additional survivors were one sister, two brothers, twenty-one grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



Bickford's 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 Corporal Matthew Bickford, United States Army, for gallantry in the charge of the volunteer storming party on 22 May 1863, while serving with Company G, 8th Missouri Infantry, in action at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

- **Charles Bieger - Pvt.** - Charles Bieger was born in Wiesbaden, Duchy of Nassau, in 1844. He enlisted in *Co. D, 4th Missouri Volunteer Cavalry* at St. Louis, Missouri. He had immigrated to St. Louis with his family in 1857. In February 1864, he took part in a military incursion from Memphis into Mississippi, intending to meet William T. Sherman's force at Meridian, Mississippi. Bieger's cavalry came under fire near Okolona, Mississippi. During this exchange, Bieger's Captain, Frederick Hunsen, was thrown from his horse and attacked by gunfire from the enemy. Bieger pressed through the gunfire, rescuing his captain, an act of bravery that led to his being awarded the *Medal of Honor*. After the war, Bieger became a salesman, and lived with his family in St. Louis. He died in August 1930 and was buried at the Mount Hope Cemetery Mausoleum and Crematory in St. Louis. His citations states:

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Private Charles Bieger, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 22 February 1864, while serving with Company D, 4th Missouri Cavalry, in action at Ivy Farm, Mississippi. Private Bieger voluntarily risked his life by taking a horse, under heavy fire, beyond the line of battle for the rescue of his captain, whose horse had been killed in a charge and who was surrounded by the enemy's skirmishers.

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CIVIL WAR MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS - U.S. ARMY (PART 13 CONTINUED)

- **Henry H. Bingham – Capt.** – Henry Harrison Bingham was born in 1841 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He enlisted in the Union Army and received a commission as a 1st Lieutenant in the *140th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry* on August 22, 1862.

During the *Battle of Gettysburg* on July 1–3, 1863, Bingham was serving as Captain and Judge-Advocate on the staff of Major Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock. During the battle, he witnessed *Pickett's Charge*, and was near *The Angle* where the Confederates reached the high-water mark. He received the personal effects from the wounded Confederate Brig. Gen. Lewis Armistead and carried the news of Armistead's demise to Gen. Hancock, Armistead's friend from before the war.



Bingham was a Mason, and the story of how he provided assistance to the dying fellow Mason, Gen. Armistead, was used in Masonic literature, and commemorated with the *Friend to Friend Masonic Memorial* at Gettysburg National Cemetery. On July 3, 1863, Bingham was also wounded during the *Battle of Gettysburg*.

In 1864, Bingham became Aide-de-Camp to Maj. Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren. In May 1864, during the *Battle of the Wilderness* during the *Virginia Overland Campaign*, as Captain of *Co. G, 140th Pennsylvania Infantry*, he "rallied and led into action a portion of the troops who had given way under fierce assaults of the enemy." He was awarded a *Medal of Honor* for these actions.

Bingham was wounded again at the *Battle of Spotsylvania* in May 1864. On Sep 25, 1864, he was discharged from his company for promotion and appointed Major and Judge Advocate of the First Division. Bingham was captured at Dabney's Mill, VA on Oct 27, 1864 during the *Battle of Fair Oaks & Darbytown Road*, but escaped the same day.



In 1864, Bingham was wounded a third time at Farmville, Virginia. He was mustered out of the service on July 2, 1866 and returned home to Philadelphia. On December 3, 1867, President Andrew Johnson nominated Bingham for appointment to the Brevet grade of Brig. General of Volunteers, to rank from April 9, 1865, and the U.S. Senate confirmed the appointment a couple months later.

In March 1867, Henry Bingham was appointed Postmaster of Philadelphia by President Johnson, and served until Dec 1872. He resigned to accept the clerkship of the *Courts of Oyer and Terminer and Quarter Sessions of the Peace* in Philadelphia.

He was a Delegate from Pennsylvania to most of the Republican National Conventions from 1872 through 1900. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1879 as a Republican, and served 33 years through 17 successive Congresses until his death. Bingham County in Idaho is named after this long-serving Civil War veteran.

Bingham died in Pennsylvania on March 22, 1912 and is buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia. His *Medal of Honor* citation, which was issued to him in August 1893, reads:

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Captain Henry Harrison Bingham, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 6 May 1864, while serving with Company G, 140th Pennsylvania Infantry, in action during the Wilderness Campaign, Virginia. Captain Bingham rallied and led into action a portion of the troops who had given way under the fierce assaults of the enemy.

... series to be continued next issue with part 14.

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	John C. Vander Meulen <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.	Dept. Registrar	Daniel B. Pourceau

Department Website

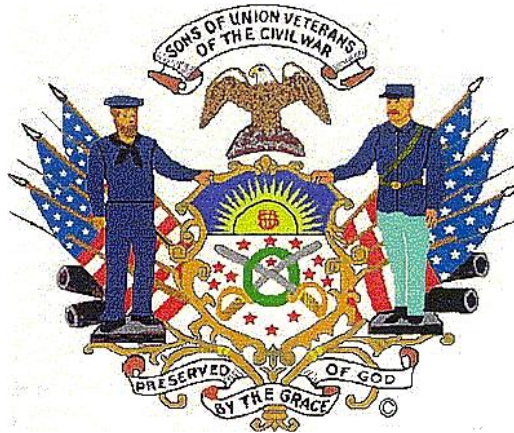
Department Facebook Page

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. Purreau**
 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

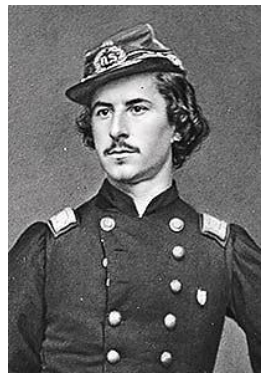


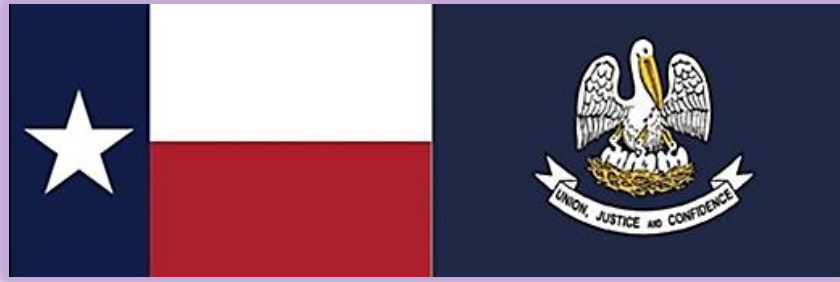
Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp 18 - Dallas, Texas

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](#)

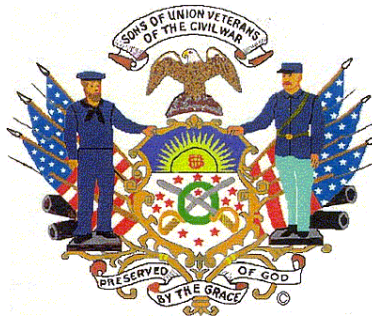
Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth
 Namesake of Camp 18





DEPARTMENT
OF
TEXAS
AND
LOUISIANA

HONORING OUR UNION ANCESTORS
BY
KEEPING THEIR LEGACY ALIVE



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR