

Dear Brother Sam, and Brothers and Officers of the Department of Texas, SUVCW and the Gen. J.J. Bryne Camp #1, Col E.E Ellsworth, Camp #18, and Lt. Cmdr Edward Lea, USN, Camp #2, and Ladies of the Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary #1, and the ladies of the Sarah Emma Edmundson, Detached Tent #4,

The Matagorda County Historical Commission has advised me that the Civil War headstones for Thomas F Morris, Pvt., Co. C, 151 Indiana Infantry, and Samuel V Jewel, Pvt. Co. H, 4th Ohio Cavalry, for have arrived and they have requested that the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War conduct a headstone dedication service on Saturday, October 22, 2011 in Palacios, Texas. The Palacios VFE and the Historical Commission were instrumental in finding these lost soldiers and ordering headstones, and we have attached pictures of the headstones, as well as directions to the cemetery with GPS coordinates.

The ceremony will start at 11:00am, and will require a maximum effort on the part of the Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN, Camp #2, as well as the entire Department of Texas, to present this dedication in the way that honors these two Civil War veterans and one that the Grand Army of the Republic would be proud of.

That being said, we would request that you contact all Lea camp members with uniforms and muskets to gain their participation in this event. We will need the color and honor guard to be spit-shined, boots and brogans cleaned and polished, all brass highly polished, and uniforms cleaned. Hardee hats would be preferable, but kepis will work if cleaned. There will be several newspapers present with photographers, as well as local radio and TV reporters. This is a great opportunity for the Lea Camp, and the Department as a whole to gain some valuable coverage during this 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Members without uniforms should attend in Camp attire, tie and slacks.

Please also request the aid of both the 13th US infantry and First US Infantry out of Dallas to see if they can spare anyone for military presentation and musket salute. Plan on at least three volleys for each soldier. If we can get Kurt Letzring as a drummer and Dana Reid for a bugler, that would be very helpful. I would see if Greg Helms could get some assistance from the SCV in Livingston to fire a cannon as well, or perhaps Brother Glass would be willing to bring some Boy Scouts and their artillery. I've copied all the Brothers that I knew have uniforms.

Here are the directions.

The location is Palacios Cemetery. It is on 12th Street in Palacios Texas. Highway 35 through "downtown" Palacios, but also bypasses downtown. 12th Street runs between both.

The GPS coordinates for the cemetery are
28o 42'27.27" N and 96o 13'38.93" W