



# THE DISPATCH

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Contents

Obits

Winter Meeting

Camp News

Wisconsin Department Pioneers

Patriotic Instructor

Camps & Officers

Pages 2&3

Page 3

Page 4-7

Page 8

Page 9-12

Page 13

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

SUVCW

## COMMANDER'S COLUMN



Brothers,

As noted by Department Order # 4, we have lost another Past Department Commander. Some of you knew PDC Randy Novak from Camp 8 where he had been a Camp Commander. He was also the Department Commander for three years. Thank you PDC Novak for your years of service to our organization. May you rest in peace.

Henry Harnden Camp 2, along with the Madison Veteran's Council, have sent a letter to Mayor Paul Soglin and the City of Madison Council regarding

the issue of the marker and cenotaph in the Confederate Rest section of Forest Hill Cemetery in Madison.

The Veteran's Council decried the removal of the markers, and expressed outrage over the situation. A portion of their letter reads as follows:

"We believe preserving objective and accurate accounts of our nation's history is important so that we as well as future generations may reflect upon and learn from them. We feel historic artifacts especially when connected to individuals who actually experienced those times are sacred and should not be tampered with or modified". Well stated Brothers.

Camp 15 has started a Go Fund Me page to help recover the Court Costs assessed to them by the Court after the dismissal of the lawsuit to clean up the Luther Parker Cemetery. The costs amounted to nearly \$4,000.00 The page can be found under the title Go Fund Me, "Luther Parker Cemetery Defense Fund".

Work continues on the "Last Soldier Project" with PCC Bob Koenecke leading the marker installations. A spreadsheet has been made so the tracking of marker installations can be easily followed. Before ordering or installing markers, please check with PCC Koenecke, PDC's Kent Peterson, Kim Heltemes, or myself to ensure there are no duplication of efforts. In late July, a weekend is planned to dedicate the "Last Soldiers" in the far Northern part of Wisconsin. Volunteers will be solicited when the dates are firmed up.

Kudos to L.G. Armstrong Camp 49 for completing their IRS reinstatement process, and becoming a 501c4 Non Profit entity again. A special thank you to Br. Jim Griesel for his patience and determination in getting this done. Huzzah!

Camp Annual reports are due by April 30. Please try to get them submitted by April 15th. If you are unfamiliar with this process or need assistance, please contact me or Department Secretary, PDC Brian Peters.

Please use the Form 27, version 2018, found on the National website under the governance and forms tab. Three copies are needed, one for the Camp, and two sent to Department Secretary Peters with the National and Department per capita dues.

Thank you all for everything you do to make this a great Department.

*In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty*  
*Brian D. McManus Commander*

It is with regrets that we must inform you that PDC Randy Novak passed away in Madison today, after a long battle with blood cancer. Randy will be forever remembered as the organizer of the present-day Old Abe Camp #8, serving as Commander of that Camp for three years (1999-02), and the Wisconsin Dept. Commander from 2001-03. He was 62 years old.

A spring funeral in Mendota, Illinois (where Randy was born and grew up), and a summer memorial in Oshkosh are being planned.



*Camp 8's chartering, September 25, 1999, at the Granary Restaurant in Oshkosh. Left to right: DC Steve Michaels, CC Randy Novak, DSVF Fred Murphy and Dept. Sec. Ron Aronis.*



*2010 Wisconsin Dept. Encampment at the Veterans Home in King, Wis. With one exception ( PDC Lyman Elliott), all the living PDCs and DC were photographed at the Sons fountain there (left to right):*

*Bruce Laine (2008-10) ; Ron Aronis (2004-05); Randy Novak (2001-03); Tom Brown (2010-13); Steve Michaels (1997-00); Brian Peters (2006-08); Kent Peterson (2005-06)*



# Real Son Fritz Upham was native of Marshfield

By Tom Mueller, PCC of Camp 1



PHOTOGRAPH BY HANS WEISE/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC  
**Frederick Upham, 93, holds a photograph of his father, William, who was a private in the Union Army's Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment in the Civil War.**

William Upham of the 2nd Wisconsin Infantry, who in 1861 was wounded and captured in the first Battle of Bull Run and was Wisconsin governor from 1895 to 1897. Fritz was the brother of Bill Upham, a longtime Camp 1 member. Bill, of Milwaukee, died in 2009 at age 93.

Gov. Upham died in 1924 at the age of 83. He had married for a second time late in life, and Fritz was born in 1921 and his brother in 1916.

How many Real Sons remain? "In 2009 we had about 15 Real Sons, and after Fritz we have only two known Real Sons as members of the SUVCW as of today," said David Demmy, national executive director of the Sons.

"In recent years we learned of two or three additional Real Sons. They were invited to join our grand organization, and each died within 24 months of becoming members of our brotherhood," Demmy added.

Real Daughters have died in May 2018 and September 2017, but it is not known how few remain. Nor is it readily known how many sons or daughters of Confederates remain.

Frederick M. (Fritz) Upham, a Wisconsin native, was one of the last three Real Sons known to the SUVCW.

Upham, 97, died Dec. 30 at his home in Fort Collins, Colo., according to son Tim Upham. A private family service was held Jan. 2, and a larger gathering is planned this spring, when Fritz's ashes will be spread near his onetime home of Steamboat Springs, Colo., Tim said.

Fritz was the son of Cpl.

Fritz's father owned Upham Manufacturing Co., one of Marshfield's largest employers in the late 1800s, and was credited with the rebuilding of the city after the "Great Fire" of 1887. The historic Upham mansion is now a museum and home to the North Wood County Historical Society.

Fritz was the son of Upham and his second wife, Grace Mason Upham. Upham's first wife, Mary Kelly, died in 1912. Fritz was a 1940 graduate of Marshfield High School. Tim Upham said his father twice tried to enlist in the military but was rejected because of poor eyesight. On the third try, he wound up as flight instructor in the Army Air Corps' civilian pilot training program. In mid-1944, he was drafted into the Navy and was based in Oakland, Calif.

Then he attended what is now the University of Wisconsin – Madison, where he studied pre-med, but later moved to Colorado to work in the oilfields. His wife, Jean Krueger, was from Marshfield and they married just before the end of the war. They had four children: Pam, Rick, Tim and Amy.

Fritz was featured in a 2014 online photo story of National Geographic, as one of the last remaining children of a Civil War veteran. The piece is at <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/special-features/2014/11/141111-veterans-day-150-anniversary-civil-war-memories/>

Upham told the Coloradoan newspaper after the Geographic piece appeared that although he was only age 3 when his father died, he has clear memories.

"I remember sitting with him at the dining room table," he said. "I remember the house we lived in and the high ceilings."

Over the years, family members told him stories about his Dad and the colorful life he led, Fritz said.

The newspaper piece is at <https://www.coloradoan.com/story/news/local/2014/11/11/fort-collins-man-featured-child-civil-war/18877017/>

The senior Upham was held in Libby Prison in Richmond, Va., where he was treated for his wounds. He was released in 1862 as part of a prisoner exchange.

William Upham later met President Abraham Lincoln at the White House. Lincoln examined the scars from his wound and questioned him about the conditions faced by prisoners of war, according to family lore.

Lincoln appointed William to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He graduated in 1866 and served in the Army until 1869.



## Winter Meeting



*PCC David Howard opens the luncheon with the Pledge of Allegiance.*



*Mary Todd Lincoln was our featured speaker at the 49th annual Patriotic Luncheon held by Camp 1 and Auxiliary 4*



*CinC Donald Shaw of Michigan greets the Department Mid-Winter Meeting and National Auxiliary President Denise Oman of Wonewoc, Wis., a proud member of Auxiliary 4.*



*Past Commander-in-Chief and Camp 1 member Steve Michaels served as the moderator at this year's Patriotic Luncheon*



*SUVCW Commander-in-Chief Don Shaw addresses the Brothers who attended the annual Mid-Winter meeting. — at Alioto's Restaurant*





## Camp 1



Camp 1 Brother Ron Washburn recently joined the Medical Corps of the Navy Reserve at age 63. "Inspired by those who are ready," he says. "I had no prior military experience." He has been in the Camp since 2008 and lives in South Carolina.



CC Billy Cole pays his respects at the grave of George A. Shaughnessy, Camp 1's first commander when two predecessor Camps merged in 1901. Shaughnessy is buried at Calvary Cemetery.

## Camp 8



Dept. of Wisconsin Commander Brian McManus (left) congratulates Old Abe Camp 8's Past Camp Commander Dennis Jacobs and presents a certificate in recognition of his service. — with Brian McManus and Dennis Jacobs



Kim J. Heltemes, seated, and Kurt Kirk attend to Camp 8's table at the Echoes of the Past Trade Fair in Oshkosh, WI on February 23. Photo by Kirby Scott



## Camp 15



A GoFundMe page started by Camp #15 to raise money for its fight to clean up weed-choked Luther Parker Cemetery in Muskego, Wis., has raised \$1,525 in three weeks.

The funds will help pay close to \$4,000 in court costs Camp #15 incurred in its legal battle to get Muskego to mow graves in a cemetery where three Civil War soldiers are buried.

Camps and brothers throughout Wisconsin as well as top national SUVCW officers are contributing to the cemetery fund. Calling a donation "the right thing to do," National Treasurer David McReynolds was the first to contribute when the GoFundMe page was launched on March 5th.

"This camp needs all the help it can get to fund this unexpected expenditure," McReynolds added. "Donations can be made in any size; there isn't a 'too small' donation."

National Commander in Chief Don Shaw has been a strong supporter of Camp #15's campaign to clean up the cemetery. "These brothers got hit with costs after standing up to a city that was satisfied to just let a graveyard with among others, Union soldiers, become overgrown - a totally disrespectful situation," Shaw wrote as he made his donation. "They stood up and did something about it. They went public and raised awareness of not only the problem but of our Order as well."

"They did the right thing and put the SUVCW on the right side of the issue," Commander Shaw added.

"They are the kind of guys one is proud to call brothers. I'm happy to help them carry the load in this part of the process."

Former national commanders Mark Day and Don Martin have also helped with contributions and encouragement. "As CinC Shaw stated, they did the right thing but ended up on the short end of a legal decision," Day wrote as he contributed to the fund.

Last November, a Waukesha County judge ruled that the city of Muskego was legally immune from the kind of lawsuit Camp #15 brought against the city to get Luther Parker Cemetery cleaned up. The judge also allowed the city to assess \$2,764 in court costs against Camp #15 as the losing party. This was for costs the city incurred in depositions and transcripts in the case. Camp #15 earlier had paid another \$900.00 for its own deposition and transcript costs.

Camp #15's lawyer, prominent Milwaukee attorney Franklyn Gimbel, provided his services and that of his law firm free of charge as a way to support not only the three Civil War soldiers buried in the cemetery but all veterans.

Brian McManus, Department Commander of the Wisconsin SUVCW, expressed gratitude at the outpouring of financial support for Camp #15 from camps and brothers across Wisconsin and the country. "This is so gratifying and we want to thank everyone who has contributed," McManus said. "This is a fight in a good cause and we are still hopeful we can get that cemetery cleaned up."



Camp #15 is planning half a dozen road trips around Wisconsin this year as part of a drive to install a Last Soldier Marker on the grave of the last Civil War soldier buried in each of the state's 72 counties.

The camp plans trips where multiple Last Soldier markers can be installed and dedicated in three or four adjacent counties over a weekend with the help of local historical societies and veterans groups.

The SUVCW's summer encampment is in Boscobel in Grant County in southwestern Wisconsin on the weekend of June 8th, and Camp #15 hopes to dedicate markers in Grant and Lafayette counties and two nearby counties over that same weekend.

Camp #49 in Boscobel has already purchased a Last Soldier marker and is expected to lead the eight camps in the Wisconsin Department in dedicating that marker during the encampment.

Bayfield County, in far northwestern Wisconsin, plans a Last Soldier ceremony in conjunction with the county historical society's history festival in Washburn on Lake Superior on June 18th. Camp #15 hopes to schedule Last Soldier dedications in adjacent Ashland, Douglas and Iron counties during that same time period.

In Wood County in central Wisconsin, a Sept. 14th dedication is planned at the grave of James D. Gibson, the last Civil War soldier buried in that county. The South Wood County Historical Museum has already purchased a marker for the grave. Wisconsin Department Chaplain William Parker, a member of Camp #8, installed the marker in February.

Bob Koenecke, the Wisconsin SUVCW's Last Soldier Project Officer, says he is hoping to schedule dedication ceremonies in adjacent Portage and Waupaca counties for that same weekend.

The driving force behind the Last Soldier campaign in Wisconsin, Koenecke is also working to arrange dedications in Florence and Forest counties in far northeastern Wisconsin.

Over the past year, Camp #15 has installed or distributed Last Soldier markers in twenty-five of Wisconsin's 72 counties and hopes to complete all of the state's counties by the end of the year.

Koenecke noted that the National SUVCW launched the Last Soldier project in 2003, almost twenty years ago, and says he wants Wisconsin to be the first state to finish marking the graves of all last soldiers buried in each of the state's counties. "It's an ambitious goal - but we can do it," adds Koenecke.

Camp #15 has two styles of Last Soldier markers available for sale - a flat mounting style for \$45.00 and a flag-holder style with a brass rod for \$55.00. Both prices include the cost of shipping. To order, contact SUVLASTVET, 27327 Lemays Ct., Wind Lake, WI 53185. E-mail at: [suvlastvet@gmail.com](mailto:suvlastvet@gmail.com). Telephone: 414-852-9015.



## Camp 56

Senior Vice Commander Andrew Willenbring will lead our camp's 2019 efforts on cataloging the Civil War veterans buried at Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis as part of the National Graves Registration program. The plan is to confirm the identity of the veterans buried at Lakewood, ensure they are properly recorded, identify and record their units and document grave markers. All information gathered will be entered into the SUVCW database. Photographs and data will be shared with Lakewood Cemetery. Our plan for 2019 is to meet at 1000 hours at Lakewood on the 3rd Saturday each month starting in April. The work dates for 2019 are April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21 and October 19.

Our camp will again take part in the Litchfield Memorial Day parade on May 27. Several brothers, in uniform, step off with the parade at 0900, providing a U.S. and

camp color guard. The parade ends with a ceremony at Ripley Cemetery honoring all U.S. veterans. The camp conducts a meeting after the parade at its official base site, the GAR Hall in Litchfield. All brothers and family in attendance are then welcome to attend the community luncheon in Litchfield.

Brother Matt Heffron, Camp Chaplain, will lead the planning and conducting of a Memorial Ceremony on the original Memorial Day, May 30, at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial in Summit Park in Saint Paul, at 1800 hours. Our camp will also participate in the Memorial Day event at Fort Snelling National Cemetery, led by Brother Bob Selden.

The Camp's next meeting is Saturday, April 6, 0900 hours at the Minneapolis Scottish Rite, 2011 Dupont Ave. S.



## Patrick Francis Sheehy

“Professional Soldier”

By PCinC Steve Michaels



Patrick Francis Sheehy of Prairie du Chien was born New Year's Day, 1872 in Pittsburgh, Penn.

“Top Sergeant” Sheehy served in the 9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry from 1890 to 1893 and fought in the battles of Powder River, Wounded Knee and Yellow Creek. He enlisted

again in 1895 and served through the Spanish War, Philippine Insurrection and the Boxer Rebellion, a period of six years. In 1917, he tried to enlist, but was rejected for service because of his age. He was later accepted and served seven months as a shipyard guard in Oakland, California. Afterwards, he served as chairman of the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Fund in Crawford County.

His grandfather fought under Commodore Perry in the War of 1812. His father, William Sheehy, was a sergeant in the Pennsylvania Bucktail Regiment during the Civil War.

Sheehy joined the Sons of Veterans in Philadelphia in 1894 and transferred to Crawford Camp #3 in 1916. The Camp was two years old and welcomed his leadership. He was a fiery speaker with an intense loyalty to the Flag.

In 1917, he married Anastasia “Stasia” T. Mezera (1876-1973)

After World War I, Br. Sheehy took an active interest in the affairs of the Department. In 1921, he was elected to the post of Junior Vice Commander and the following year, Dept. Senior Vice Commander, post of Junior Vice Commander and the

following year, Dept. Senior Vice Commander. He served as a delegate to the National Encampment in 1923 and again as Dept. Sr. Vice in 1925.

When the 43<sup>rd</sup> Wisconsin Department Encampment was held June 14-16, 1926, in Racine, Sheehy was finally elected Commander, even though he was not present because of sickness.

During his administration, he urged each Camp to put on a membership drive. During the 1920s, there was competition with new forms of recreation and entertainment. College enrollment nearly doubled and the farm population decreased. Camps in the smaller, farming communities found it difficult to survive as younger members left for the big cities.

On February 1, 1927, the Gen. T.S. Allen Camp was organized in Oshkosh. It lasted two years.

Prairie du Chien's VFW Post, McKinney-Tyler Post 1945 was organized in 1931 and P.F. Sheehy was a charter member. Despite his active role there, he continued to serve as treasurer of Camp #3 through the 1930s.

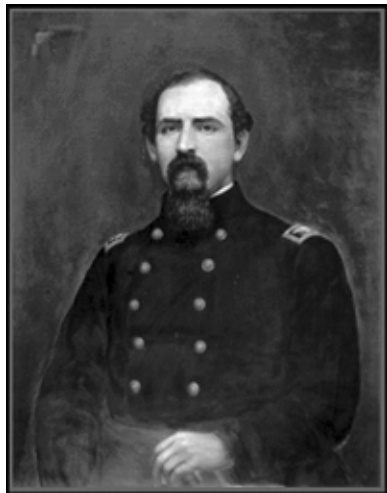
PDC Patrick Sheehy died October 26, 1945, and was buried in Prairie du Chien's Calvary Cemetery. His wife was buried next to him. Fort Crawford Camp #3 disbanded in 1949.





# The secret of Col. Jefferson of 8th Wisconsin

By Tom Mueller, PCC, Camp 1



Col. John Wayles Jefferson of the 8th Wisconsin Infantry was the grandson of Thomas Jefferson and slave Sally Hemings, according to the spring issue of the Wisconsin Magazine of History.

This lineage is outlined in a well-documented article by Sebastian Van Bastelaer, with 60 footnotes.

Eston Hemings, son of the nation's third president and Hemings, had moved his family from Ohio to Madison in 1852 and took Jefferson as his last name. Son John Wayles Jefferson became operator of a restaurant and the American House, a hotel on Pinckney Street opposite the State Capitol.

Eston Hemings was born in 1808 at Jefferson's estate of Monticello, Va. Jefferson was president from 1801 to 1809.

Jefferson's wife, Martha Wayles Skelton, had died in 1782 at the age of 33 (Jefferson was 39 at that time and never remarried). Martha's father, John Wayles, also was the father of Sally Hemings, the article said. Hemings was one-quarter black, but still a slave, "the product of two generations of owner-slave relations."

In recent years, the Thomas Jefferson estate has acknowledged his relationship with Sally Hemings and included their children as his descendants.

Monticello says: "In January 2000, the (special) committee reported that the weight of all known evidence - from the DNA study, original documents, written and oral historical accounts, and statistical data - indicated a high probability that Thomas Jefferson was the father of Eston Hemings, and that he was likely the father of all six of Sally Hemings' children listed in Monticello records ...."

That is at <https://www.monticello.org/site/plantation-and-slavery/thomas-jefferson-and-sally-hemings-brief-account>

John Wayles Jefferson was born in 1835 and served in the 8th Wisconsin from Aug. 26, 1861, to Oct. 11, 1864. He was wounded at Corinth, Miss., in 1862 and at Vicksburg in 1863.

Jefferson began as major and was elevated to lieutenant colonel Dec. 20, 1862, then colonel on June 7, 1864. The 8th was led by Old Abe, its bald eagle mascot.

He died in 1892 at the age of 57 and is buried with a military stone in a family plot in section 3 of Forest Hill Cemetery in Madison. His parents also are buried in the plot.

The magazine article says: "At the height of the war, John stumbled across a childhood acquaintance. The two had known each other in Ohio, where Jefferson had lived for almost 15 years until his

family relocated to Madison. Rather than appreciate the serendipity of the moment, John responded to the chance encounter with apparent alarm. The officer quickly pulled the man aside and begged him not to tell anyone his secret: 'that he had colored blood in his veins, which he said was not suspected by any of his command.'

"Until his family had come to Madison, they had been registered as free blacks in Chillicothe, Ohio. He knew that his military career would be ruined if any of his men found out, not to mention his reputation in Madison. The acquaintance assured him he would tell nobody, and John successfully served for the remainder of the war."

The article also said: "Jefferson was actually harboring a much bigger secret. Not only was he a man of African descent commanding a group of white soldiers, but he and his family had also been hiding their true family history."

Eston Hemings Jefferson, son of Sally and Thomas, was one-eighth black "and technically considered white in the eyes of the law," the article says, "but was born a slave due to the *partus sequitur ventrem* doctrine, which dictated that a person's status was inherited from one's mother. As a result, Eston spent the first 21 years of his life enslaved at Monticello."

Eston was freed "in 1827 ... in accordance with Jefferson's will." The president had died on July 4, 1826. Eston married a "free colored woman" in 1832, and they had three children, the first of whom would become the Wisconsin Civil War soldier.

The writer summarized that a decade earlier, coming to Madison and taking the last name of Jefferson, "paradoxically prevented them from acknowledging their genealogy. Unlike when they were in Ohio, the family wasn't able to openly (or even obliquely) discuss their true relationship to Thomas Jefferson. ... Eston could not possibly claim that Thomas was his father without revealing that he was an illegitimate child and exposing himself as partially black, which would likely harm his standing in an already-hostile society. As a result, the family hid this part of their history."



## Medal of Honor - The Duncan story

By Tom Mueller, PCC, Camp 1



Seven Medal of Honor recipients from the Civil War are buried in Milwaukee, but nobody knows what any of them looked like – until now.

A photo of James K.L. Duncan has surfaced, and a little-known drawing of his act of heroism from a 1907 book has been

found in several places on the web.

Duncan, a Navy ordinary seaman, was serving on the tinclad USS Fort Hindman on March 2, 1864, near Harrisonburg, La., when, according to his MOH citation:

“Following a shellburst at one of the guns which started a fire at the cartridge tie, Duncan immediately seized the burning cartridge, took it from the gun and threw it overboard, despite the immediate danger to himself. Carrying out his duties through the entire engagement, Duncan served courageously during this action in which the Fort Hindman was raked severely with shot and shell from the enemy guns.”

Photo # NH 79922 James K.L. Duncan injured aboard USS Fort Hindman, 1864



\*THE CARTRIDGE EXPLODED, HURLING DUNCAN BACKWARD.\*

Duncan was age 18 at the time, and the medal was awarded six weeks after the action. He came to the Milwaukee Soldiers Home in 1910 and died there on March 27, 1913, at the age of 67. He is buried in section 19, grave 41 at Wood National Cemetery.

A mugshot of Duncan has been posted on his Find Grave entry for more than a year and was noticed while researching this story. The page had been examined many times over the years. Volunteer Mike Serpa of California says he put the mugshot there after finding it in his longterm photo project involving MOH recipients from the Civil War and beyond, digitally cleaning up hundreds of existing images that have cracks, tears, wear, etc.

Serpa chanced upon Duncan's photo “not with Google but at [archive.org](https://archive.org). I usually click ‘Search text contents’ for old books. I check for names or regiment numbers.” When he finds one, he makes a note to check for burial and will add a photo on the man's Find a Grave entry.

Duncan's photo was in a 1911 publication of Monmouth College at Monmouth in western Illinois, where he had studied in 1862 and 1863. The publication marked the 50th anniversary of the war's start. Duncan is on p. 56-57; see it at <https://archive.org/stream/monmouthcollegei00monm#page/56/mode/2up>

The article says he was from Sunbeam, not far from Monmouth. The school's website says today that Monmouth “furnished 232 soldiers and sailors from the student body, faculty and board of trustees. A quarter of them were wounded and one in eight was killed. Two were awarded the Medal of Honor ...”

There are no known photos of the other six Milwaukee MOH burials. Several were residents of the Soldiers Home, but a librarian at the VA said a few years ago that at most, they would have been only in a large group photo of various companies there. Some of their Soldiers Home records – such as Duncan's – did not even note they were MOH recipients.

Families of these MOH men are not known today and none have put photos at Find a Grave. Serpa checked his files, but he did not have any of the other Milwaukee men.

The action drawing of Duncan's act of heroism was found at the Navy Historical Center's information page about the Fort Hindman, <https://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/OnlineLibrary/photos/sh-usn/usnsh-f/ft-hndmn.htm>



# Patriotic Instruction

By

Paul Johnson

Patriotic Instructor, Camp 8

## Civil War Photography



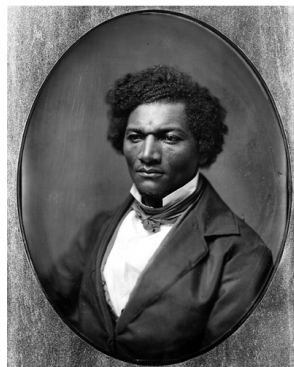
The documentation of the Civil War stands out because for the first time photography was used. Modern day historians as well as many of the civil war re-enactors turn to photographs for information not readily apparent in written texts.

Some of the most famous names in civil war photography include Mathew Brady, James and Alexander Gardner, Timothy O'Sullivan and Egbert Guy Fox.

While the war was relatively short, there was major development of photographic technology. From the daguerreotype, to wet plate negatives to the so called "TinType."

### Daguerreotype

In 1839, Louis Daguerre and Joseph Nicéphore Niépce developed the daguerreotype, which used silvered copper plates to record real-life images for the first time. Almost immediately, entrepreneurial artists saw an opportunity to create innovative art and make money.



Likewise, it wasn't long before photographers documented scenes of conflict—the Mexican-American War was the first to be photographed, though the pictures never reached the general public, and thus had almost no cultural impact. The 1850s were arguably the "golden years of the daguerreotype," as practitioners opened hundreds of studios and honed their techniques as they documented more and more natural phenomena and major news events. The images, once exposed were developed by mercury, shortening many photographers' and photo assistants' lives. The new wet plate process introduced in the 1850s reduced necessary exposure times and made replication of negatives far simpler.

### The Wet-Plate Photographic Process:

The wet plate method was invented by Frederick Scott Archer, an amateur photographer in Britain, in 1851.

- First, collodion glass negative was made, the image could be printed on paper and mounted. was used to coat the plate glass in order to sensitize it to light. The word collodion refers to the syrupy chemical mixture which was used to coat the glass plate.

- In a darkroom, the plate was then immersed in silver nitrate, placed in a light-tight container, and inserted into the camera. - Next, the cap on the camera was removed for two to three seconds, exposing it to light and imprinting the image on the plate.

- Replacing the cap, the photographer immediately took the plate, still in the light-tight container, to his darkroom, where he developed it in a solution of pyrogalllic acid.

- After washing and drying the plate with water, the photographer coated it with a varnish to protect the surface.

- This process created a plate glass negative. Once the plate-glass negative was made, the image could be printed on paper and mounted.

### Ambrotype

The ambrotype was introduced in the 1850s. During the 1860s it was superseded by the tintype, a similar photograph on thin black-lacquered iron, hard to distinguish from an ambrotype if under glass.

One side of a clean glass plate was coated with a thin layer of iodized collodion, then dipped in a silver nitrate solution. The plate was exposed in the camera while still wet. Exposure times varied from five to sixty seconds or more depending on the brightness of the lighting and the speed of the camera lens. The plate was then developed and fixed. The resulting negative, when viewed by reflected light against a black background, appears to be a positive image: the clear areas look black, and the exposed, opaque areas appear relatively light. This effect was integrated by backing the plate with black velvet; by taking the picture on a plate made of dark reddish-colored glass (the result was called a ruby ambrotype);

or by coating one side of the plate with black varnish. Either the emulsion side or the bare side could be coated: if the bare side was



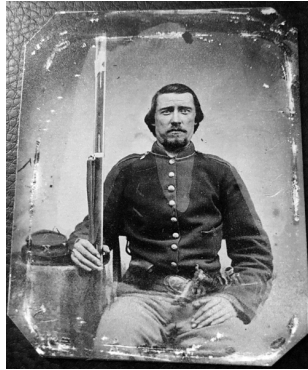
blackened, the thickness of the glass added a sense of depth to the image. In either case, another plate of glass was put over the fragile emulsion side to protect it, and the whole was mounted in a metal frame and kept in a protective case, often made from "gutta percha" a sort of natural form of plastic that could be molded in very decorative and intricate forms. In some instances the protective glass was cemented directly to the emulsion, generally with a balsam resin. This protected the image well but tended to darken it. Ambrotypes were sometimes hand-tinted; untinted ambrotypes are monochrome, gray or tan in their lightest areas. Ambrotypes were deliberately underexposed negatives made by that process and optimized for viewing as positives instead. In the U.S., ambrotypes first came into use in the early 1850s. In 1854, James Ambrose Cutting of Boston took out several patents relating

to the process. He may be responsible for coining the term "ambrotype." Ambrotypes were much less expensive to produce than daguerreotypes, the medium that predominated when they were introduced, and did not have the bright mirror-like metallic surface that could make daguerreotypes troublesome to view and which some people disliked. An ambrotype, however, appeared dull and drab when compared with the brilliance of a well-made and properly viewed daguerreotype.

By the late 1850s, the ambrotype was overtaking the daguerreotype in popularity. By the mid-1860s, the ambrotype itself was being replaced by the tintype, a similar image on a sturdy black-lacquered thin iron sheet, as well as by photographic albumen paper prints made from glass plate collodion negatives.

### Tintype

Tintype, also known as a melainotype or ferrotype, is a photograph made by creating a direct positive on a thin sheet of metal coated with a dark lacquer or enamel and used as the support for the photographic emulsion. Tintypes enjoyed their widest use during the 1860s and 1870s, but lesser use of the medium persisted into the early 20th century and it has been revived as a novelty and fine art form in the 21st.



Tintype portraits were at first usually made in a formal photographic studio, like daguerreotypes and other early types of photographs, but later they were most commonly made by photographers working in booths or the open air at fairs and carnivals, as well as by itinerant sidewalk photographers. Because the lacquered iron support (there is no actual tin used) was resilient and did not need drying, a tintype could be developed and fixed and handed to the customer only a few minutes after the picture had been taken.

The tintype photograph saw more uses and captured a wider variety of settings and subjects than any other photographic type. It was introduced while the daguerreotype was still popular, though its primary competition would have been the ambrotype. The tintype saw the Civil War come and go, documenting the individual soldier and horrific battle scenes. It captured scenes from the Wild West, as it was easy to produce by itinerant photographers working out of covered wagons.

It began losing artistic and commercial ground to higher quality albumen prints on paper in the mid-1860s, yet survived for well over another 40 years, living mostly as a carnival novelty.

The tintype's immediate predecessor, the ambrotype, was done by the same process of using a sheet of glass as the support. The glass was either of a dark color or provided with a black backing so that, as with a tintype, the underexposed negative image in the emulsion appeared as a positive. Tintypes were sturdy and did not require mounting in a protective hard case like ambrotypes and daguerreotypes.

### Carte de Visite

Carte de Visite photographs are not so much a photographic process as a method of presentation. Small albumen prints Brooklyn, Berlin or Brazil. In addition, unlike earlier photographs made with such processes as the daguerreotype and ambrotype,

cartes de visite could be sent through the mail without the need for a bulky case and fragile cover-glass. Their small size also made them relatively inexpensive, and they became so widespread that by 1863 Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes would write, "Card portraits, as everybody knows, have become the social currency, the 'green-backs' of civilization."

The predecessors of cartes de visite were calling cards. During the 1850s, it was the custom to present one's calling card at the time of a social visit. These cards were smaller than today's business cards, frequently consisting of a name engraved and printed on glossy stock; in later years, designs became more elaborate. Families would often provide decorative baskets or trays to receive calling cards from visitors. During the 1850s, there were sporadic reports of photographers in the U.S. or Europe preparing photographic calling cards, in which the portrait replaces the engraved name. The example shown here is a rare survivor: a salt print 1-7/8 inches tall on glossy card stock, 2" x 3-1/4". Other early salt print calling cards vary in size.

The standard 2-1/2" x 4" format was patented by a Parisian photographer, Andre Adolphe Disderi, in 1854. Through the use of a sliding plate holder and a camera with four lenses, eight negatives could be taken by Disderi's method on a single 8" x 10" glass plate. That allowed eight prints to be made every time the negative was printed. Not all photographers followed this method, however. And Disderi's format did not become popular until five years after he patented it. One persistent story, now discredited, said the Emperor Napoleon III was marching the French Army to Italy when he suddenly halted his troops and entered Disderi's studio to pose in uniform for his carte de visite, touching off the craze. Cartes were introduced in New York, probably by C. D. Fredericks, late in the summer of 1859. The American Civil War gave the format enormous momentum as soldiers and their families posed for cartes before they were separated by war—or death. Queen Victoria compiled more than a hundred albums of cartes, featuring royalty and others of social prominence. In England, sales of cartes de visite ran in the hundreds of millions, annually.

The vast majority of cartes depict individuals or couples posed in the studio; the small size of the format appears to leave little room for more complex subject matter. But perhaps out of necessity (for example, a frontier photographer limited to a single camera), cartes de visite were also made of groups and landscapes and even as pioneering examples of photojournalism.

Sometimes it seems as if the early photographers who made these small images were trying to capture the world around them on a tiny patch of paper and cardboard. Judging their work more than a century later, it can be argued that in many cases they succeeded..







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Henry Harnden Auxiliary 2

**[Major General John Gibbon Camp 4](#)** - Waukesha

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*Officers were elected at the 2018 Department Encampment at King, Wis. and will serve until the 2019 Department Encampment.*



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