

*Company Clerk: There is little visual record for Albert Jennings, and this is the only known photograph of him. It is undated, but it is more than likely a postwar image as he was only 24 when he enlisted.*

## **The War In Their Words: I Am The Colonel's Orderly**

By David A. Welker and Jeffrey Fortais  
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### **A soldier's diary preserves the only known text of an Emory Upton speech**

An entry in the 121st New York's regimental books describes Private Albert N. Jennings as a "good soldier but lacks constitution," which doesn't quite seem to suit a man who served the Union cause throughout the war and survived wounding at the Battle of the Wilderness. Born October 15, 1837, the only son of Samuel and Catherine Jennings in the tiny hamlet of Salisbury, N.Y., he left at age 24 to join the Army, perhaps inspired by a desire to impress 18-year-old Martha "Mattie" Woolever, a local girl to whom he had taken a shine.

The regiment mustered in on August 23, 1862, for three-years service with 946 men and 36 officers. Recruited mainly from Otsego and Herkimer Counties in Upstate New York by Richard Franchot, who became the 121st's first colonel, the

regiment left for Washington City after only one week of drill.

Arriving at Fort Lincoln in Washington's northwest defenses on September 3, the men finally received English-made Enfield rifle muskets and began learning the manual of arms. Only four days later, the regiment left Fort Lincoln in the middle of the night without most of its equipment, expecting to return after a brief skirmish. The regiment never made it back to the fort or recovered its original gear, a disaster the men blamed on their green commander, Colonel Franchot.

Joining Maj. Gen. William B. Franklin's 6th Corps—assigned to Maj. Gen. Henry Slocum's 1st Division and Colonel Joseph Bartlett's 3rd Brigade—the 121st chased General Robert E. Lee's Confederate army into Maryland, witnessing but not participating in the Battles of South Mountain and Antietam. The 121st men nevertheless suffered for weeks with nothing but their uniforms to shield them from the night's chills and drenching rains, a condition that fostered growing resentment of their leader.

Perhaps knowing he was in over his head, Colonel Franchot resigned his commission after only one month. Determined to leave his regiment in the capable hands of a professional officer, Franchot used his friendship with General Slocum to ensure his hand-picked replacement was Captain Emory Upton, who would prove to be one of the most remarkable young commanders of the war.

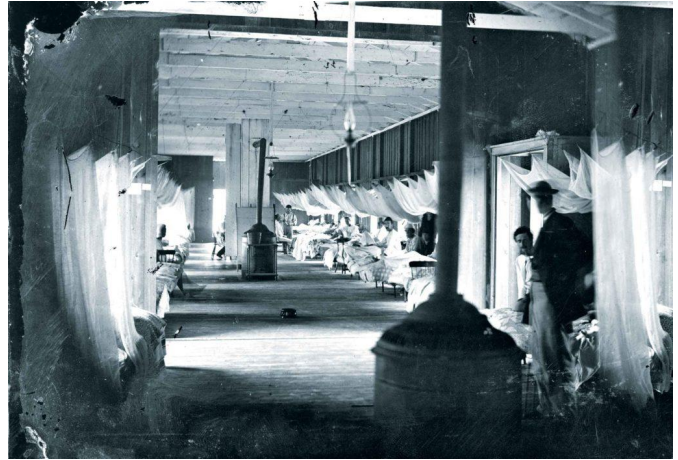
Upton took command of the 121st on October 25, 1862, and immediately began to transform the volunteers into a crack fighting unit. He established Regular Army routines and established certification tests for officers. Upton forbade spitting,

demanded attention during formations, and instituted new hygiene and medical practices to repair the physical toll from the Maryland Campaign. Other regiments in Bartlett's brigade began referring to the 121st New York as "Upton's Regulars."

Jennings, however, missed some of that transformation when he found himself at Harewood General Hospital outside Washington, D.C., rather than in the 121st's winter camp at White Oak Church near Fredericksburg, Va. By early 1863, Albert reported to Alexandria's Camp Distribution, where men were processed returning to their various units in the field. Once there, Albert for the first time served as Company H's clerk, and said he "wrote some for the captain."

In early May, Jennings' regiment participated in Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker's Chancellorsville Campaign. The 121st, part of Brig. Gen. William Brooks' 1st Division, waited with the 6th Corps in the Union rear, guarding the Rappahannock River crossings while the rest of the Army of the Potomac fought at Chancellorsville.

On the evening of May 2, Hooker ordered Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick, then commanding the 6th Corps, to reinforce his battered army at Chancellorsville. After successfully driving Confederate defenders from Marye's Heights, the 121st ran headlong into a Southern defensive line near Salem Church. In 20 minutes, the regiment lost 137 men killed or wounded, and retreated across the Rappahannock. Jennings' diary entries track the advance of his regiment.



*A Place To Get Well: This photograph shows recuperating Union soldiers in one of Harewood Hospital's well-kept and airy wards. Jennings spent time in this Washington, D.C., hospital during the winter of 1862-63. (Library of Congress)*

## 1863

**APRIL 28:** Across the Rappahannock. We crossed the river this morning and drove the Rebs back from the river and I have been out on picket today. The Rebs are in plain sight. We crossed [in] pontoon boats. The Rebs fired on the first boats that come over and we had three or four killed.

May 1: Today we laid on [our arms] in line of battle and there is a little skirmishing along the front....

**May 2 [Battle of Chancellorsville]:** Today we had some shells come over from the Reb batteries and we dug rifle pits to screen us. There is a good deal of skirmishing on our front.

**May 3 [Battle of Salem Church]:** Today we advanced on the Rebs. We marched through Fredericksburg and out the road toward Gordonsville. We took the heights above Fredericksburg.... We drove the Rebs a few rods and had to fall back. We rallied and drove them back again and held our position. We lost almost half our number.

**May 4:** Today we have been under fire but have not been engaged. To night we retreated across the river. The Rebs came near flanking us. We were the rear guard and covered our army's retreat.

Following the Chancellorsville debacle, the 121st New York pursued the Army of Northern Virginia as it headed north. Arriving at Gettysburg, Pa., in the midafternoon on July 2 after a brutal 30-mile nighttime march from Manchester, Md., Bartlett's brigade deployed on the northern shoulder of Little Round Top to support the 5th Corps (which Jennings mistakenly calls the 12th Corps). On July 3, the 121st remained in reserve and witnessed Pickett's Charge. Jennings recorded the experience in his diaries, referring often to Martha as "M."

**June 26:** Today we got up at 3 AM. Broke camp and marched till 4 o'clock P.M. [W]ere rear guard tonight; went and got some cherries & milked some cows....We came through Gainesville, Loudon Co. Va.

**June 27:** Today we marched to near Poolesville Md. We crossed the river at Edwards Ferry. We passed though a fine section of country. It is now rather damp. We are now in Montgomery Co. Md.



*Battle Detritus: Andrew Russell took this photograph of Confederate casualties on*

*Marye's Heights in Fredericksburg, Va., on May 3, 1863, after the Union 6th Corps overran the position. (Library of Congress)*

**June 28:** Today we marched through Poolesville. It is cool and good marching....We come round Sugar Loaf [Mountain] and we marched about 26 miles through a fine section of country....

**June 29:** Today we broke camp and marched 26 miles. We come through the village of Monroeville, New Market, & Ridgeville and Simons Creek. It was rather damp, so we had a hard march.

**June 30:** Today we marched about fifteen miles through the village of Westminster, which is quite a nice little village in Carrol Co. Md. I stood the march much better today than I did yesterday.

**July 1: [Battle of Gettysburg]:** Today we have lain in camp all day and have only been after water and sent three letters, one to...M....We marched again tonight. It is quite warm and was about used up.

**July 2:** Today we marched till four o'clock P.M. After marching all night, I was obliged to fall out but caught up soon after they stopped. We marched through Littlestown [Pa]. We came into Penn. in the forenoon. I had just caught up with the Regt. and had to go and support the 12th Corps that was engaged with the Rebs but did not get into the fight & lay on our arms all night but was not disturbed.

**July 3:** Today we have laid under arms all day and fired at the Rebs, there has been heavy fighting since before noon but none of us are injured. We have thrown up breastworks but have not used it....

**July 4:** Today we have been out in front but did not get into a fight and we lay where we did yesterday. There has only been a little picket firing. I have written to my Father & M. We had a heavy rainstorm this afternoon.

**July 5:** Today we followed up the Rebs, who are retreating. They left their wounded all in our possession. We overtook them about sundown and shelled them some and took two wagons. It is very wet and muddy marching....

After chasing Lee's army back into Virginia, the 121st settled into camp at New Baltimore, and Jennings found himself serving as Colonel Upton's orderly. By early October, the 121st was on the move again in the Bristoe Station Campaign. On November 7, the regiment played a central role in the Second Battle of Rappahannock Station, Colonel Upton's first opportunity to command a brigade in battle and in which the 121st helped capture the only Confederate crossing of the Rappahannock. This often-overlooked Union victory became a point of pride for the 121st.



Panorama: Union 6th Corps skirmishers advance toward Confederate redoubts along the Rappahannock River during the November 7, 1863, Battle of Rappahannock Station. The Union victory took away

General Robert E. Lee's last bridgehead to the river's north bank. (Library of Congress)

**August 10:** Today I am the colonel's orderly and it is very hot. I received two letters tonight, one from L.J. & one from A. E. Cough, Kingsboro....

**October 15:** We marched about ¼ of a mile and built some rifle pits and we are now waiting for the enemy to make their appearance.... Today I am 26 Yrs. Old.

**November 7: [Battle of Rappahannock Station]:** Today we have broke camp and marched to the Rappahannock Station and where we charged a post and took 308 prisoners and 4 stands of colors....

The 121st spent the winter of 1863-64 near Brandy Station, Va., and in the spring learned that Colonel Upton had received command of the 2nd Brigade. On May 4, the regiment moved south to open Lt. Gen. Ulysses Grant's Overland Campaign, and fought at the Battle of the Wilderness. Early in the battle, Albert was shot in the right arm—becoming one of the regiment's 73 Wilderness casualties.

## 1864

**May 4:** We broke camp at daylight and crossed the Rapidan at Jacobs ford at little after noon....

**May 5:** We broke camp this morning at five o'clock A.M. and our skirmishers found the Johnnies and there was some heavy fighting all along the line.

**May 6: [Battle of the Wilderness]:** To day we put up some defenses and in the fore part of the evening we had a fight. They turned

our right flank. I was wounded in the fore front part of the action, between the elbow and shoulder of the right arm. I came out of the fight and had the ball taken out and done at the 2nd Div's hospital.



New Tactic: Private Jennings' Wilderness wound caused him to miss the May 10, 1864, attack at Spotsylvania designed and spearheaded by Colonel Emory Upton. The attack consisted of 12 regiments aligned in a compact formation. The units advanced rapidly without firing before they struck a narrow section of the Confederate works. The human sledgehammer broke through, but the success was wasted when reinforcements failed to show up and help seal the victory. Nonetheless, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant was impressed and promoted Upton to brigadier general. (Map Graphics © DFL Group 2019)

Albert's wounding spared him some of the most costly fighting the 121st New York would endure. On May 10, the 121st formed part of Upton's innovative, concentrated attack on the Mule Shoe at Spotsylvania, which breached the enemy fortifications. A lack of reinforcements, however, undid the Union gains. Still, the assault earned Upton a promotion to brigadier general. On July 10, the regiment boarded steamers heading

north toward Washington, D.C., to resist Jubal Early's advance on the Union capital following his victory at the Battle of Monocacy. The New Yorkers then joined Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley and participated in the fighting at Opequon, the Third Battle of Winchester, Fisher's Hill, and Cedar Creek. The regiment eventually bid farewell to General Upton at Harpers Ferry that November when he was assigned a division in Maj. Gen. James Wilson's Western cavalry force. In early December, the 121st rejoined Grant's army at Petersburg. Albert Jennings returned to the 121st New York at Petersburg after a month-long furlough and five months at Washington's Emory Convalescent Hospital. Early February brought Jennings and the 121st a return to fighting at Hatcher's Run, as Grant moved left to overextend and thin Lee's lines guarding Petersburg. By the end of March, the regiment took part in repulsing Lee's last assault, at Fort Stedman, before advancing at long last into Petersburg.

## 1865

### February 6: [Battle of Hatcher's Run]:

We advanced about three miles and got engaged with the Johnnies. Just before sundown W Greggs was very severely wounded.....We were relieved by a portion of the 5 Corps.....Received a letter from Mat.

**March 22:** Today we were reviewed by Genl. Meade, Wright, Wheaton, and Admiral Porter. It is very hot and pleasant....

**March 25: [Battle of Fort Stedman]:** The Johnnies attacked on our right and we had to go down, but it all was over with when we got there. We come back and went to the left and made a charge on the enemy's lines and drove them in and took some 400 prisoners. I am feeling well. We only had a few men

killed and wounded in our regt. I blistered my feet considerable in the march....

**April 2:** This morning at 1 o'clock we moved off to the left. We made a charge on the enemy works and then took them and captured thirteen pieces of artillery and 500 prisoners. [We] had one man killed (J. Hendrix) and a few wounded....Were relieved by the 24th Corps and went down to the right. Near the 9th Corps, [the] 24th Corps and our Brigade were sent down to the left to support the 9th Corps. We were under a pretty sharp fire....We remained in the enemy works until four o'clock and then advanced on Petersburg, where we arrived and entered the city at day light. Marched through some of the principal streets and were then sent out to patrol the city for prisoners. We stayed until near noon and then returned to our old camp for our knapsacks and remained there one hour and again marched off to the left. We marched until seven o'clock and went into camp for the night—having marched about 10 miles from Petersburg. I am feeling well but rather sore about the feet.

Lee and his army abandoned Richmond, and the 121st New York joined in pursuing the Confederates. During the Battle of Sailor's Creek, the 121st accepted the surrender of General Lee's oldest son, Custis Lee, and General Richard Ewell and his corps. By April 9, the 121st arrived at Appomattox Court House, where the New Yorkers witnessed the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia.



Born Leader: Emory Upton's professionalism and genius still inspire American military leaders. (National Archives)

### **Emory Upton: Military Visionary**

The real gem of Albert Jennings' diary is his transcript of Emory Upton's farewell address to the 121st New York, given at Harpers Ferry in late November 1864. Jennings was in the hospital at the time and did not hear the address in person, but might have seen the text while working as the regiment's clerk, which he then copied into his journal. Here is his version of Upton's words, published for the first time.

#### **Genl. Upton's Farewell Address to the 121st Regt NY Vols**

*In talking of the gallant regt. which I have had the honor so long to command, I cannot refrain from expressing the affection and regard I feel for those brave officers & men with whom I have been so long & pleasantly associated. I thank you everyone for the*

*kindness and courtesy which has ever shown me, and the alacrity with which my orders have been obeyed. Your record is one of honor, and I shall ever with pride claim association with the 121st Regt. The distinguished past—borne by you in the battles of Salem Heights, Rappahannock Station, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, Winchester, Fisher’s Hill, Cedar Creek and many others—has made for you a history second to no regt. in the Army. But above all that is the present satisfaction of having voluntarily periled your lives in the defense of the noblest governments on earth and by your valor helped to place its flag first among nations. Many of you cannot reap the immediate reward of your service but the time is fast approaching when to have participated in your glorious battles will entitle you to the highest respect among men. Let your future rival them in valor and devotion. I leave you in brave hands and part from you with sincere regret.*

*Brigadier Gen E. Upton*

**Upton was born** on August 27, 1839, in Batavia, N.Y., to a family of Methodist reformers. He was an ardent abolitionist long before entering Oberlin College and, in 1856, West Point. Graduating eighth in the Class of 1861, he rose quickly through the ranks, first with the 4th and then the 5th U.S. Artillery, before landing a post on Brig. Gen. Daniel Tyler’s staff. In this capacity, Upton was wounded during the Battle of Blackburn’s Ford—the day before the First Battle of Bull Run. Returning to the 5th U.S. Battery, Upton led it through the Peninsula Campaign and rose yet again to command the 6th Corps’ 1st Division artillery brigade during the Maryland Campaign, a position that introduced Upton to the 121st’s Colonel Franchot.

After the war, Upton returned to West Point as commandant from 1870-1875, and advocated for the Army reforms his personal study and Civil War experience suggested the United States needed. He favored abandoning line formations in favor of small unit assaults based in part on the operations of Civil War skirmishers—outlined in his 1867 manual *Infantry Tactics*.

After conducting a detailed survey of military forces around the world in the wake of the Franco-Prussian War, he wrote *The Armies of Europe and Asia*. This work argued for a larger, permanent standing U.S. Army and introduced the first moves toward professionalizing the Army—advocating regular performance reviews and examination-based promotions—as well as proposing creating a Prussian-style General Staff and establishing service-specific military schools. Upton expanded on these ideas in his draft work *The Military Policy of the United States from 1775*, which was published after his death. Tragically, Upton had for years suffered from tremendous headaches—probably the result of a tumor—which may have caused the 41-year-old to end his life on March 15, 1881.

**April 4:** To day we broke camp at half past three o’clock A.M. and moved out at five o’clock. We marched about 8 miles and went into camp for the night at a little after dark....



*From The Attic: This small box, owned by a Jennings relative, contains his veteran ribbons. Aside from his diary, they are the only known mementoes of his military service. (Courtesy of Rose Button)*

**April 6 [Battle of Sailor’s Creek]:** ... We broke camp at daylight and moved off by the left flank. We got into a fight before night. G. Lampshear was killed and J. Morris. We had several killed in the Regt. and 14 wounded. We captured Gen Ewell and Gen Lee’s son.

**April 9:** Today we broke camp at day light and...overtook the second Corps. It is pleasant but there is some cannonading in front. 2 pm the Rebel Army was surrendered by Genl Lee. There was considerable noise made in honor of it among the soldiers. There was two hundred guns fired in honor....

The war was over for Albert Jennings and his comrades in the 121st New York. After participating in the Grand Review of the Army of the Potomac in Washington, D.C., on May 23, the regiment mustered out on June 25, 1865.

Jennings returned home to New York, completed high school, and married Martha Woolever on April 19, 1866. Jennings and his wife moved to nearby Dodgeville, where

Albert worked as a carpenter in the Albert Dodge Piano and Felt Factory, until moving to Lloyd sometime before 1900. Jennings suffered a heart attack while attending a G.A.R. encampment in Saratoga Springs, and passed away on September 13, 1907.

*David A. Welker is the author of *Tempest at Ox Hill: The Battle of Chantilly*, among other publications on the war. He served as a U.S. government historian and military analyst for 35 years and lives in Centreville, Va., with his wife.*

*Jeffrey R. Fortais is an avid military historian and collector who frequently gives presentations on the Civil War and World War II. A technology teacher for 23 years, he lives in Camillus, N.Y., with his wife and two daughters.*

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## Civil War chaplains honored by Freedoms Foundation



*Attendees at Wednesday’s Chaplain’s Memorial Rededication were encouraged to look at the memorials nearby after the ceremony. Marian Davis MediaNews Group*

By Marian Dennis mdennis@21st-centurymedia.com @MarianDennis1 on Twitter June 20, 2019



SCHUYLKILL TWP. — "To ease another's heartache is to forget one's own."

Those famous words were spoken by Abraham Lincoln and on Wednesday, four individuals who best exemplified the phrase were honored with a ceremony.

The Chaplains Memorial Rededication ceremony Wednesday, held at the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, honored four men who were previously not recognized at the nearby Medal of Honor Grove.

These four men included John Milton Whitehead, James Hill, Francis Bloodgood Hall and Milton Lorenzo Haney.

The chaplains were each awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor for their bravery during the Civil War but had not been included in nearby memorials. The Freedoms Foundation took time Wednesday to identify the heroic deeds of the men.

According to the program, John Milton Whitehead, 15th Indiana Infantry, "Went to the front during a desperate contest and unaided carried to the rear several wounded and helpless soldiers."

Similar citations were made regarding the other three men. James Hill, First Lieutenant, 21st Iowa Infantry, is said to have "by skillful and brave management captured three of the enemy's pickets."

Francis Goodblood Hall, 16th New York Infantry, "voluntarily exposed himself to a heavy fire during the thickest of the fight and carried wounded men to the rear for treatment and attendance."

Lastly, Milton Lorenzo Haney, 55th Illinois Infantry, "voluntarily carried a musket in the ranks of his regiment and rendered heroic

service in retaking the Federal works which had been captured by the enemy."

During the ceremony Wednesday, guests heard from Congressional Medal of Honor recipient James McCloughan on the importance of remembering brave men and women.

"The meat of the Medal of Honor citation reads, 'For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of one's life above and beyond the call of duty.' That's a short sentence that means a lot. These men that you're going to honor today I'm sure did not carry a weapon except for one, who carried a musket," said McCloughan. "That was not the battle that they wanted to fight. The battle they wanted to fight was the spirit of the men that they went out to serve with."

McCloughan went on to talk about the lessons he personally learned from his service and tasked those in attendance to take that lesson and apply it to their lives.

McCloughan described his second day serving in Vietnam. He was called to assist a wounded man after being injured himself. When he went to assist him, he saw he was wounded in his stomach with some of his organs coming out of his abdomen. He used his own water to keep the organs from drying out and carried the man in his arms through gunfire.

"While I was there I was trying to anticipate how I was going to carry him because I couldn't throw him over my shoulder. I finally decided him to cradle him like a baby ... Back then I could get down really low and get through the crossfire and weave and we wouldn't get hit. Out of nowhere came a thought— that I had not told my father since I was a small boy that I loved him," said McCloughan.

McCoughan explained afterward that he made sure to tell everyone he knew how he felt about them. He then encouraged those in attendance to tell their family and friends often that they loved them. He concluded by telling guests that his experience on the battlefield was his biggest lesson.

"If I've learned anything through my lifetime it's that sometimes we neglect those whom we should revere the most. These men cared about those they didn't even know. They cared about a Jim McCloughan and that Jim McCloughan maintained his spiritual health as well as anything else. If we lose that we're dead anyway."

McCloughan then led the crowd in a singing of "God Bless America" followed by a closing performance of "Taps" on the bugle.

Guests were then encouraged to walk outside to Medal of Honor Grove to take a look at the new sign honoring the four newly recognized chaplains.

Founded in 1949 by E.F. Hutton, Don Belding, Kenneth Wells, and General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Freedoms Foundation is located on 75 acres in the heart of Valley Forge. The group is a national educational non-profit welcoming thousands of people a year to participate in programs to encourage engaged, responsible citizenship based on the Bill of Responsibilities the group created in 1985.

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## **Atlanta History Center acquires rare Civil War African American troop flag**

Posted by Evelyn Andrews | Jun 14, 2019



*The front of the 127th United States Colored Troops flag. (Special)*

The Atlanta History Center in Buckhead has acquired a rare, historic flag for an African American Civil War troop, the museum announced.

The flag, which was used by the 127th United States Colored Troops, is one of fewer than 25 known carried by African American soldiers. The museum plans to put it on exhibit as soon as possible.

The artifact is “key to the story of Civil War” and helps the History Center continue its mission of increasing inclusivity, the museum said. The flag was purchased June 13 for \$196,800, the most the museum has ever paid for a single artifact, it said.

The History Center rarely makes major purchases for its collections, which have grown over nine decades mainly through donations of artifacts. But acquiring the flag, which was purchased through an auction, was seen by the History Center leadership as “an important opportunity to expand its narrative about the often-forgotten service of the USCT during the Civil War.”

“We want to tell the entire story of the Civil War and how it impacts our country,”

Atlanta History Center President and CEO Sheffield Hale said in the release. “This flag is worth it in exhibit value alone. It’s one of those things that doesn’t need words to tell you what it is and what it represents.”

The History Center has been growing its Civil War exhibits, including acquiring and restoring the historic “Battle of Atlanta” Cyclorama painting. Also part of the exhibit is a historic streetlamp from Underground Atlanta that was named for an African American barber killed during the Civil War.

At least 180,000 African Americans served in the United States Colored Troops, a special branch of the U.S. Army formed after the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863. Objects specifically identified with soldiers or regiments of the United States Colored Troops “are extraordinarily scarce.”

“It’s an iconic knock-your-socks-off artifact,” Atlanta History Center Military Historian and Curator Gordon Jones said in the release. “Even an enlisted man’s USCT uniform wouldn’t be as historically significant as this flag.”



*The back of the 127th United States Colored Troops flag. (Special)*

Measuring 72 by 55 inches, the silk banner depicts a black soldier carrying a rifle and bidding farewell to Columbia, the mythical goddess of liberty. A motto above the soldier reads “We will prove ourselves men.” On the flag’s reverse side, an American bald eagle bears a ribbon with the nation’s motto “E pluribus unum” — or, “Out of many, one.”

This is the only surviving example of 11 flags painted by African American artist David Bustill Bowser, who lived from 1820-1890. Bowser was a noted Philadelphia sign-painter, portraitist and anti-slavery activist noted for his portraits of John Brown and President Abraham Lincoln, the release said.

For many years the flag was housed at the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Library in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Because much of the silk had deteriorated, the flag was carefully restored and framed. Nearly all other USCT flags are in institutional collections.

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### **Civil War plant guide reveals 3 plants with antibiotic properties**

Published Monday 10 June 2019  
By Chiara Townley MedicalNewsToday  
Fact checked by Jasmin Collier

Scientists have found that extracts from plants that people used to treat infections during the Civil War have antimicrobial activity against drug-resistant bacteria.



*The tulip poplar is one of the plants the scientists examined.*

The Civil War began in 1861 as a result of growing tensions over slavery and states' rights between the northern and southern states.

The southern states had seceded in 1860 and formed the Confederate States of America.

The war Civil War ended with the Confederate surrender in 1865.

During part of the war, Confederate surgeons did not have reliable access to medicines because the Union Navy prevented the Confederacy from trading.

As infection rates rose among the wounded, the Confederate Surgeon General commissioned a guide to plant remedies.

Francis Porcher, a botanist and surgeon, compiled a book called *Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests*. It lists medicinal plants of the southern states, including plant remedies that Native Americans and slaves used.

The Confederate Surgeon General, Samuel Moore, drew from Porcher's work to create a paper titled "Standard supply table of the

indigenous remedies for field service and the sick in general hospitals."

### **Studying plant remedies from the Civil War**

Scientists from Emory University in Atlanta, GA, analyzed the properties of extracts from some of plants that people used during the Civil War. Their results appear in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

Their findings show that these plants have antimicrobial activity against multidrug-resistant bacteria linked to wound infections. Specifically, they were effective against *Acinetobacter baumannii*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Klebsiella pneumoniae*.

Senior study author Cassandra Quave, an assistant professor at Emory University's Center for the Study of Human Health and the School of Medicine's Department of Dermatology, is an ethnobotanist. This is a discipline that studies the uses of plants in different cultures throughout history.



*'Starving' fungus of iron may treat drug-resistant infection*

*Using a drug that depletes *Candida albicans* of iron halves its survival rate.*

*Read now*

"Our findings suggest that the use of these topical therapies may have saved some limbs, and maybe even lives, during the Civil War," explains Quave.

The researchers focused on three plant species that Porcher cited that grow on the Emory campus: the white oak, the tulip poplar, and a shrub called the devil's walking stick.

They gathered samples from campus specimens and tested extracts on multidrug-resistant bacteria.

### Testing plants to aid modern wound care

First study author Micah Dettweiler used the Civil War plant guide for his honors thesis at Emory. He has a degree in biology and works as a research specialist in the Quave laboratory.

During the course of his studies, he was surprised to learn that many Civil War soldiers died from disease on the battlefield, and how common amputation was as a medical treatment. The American Battlefield Trust estimate that about 1 in 13 of those who survived the Civil War had to undergo amputations.

According to the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, at the time of the Civil War, germ theory and medical training were in their infancy. Doctors used tonics, iodine, and bromine to treat infections, quinine for malaria, and morphine and chloroform to reduce pain.

**"Our research might one day benefit modern wound care if we can identify which compounds are responsible for the antimicrobial activity," says Dettweiler.**

Study co-author Daniel Zurawski — chief of pathogenesis and virulence for the Wound Infections Department at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Silver Spring, MD — believes in learning from the wisdom of our ancestors. He also hopes that researchers can test these plant compounds in world-renowned models of bacterial infection.

"Plants have a great wealth of chemical diversity, which is one more reason to protect natural environments," concludes Dettweiler.

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*A recent re-enactment of the battle of Resaca in Georgia.*

**As recent events change how visitors see Confederate imagery, sites work to broaden the audience**

By Cameron McWhirter | Photographs by Jarrett Christian for The Wall Street Journal  
May 25, 2019 5:30 am ET

FORT OGLETHORPE, Ga.—Is Civil War tourism history?

Once a tourism staple for many Southern states and a few Northern ones, destinations related to the 1860s war are drawing fewer visitors. Historians point to recent fights over Confederate monuments and a lack of

interest by younger generations as some of the reasons.

The National Park Service's five major Civil War battlefield parks—Gettysburg, Antietam, Shiloh, Chickamauga/Chattanooga and Vicksburg—had a combined 3.1 million visitors in 2018, down from about 10.2 million in 1970, according to park-service data. Gettysburg, in Pennsylvania, the most famous battle site, had about 950,000 visitors last year, just 14% of its draw in 1970 and the lowest annual number of visitors since 1959. Only one of these parks, Antietam, in Maryland, has seen an increase from 1970.

When Louis Varnell opened a military-memorabilia store near Chickamauga Battlefield here in the 2000s, he had several competitors. Today, his store is the only one left. Only about 10% to 20% of his sales are Civil War-related; he mostly sells stuff from World War II or other conflicts, he said.



*A line of Union soldiers at the recent Resaca re-enactment.*

The number of Civil War re-enactors, hobbyists who meet to re-create the appearance of a particular battle or event in period costume, also is declining. They are growing too old or choosing to re-enact as

Vietnam War soldiers or cowboys, said Mr. Varnell, 49 years old.

“Cowboy re-enacting is where bitter, jaded Civil War re-enactors go,” he said, standing by a cash register surrounded by Civil War relics and flags.

Mike Brown, 68, still plays part of the cavalry at Civil War re-enactments and recently helped organize a recreation of the Battle of Resaca in Georgia. “The younger generations are not taught to respect history, and they lose interest in it,” he said.

More recent history is also damping interest, said Kevin Levin, author of a coming book on the war. The fatal 2015 shooting of nine black churchgoers in Charleston, S.C., by a white man who had embraced the Confederate battle flag and the 2017 white-nationalist rally around a Robert E. Lee statue in Charlottesville, Va., has transformed how people view Confederate imagery and, in turn, Civil War-related historic sites.





*Rum Creek Sutler in Jonesboro, Ga., sells memorabilia for re-enactors and spectators.*

For decades, the focus of many historic sites and events was on “who shot who where,” said Glenn Brasher, an adjunct history instructor at the University of Alabama. “It had no explanation of why people were there shooting each other,” he said.

### **Share Your Thoughts**

*How should Civil War sites get more people to visit? Join the conversation below.*

Now, some museums and historical sites are working to draw a broader audience— younger visitors as well as more minorities and women—by telling a more complete story about the great conflict. Once underplayed subjects, such as slavery’s role in causing the war, are getting more prominence, with new exhibits in Richmond, Va., Atlanta and elsewhere.

This month, the new American Civil War Museum opened in Richmond with expansive exhibits, including of battles and generals, but also information on slavery and the war’s impact on civilians. The new museum was born from the merger six years ago of two Richmond museums, one of which was the Museum of the Confederacy.

Chief Executive Christy Coleman said the new museum’s goal is to explore the stories of more people involved in the conflict, including slaves and women.

“We’re taking [the Civil War] back from the crazies,” she said, referring to people who argue slavery wasn’t a central issue of the conflict.



*Men and women of the 6th Georgia Cavalry charging Union soldiers during the battle of Resaca re-enactment*

In February, the Atlanta History Center opened a new exhibit displaying the cyclorama, an enormous painting of the Battle of Atlanta. The new exhibit more than doubled attendance at the center from February to May compared with the same period last year, according to the museum. The exhibit includes displays dispelling myths about the war and slavery.

In recent years, the National Park Service launched an effort to have more exhibits and programs about causes of the war and the slave experience, said Brandon Bies, superintendent of Manassas National Battlefield Park in Virginia. Some battlefields closer to major cities have seen more visitors, but many are interested in

hiking and other outdoor activities, not necessarily the war, he said.

On a recent weekday here on Lookout Mountain, a modest stream of mostly older visitors came to see the scenic park marking a Union victory. They studied the monuments and cannons and enjoyed the vistas of Chattanooga, Tenn., and the Tennessee River.

Bonnie Knott, 72, from Amherst, N.H., who was visiting with her husband and friends, said learning that her ancestors fought for the Union pulled her into reading about the war, and she thought genealogy could work to lure younger people, too.

Antron Benbow, 42, who was visiting from the Tampa, Fla., area, said Americans should study the battles and the causes behind them. "It's important to know how it happened," he said, "and why it happened."



*Spectators at the end of the Resaca re-enactment.*

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## **Civil War Colored Troops names to be added to Soldiers' and Sailors'**

## **Monument at Juneteenth celebration**

Updated Jun 11, 2019; Posted Jun 11, 2019



*The Plain Dealer*

*The names of 107 U.S. Colored Troops veterans will be added in ceremonies June 19 to those of Civil War veterans from Cuyahoga County already listed inside the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument on Public Square in downtown Cleveland.*

By Brian Albrecht, The Plain Dealer

CLEVELAND, Ohio – More than 150 years ago, former slave and black Civil War Union soldier Samuel Cabbie wrote home to his wife: "*What a happy time that will be when this ungodly rebellion shall be put down and the curses of our land is trampled under our feet i am a soldier now and i shall use my utmost endeavor to strike at the rebellion and the heart of this system that so long has kept us in chains.*"

The Massachusetts soldier was one of an estimated 180,000 U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) combatants fighting for the Union during the Civil War. Their number included 107 veterans from Cuyahoga County who



will be honored Wednesday, June 19, by the Cuyahoga County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument on Public Square.

The names of these Colored Troops Veterans will be announced for inclusion on the Monument's Roll of Honor, where the names of 9,000 other Civil War veterans from Cuyahoga County are already listed and enshrined.

The 11 a.m. ceremony comes after 17 years of work finding and verifying the veterans' names and service records, and will take place on Juneteenth, a day that originated in 1865 to celebrate African-American Emancipation in the U.S.

The names of the latest 107 black veterans will be read aloud, in keeping with the sentiment that a man is not really dead if his name is still spoken, according to Tim Daley, executive director of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument.

"We are going to speak these gentlemen's names aloud, we're going bring them to life, we're going to recognize them and put them in their proper place in the monument," Daley said.

The 107 veterans — representing more than two dozen units including infantry, artillery and cavalry — will join the names of 23 other local Colored Troops already listed on the walls inside the monument.

The new names will be listed on paper, along with their rank and unit, in two frames placed near a wall panel showing the names of 21 Colored Troops Veterans displayed at the time that the monument was dedicated in 1894.

Daley said the documentation to include more Colored Troops names when the

Monument was built wasn't readily available. "They did the best they could with the records they had," he said.

According to a Monument news release, the June 19 ceremony is the result of a long process of documentation that started in 2002 when high school history teacher Paul La Rue, of Washington Court House, and his students started researching seven USCT veterans buried in a local cemetery. Their efforts led to installation of new military headstones for the veterans' graves.

They continued their work on other USCT burials in the state, and the governor's office provided them with copies of Ohio Civil War enlistment records.

Monument officials learned of their efforts and offered use of their own records to help identify and authenticate Cuyahoga County veterans.

The recent digitization of documents such as pension records has immensely helped in the process, according to Daley.

As the work continues, he estimated that another 30 to 50 USCT veterans from the county could be authenticated and added to the Monument's Roll of Honor in coming years.

An estimated 5,000 Ohio soldiers served in the ranks of USCT soldiers who fought in several notable battles including the Battle of the Crater during the Siege of Petersburg, and the battles for Fort Wagner (featured in the 1989 movie "Glory") and Nashville.

They were among the first Union troops to enter the Confederate capital of Richmond after its fall in 1865, and were present at the surrender of Rebel forces in Appomattox. Some 25 USCT veterans were awarded the

Medal of Honor before the unit was disbanded in 1865.

Monument staff is currently working to develop the stories behind the new names. They've learned that five of the 107 were killed in battle.

"We're hoping as we make the announcement that people will come forward and say 'this gentleman was our ancestor,' " Daley said. "We're announcing the names in the hopes that people might be able to share their story, share their information and help fill that historical record."

The names will also be read aloud on July 4 during ceremonies honoring the 125th anniversary of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument.

"Our mission is for the perpetual remembrance of these men," Daley said. "That is our charge. These men have a right to be recognized."

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## In the Museum: How hardtack won the Civil War

BRUCE GARDOW Jun 15, 2019



Hardtack was an essential part of a soldier's life, Bruce Gardow writes. Here, a sample of hardtack is pictured from the Dunn County Historical Society.

CONTRIBUTED, Bruce Gardow Dunn County News

What is hardtack? Hardtack is a simple biscuit or cracker made from water, flour and sometimes salt.

The purpose of hardtack was as a food on lengthy military campaigns such as the Civil War.

To our Menomonic boys of Company "K," hardtack was a staple of their diet, sometimes being the only thing they had to eat.

Hardtack had some interesting names. It was referred to as dog biscuits, molar breakers, sheet iron, tooth dullers and worm castles. The later was sorrowfully, more often than not true.

The photograph of the hardtack is a rare intact example of this tasty treat.

It more than likely came from one of two places. It may have been in the possession of one of our brave boys, or it was part of a barrel of hardtack made for a later-held reunion.

Let's use our imaginations and assume that it was in the possession of one of our troops. Did our piece of hardtack experience the Battle of Gettysburg? What stories could it tell us about that epic confrontation?

Was it with the Wisconsin troops in Washington when President Lincoln and Julia Ward Howe reviewed the Wisconsin troops as they created the song "Battle

Hymn of the Republic,” which shortly thereafter was published by Howe? Or was our cracker present at Appomattox when General Lee surrendered his troops? Or was it really part of a barrel of hardtack made for a reunion?

Medical doctors of the day associated most medical problems with digestion. Hence, for sustenance and health, eating a hardtack cracker daily was considered good for one’s constitution.

Bakers of the day played their part as well. They made the biscuits as hard as possible because the biscuit would soften and become more palatable with time, due to exposure to humidity and other weather elements.

Because it was hard and dry, with proper storage and handling, hardtack can last indefinitely. As a matter of fact, early hardtack used at the beginning of the Civil War was leftover from the Mexican-American War.

With insect infestation common in improperly stored provisions, soldiers would break up the hardtack and drop it in their morning coffee. This would not only soften the hardtack but the insects, mostly weevil larvae, would float to the top, allowing the soldiers to skim off the insects and continue to consume the beverage.

Some men also turned hardtack into a mush by breaking it up with blows from their rifle butts, then adding water.

If the men had a frying pan they could fry the mush into a lumpy pancake; otherwise they dropped the mush directly on the coals of their campfire.

They also mixed hardtack with brown sugar, hot water, and sometimes whiskey to create what they called a pudding to serve as dessert.

This story could well be called “How hardtack won the Civil War.”

*Bruce Gardow is a volunteer at the Dunn County Historical Museum who shares his extensive knowledge as he explores some of the many treasures that exist in the archives of the Dunn County Historical Society’s Rassbach Heritage Museum, located at 1820 Wakanda St. in Menomonie’s Wakanda Park.*

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