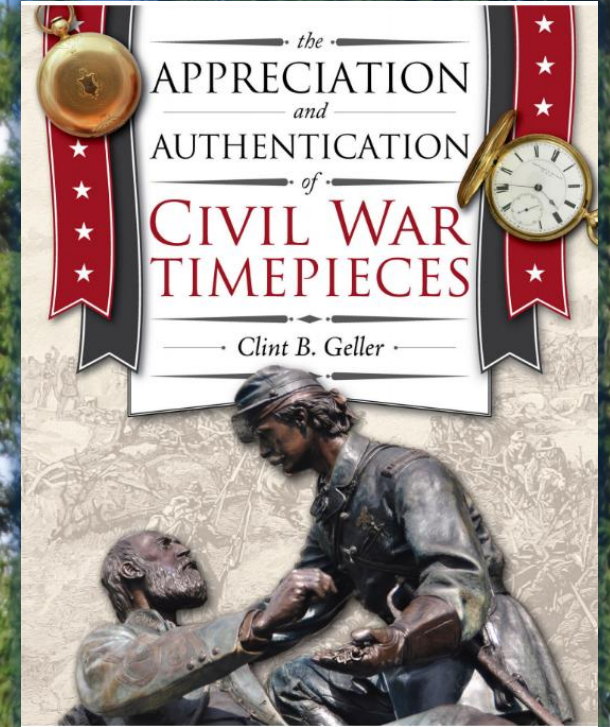


CLINT GELLER'S CIVIL WAR WATCH & RELATED ARTIFACT COLLECTION

- ▶ PART III: Line Officers,
- ▶ Navy Warrant Officers,
- ▶ & Enlisted Men
- ▶ December 9, 2025



PROVENANCES & WATCHES

General Officers - Part I

Brevet Major General John Wallace Fuller – **Fuller's OH Brigade** – **Waltham AT&Co Grade KW16**, 18K HC
Brigadier General William Jackson Palmer – **Col. 15th PA Cavalry** – **Waltham AT&Co Grade KW16** with aftermarket SW/pin setting, 18K E.T.&Co. HC
Brigadier General Joseph Tarr Copeland – **MI Cavalry Brigade** – **Waltham AT&Co Grade Model 1857**, J. R. Reed & Co. 18K HC
Brevet Brigadier General George Washington Gallup – **14th KY Infantry** – **Swiss Lepine Caliber Type V**, 18K HC with extra rear lid for holding a picture

Field Officers - Part II

Colonel Leonard H. Harris – **2nd OH Infantry** – **Waltham AT&Co Grade KW16** w. patent vibrating hairspring stud, 18K Baldwin Reversible Case w. black enamel decorations
Lieutenant Colonel John Hodges Jr. – **59th MA Infantry** – **Waltham AT&Co Grade Model 1859**, silver AT&Co HC
Lieutenant Colonel Elial Foote Carpenter – **112th NY Infantry** – **Waltham Wm. Ellery grade Model 1857**, silver HC
Major Josiah Bottsford Cobb – **12th IN Cavalry** – **Waltham AT&Co Grade Model 1857** 18K HC
Major L. S. Van Vleet – **Adjutant QM, Army of the Tennessee** – **Ulysse Breting** pivoted detent chronometer, 18K HC
CSN O&H (CSN Commander John Mercer Brooke) – **Bureau of Ordnance & Hydrography** – **Unsigned English fusee lever**, Chester hallmarks for 1863-64, Sterling Silver HC

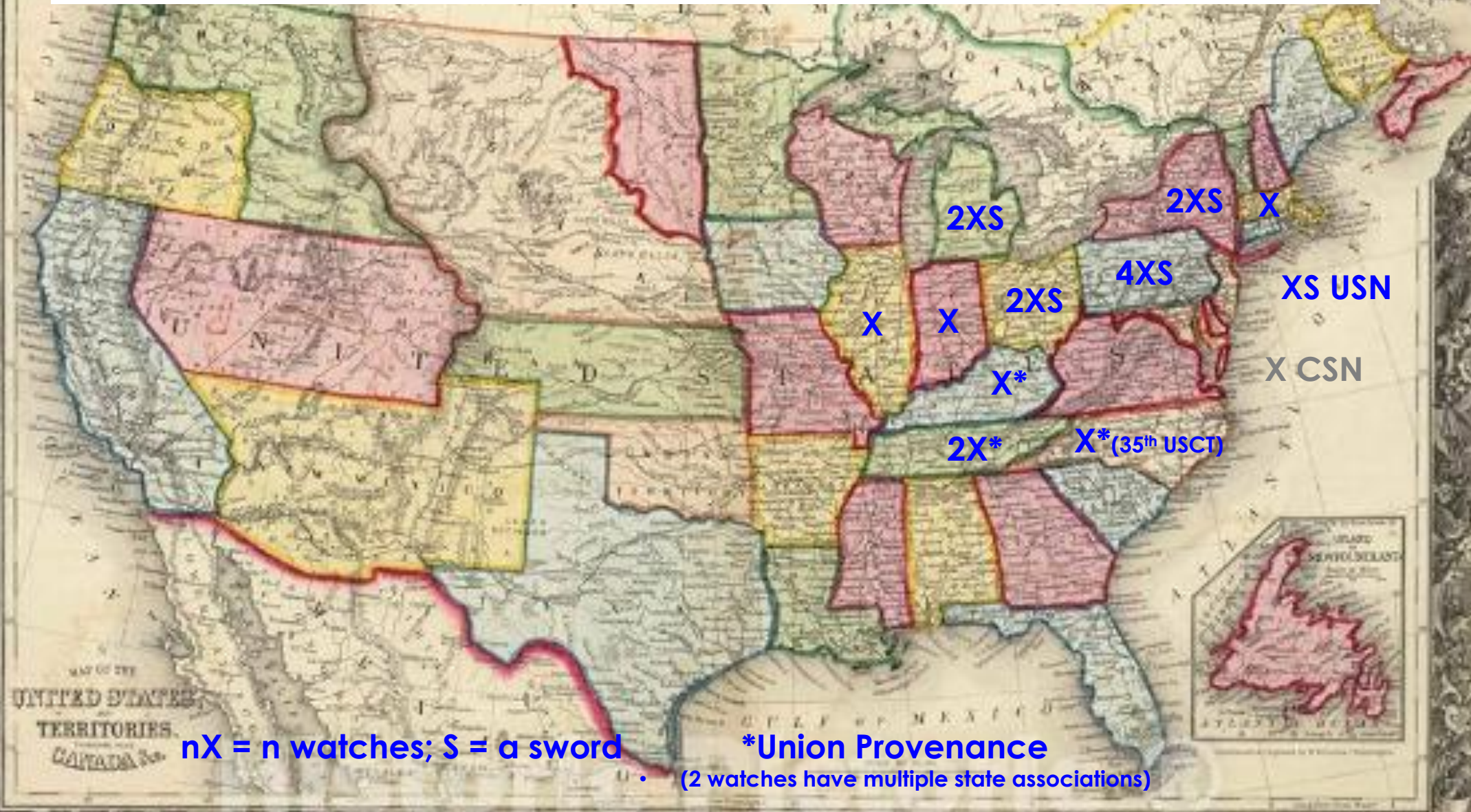


Line Officers, Navy Warrant Officers, and Enlisted Men - Part III



Captain John Eddy – **95th IL Infantry** – **Waltham AT&Co Grade KW20**, 18K HC with dual split push piece with lift springs on both lids
Captain William Wesley Mosier – **1st Union TN Cavalry** – **F. H. Clark**, Memphis TN, English private label, Sterling HC
Captain Edwin Ruthven Peckens – **52nd PA Infantry** – **English ¾ plate lever**, Adams & Co., Liverpool, 18K HC
Captain John Gregory Bourke – **15th PA & 3rd US Cavalry** – **English Thos. Russel & Son Lever Fusee**, Sterling silver HC – from friend John Clum, Indian Agent & Tombstone Mayor
1st Lieutenant James A. Sage – **25th MI Infantry** – **Waltham P. S. Bartlett Grade Model 1857**, coin silver HC
2nd Asst. Engineer (Warrant Officer) Charles Jabez Coney, USN – **USS Watchuseett & USS San Jacinto** – **Waltham 11J Wm. Ellery Model 1857** in **Waltham coin silver OF Case**, & **Model 1852 Naval officer's sword with matching presentation**
Private Benjamin Weston Woodward – **Army of the Potomac Subsistence Dept.** – **EH&Co. Model 1862-N (Series III)**, J. M. Harper 18K HC

States & Navies Represented in the Geller Civil War Provenance Watch Collection



CAPTAIN JOHN EDDY, 95TH IL INFANTRY & CAMP BUTLER

18K Semi-Drum Style Case



Dual Push Piece:



WATCH OF CAPTAIN JOHN EDDY, 95TH IL INFANTRY

WALTHAM KW20, 15 JEWEL AT&CO. GRADE, SN 100,822



The movement of Captain Eddy's 20 Size Waltham watch is an "Appleton, Tracy & Co." Grade $\frac{3}{4}$ plate movement with SN 100,822, finished in May, 1864, with 15 jewels in screwed down top plate jewel settings, an internal stopwork, and a temperature-compensated bimetallic balance with gold alloy screws. The single sunk Roman numeral enamel dial is signed "American Watch Company."

The inscription on the dust cover of this impressive 18K case reads:

Presented to
Capt. John Eddy
by his Friends of the Q. M. [Quartermaster] Dept., Apr. 1865,
Camp Butler, near Springfield Ill.



Captain John Eddy Watch – 20 Size 18K Case, 45 DWT Net Gold

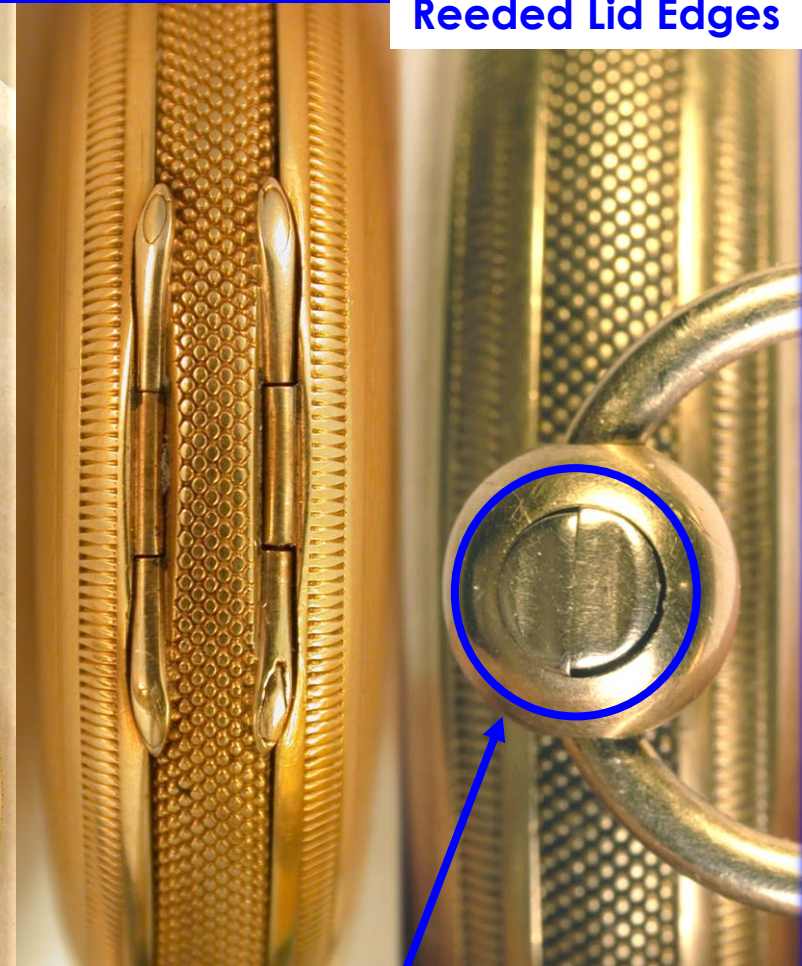
Beaded Rim with
Reeded Lid Edges



Cuvette Underside



No maker's mark



Dual Push Piece
with Two Lift
Springs Actu-
ating Both Lids,
A Rare Feature

The recipient of this princely gift, John Eddy, was born in 1821 in Devonshire England from which he emigrated in 1837. In 1862 he was a 41 year old farmer from Coral, McHenry County Illinois, who was elected as captain of Company E in the 95th Illinois Infantry. In 1864, he was sent home to recruit more troops for the Union cause, and later was assigned to Camp Butler near Springfield, where he served as the Assistant Quartermaster.



Captain John Eddy

95th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Service Summary

John Eddy served with the 95th Illinois Infantry in several battles of the Vicksburg Campaign as Union Major General Ulysses S. Grant fought his way down the Mississippi River in 1862-63. These were the battles of Raymond, Jackson, Big Black River, and Champion Hill, as well as the climactic Siege of Vicksburg. Following Captain Eddy's detachment from the regiment, the 95th Illinois Infantry fought at Pleasant Hill, Kennesaw Mountain, Atlanta, and Jonesboro as well.

The regiment suffered 7 officers and 77 enlisted men killed in action or who died of their wounds, and 1 officer and 204 enlisted men who died of disease, for a total of 289 fatalities.

The 95th Illinois saw its hardest fighting of the Vicksburg Campaign during the Siege of Vicksburg, after Capt. Eddy was detached to Camp Butler. On May 18, 1863 Grant's army reached the outskirts of Vicksburg and prepared to storm the Confederate defenses. The assault of the 95th Illinois on May 19 gained ground but was ordered back. Three days later the 95th was again sent forward as part of a major assault. They gained the crest of a ridge that allowed them to fire down into the Confederate trenches, but they were exposed and were absorbing too much crossfire to maintain their position and were again forced to retreat. Losses for the regiment in the two assaults totaled 25 killed, 124 wounded, and 10 missing.



Flag of the 95th Illinois Infantry Regiment

95th Illinois Infantry at Vicksburg



95th Illinois Unit Position Markers from the Siege of Vicksburg, MS
May, June & July, 1863

Camp Butler Near Springfield, Illinois, in August 1861

Sometime in 1864, Captain Eddy arrived at Camp Butler, a Union training base, which like several others, was located adjacent to a prison camp for captured Confederates. There Captain Eddy became the Assistant Quartermaster on or about January 1, 1865. He apparently served in that capacity well, as evidenced by the generous gift of a heavy gold watch costing in excess of \$100 that he received from his "friends" in the camp's Quartermaster Department. In May of that year, he was assigned to march with his division at the head of Lincoln's funeral procession.





John Eddy

John Eddy Post-War Career

After the war John Eddy returned to McHenry County, Illinois. He was active in his community and held numerous local offices over the years, including Sheriff, Supervisor, Justice of the Peace, School Trustee and Director. He was also active in the Grand Army of the Republic and in fact died suddenly on September 5, 1886 while addressing a group of Civil War veterans. His funeral services were held under GAR auspices.

Captain William Wesley Mosier

(1st Tennessee Cavalry, Company G - Union)



William & Talitha Mosier

William Wesley Mosier (June 28, 1834 to January 16, 1908) was one of approximately 116,000 Southern white unionists who fought for the Union during the ACW. Mosier was born in Sullivan County in northeast Tennessee, but sometime before 1850 his family relocated to possibly even more remote Scott County in southwest Virginia, a mountainous region unsuited for large plantation agriculture, and where the slave labor system had failed to sink deep roots. There in 1861, William Mosier and his brother Ira were conscripted, possibly at gunpoint, into the Confederate army. William served for a time with the 48th VA Infantry, part of Stonewall Jackson's storied force, and Ira served with the 21st VA Infantry. After probably less than a year, William deserted and made his way north to Union General George W. Morgan's force at Cumberland Gap, where he joined the Union Army. William's other brother Samuel joined and remained with the rebels, whereas reports of Ira's later war service conflict.

On July 1, 1862, William was enlisted in the Union 4th TN Mounted Infantry. A few months later this unit was reorganized at Camp Dennison, near Cincinnati Ohio, as the 1st East Tennessee (henceforth, 1st TN) Cavalry. Company G was added in Cumberland Gap, which apparently elected Mosier as their new captain. His first wife, Margaret MacMillan, died while he was in the service, but in 1866 William married Talitha Bledsoe from Newman Ridge, TN, with whom he remained until his death in 1908. Talitha was a Melungeon woman with an imprecisely defined tri-racial ancestry combining Europeans (possibly Portuguese, and possibly even Romani, as well as English), escaped African slaves, and native Americans. The Melungeons sometimes were known as "blue-eyed Christian indians." Mosier's choice of lifelong companion suggests he was likely a good deal less racist than most whites of his time and place. In or before 1880 Mosier and wife moved to Carter County Kentucky, where he is buried, and a great grandson reports that many of William and Talitha's descendants moved northward to the mills and factories of Ohio in succeeding generations.

Captain Mosier's Watch

"F. H. Clark & Co., Memphis Tenn", English 7 Jewel Private Label, Sterling silver swing-out hunting case; matching movement, case, and dial SNs, chain with battle-inscribed veteran's fob



"Shepherd's hook" style garment fastener,
popular during the ACW period



Lion Passant Sterling Silver
Assay Mark

Leopard's Head
London Town Mark

1858-59
Date Mark

Sterling Silver, London Date Marked 1858-59

Captain Mosier's watch is a very typical English import of the period, showing only the importing retailer's name on the movement and the dial. It is a 7-jewel full plate with lever escapement and fusee and an uncompensated steel balance wheel. Throughout much of the 1850's the English exported tens of thousands of watch movements to the US every year, most of them very much like Mosier's. Many English movements were cased in the US. Many others, like Mosier's, were cased in England. Captain Mosier's Sterling (92.5% pure) silver case, which has gold hinges, has finer construction and purer silver than most imported Swiss cases of the period, and the 1858/59 datemark and matching movement and case SN, 17,685, support the provenance's authenticity.



War of 1861
Engaged in the
above battles:

Shelbyville
Chickamauga
Moss[y] Creek
Daindridge
Dalton
Sevierville
Cassville
Kenesaw Mtn.
Franklin
Nashville
P[u]laski
Shoal Creek
Camp[b]ell[s]ville
La[V]er[g]ne

Capt.
W. W. Mosier
Co. G. 1st TN Cav.
Vol 1st Brig. 1st Div.
1st Cav. A. C.*

Mil^t. Dep^t. Miss

*Atlanta
Campaign



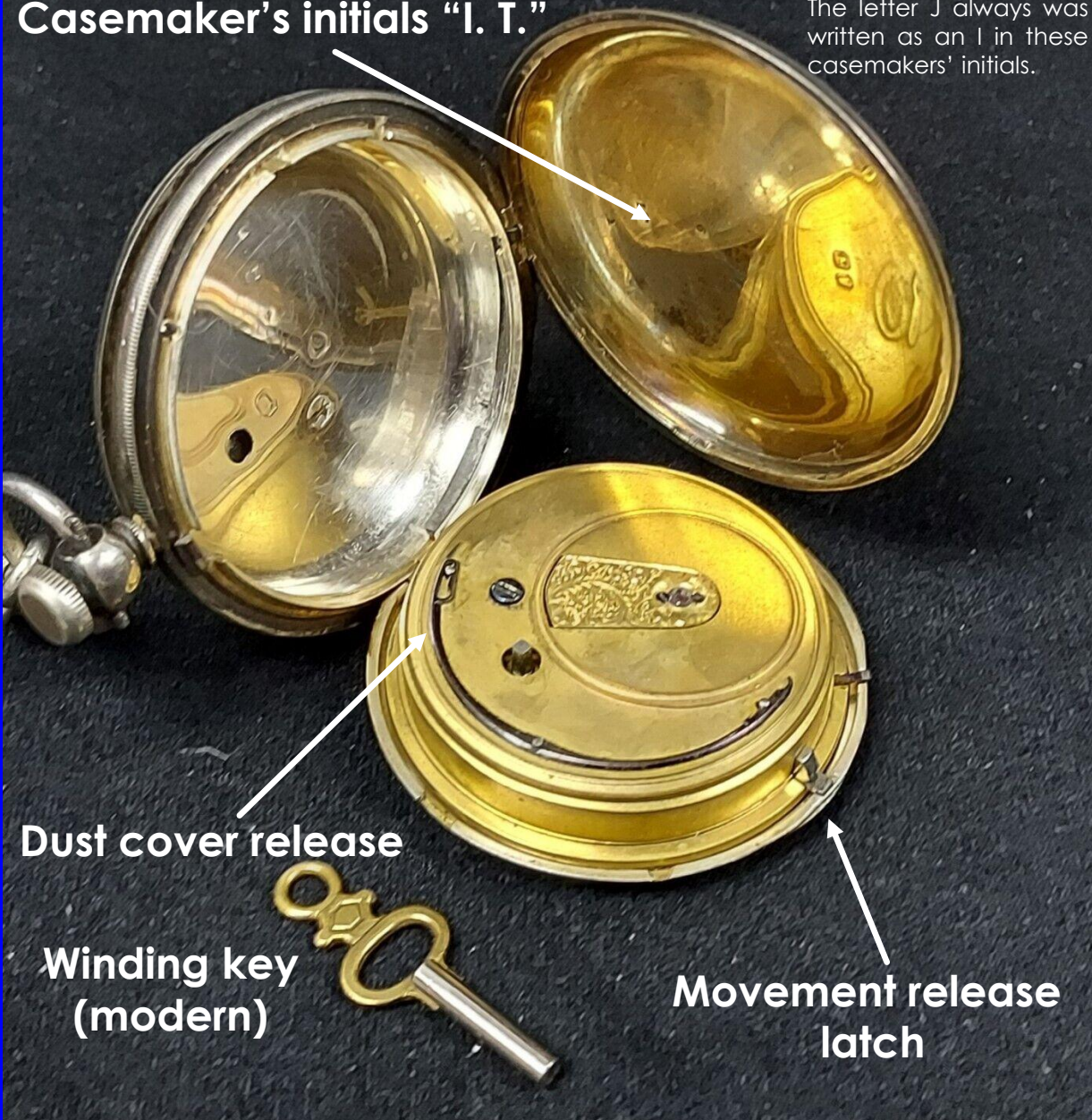
This fob likely was originally
badge, which was worn on his
attached through the two now emp-
badges often were personalized.

part of Mosier's corps
hat. It would have been
ty holes. Officers' corps

F. H. Clark & Co. of Memphis TN (1847-66) was a prominent business that sold many firearms as well as watches

Casemaker's initials "I. T."

The letter J always was written as an I in these casemakers' initials.



Captain Mosier's watch typifies the English style of watch case of the period in which the movement rotates out on a hinge when a latch is released. The latch is located at the 6 o'clock position on the dial. The case's London townmark (a leopard's head), the Sterling silver assay mark (a "lion passant" facing left), and the London datemark (a lower case Old English "c" within an oblong octagonal field) appear on the interior lid surfaces along with the casemaker's initials, "I. T.," for James Thickbroom of Clerkenwell. The datemark indicates that the case was assayed sometime between May 28, 1858 and May 27, 1859. (No distinction was made between the letters I and J on English watchcase makers' initials.)

Given the movement and dial signature, the watch likely arrived in Memphis, TN in either late 1858 or 1859. It is not known whether Mosier purchased it before, or during the war. Watch sales were slow nationwide in 1859 and likely abysmal in TN after 1860. Then Memphis became a major Union Army supply base after the city's capture on June 6, 1862, only a month before Mosier was commissioned in July, when his need for a watch would have become urgent.

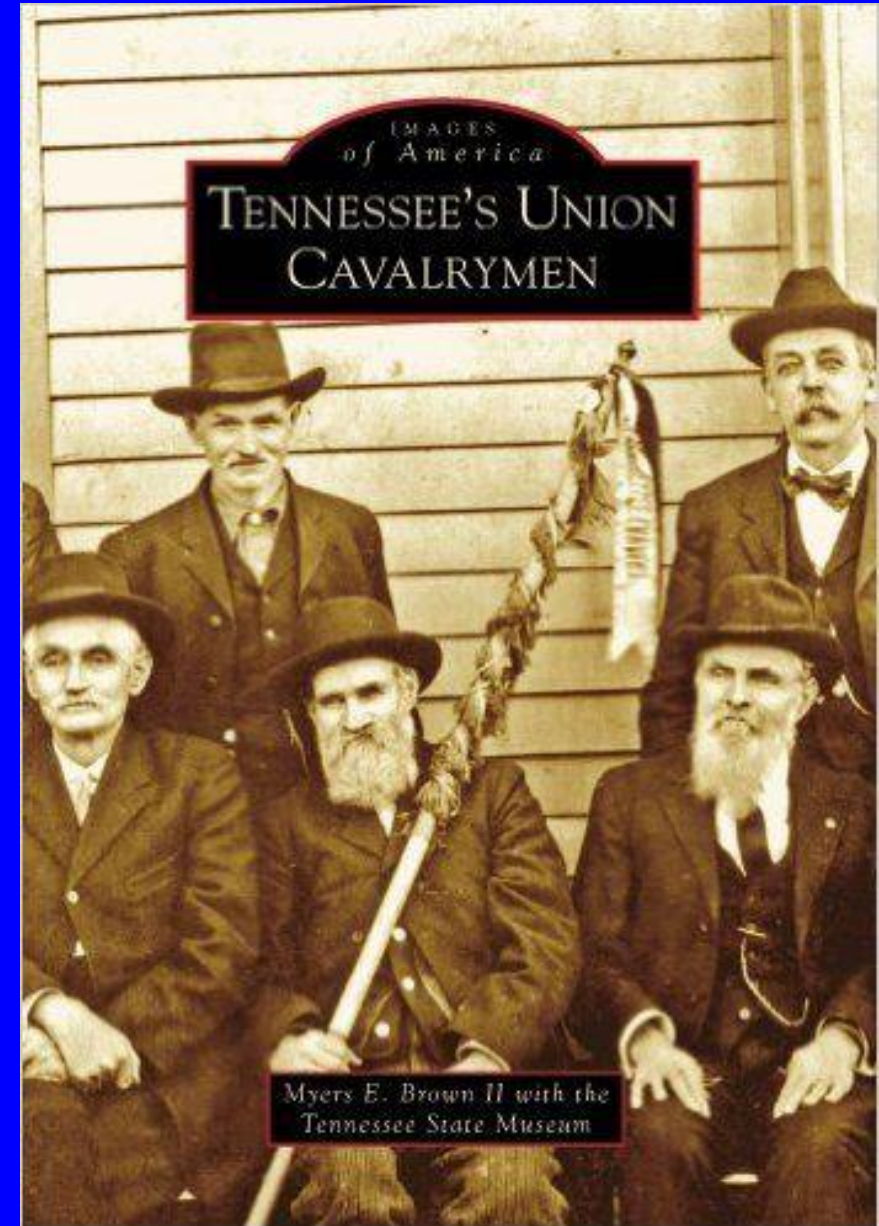
The movement's integral dust cover, which is released by sliding the blued steel release latch, also is visible at left. The winding arbor protrudes through the dust cover and the watch is set from the dial side.

Union 1st (East) Tennessee Cavalry

The First Tennessee Cavalry met the enemy at the following places:

Cumberland Gap, June 18, 1862; Rigg's Cross Roads, Tenn., April 16, 1863 ; College Grove, Tenn., May 8, 1863 ; Rover, Tenn., June 23, 1863; Middletown, Tenn., June 24, 1863; Shelbyville, Tenn., June 27, 1863; Lafayette, Ga., Sept. 13, 1863; Chickamauga, Ga., Sept. 19 and 20, 1863 ; Sparta, Tenn., Nov. 30, 1863 J Dandridge, Tenn., Dec. 24, 1863 ; Mossy Creek, Tenn., Dec. 29, 1863 Fairgarden, Tenn., Jan. 27, 1864; Varnell s Station, Ga., May 9, 1864; Resaca, Ga., May 14, 1864; Burnt Hickory, Ga., May 26, 1864; Brownlow s Hill, or Acworth, Ga., June 4, 1864; Lost Mountain, Ga., June 16, 1864; Mason s Church, Ga., July 23, 1864; Lovejoy s Station, Ga., July 29, 1864; New- nan, Ga., July 31, 1864; Lavergne, Tenn., Sept. i, 1864; Franklin, Tenn., Sept. 2, 1864; Campbellsville, Tenn., Sept. 5, 1864; Pulaski, Tenn., Sept. 27, 1864; Shoal Creek, Ala., Nov. 5, 1864; Hurt s Cross Roads, Tenn., Nov. 29, 1864; Franklin, Tenn., Nov. 30, 1864; Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 15 and 16, 1864; and Lynnville, Tenn., Dec. 24, 1864.

The regiment, in pursuit of Longstreet's forces, had a sharp engagement at Hay's Ferry near Dandridge, Tennessee on December 24, 1863 and another at Mossy Creek on December 29. In these engagements a major, a captain and two lieutenants were killed or mortally wounded. In all, the regiment lost a total of 356 men during service; 4 officers and 56 enlisted men killed or mortally wounded, and 3 officers and 293 enlisted men were lost to disease or accident.



Union 1st (East) Tennessee Cavalry



William Gannaway Brownlow

The commander of the First Tennessee Cavalry was Lieutenant Colonel James Patton Brownlow, the son of William G. Brownlow, a controversial newspaper publisher, Methodist minister, book author, prisoner of war, lecturer, and politician. William Brownlow served as the 17th Governor of Tennessee from 1865 to 1869 and as a US Senator from Tennessee from 1869 to 1875. He rose to prominence in the late 1830s and early 1840s as editor of the *Whig*, an important newspaper in East Tennessee opposed to secession in the years leading up to the ACW. William Brownlow's vitriolic polemics powerfully expressed the enmity of East Tennessee's upcountry yeomen for the planter class and their imperious antidemocratic policies. James was also a vituperative religious partisan who attacked pastors of other protestant sects and clergy of other faiths both doctrinally and personally. However, largely through his efforts, Tennessee became the first former Confederate state to be readmitted to the Union.



Lt. Col. James Patton Brownlow (1842-79)

1st Tennessee Cavalry's Finest Hour: Mossy Creek, December 29, 1863



Surrounded and sorely pressed by a superior force of the enemy under James Longstreet, Lt. Colonel James Brownlow of the 1st TN Cavalry ordered a courageous cavalry charge that temporarily checked the rebel assault and saved their entire division from capture or annihilation. This respite allowed the Union to turn the tide of battle and achieve a victory.

Brigade commander, Colonel Edward M. McCook, reporting on the fight at Mossy Creek, wrote: "The gallant 1st East Tennessee Cavalry, and their brave young commander, Lieutenant Colonel Brownlow, added new laurels to their brilliant reputation by the splendid sabre charge they made." Indeed, Sturgis's 1st Cavalry Division had been entirely surrounded by Confederate forces under Generals Martin, Armstrong and John Tyler Morgan, and the charge of the 1st Tennessee enabled it to break the ring and escape.

The First Tennessee Cavalry lost some of its best and bravest men in this engagement. In the battle, two officers and seven enlisted men of the 1st TN were killed or died of their wounds, and nine enlisted men were wounded.

After the Battle of Mossy Creek, the 1st TN Cavalry reported to its new brigade commander, Colonel William Jackson Palmer, whose watch I show in Part I, at Daindridge. They remained under Palmer's command through at least January of 1864.

1st East Tennessee Cavalry



A war-time illustration of the 1st TN Cavalry's charge at Mossy Creek, Dec. 29, 1863

CAPTAIN EDWIN RUTHVEN PECKENS

(52ND PA INFANTRY)



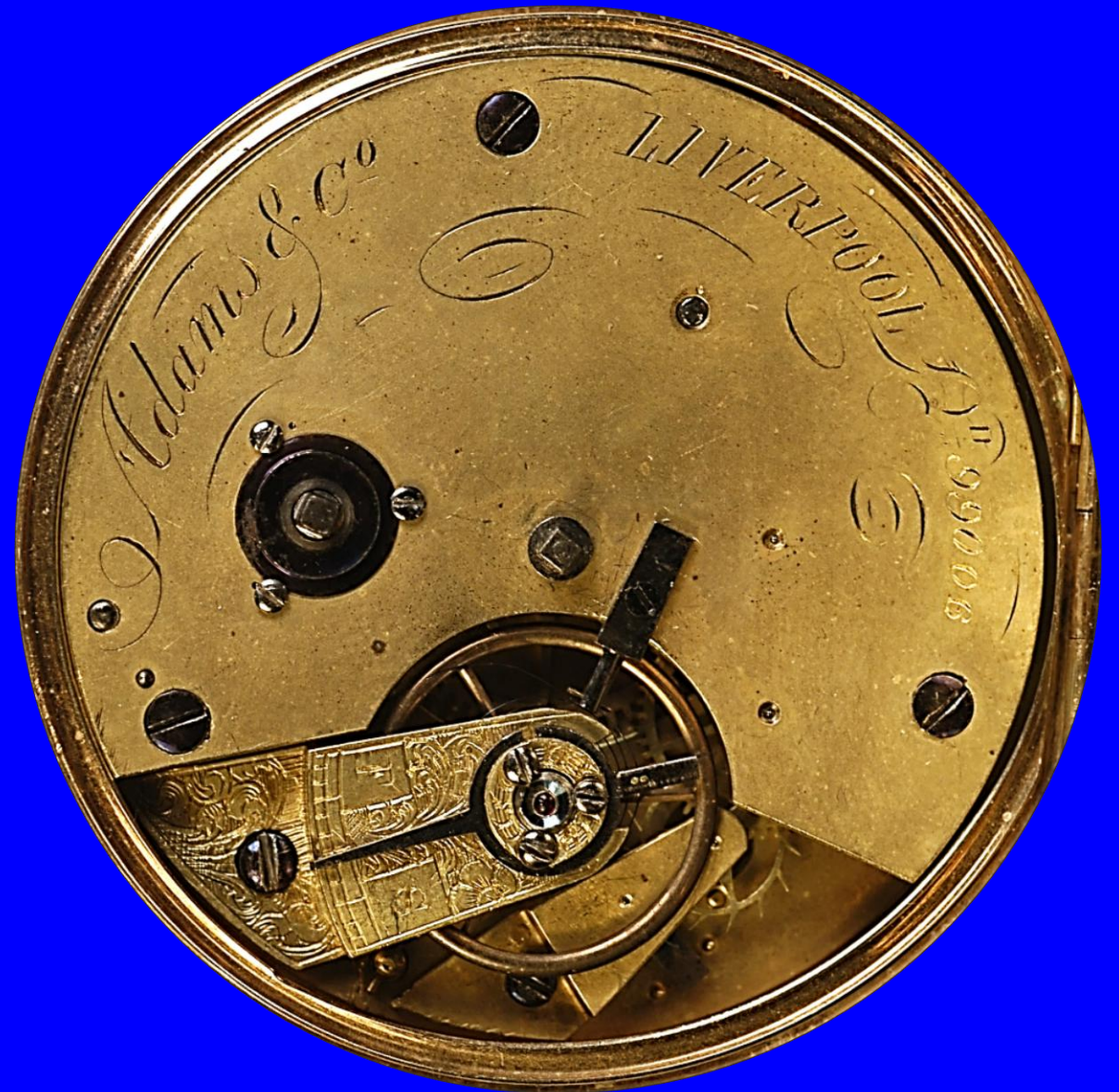
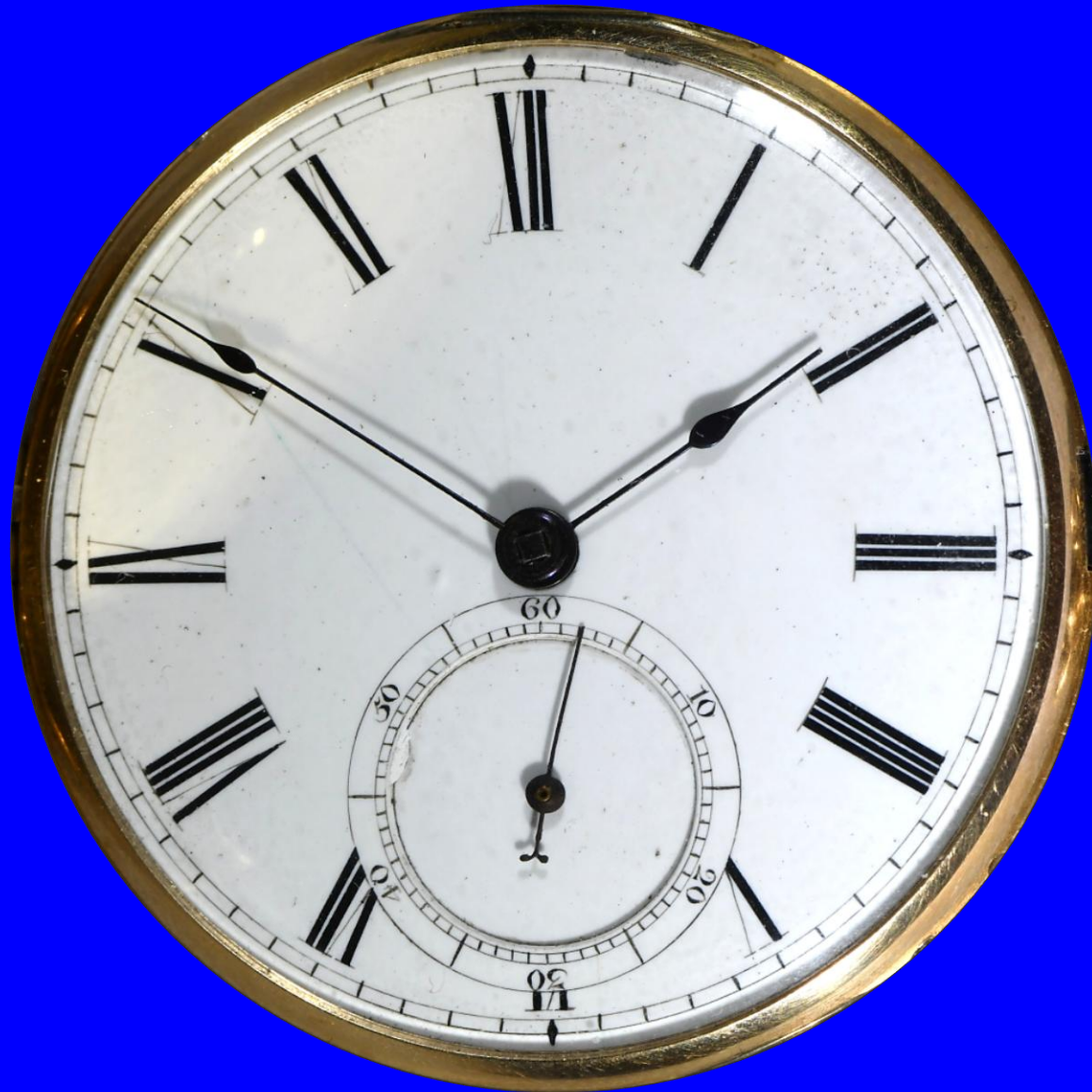
Captain E. R. Peckens Service Summary

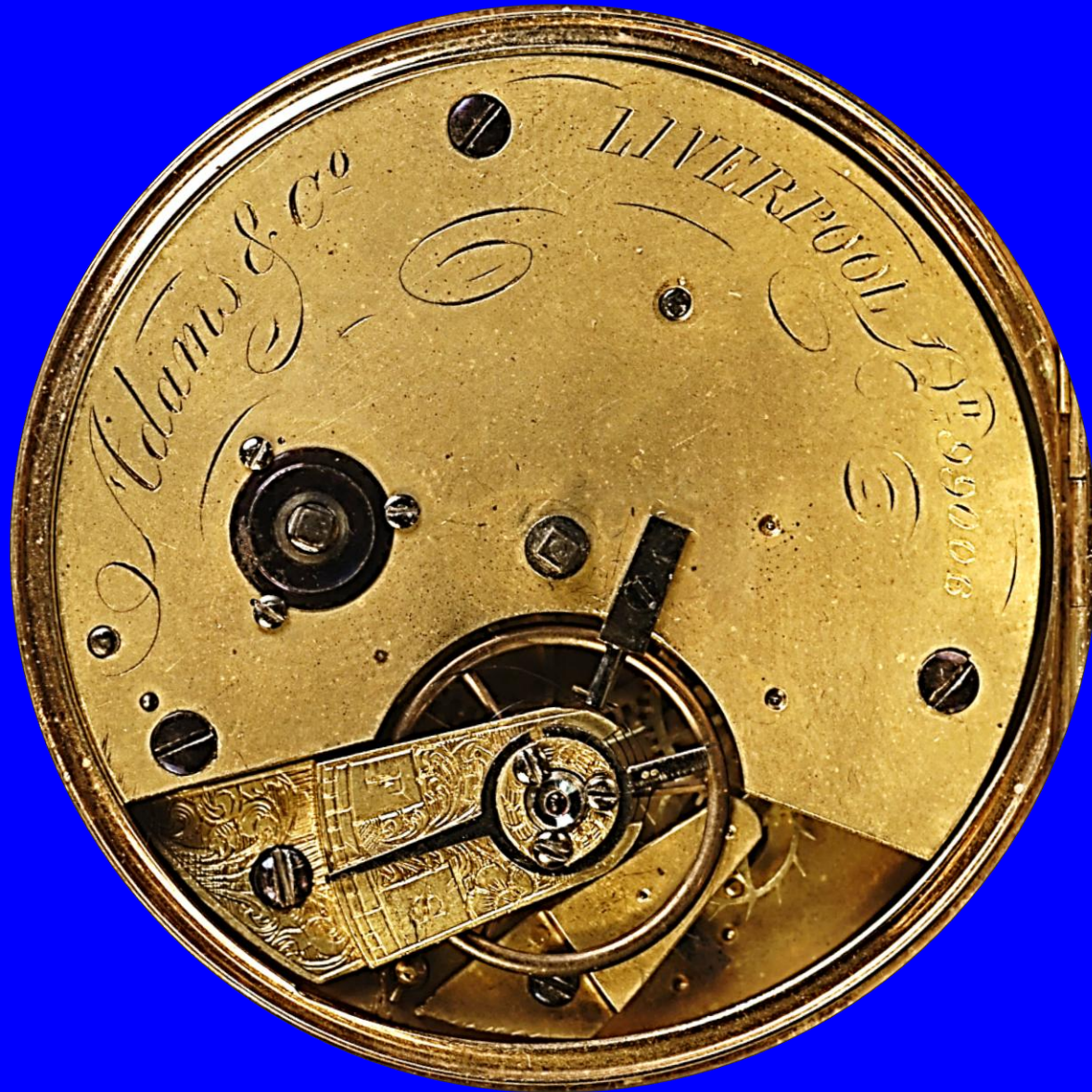
The presentation on the dust cover of Captain Peckens's watch reads, "Presented by Co H, 52 Reg. P.V. [Company H, 52nd Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry] to Capt. E. R. [Edwin Ruthven] Peckens at Beaufort, SC, April 30, 1863."

Edwin Ruthven Peckens was born in Plymouth PA and graduated from the University of Lewisburg (later renamed Bucknell University) in 1854. Captain Peckens, pictured on the preceding slide, was commissioned on August 22, 1861, and fought at the battles of Lee's Mills, Williamsburg, Seven Pines (a.k.a., Fair Oaks) and White Oak Swamp during the Army of the Potomac's Peninsula Campaign of March – July, 1862. The captain received the watch shown here from his comrades in arms as a parting token of their esteem at the time he resigned his commission on account of ill health on April 28, 1863. After the war, he came to manage several collieries for various coal companies in Pennsylvania.

CAPTAIN PECKENS'S WATCH

(A VERY BASIC 7 JEWEL ENGLISH IMPORT WITH GOING BARREL, STEEL ESCAPE WHEEL, SIMPLE REGULATOR, & SINGLE SUNK DIAL)





The Peckens watch is one of three watches in the Geller Civil War Provenance Collection with an English movement in it. However, the case, like all but two of the other cases in the collection, is American. The watch is a very basic soldier's watch signed "Adams & Co., Liverpool," with seven jewels, an English style right-angle lever escapement, a ratchet tooth escape wheel, a going barrel, and an uncompensated steel balance wheel. The gilding on the watch plates has long since faded. The single sunk Roman numeral enamel dial is unsigned.

Captain Peckens's Watch Case

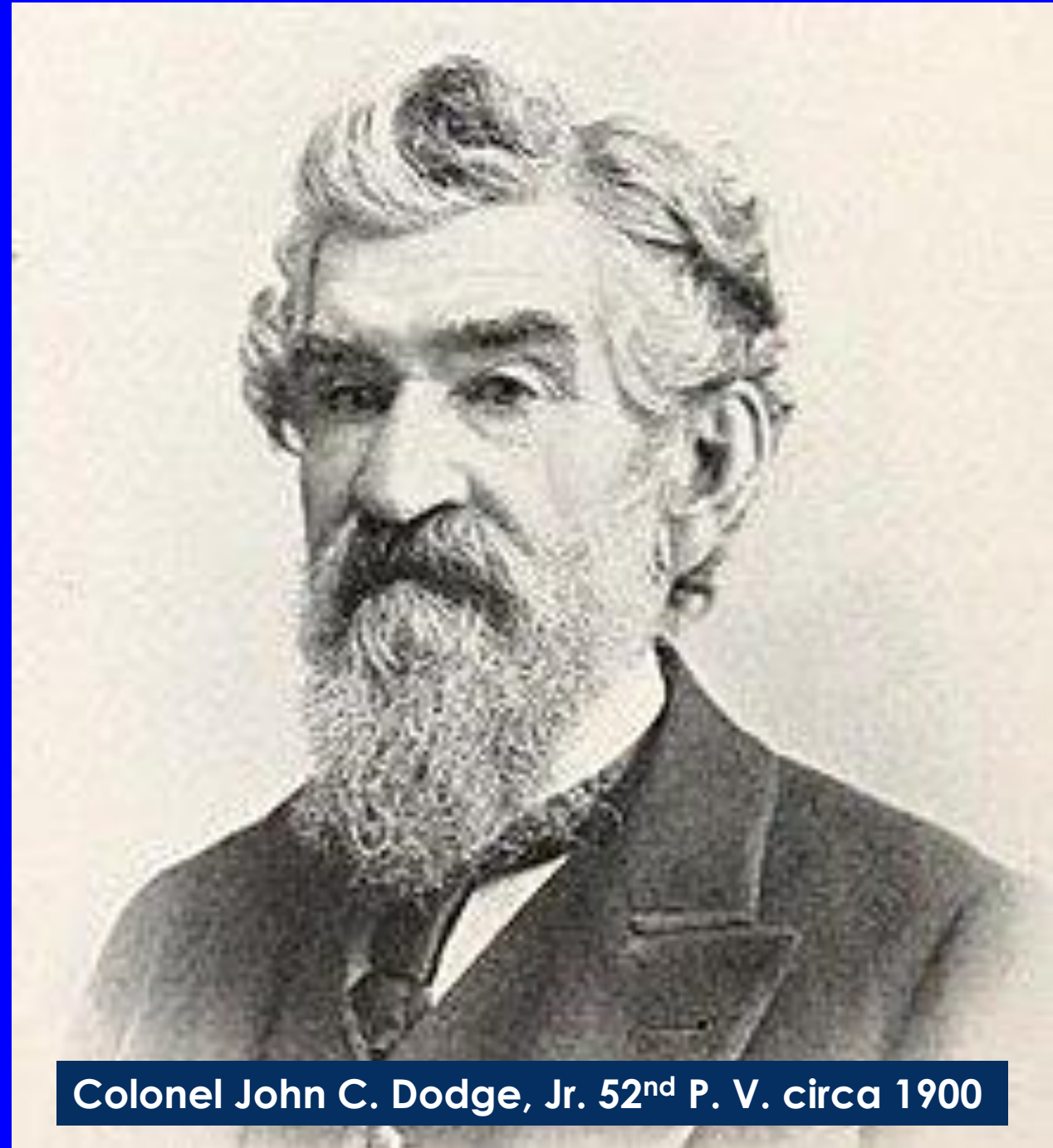
Foreign watch movements in American-made cases were very common in the US during the American Civil War. The gold hunting style case of Captain Peckens's watch is an example, with an English movement and a thoroughly American case. The case is not of the swing-out style, it lacks English hallmarks, and it has a hinged dust cover with a lift tab. The front lid features a prominent eagle with spread wings and an American flag shield on its breast similar to that on the Great Seal of the United States.



52nd P.V.

Fellow Pennsylvanians often called the 52nd PA Volunteer infantry the “Luzerne Regiment,” referring to the county from which most of its men were recruited. The 52nd Pennsylvania also initially had its own regimental band, a 16-piece ensemble staffed by members of the Wyoming Cornet Band from Wilkes-Barre, which was under the baton of Professor Fred Wagner. Quite a few Union regiments had brass bands.

At Seven Pines, on May 31 to June 1, 1862, one of their most severe tests, they lost 129 men killed or wounded out of a total of 259 men engaged.



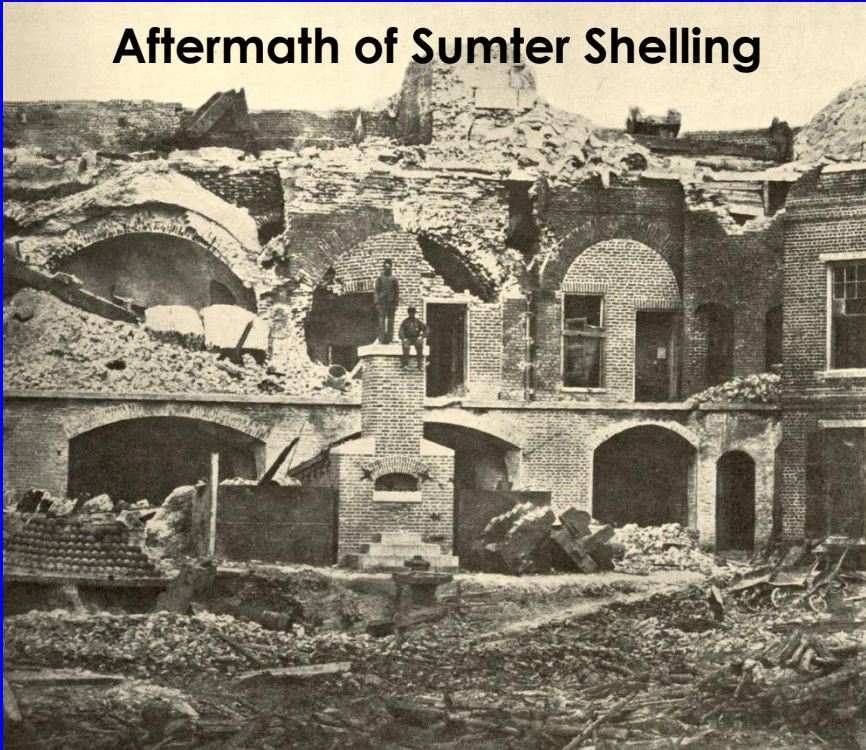
Colonel John C. Dodge, Jr. 52nd P. V. circa 1900



Battle of Seven Pines (Peninsula Campaign), May 31 – June 1, 1862

On February 18, 1865, during the Carolinas Campaign, the men of the 52nd PA were those who hoisted the stars and stripes above Fort Sumter, which had been abandoned earlier by the Confederates, for the first time since the fort's surrender in 1861. (Major General Robert Anderson would not return to his old post to hoist his original banner until April, 1865.)

Aftermath of Sumter Shelling



Battle of Fort Sumter, April 12-13, 1861

The 52nd PA regiment served throughout the entire war, despite losses not only from enemy action, but from typhoid and smallpox, many among them reenlisting in November of 1863 when their original obligations were satisfied. A portion of the regiment was also taken prisoner on July 3, 1864, after an unsuccessful assault on Fort Johnson in Charleston Harbor, and about 50 of these men perished in the Confederate POW camps of Columbia and Andersonville. It was no mean accomplishment for Captain Peckens to have earned the respect of such men.

CAPTAIN (Brevet Major) JOHN GREGORY BOURKE – US CAVALRY

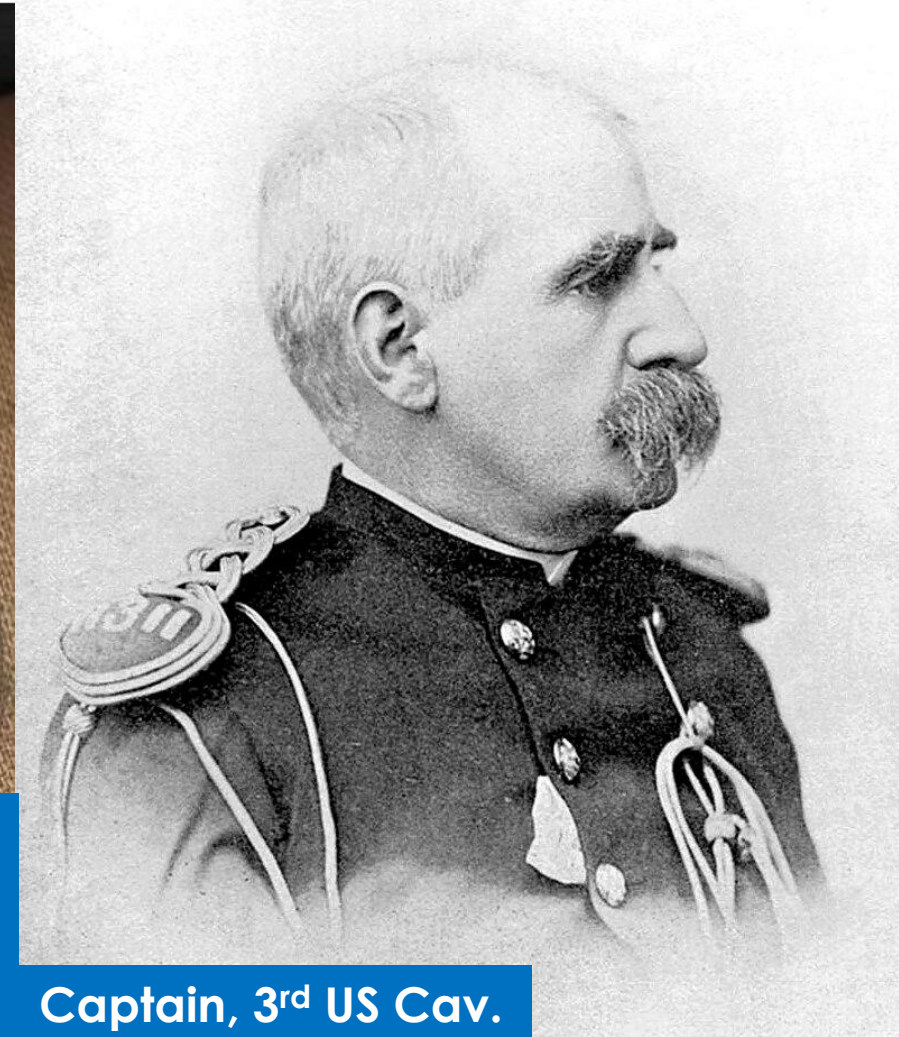
(Private, Co. E, 15th PA Cavalry, during the Civil War)

(Medal of Honor Recipient)

The picture on the left was taken after July 1872, when company grade officers began wearing double-breasted frock coats, and before May 1875, when Bourke became a 1st Lt. The picture on the right was taken after June 1882, when Bourke was promoted to Captain.



"J. C." was John Philip Clum, Indian Agent for the San Carlos Reservation in east-central Arizona, to where the Chiricahua Apache were relocated. He became Tombstone AZ's founding Mayor in 1881.



Captain, 3rd US Cav.

2nd Lt., 3rd US Cav.

Captain Bourke's Watch

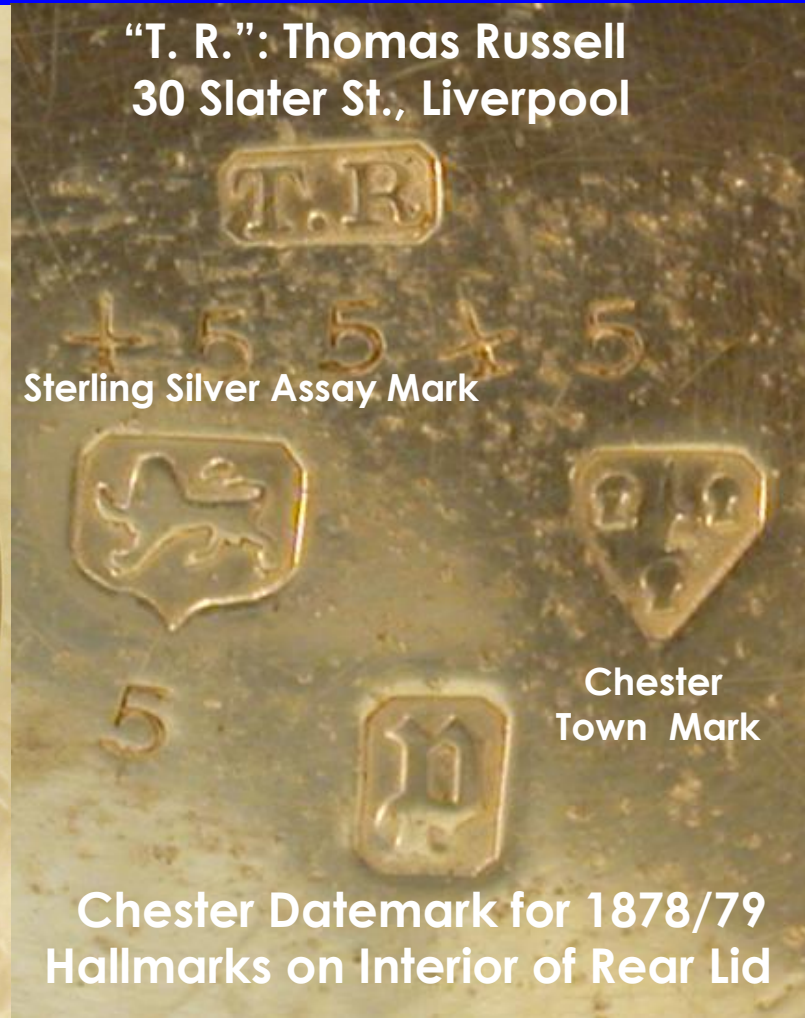
(Movement & Silver Hunting Case both marked for Thomas Russell & Son, Liverpool & London, Dated 1878/79)
(9 Jewels, Lever Fusee Movement with Monometallic Gold Balance, Key Wound from Rear, Key Set from Front)



Captain Bourke's Watch Case

(Sterling Silver Swingout Hunting Case with Gold Hinges)

(Marked for Thomas Russell & Son, Liverpool & London, Dated 1878/79; Initials on Front: "J. G.")



**Movement & Integral Dust Cover
Shown in its English Swingout Case**



Bourke Watch with Original Box & Key

(The yellow metal of the box decorations is probably painted brass)



The Man: John G. Bourke (June 23, 1846 – June 8, 1896)

John Gregory Bourke (June 23, 1846 – June 8, 1896) was a captain in the US Army and a prolific diarist and Reconstruction Era author; he wrote six books about the American Old West, including ethnologies of its indigenous peoples. Private Bourke of the 15th PA Cavalry was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry in action during the Battle of Stones River near Murfreesboro TN in 12/1862-1/1864. Based on his service during the war, Major General George Henry Thomas nominated him to West Point, where he graduated in 1869, leading to service as an Army officer until his death.

Bourke was born in Philadelphia to Irish Immigrant parents, Edward Joseph and Anna (Morton) Bourke. His early education was extensive and included Latin, Greek, and Gaelic. When the Civil War began, Bourke was fourteen. At sixteen he ran away from home and lied about his age; claiming to be nineteen, and enlisted in the 15th PA Cavalry, in which he served until July 1865. He saw action at both Stones River and Chickamauga.

Bourke graduated from West Point on June 15, 1869, and was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the 3rd US Cavalry. He served with his regiment at Ft. Craig, New Mexico Territory, from September 29, 1869 to February 19, 1870. He later served as an aide to General George Crook in the Apache Wars from 1872 to 1883 and the Great Sioux War of 1876. As Crook's aide, Bourke had the opportunity to witness every facet of life in the Old West - the battles, wildlife, the internal squabbling among the military, the Indian Agency, settlers, and Native Americans.

John G. Bourke, Observer & Writer


Bourke kept a voluminous diary in 124 sequential journals throughout his adult life, documenting his observations in the West. He used these notes as the basis for his later monographs and writings.

During his time as aide to General Crook during the Apache Wars, Bourke kept journals of his observations that were later published as *On the Border with Crook*. This book is considered one of the best firsthand accounts of frontier army life, as Bourke gives equal time to both the soldier and the Native American. Within it, Bourke describes the landscape, Army life, and his observations of the Native Americans. His passages recount General Crook's meetings with Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, and Geronimo as the General attempted to sign peace treaties and relocate tribes to reservations. Bourke provides considerable detail of towns and their citizens in the Southwest, specifically the Arizona Territory.

While in Washington he was on the board of the Anthropological Society. Sigmund Freud wrote of him: "He was recognized in his own time for his ethnological writings on various indigenous peoples of the North American Southwest, particularly Apachean groups."



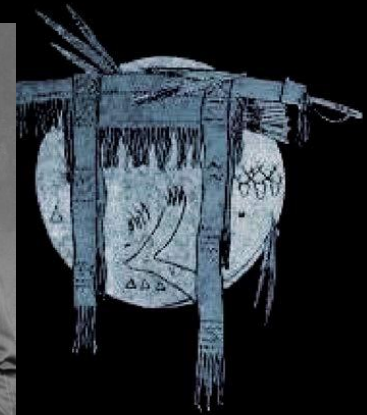
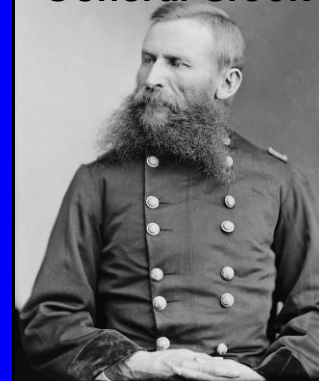
FRONTIER AMERICA SERIES



ON THE BORDER WITH CROOK

Personal Recollections of the
American Indian Wars by an
Officer on General Crook's Staff

General Crook



JOHN G. BOURKE

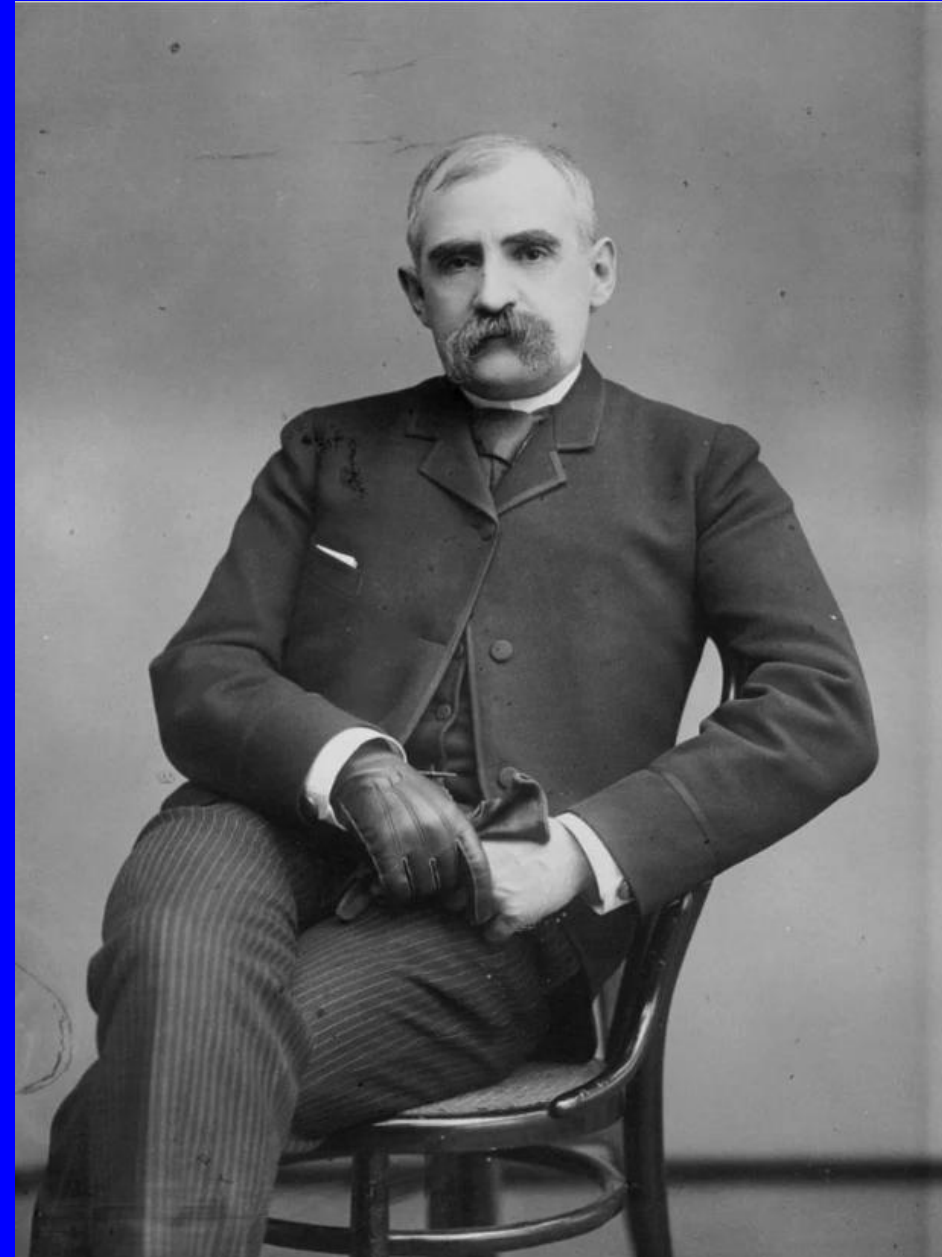
A hard cover copy is in my Library

Excerpt from the Texas State Historical Association Website

John Gregory Bourke, army officer, author, ethnologist, and folklorist, was born to Irish Catholic parents Edward Joseph and Anna (Morton) Bourke in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on June 23, 1846. He lied about his age in order to enlist in the Fifteenth Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry in 1862 and saw action at the battle of [Second] Murfreesboro [a.k.a., Stones River], where he earned the Medal of Honor. He fought at the battle of Chickamauga, endured the Confederate siege of Chattanooga, and witnessed the destruction of Atlanta. In the summer of 1865 he was mustered out of volunteer service and entered West Point. He graduated eleventh in a class of thirty-nine in 1869 and received his commission in the Third Cavalry. He married Mary F. Horbach of Omaha, Nebraska, on July 25, 1883; the couple had three daughters.

Bourke was a well-known Indian fighter, writer, *crusader for Indian rights*, and anthropologist before he reported to Fort Ringgold, Rio Grande City, Texas, in 1891. He had already fought Indians in the Southwest and on the Great Plains and had served on the staff of Gen. George Crook from 1871 until 1886. He wrote several articles and six books on military history and ethnology, including his best-known work, *On The Border with Crook* (1891), before his arrival in South Texas. ...

Bourke was also a pioneer scholar of the Hispanic folk culture of South Texas and northeastern Mexico. His fluency in Spanish, his experience among the Hispanics of New Mexico and Arizona, and his background as an ethnologist prepared him to research Mexican lore, folk customs, and the utilization of plants and animals in the local materia medica. He also studied Mexican plays of the Nativity along the lower Rio Grande. His work in Texas resulted in a series of monographs, including articles in the *American Anthropologist* and the *Journal of American Folk-Lore*. His contributions to the study of Texas further enhanced his reputation as a scholar, and he was elected president of the American Folk-Lore Society in 1895. Bourke suffered an aneurysm and died in Philadelphia on June 8, 1896; *he is buried at Arlington National Cemetery*.



Excerpts from “On the Border with Bourke: Captain John G. Bourke's Influence on Edgar Rice Burroughs”

By Frank Puncer, <https://www.erbzine.com/mag34/3482.html>

Although Bourke disparaged their [the Apache's] medicine men [as “charlatans”], he recognized that the Apaches possessed a rich cultural heritage of their own. He saw in many of them such finer qualities as truthfulness, honour, chastity, intelligence, industry and valor; which he often perceived as lacking among the representatives of his own culture in the Southwest. When the Chiricahua Apaches were imprisoned in Florida under less than humane conditions, Bourke became deeply involved in the struggle for their welfare. This struggle brought him into conflict with powerful forces within the military / political establishment. Bourke blamed General Nelson A. Miles for the plight of the imprisoned Apaches and the betrayal of loyal Apache scouts. He faulted the government for the cruelty and stupidity of its Indian policy.

While visiting the captive Chiricahuas at Fort Marion, St. Augustine, Florida, in 1887 (an experience that profoundly depressed him) Bourke wrote in his diary: “. . . the legend 'it is finished' was written at the end of the unbroken series of plunder and exaction marking the progress Westward of Caucasian civilization; the last feeble remnant of savagery, fighting with the courage of despair to defend its barren, mountain birthright had been ground into powder beneath the heel of a nation whose proud boast had been 'Liberty to all the land and to all the inhabitants thereof.'”

...

Also in *On the Border With Crook* (via *Lives of Famous Indian Chiefs*), Burroughs found Bourke's lacerating indictment of a whiskey peddling low-life named Tribollet. It was Tribollet who, with whiskey and lives, undermined the March 1886, surrender of Geronimo's band of Chiricahua Apaches to General Crook. Tribollet ws probably associated with the "Tucson ring," an under-class of crooked Indian agents, government contractors and contraband runners who sought to prolong the Apache wars. Bourke called them "wicked men, whose only mode of livelihood was from vices, weaknesses, or perils of the human race." Of Tribollet Bourke wrote: "What did Tribollet care how many settlers' homes were burned, their stock driven off, and their families butchered, if he could only sell his vile adulterated whisky at 'ten dollars a gallon in silver.'"

Excerpt from the Nebraska State Historical Association Website:

https://history.nebraska.gov/collection_section/john-gregory-bourke-1846-1896-rg2955-am/

When [General George] Crook was ordered to Omaha in 1875, Bourke accompanied him and saw action against the Cheyenne, Sioux, and Nez Perce. His fame as an Indian fighter should not overshadow his great contributions in the study of the customs and habits of the Indians. He had an intimate acquaintance with the inner life of the Indians and was in sympathy with them. His fight to preserve the rights of the Apaches and other tribes earned him their respect and friendship, but alienated many people in Washington, as did, apparently his close commission*, and from 1882-1886 he was assigned to General Phil Sheridan, at which time he rendered his study of the snake-dance of the Moquis of Arizona.

* Bourke's C.O., General Crook, was also a critic of government policy toward the Indians.



Bourke's Service with the 15th PA Cavalry

The 15th PA Cavalry at Stones River*

On December 29, 1862 during the Battle of Stone's River, the 15th Pennsylvania charged a Confederate position along Overall Creek. Led by Major's Rosengarten and Ward the regiment scattered the enemy pickets and charged the Confederate line made up of the 10th and 19th South Carolina Infantry. The Rebels stood firm and unleashed a volley into the 15th which killed Major Rosengarten and severely wounded Major Ward who was carried to a field hospital where he died on January 4, 1863. His body was returned to Pittsburg [PA] and was buried in Allegheny Cemetery.

Bourke retained his fighting spirit and showed his quality at a difficult time when many comrades in his unit had become disillusioned. At Stones River, the 15th PA Cavalry was still in disarray during a long absence of their colonel, Wm. Jackson Palmer, who had been taken prisoner while on a reconnaissance mission behind enemy lines for General George McClellan. Several hundred men of the company had become mutinous on account of a failure to appoint qualified officers and to deliver other promised incentives. Upon his subsequent return after a prisoner exchange, it took all of Colonel Palmer's considerable skill to restore morale and discipline and turn it into a superb fighting unit. For that accomplishment, Palmer received high praise from General Thomas and an eventual promotion to Brigadier.

*Stones River had the highest % casualties of all forces engaged of any major battle of the Civil War. The Union victory there was an important morale boost after the humiliating defeat at Fredericksburg, and it put Lincoln on stronger ground to put his Emancipation Proclamation (EP) of September 1862 into force on January 1, 1863. The EP in turn effectively ended the threat of foreign intervention on the side of the Confederacy and paved the way for the 13th Amendment.



**15th PA ("Anderson") Cavalry
Monument at Chicamauga**

Possible Link Between Bourke and Clum:

Excerpt from: <https://imagesarizona.com/pioneer-of-the-preserve/>

"In 1885, Bourke began a campaign for equitable treatment of Native Americans, publicly denouncing U.S. Government's Indian programs. He advocated keeping the Chiricahua Apache in Arizona rather than removing them to exile in Florida.

He was also an opponent of sending Native American children to off-reservation Indian schools, stating, 'Much of our trouble with these tribes could have been averted had we shown what would appear to them as a spirit of justice and fair dealing.' "

The date in this passage of 1885 may be significant, as Clum, also an advocate of fair dealings with the native peoples, and who, like Bourke, had had extensive dealings with the Chiricahua Apaches, may already have known in 1884 that Bourke was planning to launch his advocacy campaign. Bourke was Acting Aide-de-Camp and Asst. Adjutant-General to General George Crook, Commander of the Department of Arizona, from March 24, 1884 to June 25, 1885.

**Two men whose watches I own, both Philadelphians who served in the 15th PA Cavalry,
and two of the six men of the unit who received the Medal of Honor**

2nd Lt. John Gregory Bourke



Brig. Gen. William Jackson Palmer





J. G. Bourke Grave, Arlington National Cemetery

WILLIAM E. BILLYE
CAPT. 3RD REG. 145. ARMY
BORN IN THE DELTA JULY 22 1862
DIED JUNE 31 1931

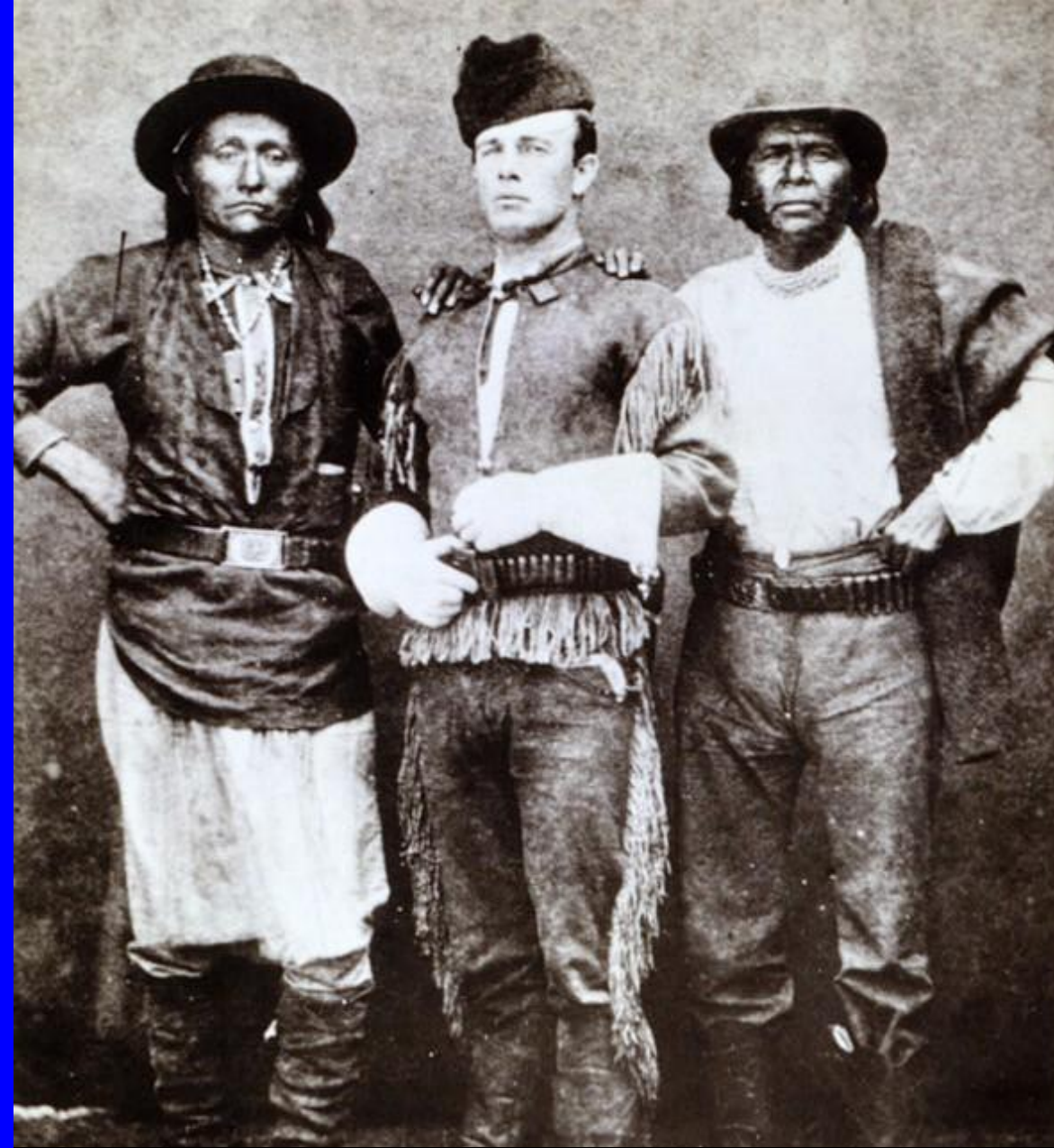
ENLISTED IN 1881 TEN. CO. 125. 1ST REG. 145. ARMY
OF HONOR FOR BRAVERY IN BATTLE OF STATE PRISON TEN. ARMY
ENTERED WEST VIRGINIA IN 1885
HE PARTICIPATED IN ALL THE INDIAN WARS AND WAS
TO WHOM HE WAS MADE CAMP IN MEXICO
RENDERING MANY VALUABLE AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICES TO HIS COUNTRY
A DISTINGUISHED SOLDIER, AUTHOR AND SCHOLAR

AND MARY HIS WIFE

John Philip Clum: (September 1, 1851 – May 2, 1932)

John Philip Clum's character has been portrayed in over a dozen movies and TV series, including the popular *Death Valley Days*. He was invited to become the Indian Agent for the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona in 1874, following a succession of notoriously corrupt predecessors. There, Clum introduced a successful system of limited self-rule which was widely copied on reservations elsewhere. After three years on the job, Clum resigned in frustration over interference from army and other government officials, but he continued to look back with pride at those three years as his most important work. In that period, Clum became the only person ever to capture Geronimo without bloodshed. He evidently had been one of the few honest contemporaneous Indian agents in the southwest, which is probably why he and Captain Bourke gained one another's respect.

In 1877, when silver was discovered near Tombstone Arizona, Clum moved there and opened a newspaper, the *Tombstone Epitaph*, which is still published. Tombstone officially became a town in 1881 and Clum became its first mayor. There he became friends with the famous lawmen, the Earp Brothers, James, Virgil, and Wyatt. It was also in 1881 that the iconic "showdown at the OK Corral" went down. A series of sensational court hearings followed the shootout, during which the *Epitaph* published the lawmen's version of events, whereas the rival Tombstone newspaper, the *Nugget*, took the outlaws' point of view. Death threats and at least one nearly successful assassination attempt against the Earps and Clum followed, which became sufficiently intolerable that both Clum and the Earps ultimately left town soon after.



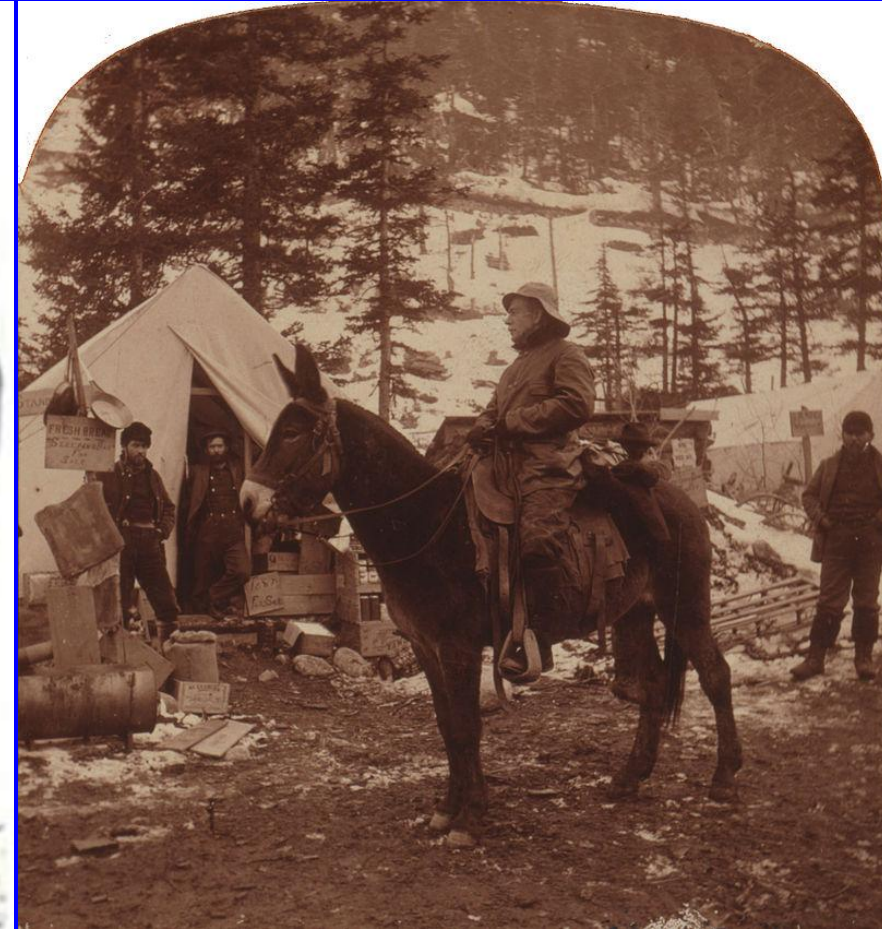
John Clum (center) with Indians Diablo and Eskiminzin at the San Carlos Agency in 1875

John Clum Later Work & Accomplishments

In 1898, Clum was appointed Postal Director for the District of Alaska. He traveled 8,000 miles in five months, setting up seven new post offices around the territory. While in Nome, Alaska in the summer of 1900, Clum met his old friends, Wyatt Earp and George W. Parsons (a famous Tombstone diarist). Earp was operating the Dexter Saloon at the time. Clum was later named postmaster for Fairbanks, Alaska, and served in that position until 1909. Caro, Alaska was named after his daughter Caro.



John Clum (Right) & Wyatt Earp (Left)
in Nome, AK



Postal Director John Clum

Clum left Alaska in 1909 and spent several years touring the country for the Southern Pacific Railway, giving hundreds of lectures all over the country to promote tourism and passenger-use of the railroad. In 1928 he moved to Los Angeles, where he lived until his death in 1932 at age 80.

FIRST LIEUTENANT JAMES A. SAGE

(25TH MICHIGAN INFANTRY)



LT. SAGE'S WATCH

(WALTHAM MODEL 1857, 7 JEWEL P. S. BARTLETT GRADE, SN 42,888, JULY 1862,
SILVER AWCO CASE)



Lieutenant Sage's Watch



Sage's is a typical soldier's watch, with an 18 Size Waltham Model 1857 full plate movement of the modest "P. S. Bartlett" Grade, with 7 jewels and an uncompensated monometallic steel balance. P. S. Bartlett Grade watches were warrantied, unlike the least expensive "William Ellery" Grade, but like Ellery Grade timepieces, they often were found in Union enlisted men's pockets. The grade is named for Patten Sargeant Bartlett, an important employee of the AWCo factory from a prominent New England family – his great uncle had signed the Declaration of Independence. In 1864 Bartlett went on to play an important founding role at the Elgin National Watch Co., which was Waltham's most formidable domestic competitor.

Both the single-plane enamel dial and the nearly three-ounce coin silver case are signed "American Watch Company."

The front lid of Lt. Sage's well worn watch case, which was once engine turned, sports a blank shield and its interior surface exhibits the American Watch Company marking indicating that it was made in the American Watch Company's own case department. The company marking is surrounded by an appealing machine engraving pattern, indicative of the quality of the case.

LT. Sage's Watch Provenance

A silver Waltham watch, shown on the following slide, was presented in 1862 to First Sergeant James A. Sage of Otisco Michigan by the officers and men of the 25th Michigan Infantry, Company B. An image of Lieutenant Sage is shown on the preceding slide, based on a photo taken after his first promotion. The records of the American Watch Company indicate that the movement of Sergeant Sage's watch, SN 42,888, was finished in June or July of 1862, only shortly before the regiment was mustered into service in September. Thus Sergeant Sage received the gift when or soon after the unit was formed. In all likelihood, he carried it throughout his period of military service.

Lt. James A. Sage, profile

James A. Sage was born on March 20, 1836 in NY State. When the 25th MI Infantry was formed in September of 1862, Sage, then age 26, was enlisted as a sergeant in Company B, consisting primarily of men from Otisco, MI, the town where Sage then resided. The company's gift to James was an eminently practical one. It was neither the least expensive watch, nor even the least expensive American watch they could have given him.

After an earlier promotion to 2nd Lieutenant, Sage was promoted to 1st Lieutenant in command of Company B on April 7, 1864. He served in that capacity until August 6, 1864, when he was wounded in the thigh in the fighting around Utoy Creek during the Siege of Atlanta, causing him to be discharged on November 30, 1864.* The wound ended his military career but not his life. After serving stints as both a Supervisor and a Registrar of Deeds in Otisco, MI between 1876 and 1881, Sage moved in 1904 to southern Georgia along with a group of other Union Army veterans to help found the town of St. George on the Florida border. Sage's migration to a place where he had once fought against the local population was in response to a campaign by a Northern publisher to seed Northern free labor ideals throughout the south, one of several such initiatives in the South at the time. Sage served in St. George as the town's first Treasurer, but eventually retired to the National Soldiers Home in Johnson City, TN, where he died on May 20, 1913 at the age of 77.

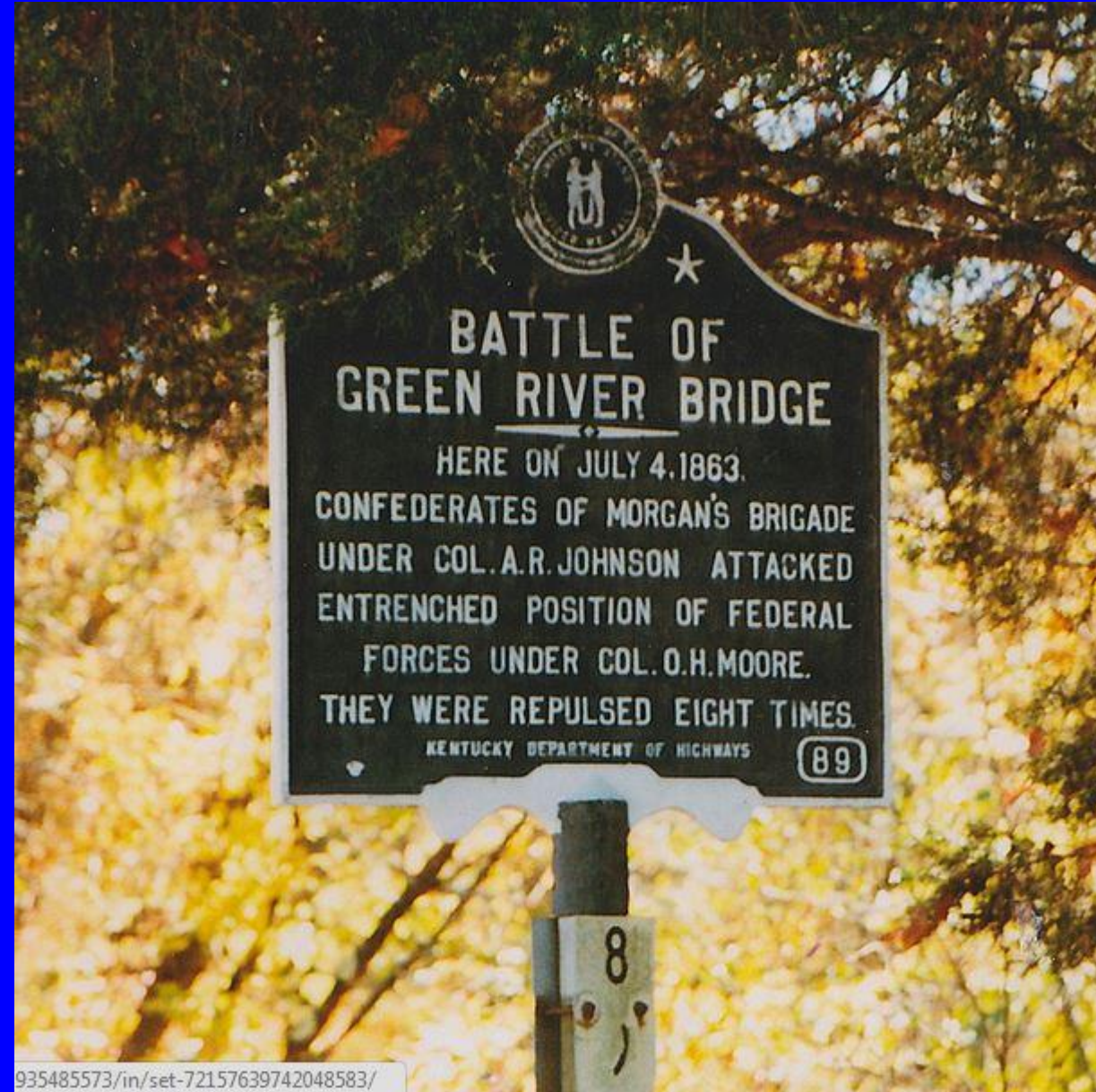
* Another Internet source, a FaceBook blog, states that Sage was wounded at the Battle of First Deep Bottom, near Petersburg, VA on July 24, 1864. However, this information is almost certainly erroneous.

25th Michigan Volunteer Infantry

The 25th Michigan Infantry was mustered into Federal service at Kalamazoo, Michigan on September 22, 1862, and served until June 24, 1865. The regiment fought at the battles of Resaca (GA, May 13 – 15, 1864), Kennesaw Mountain (GA, June 27, 1864), and Atlanta (GA, July 22, 1864), the Siege of Atlanta (May – Sep, 1864), the battles of Jonesboro (GA, Aug 31 – Sep 1, 1864), Franklin (TN, Nov 30, 1864) and Nashville (TN, Dec 15-16, 1864), and in the Carolinas Campaign (Jan – Apr, 1865). However, the 25th MI's first and most heroic action took place at the Battle of Tebbs Bend on July 4, 1863 along the Green River near Columbia, KY.

On Independence Day, 1863 the 25th Michigan, Companies D, E, F, I, and K (about 250 men) defended a precious bridge, defeating Gen John Hunt Morgan's Kentucky Cavalry Brigade, which numbered more than 2,400 troopers plus a battery of artillery, saving Louisville, KY from sack and ruin. There Col. Orlando Hurley Moore spurned Morgan's surrender demand, declaring that on that day of all days, he was compelled to defend his country. Armed solely with Model 1853 Enfield rifled muskets, a few pistols, and a few swords, but ensconced in a strong natural position, Moore's men repulsed eight successive rebel assaults. Acknowledging futility, Morgan finally requested a truce to collect his dead and wounded and then departed. The 25th MI, which was known thereafter within the Union Army of the Cumberland as the "Green River Boys," received two laudatory resolutions from the KY legislature and high praise from numerous other commentators. But the nation's eyes were still turned toward the larger struggles at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, so the 25th MI's no less heroic feats of arms on that immortal day faded into the background. Company B was not at Tebbs Bend that day, so there is no evidence that Lt. Sage took part in the battle. Nevertheless, he served in a distinguished fighting unit.

The 25th MI lost 1 officer and 34 enlisted men killed or mortally wounded and 2 officers and 141 enlisted men who died of disease, for a total of 178 fatalities.



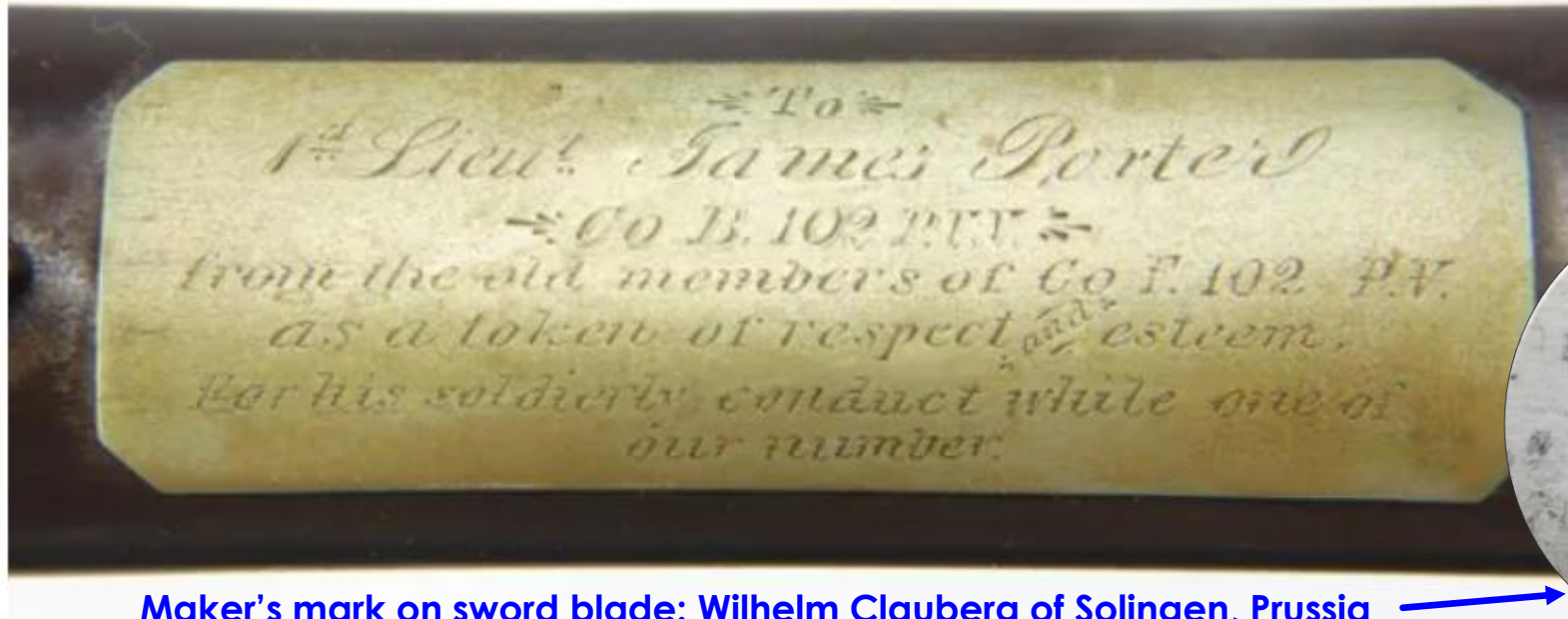
An Infantry Officer's Sword

This sword, also in the Geller Collection, is a Model 1850 Union infantry officer's sword that was presented to 1st Lt. James Porter of the 102nd PA Veteran Volunteer "Washington" Infantry by the enlisted men of Company F, with whom Porter had served as a sergeant until December 3, 1864, when he was commissioned and transferred to Co. B. Co. F was recruited mostly from the rolls of the Niagara Fire Company, located at Penn Ave. & 15th St. in Pittsburgh. The 102nd PA P.V.V. was a distinguished fighting unit mustered in in August of 1861 and serving throughout the war. They fought in over a dozen major engagements, losing a total of 263 men; 10 officers and 171 enlisted men killed or mortally wounded, 1 officer and 81 enlisted men died of disease.



This sword was purchased from the collection of Ken Turner, a noted Civil War artifact collector.

"To 1st Lieut. James Porter, Co. B 102 P.V.V., from the old members of Co. F 102 P.V., as a token of respect for his soldierly conduct while one of our number."

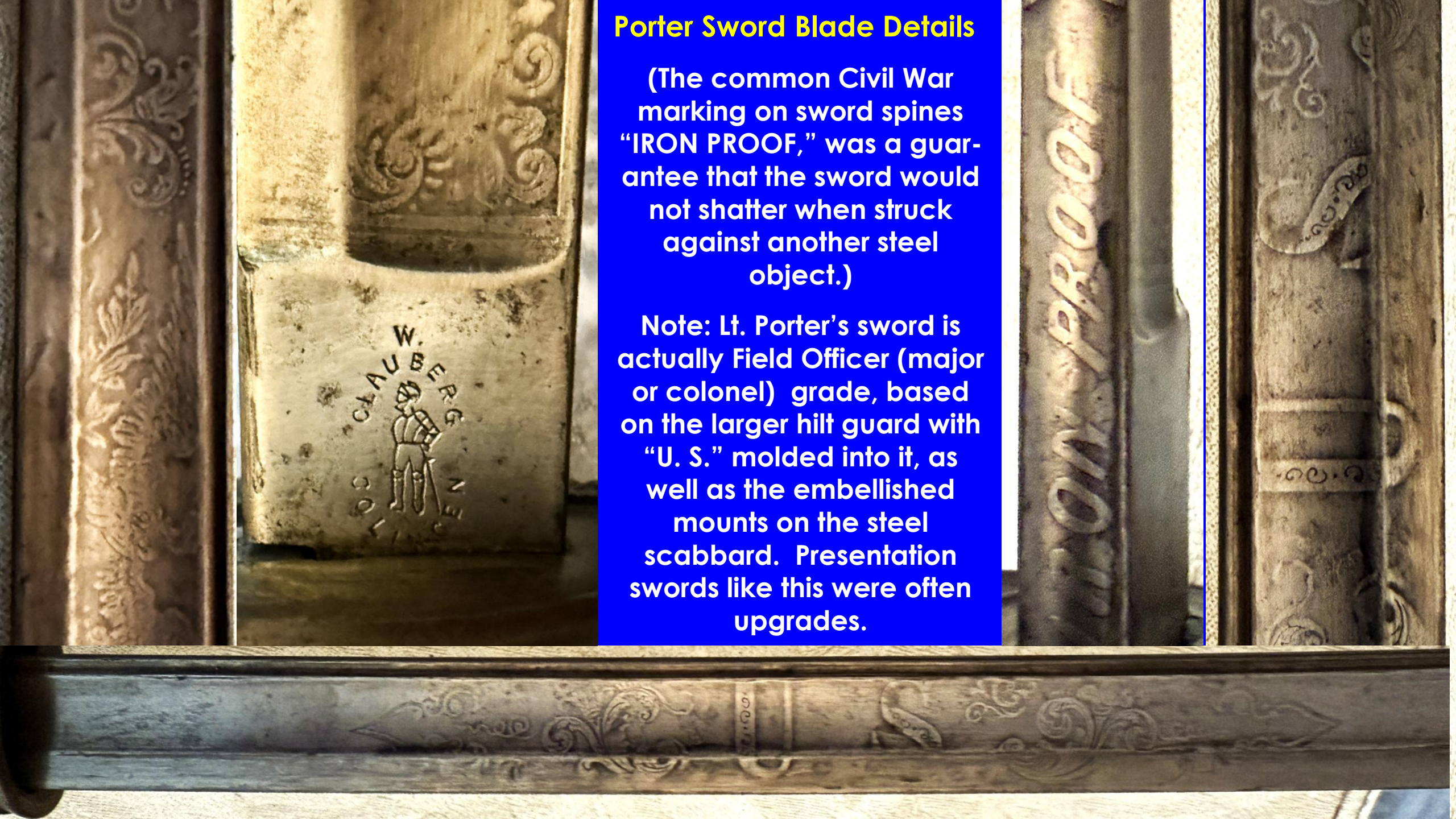


Maker's mark on sword blade: Wilhelm Clauberg of Solingen, Prussia

Porter Sword Blade Details

(The common Civil War marking on sword spines "IRON PROOF," was a guarantee that the sword would not shatter when struck against another steel object.)

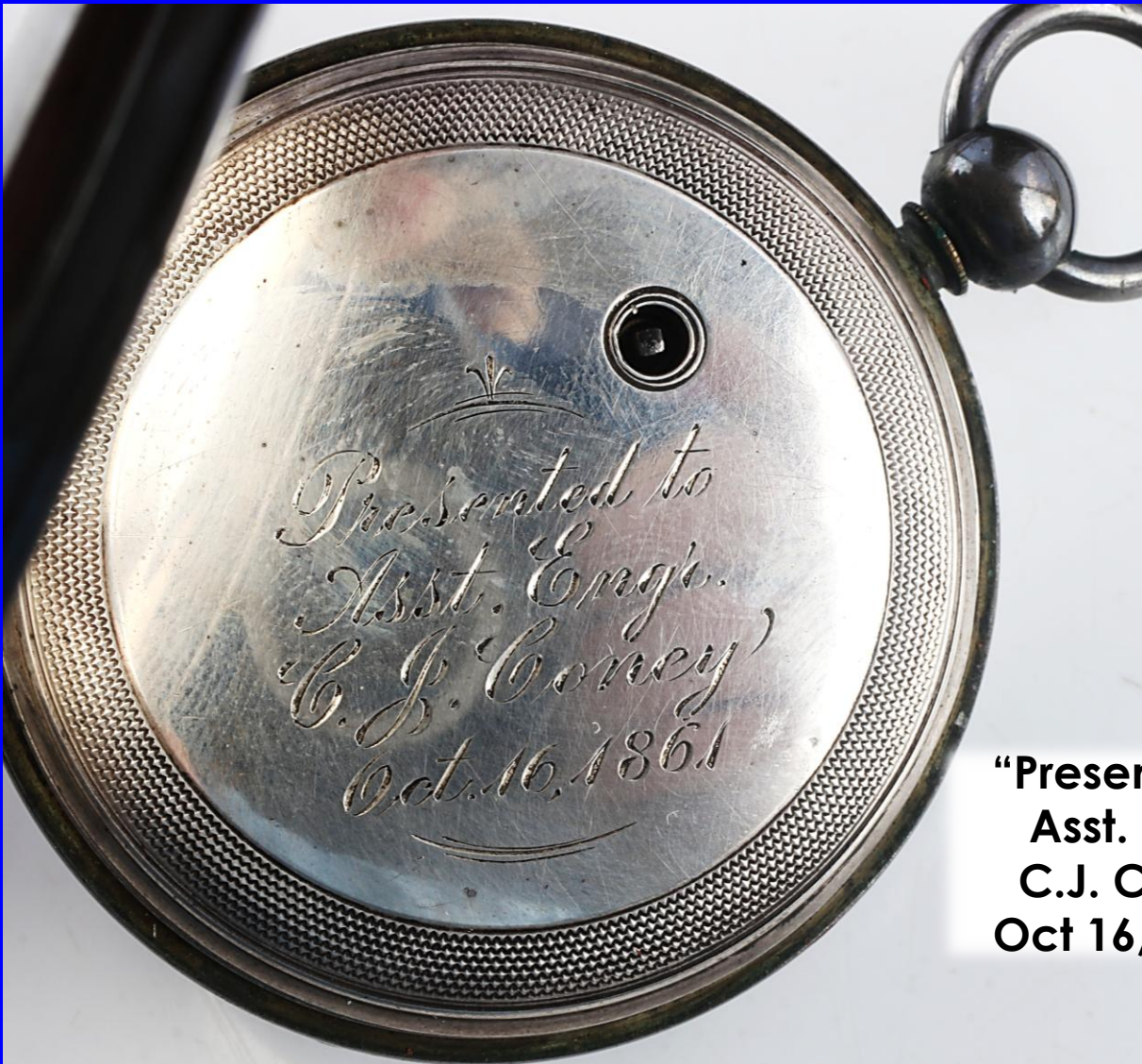
Note: Lt. Porter's sword is actually Field Officer (major or colonel) grade, based on the larger hilt guard with "U. S." molded into it, as well as the embellished mounts on the steel scabbard. Presentation swords like this were often upgrades.



ASST. ENGINEER CHAS. J. CONEY, USN - WATCH & SWORD

(WALTHAM SILVER OPEN FACE AT&CO CASE, 11 JEWEL WM. ELLERY GRADE MODEL 1857)

(MODEL 1852 NAVAL OFFICER'S SWORD, BY W. CLAUBERG, SOLINGEN, PRUSSIA)



"Presented to
Asst. Engr.
C.J. Coney
Oct 16, 1861"



Asst. Engineer Charles Jabez Coney, USN

C. J. Coney was a USN warrant officer, one of a class of Civil War naval officers with specialized skills who were above the enlisted ranks and noncoms, but either below, or at the bottom end of the commissioned ranks. Some warrant officers were commissioned and some were not. According to C. J. Coney's service records, he was warranted in 1861, when he received his watch and sword, but he was not commissioned until 1866. Charles Coney listed his occupation at the time of his enlistment as "machinist." Hence he was appointed an "engineer." The engineers on a Civil War steamship were responsible for operating and maintaining the steam propulsion plant, very much like the engineers on railroad trains.

On October 16, 1861, Charles Coney received the watch and sword shown on this and the preceding slides. The presentation on both articles reads exactly the same except for the letters "U.S.N." added on the scabbard base, which has more room for engraving than the dust cover of the watch. Both inscriptions appear to have been engraved by the same hand. A little harder to see is the inscription "U. S. Navy" engraved on the exterior of the watch's rear lid, which suggests that while the cost of the engraving was a gift of his fellow officers or his family, the watch itself may conceivably have been government issued. (Commissioned officers received allowances to purchase their own accouterments, but non-commissioned warrant officers did not.) It may be that one or more of Asst. Engineer Coney's duties required the person responsible to have a watch!



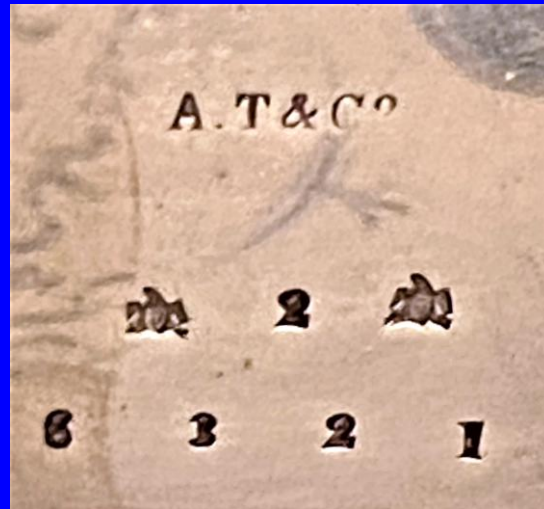
C. J. Coney's Watch



C. J. Coney's Watch

Engineer Coney's watch is in a 2 ounce open face silver AT&Co case with two eagle markings on the rear lid above the case serial number. The William Ellery Grade Waltham Model 1857 movement, SN 63,082, has 11 jewels and a monometallic steel balance wheel. The dial is unsigned.

The Waltham factory production records indicate that movement SN 63,082 was finished in February, 1863, about 16 months after Engineer Coney received his inscribed watch. However, this was precisely the period when Coney was on shore between late January and June 24, 1863, recovering from illness and waiting for his new assignment, the *USS San Jacinto*, to complete repairs. Given that I was likely the first watch collector to own this watch – it came out of an art and militaria auction in which it was the only timepiece – it is highly likely that Movement SN 63,082 was a contemporaneous Civil War period replacement that was put into Coney's case at his behest in early 1863. As such, the watch, as currently constituted, would have served with Coney on the *USS San Jacinto* for the final two years of the war.

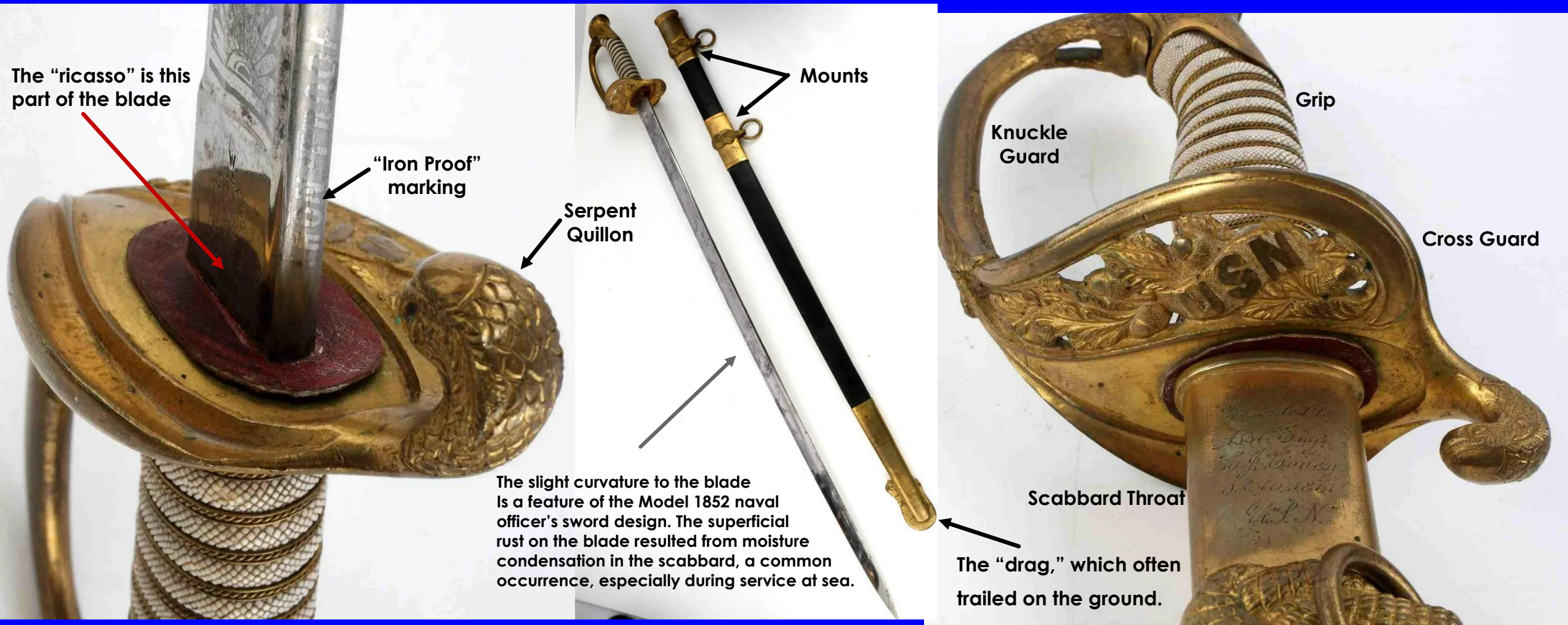


Close-up of the rear lid interior. Some reflections from the dust cover are visible



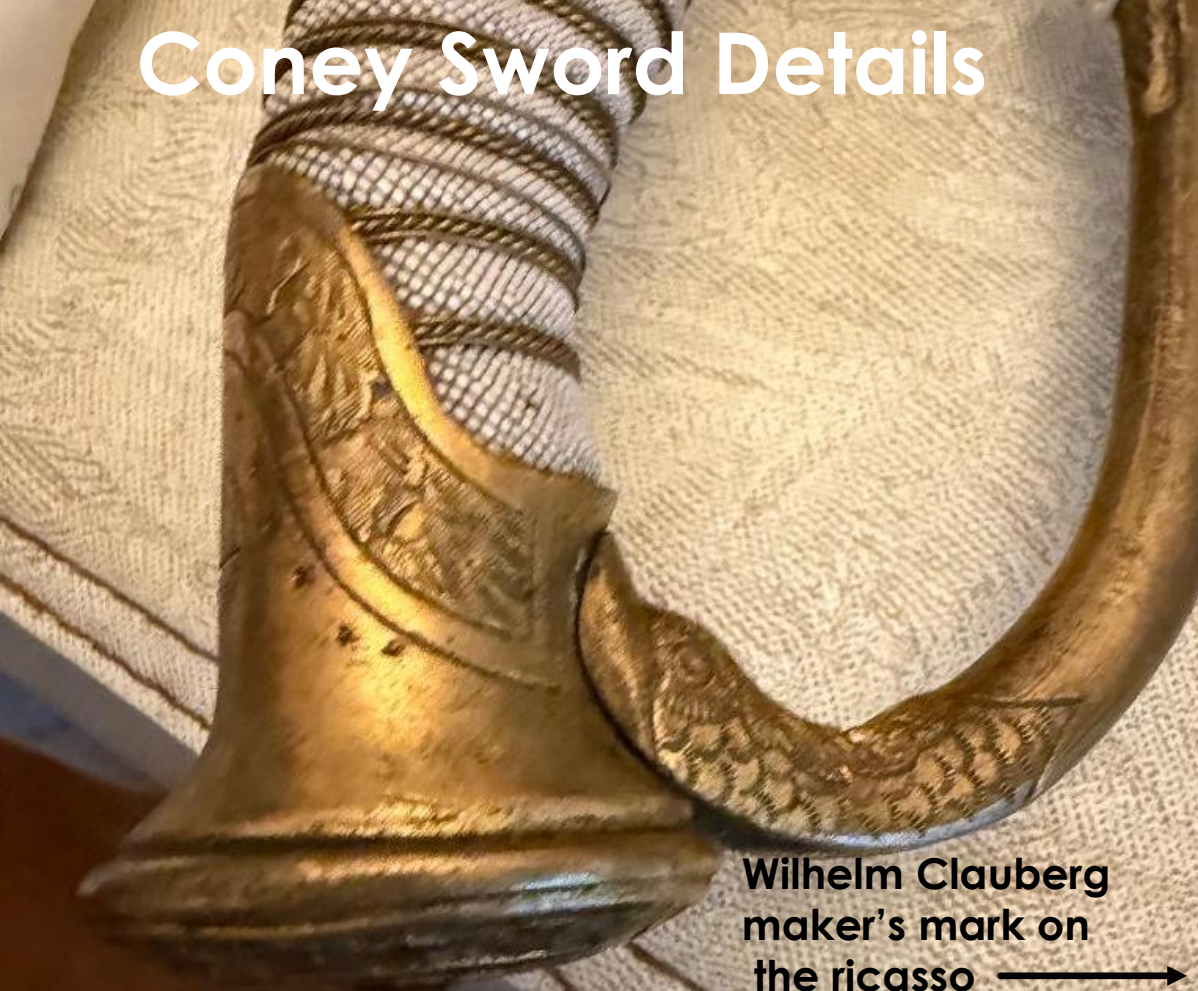
C. J. Coney's Sword

Engineer Coney's Sword is a Model 1852 US Naval officer's sword marked on the ricasso as made by Wilhelm Clauberg of Solingen, in western Prussia (now Germany). Clauberg was a prominent exporter of American Civil War presentation swords from a city famous for swordmaking since the middle ages. The brass hilt includes the Navy regulation "USN" in the guard, and the spine of the blade carries the marking, "Iron Proof," promising that the blade would not break if struck against another sword. Both sides of the blade exhibit elaborate, delicate etching to a distance of approximately eight inches below the ricasso, and both sides are etched "USN." The wire-wrapped grip is shagreen, the skin of a shark or ray. It is not known who presented the sword and watch to Coney. It may have been his C.O. and/or his fellow officers, or it may have been his proud family.



Shagreen grip

Coney Sword Details



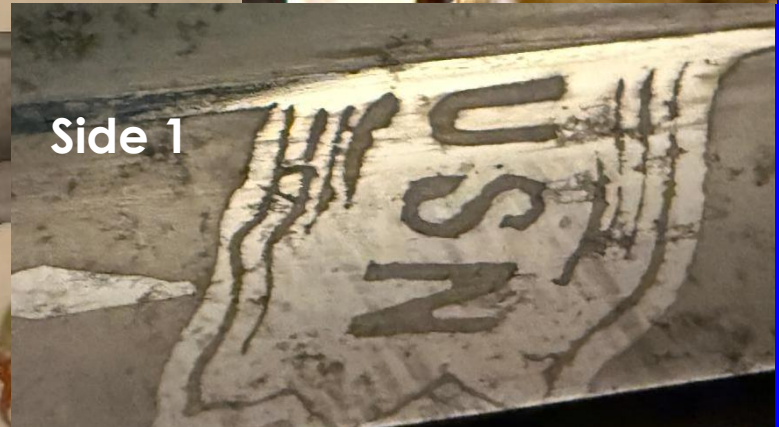
Wilhelm Clauberg
maker's mark on
the ricasso →



Pommel

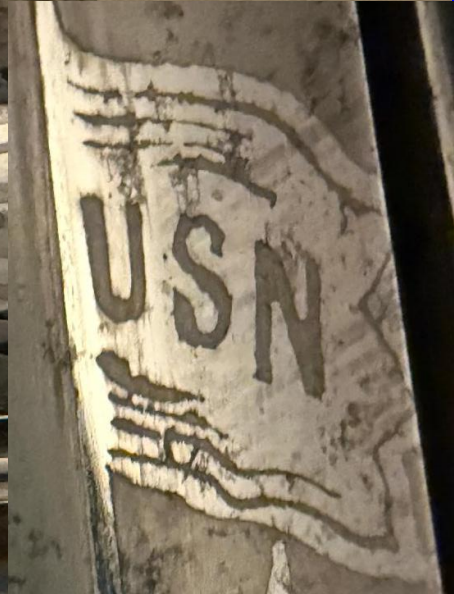
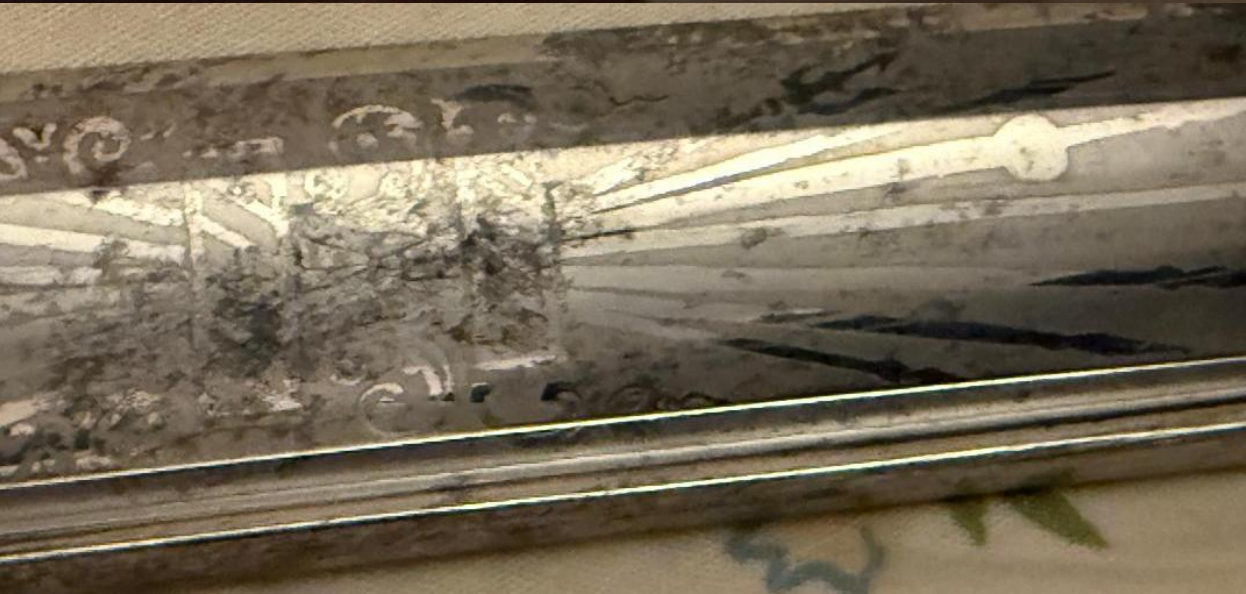


Blade, Side 2



Side 1

More Blade Details – Side 1, with USN Flag Engraving



Asst. Engineer Charles Jabez Coney, USN

Charles Jabez Coney Life Details

Charles Coney was born on March 28, 1840, and he died on April 25, 1907. At the age of 67 he was 5' 7.5" tall and weighed 180 lb.s, he had blue eyes and a fair complexion, and he had a US coat of arms tattoo on his right forearm. At the time of his commissioning in July 1861, Coney still residing in Boston, listing his occupation as "machinist." He married Annie H. Seaverns on June 28, 1866. After leaving the service in October 1866, he moved west in 1867, arriving in Chicago after brief stays in Omaha NE and Minneapolis MN. The 1880 US Census shows him living with his wife in Lake View on the north side of Chicago, and working as a "machinist and draftsman." In 1907, shortly before his death, he applied for and received an increased pension on account of disability.

Summary of Charles Coney Service History

1861 Oct. 10: Appointed a Third Assistant Engineer
1861 Oct. 24: Warranted
1861 Nov. 13: To the *WACHUSETT*
1863 Jan. 1: Sent home by Admiral, sick.
1863 Mar. 25: To the *SAN JACINTO*
1863 Aug. 3: Warranted to 2nd Assistant Engineer*
1864 Jun. 9: Warranted No. 1 – ¾**
1865 Feb. 24: Detached *SAN JACINTO* and unit orders.
1866 Apr. 6: To special duty, Boston
1866 Aug. 18: Commissioned, from 23 July, 1866 No. 3B*
1866 Sep. 6: Detached and to the *SACRAMENTO*
1866 Oct. 2: Resignation accepted

Coney served on the steam and sail powered screw sloop-of-war *USS Wachusett* from October 1861 to January 1, 1863 when he was "sent home sick." Whether he actually made it all the way back to Boston, his literal "home," we do not know. In any case, in March of 1863 he was reassigned to another ship, the steam frigate *USS San Jacinto*. The *San Jacinto* had anchored in NY harbor the previous month to make repairs, where she remained until June 24, 1863, when she set sail for Key West, FL. Coney served on the *San Jacinto* until practically the end of the war. He resigned his commission on October 2, 1866.

* According to Civil War period regulations, a USN 2nd Assistant Engineer was equivalent in rank to an Army Second Lieutenant.

* *Meanings of "1 – ¾" and "No. 3B" are unknown

Service on *USS Wachusett*

In June 1861 *USS Wachusett* was a brand new screw sloop-of-war just laid down by the Boston Navy Yard. She was launched on October 10 and commissioned on March 3, 1862, Commander John S. Missroon in command. She was assigned to the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron and performed service in support of Major General George B. McClellan's Peninsula Campaign in the spring of 1862. On May 4, a boat crew from *Wachusett* raised the Stars and Stripes at Gloucester Point, VA, following the Union occupation of Yorktown, and on the 6th and 7th, the vessel helped to land troops at West Point, VA, in the face of Confederate shore fire. Soon thereafter, the *Wachusett* moved to the James River and, on the 15th, participated in the attack on Fort Darling, Drewry's Bluff, Virginia.

On September 8, 1862 *Wachusett* was designated flagship of a special "Flying Squadron" under "the notorious" Commodore Chas. Wilkes. This squadron of seven vessels was deployed in the West Indies with orders to intercept the destructive and elusive Confederate commerce raiders *CSS Alabama* and *CSS Florida*.

Coney departed the *Wachusett* on January 1, 1863 but on January 18 *USS Wachusett* and *USS Sonoma* captured the Southern merchant steamer *Virginia* off Isla Mujeres and took the British blockade runner *Dolphin* between Puerto Rico and St. Thomas Island on March 25. *Wachusett's* efforts to track down *Alabama* and *Florida* failed. However, the *USS Wachusett's* otherwise illustrious service history was not over.



***USS Wachusett* – Commissioned March 3, 1862**

1,032 tons, 201.3 ft., 11.5 knots, 10 guns

USS San Jacinto

RMS Trent

Service on *USS San Jacinto*

The screw frigate *USS San Jacinto*, the first of three USN ships of that name, entered into service in late 1851. Built as an experimental ship to test new propulsion concepts, she “was plagued by balky engines and unreliable machinery throughout her career. Yet, she amassed an impressive record of service.” *As an engineer on the San Jacinto, Charles Coney would have played an important part in keeping San Jacinto's “balky engines” running.*

From June 1863 Charles Coney served on the *San Jacinto*, the flagship of the Union's Gulf Blockading Squadron. On September 16, the *San Jacinto* captured the steamer *Lizzie Davis* after a two-hour chase. This blockade runner had departed from Havana laden with lead for munitions and was endeavoring to dash into Mobile. On December 16, *USS Ariel*, a tender to *San Jacinto*, captured the Confederate sloop *Magnolia*. On the 24th, the schooner *USS Fox*, another of *San Jacinto's* tenders, took the British schooner *Edward*, which was carrying salt and lead from Havana to the Suwannee River.

The *USS San Jacinto* is depicted at left, having just fired a shot across the bow of the British Royal Mail packet *RMS Trent*, precipitating the controversial “*Trent Affair*” on November 8, 1861. Without higher authorization, the US squadron commander Commodore Chas. Wilkes had ordered the *Trent* stopped and boarded in international waters, and two Confederate envoys, who were en route to London, arrested. Lincoln returned the envoys to avoid a war with Britain.

On the morning of January 7, 1864, *San Jacinto* overtook the schooner *Roebuck* after a two-hour chase, and deprived the Confederacy of a general cargo including much clothing and lead. In another two-hour chase on March 11, *San Jacinto* ran an unnamed schooner (formerly called *Lealtad*) aground. She then took possession of this prize, which was laden with cotton and turpentine for export.

On New Years Day 1865, *San Jacinto* struck a reef near Great Abaco Island in the northern Bahamas and filled with water, never to sail again. Charles Coney was reassigned to detached service on February 24, 1865.

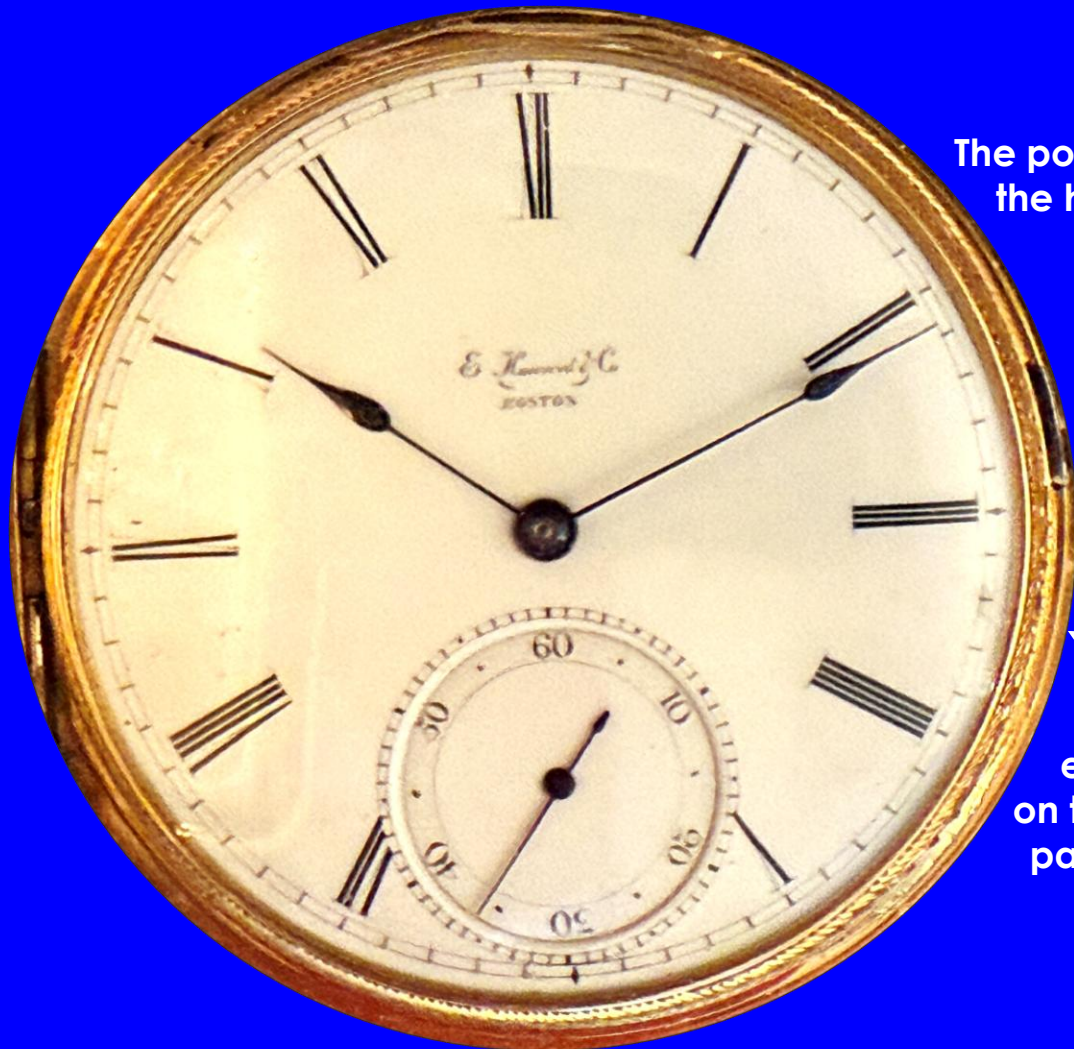


USS San Jacinto

1,567 tons, 237 ft., 8 knots, 8 large guns, Complement: 235 officers and enlisted

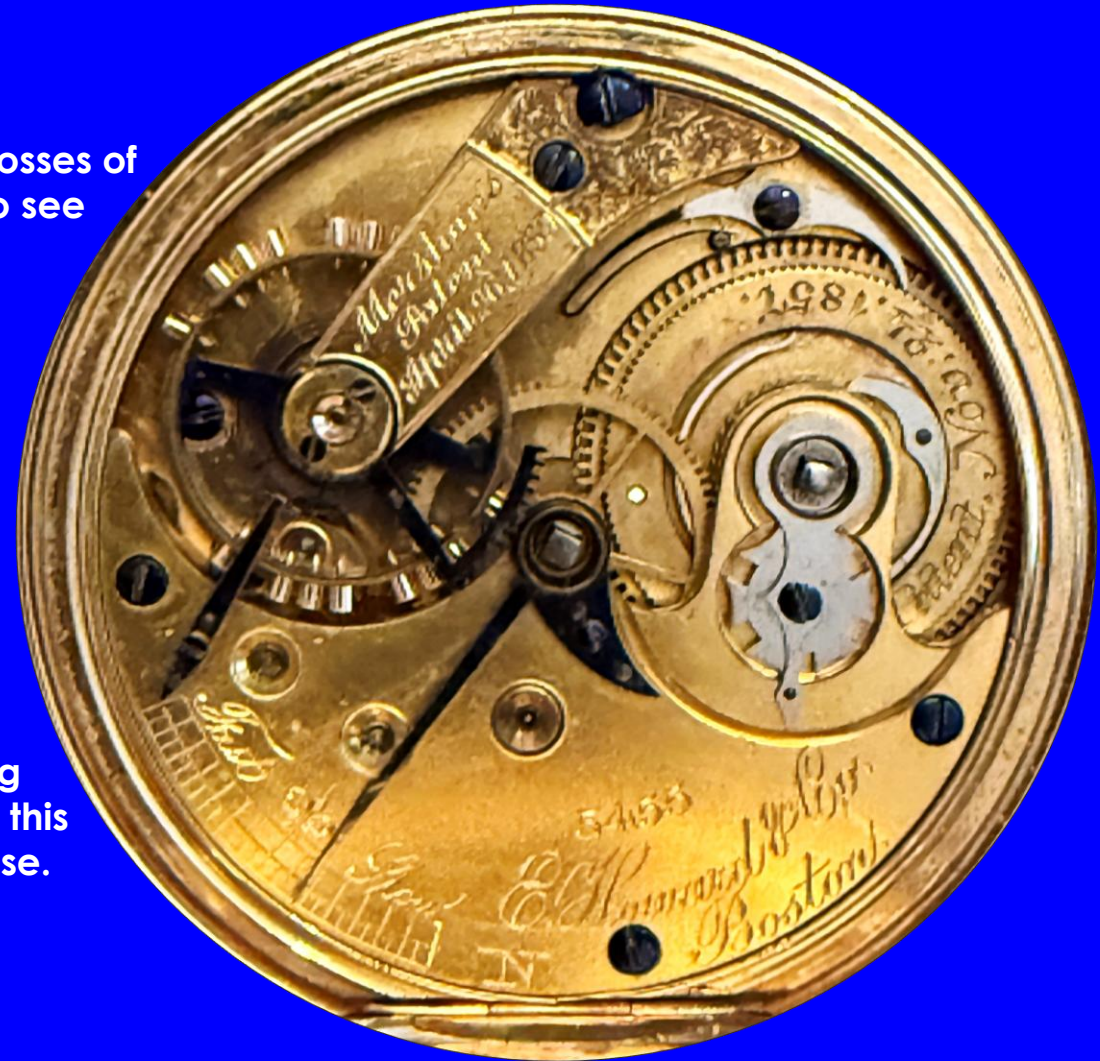
PVT. BENJAMIN W. WOODWARD'S WATCH

(E. HOWARD & CO. 15 JEWEL MODEL 1862-N "SERIES III," SN 5,455, SEPT. 1864)
(MERSHON'S PATENT REGULATOR, REED'S PATENT MAIN WHEEL, SPUN-IN JEWEL SETTINGS)



The polished tips and bosses of the hands are hard to see because of the lighting

Notice the elegant engraving on the gold bezel of this particular watchcase.





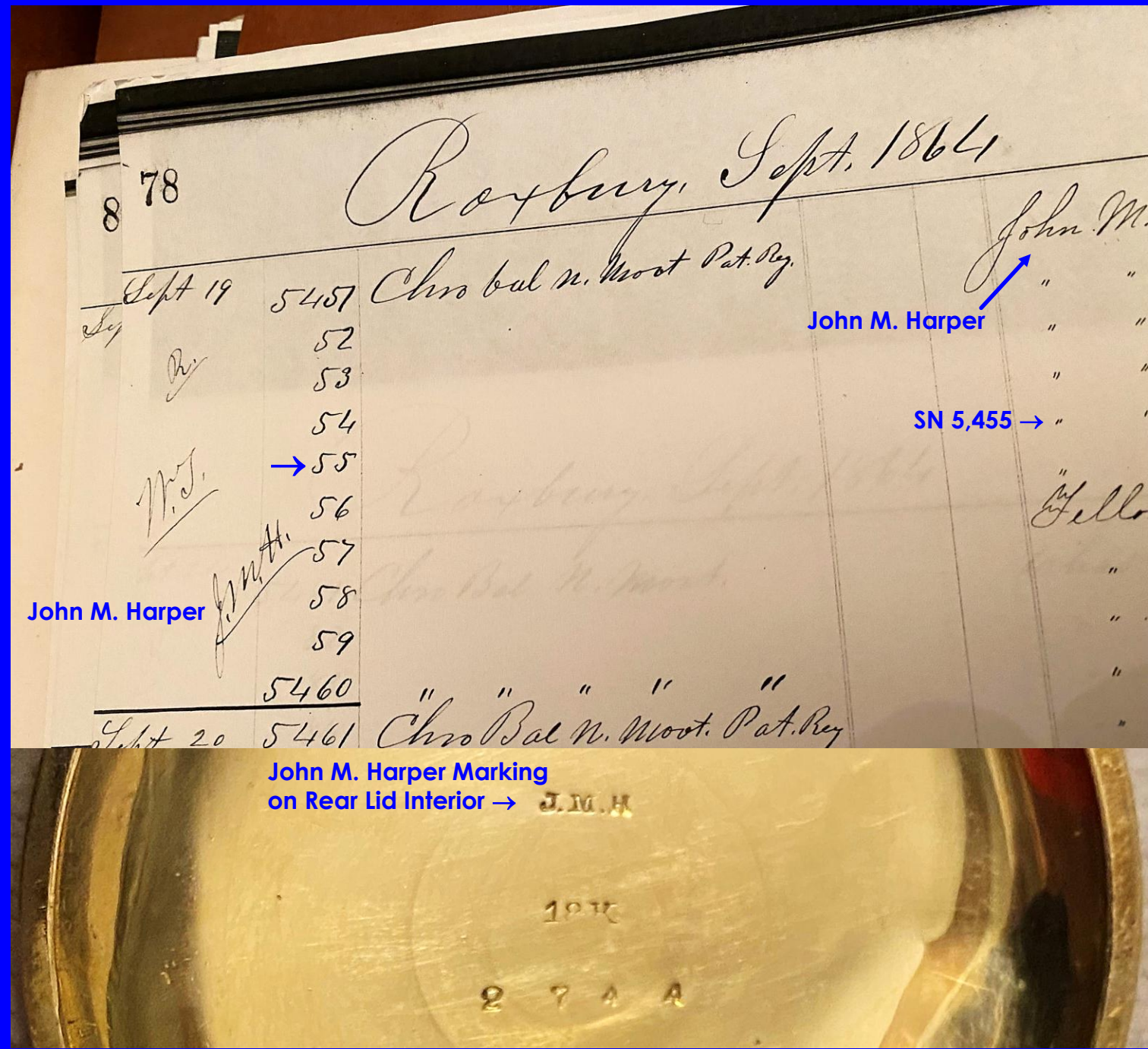
*Presented to
Benjamin W. Woodward
by his friends in
Subsistence Department
Army of the Potomac
October 1, 1864.*

*Presented to
Benjamin W. Woodward
by his friends in
Subsistence Department
Army of the Potomac
October 1, 1864*

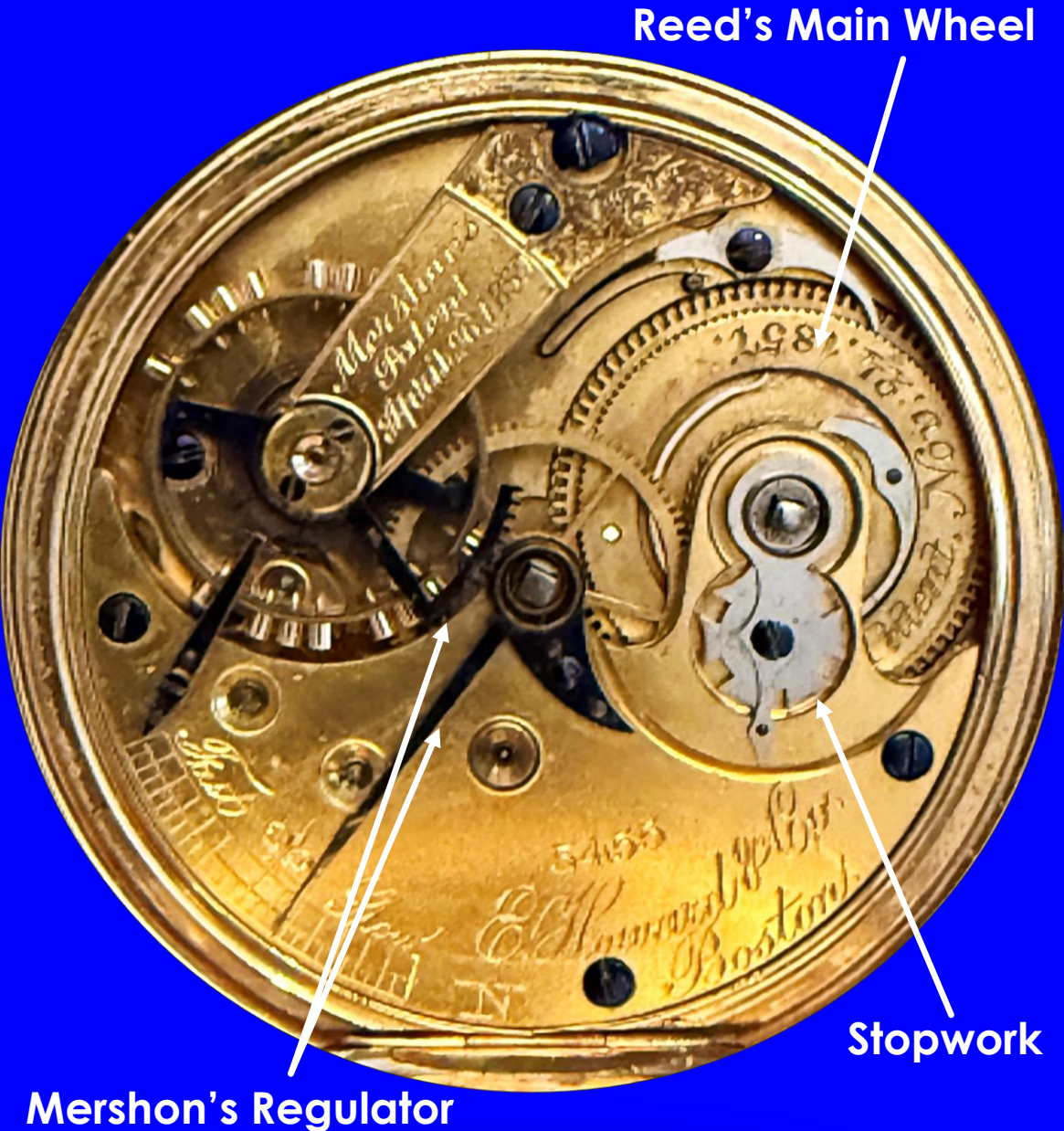
EH&Co Factory Records of SN 5,455

The surviving Howard watch factory production records (right) tell us that movement serial number 5,455 was finished on September 19, 1864 with a chronometer balance (i.e., a temperature-compensating bimetallic balance wheel) and a "patent regulator," and was sold to John M. Harper, a prominent wholesale factory customer who cased and sold many Howard watches in the Civil War period.

Serial numbers of Model 1862-N movements range from 3,301 up to 27,580, with a 100-number interruption at SN 3,401. Production became sporadic after SN 26,600, with a total 1862-N output likely between 23,100 and 23,500.



EH&Co Movement Details



Mershon's regulator, whose April 26, 1859 patent date is engraved on the balance cock, and which cost extra, is a rack-and-pin device intended to provide more precise regulation by reducing the displacement of the curb pins for a given arc length of index arm travel. The main wheel of the movement is engraved with a second patent date, November 4, 1857, referring to Reed's invention, which both protects the escapement and wheel train against shocks that may occur during mainspring breakages. All Howard movements of the Civil War period also had visible stopworks to prevent overwinding and improve isochronism (i.e., uniformity of rate over the running period) and had "quick beat" trains, meaning they beat 5 times per second rather than only 4.5, in order to make the watch less likely to stop if jolted. Movement SN 5,455 has its top plate train jewels in separate settings that are spun into the plate. Like this movement, nearly all Howard movements of the Civil War period had fifteen jewels and were "N" Size, which was close to a standard American 19 Size.

Early Civil War period 1862-N Model examples like SN 5,455 have balance wheels pivoted above the center wheel, making them slightly thicker than later examples. The half-crescent shaped steel escutcheon around the center wheel pinion arbor, the scythe-style Mershon's regulator, and the unslotted countersunk gold balance screws are all prominent early Model 1862-N finishing features.

Case of Pvt. Woodward's Watch

(The 18K engine turned case features attractive machine engraving on three interior surfaces:
The front lid interior [below], the bezel [Slide 80], and the dust cover [Slide 80])



Unlike the American Watch Company, E. Howard & Company never made any of its own watchcases. While some Civil War period Howard watchcases are marked "E.H.&Co.," these markings were put in cases by one of several case makers contracted by the Howard company's Boston or NY City sales offices. As mentioned, the case of EH&Co movement SN 5,455 carries the mark of John M. Harper, a prominent early retailer of Howard watches, and possibly also a case maker. The quality of the 18 karat gold case is evident both by its weight and the nature of its construction and engraving, which includes dazzling engraving on the interior front lid.

Originally cased Howard watches, especially early examples from the Civil War period, are highly sought after by collectors. Surviving Howard watch movements greatly outnumber complete original Howard watches, and it is often especially easy to spot a recased Howard movement on account of all the unique casing requirements of Howard movements, including their unique diameters, thicknesses, rear setting, and their variable case screw locations.

Rear Lid



Benjamin Weston Woodward, Clerk Army of the Potomac Subsistence Department

Benjamin Weston Woodward (1837 – 1902), was born in Hector, Schuyler County NY and received his M.A. from Hobart College in 1862. The Schuyler County Draft Registration record of June, 1863 lists him as “Lawyer,” “Single,” and “1 Yr. clerk, Commissary of Subsistence Department, Army of Potomac.” His older brother, Captain (and later, Major) John H. Woodward, was in charge of beef cattle for the AoP commissary, part of the Subsistence Department. Benjamin served as a clerk under John, along with a third brother, Charles. Benjamin was admitted to the NY bar in 1865 and acceded to the bench as a Schuyler County judge in 1866, and later to the NY State Supreme Court. Part of his career also was spent as a law partner and as an insurance company executive in NY City. In later years he lived in Brooklyn NY for much of the year. At other times of the year he resided in Watkins (now Watkins Glen) NY, where he is buried. We do not know what especially meritorious service Benjamin Woodward performed for the AoP Commissary, but it clearly must have been significant to have warranted such a sumptuous gift as a gold Howard watch.

The Army of the Potomac (AoP) Subsistence Department was responsible for providing all food and medicines necessary to sustain the AoP's soldiers.



Benj W. Woodward

Army of the Potomac Subsistence Department Wagons & Railcars





Judge Woodward and his watch were briefly reunited in the Glenwood Cemetery in Watkins Glen, NY, on July 29, 2018.

We do not currently have an artilleryman's watch in the collection, but we do have a Model 1832 US artilleryman's sword with its distinctive short, hefty blade and its original leather scabbard. It was manufactured by N. P. Ames of Springfield, Mass. in 1836. This sword likely saw service in both the Mexican War and the Civil War. The hilt is solid brass.



Concluding Remarks

This concludes my presentation of the Clint B. Geller Collection of Civil War Provenance watches and related artifacts. The seventeen watches in this collection involved the military careers of at least nineteen men, from a private to a brevet major general and perhaps a Confederate navy commander, whose service touched twenty-four combat regiments or brigades, one of them African American, as well as two ships and eleven states, and who collectively fought in scores of important battles. Two men were either killed or mortally wounded in action very likely with their watches in their pockets. Several of these men are known to have served heroically, and two received the Medal of Honor. Many of these watches stand as moving testaments to the esteem in which their owners were held by their peers, their superiors or the men they commanded. A bit of each of their stories is retold here, in hopes that these watches continue to be cherished and that the original owners, of at least the Union provenance watches, be remembered by a new generation of admirers at a time when our precious American democracy, the oldest sustained democracy in the world, is once again threatened by those who would pull it asunder for narrow partisan gain.



Clint B. Geller, PhD, NAWCC Silver Star Fellow, Gibbs Literary Award Recipient, November 20, 2025