

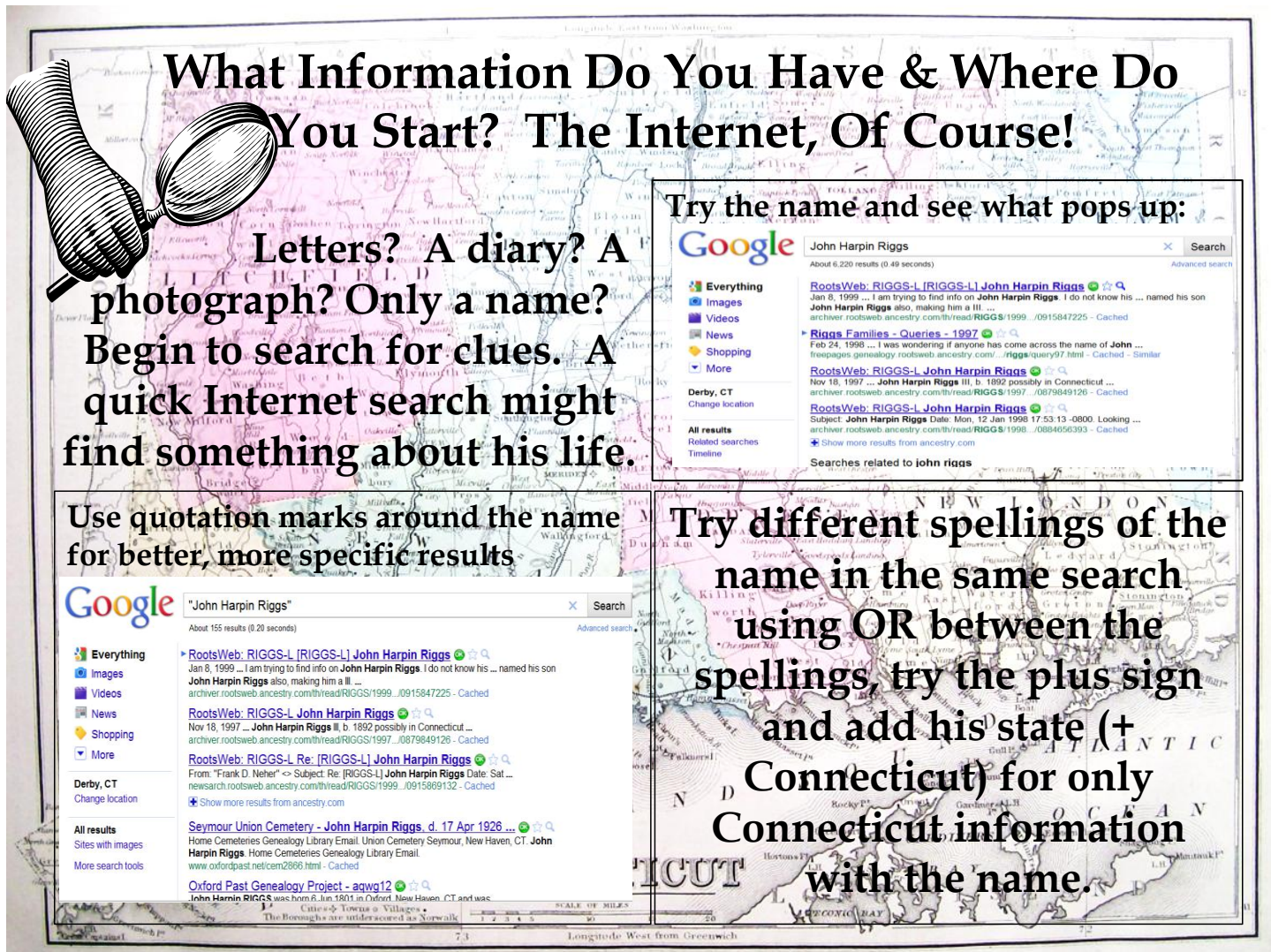
# **Researching Your Connecticut Civil War Ancestor**

## **A Quick Resource Guide On How to Locate Information on Our State's Civil War Soldiers**

**By Carolyn Ivanoff**

This program gives a researcher some quick tips along with electronic and print resources that can be used to research Civil War soldiers. Much of the information in this guide can be used for researching soldiers from any state that send men off to the Civil War. The focus of several of the research strategies and resources are Connecticut specific. If you have a Civil War ancestor or an interest in researching men who enlisted during the year's 1861-1865 this resource guide will offer you several starting points for beginning as well as expanding your research. During the 150<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Civil War, researching the men and women of that gallant generation allows us to make personal connections with our past as a nation. In reaching back we gain an understanding our past and inform our future. Civil War history is all around us. Honoring it we may gain an appreciation for those who have gone before us to make our current lives possible. All honor to those volunteer sons of Connecticut. Their history is too precious to be neglected or forgotten. Enjoy your journey into the past lives of those who preceded us and defended our nation in the hour of its greatest crisis.





# What Information Do You Have & Where Do You Start? The Internet, Of Course!

**Letters? A diary? A photograph? Only a name? Begin to search for clues. A quick Internet search might find something about his life.**

**Try the name and see what pops up:**

**Google** John Harpin Riggs

RootsWeb: RIGGS-L RIGGS-L John Harpin Riggs  
Jan 8, 1999 ... I am trying to find info on John Harpin Riggs. I do not know his ... named his son John Harpin Riggs also, making him a III ...  
archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/thread/RIGGS/1999.../0915847225 - Cached

Riggs Families - Queries - 1997  
Feb 24, 1999 ... I was wondering if anyone has come across the name of John ...  
freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~riggs/queries97.html - Cached - Similar

RootsWeb: RIGGS-L John Harpin Riggs  
Nov 18, 1997 ... John Harpin Riggs III, b. 1892 possibly in Connecticut ...  
archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/thread/RIGGS/1997.../0879849126 - Cached

RootsWeb: RIGGS-L John Harpin Riggs  
Subject: John Harpin Riggs Date: Mon, 12 Jan 1998 17:53:13 -0800 Looking ...  
archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/thread/RIGGS/1998.../0884956393 - Cached

Show more results from ancestry.com

Searches related to john riggs

**Use quotation marks around the name for better, more specific results**

**Google** "John Harpin Riggs"

About 155 results (0.20 seconds)

RootsWeb: RIGGS-L RIGGS-L John Harpin Riggs  
Jan 8, 1999 ... I am trying to find info on John Harpin Riggs. I do not know his ... named his son John Harpin Riggs also, making him a III ...  
archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/thread/RIGGS/1999.../0915847225 - Cached

RootsWeb: RIGGS-L John Harpin Riggs  
Nov 18, 1997 ... John Harpin Riggs III, b. 1892 possibly in Connecticut ...  
archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/thread/RIGGS/1997.../0879849126 - Cached

RootsWeb: RIGGS-L Re: [RIGGS-L] John Harpin Riggs  
From: "Frank D. Neher" <> Subject: Re: [RIGGS-L] John Harpin Riggs Date: Sat ...  
newsarch.rootsweb.ancestry.com/thread/RIGGS/1999.../0915869132 - Cached

Show more results from ancestry.com

Seymour Union Cemetery - John Harpin Riggs, d. 17 Apr 1926 ...  
Home Cemeteries Genealogy Library Email: Union Cemetery Seymour, New Haven, CT. John Harpin Riggs Home Cemeteries Genealogy Library Email: www.oxfordpast.net/cem2866.html - Cached

Oxford Past Genealogy Project - aqw12  
John Harpin RIGGS was born R. Jun 1801 in Oxford, New Haven, CT and was ...

**Try different spellings of the name in the same search using OR between the spellings, try the plus sign and add his state (+ Connecticut) for only Connecticut information with the name.**

The Internet has revolutionized genealogical research. Search engines and databases such as Ancestry.com have opened doors to the past. New information is being added daily. There are several quick tips for searching relate to Boolean syntax, which is the language used by search engines such as Google. You can increase your chances of finding the information you want by using “operators” to refine your search. The most common operators are the plus sign (+), minus sign (-) and quotation marks (“”). Using the plus sign tells the search that the words you are linking with the + must appear in the search; The minus sign tells the search that a word must not appear in your results; surrounding words with quotations marks tells the search that the results must appear as a phrase.

Six Web-savvy strategies defined by genealogist, Nancy Hendrickson, for Family Tree Magazine are:

- 1) Master search-engine math (syntax & operators)
- 2) Refine your search to find the best sources
- 3) Scout out smaller sites
- 4) Look for places, not people
- 5) Try multiple databases (and search engines)
- 6) Go beyond Genealogy sites

(Information from: *Your Ultimate Guide to Genealogy On-Line, Essential Tips and Tools to Trace Your Roots on the Web*, from the Editors of Family Tree Magazine)



# The Best First Research Stop on the Internet for Civil War Soldiers North & South: <http://www.civilwardata.com/>

## American Civil War Research Database

... the largest, most in-depth and fully searchable database of American Civil War soldiers and events.

American Civil War Research Database statistics as of January 22, 2011:

Soldier's records: **4,249,605** (see [Database Status](#))

Civil War regimental rosters: **4,661**; Regimental chronicles: **3,835**;

Officer profiles: **1,010**; Civil War Soldier Photographs: **20,017**

Civil War battle synopses: **3,398**;

**INCLUDING** The *Visitor Pass*!

Search the Database for American Civil War ancestors for only \$10

**MEMBERS**

**DEMO**

(click above for) MEMBER LOG-IN

(click above for) FREE DEMO

**ANNUAL FEE ONLY \$25**

### Soldier History

Selah G. Blakeman

Residence [Stratford CT](#);  
Enlisted on 7/29/1862 as a Private.

On 8/28/1862 he mustered into "D" Co. [CT 17th Infantry](#)  
He was Mustered Out on 7/19/1865 at Hilton Head, SC

Promotions:  
• Sergt 1/30/1864

Sources used by Historical Data Systems, Inc.:

- Connecticut: Record of Service of Men during War of Rebellion  
(c) Historical Data Systems, Inc. @ [www.civilwardata.com](http://www.civilwardata.com)

One of the best sources for initially researching any soldier, North or South, is the American Civil War Research Database. A subscription is only \$25 a year and provides access to all sorts of personnel, state, town, regimental, information. Many libraries have subscriptions to this database that can be used. You can try the guest demo (free) or the Descendants/Ancestors Database for \$10. This Database is especially useful if you have not yet located the Individual's regiment. This database can be used to search a state for individual names, regiments and town/city information and statistics. They also have a photo directory and tons of specifics on every hometown and regiment in the US and CSA. A terrific first place to begin research.

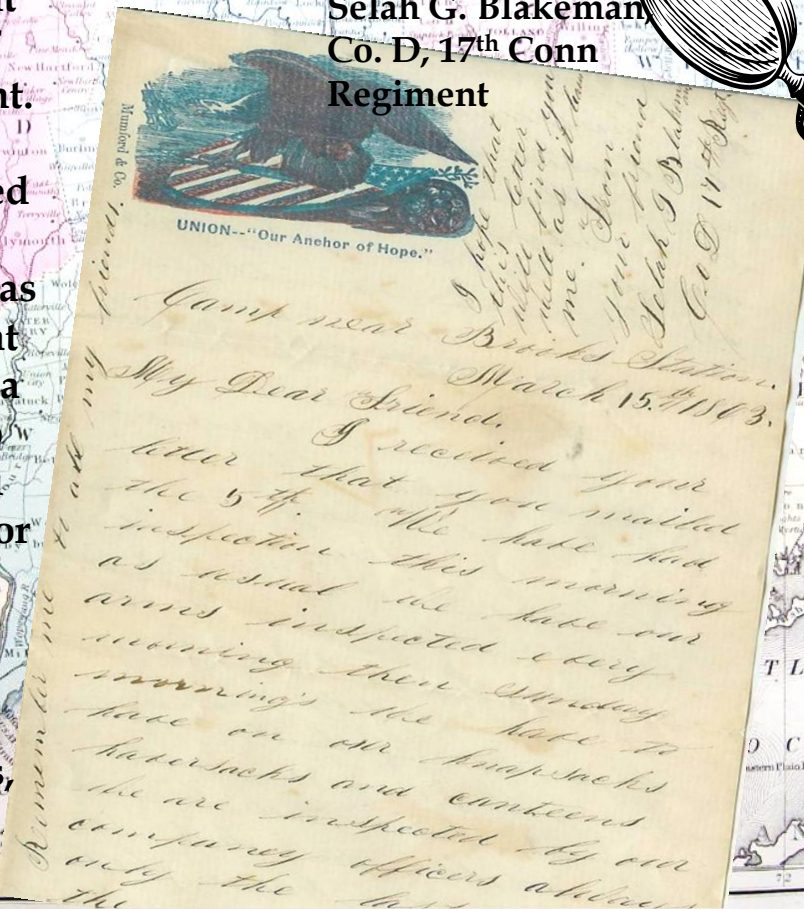


# A Research MUST: Identify the Man's Regiment & Company

A Civil War Regiment  
was the basic unit of  
personnel management.

Regiments were  
numbered and attached  
to states. Their full  
complement of men was  
1000 upon recruitment  
and they were led by a  
Colonel. In order to  
learn everything you  
can about your ancestor  
you must know his  
state, regiment, and  
company. This  
information can be  
found through letters,  
diaries, veterans  
activities, etc.,

Selah G. Blakeman  
Co. D, 17<sup>th</sup> Conn  
Regiment



If you have no other leads, the internet is the first logical place to run a quick regimental listing and can be done in several ways. Look for rosters, etc., and any other clues. Once you know the regiment you have an open door to more specific information about where your ancestor was, what experiences and battles he may have participated in, where he may have been camped, who he may have fought with, etc. You will also have a much better chance of completing information for a National Archives request for pension records and compiled military service records. A quick way to locate a soldier's regiment is to use the free Civil War Soldiers and Sailors database offered by the National Park Service and detailed in the next slide. The American Civil War Research Database on the previous slide offers this information as well as more in-depth regimental experience records, statistics, details about cities and towns that sent men off to war, etc.



# Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System

**Free Internet research tool for searching the records of the soldiers and sailors who fought in the Civil War from the National Park System**

[CWSS -- the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System](#), maintained by the National Park Service has more than six million names in the system. The entire population of the US at the time (North and South) only came to about 32 million. The Civil War would, indeed, as Lincoln stated touch every heart and hearth stone. CWSS shows the information on the General Index Card. Cards were prepared from unit and regiment musters as a soldier or sailor's service record. The cards were used after service to determine eligibility for pensions. The cards can also be obtained from the National Archives.

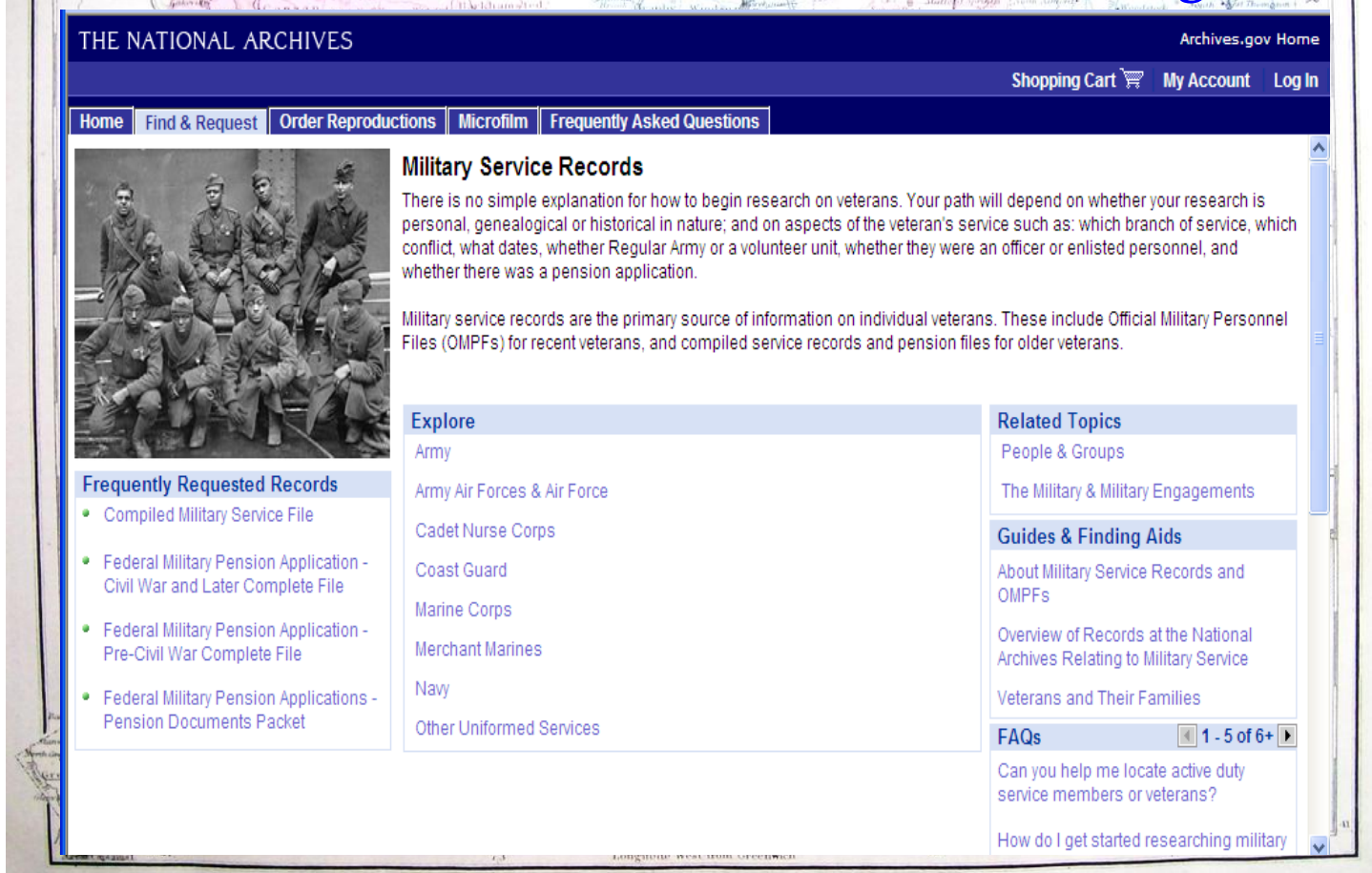
2223  
Riggs, John H.  
Co. F, 7 Connecticut Inf.  
Private Corporal

CARD NUMBERS.

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16151928	16151946
16151929	16151947
16151930	16151948
16151931	16151949
16151932	16151950
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16151934	1



# Personal Information About Your Ancestor The National Archives at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)



The screenshot shows the National Archives website interface. At the top, there's a header with "THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES" and "Archives.gov Home". Below this is a navigation bar with links: "Home", "Find & Request", "Order Reproductions", "Microfilm", and "Frequently Asked Questions". On the right, there are links for "Shopping Cart", "My Account", and "Log In". The main content area features a large image of soldiers in uniform. To the right of the image is the "Military Service Records" section, which includes a brief explanation of how to begin research on veterans and a list of military service records. Below this is a "Frequently Requested Records" section with a list of records. To the right of the list is an "Explore" section with links to various military branches and services. On the far right, there are sections for "Related Topics", "Guides & Finding Aids", and "FAQs".

**THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES** Archives.gov Home

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Home Find & Request Order Reproductions Microfilm Frequently Asked Questions

**Military Service Records**

There is no simple explanation for how to begin research on veterans. Your path will depend on whether your research is personal, genealogical or historical in nature; and on aspects of the veteran's service such as: which branch of service, which conflict, what dates, whether Regular Army or a volunteer unit, whether they were an officer or enlisted personnel, and whether there was a pension application.

Military service records are the primary source of information on individual veterans. These include Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs) for recent veterans, and compiled service records and pension files for older veterans.

**Frequently Requested Records**

- Compiled Military Service File
- Federal Military Pension Application - Civil War and Later Complete File
- Federal Military Pension Application - Pre-Civil War Complete File
- Federal Military Pension Applications - Pension Documents Packet

**Explore**

- Army
- Army Air Forces & Air Force
- Cadet Nurse Corps
- Coast Guard
- Marine Corps
- Merchant Marines
- Navy
- Other Uniformed Services

**Related Topics**

- People & Groups
- The Military & Military Engagements

**Guides & Finding Aids**

- About Military Service Records and OMPFs
- Overview of Records at the National Archives Relating to Military Service
- Veterans and Their Families

**FAQs** 1 - 5 of 6+

- Can you help me locate active duty service members or veterans?
- How do I get started researching military

You can order on line and pay with a credit card in advance for pension records and compiled military service records. The cost of the complete pension record is \$75 and CMSRs are \$25. When filling out the electronic form in order to get the best results you need to fill out as much as you know about the soldier you are researching. Name, rank, regiment, company at least. Birth dates, death dates, state of residence, etc., all help insure that you will receive the documents you request. Shipping can be up to 142 days for pension records, however, they usually come in a few weeks. There is no charge if the search for records is unsuccessful. The new electronic form takes the place and is similar to the old NATF form85 that used to have the attached carbon copies.



# Order On-line: View of a Completed Electronic Pension Record Order of Kady Brownell, a woman who experienced combat with the 5<sup>th</sup> Rhode Island Regiment and lived at one time in Bridgeport, CT - Fill out as much information as possible.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES		Archives.gov	
Home		Shopping Cart	
Find & Request		My Account	
Order Reproductions		Microfilm	
Frequently Asked Questions		My Account	
<b>Veteran's Identification</b>	<b>Service Description - General</b>	<b>Service Description - Army</b>	<b>Application Information</b>
<b>Veteran's First Name:</b> kady	<b>Branch of Service in Which he Served:</b> Army	<b>Arm in Which he Served:</b> Infantry	<b>Pension File Number:</b> May be Certificate#279843
<b>Veteran's Middle Name:</b>	<b>Rank:</b>	<b>If Other, Please Specify:</b>	<b>Name of Widow or Other Claimant:</b> Robert Brownell?
<b>Veteran's Last Name:</b> brownell	<b>Kind of Service:</b> Not Sure	<b>Company:</b>	
<b>Year of Birth (YYYY):</b> 1842	<b>Beginning Year of Service (YYYY):</b>	<b>Regiment:</b> 1st & 5th RI	
<b>Year of Death (YYYY):</b> 1915	<b>Ending Year of Service (YYYY):</b>		
	<b>War in Which he Served:</b> Union, Civil War (1861-1865)	<b>Service Description - Navy</b>	
	<b>State From Which he Served:</b> Rhode Island	<b>Name of Ship:</b>	
<b>Place of Birth (City, County, State, etc.):</b> Africa?Rhode Island?Scotland?		<b>Service Description - Marine Corps</b>	
<b>Place of Death (City, County, State, etc.):</b> Oxford, NY women's Relief Hom		<b>Unit in Which he Served:</b>	
<b>Place(s) Veteran Lived After Service:</b> RI, Bridgeport CT, NYC, Oxford NY			
<b>If Veteran Lived In a Home for Soldiers, Give Location (City and State):</b> Oxford, NY			
<b>Please provide any additional information (e.g., alternate spellings of the Veteran's name) or comments here:</b> Kady Brownell 1st and 5th RI followed Pvt. Robert Brownell, Interested in all information. Received a pension of \$8 per month beginning 1884. Newspaper clippings may also be in Kady Brownell Pension File Cert #279843			

If your ancestor was on the military payroll you can order their Compiled Military Service Record. If your ancestor applied for and collected a pension, or if he left a widow who did, you will want the information which can include eyewitness testimony , medical records, marriage records, and a wealth of other personal information. Pension records are \$75 and worth every penny most of the time. If the researchers at the National Archives do not find any information there is no charge. Above is the very unusual case of a woman who experienced combat with the 5<sup>th</sup> Rhode Island Regiment after following her husband into the service. Kady Brownell lived in Bridgeport, Connecticut after the war and applied for and gained membership with the local Elias Howe Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. She also applied for and received a U.S. Soldier's pension and her records are available at the National Archives.



## Compiled Military Service Records (CMSRs) – Don't assume that because your ancestor was in a regiment that fought at Gettysburg that he was there without proof from the CMSR file from the National Archives

*Reggs John A.*  
Co. F, 7 Connecticut Inf.  
*Private Corporal*

CARD NUMBERS.

1625151	1625151
1625152	1625152
1625153	1625153
1625154	1625154
1625155	1625155
1625156	1625156
1625157	1625157
1625158	1625158
1625159	1625159
1625160	1625160
1625161	1625161
1625162	1625162
1625163	1625163
1625164	1625164
1625165	1625165
1625166	1625166
1625167	1625167
1625168	1625168
1625169	1625169
1625170	1625170
1625171	1625171
1625172	1625172
1625173	1625173
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1625178	1625178
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1625187	1625187
1625188	1625188
1625189	1625189
1625190	1625190
1625191	1625191
1625192	1625192
1625193	1625193
1625194	1625194
1625195	1625195
1625196	1625196
1625197	1625197
1625198	1625198
1625199	1625199
1625200	1625200

Number of personal papers found: *5*

See also: *5*

*John A. Reggs*  
Det., Co. F, 7 Reg't Conn. Infantry.

Age *30* years.

Company Muster Roll

For *Sept 4, 1862*

Joined for duty and enrolled: *Sept 4, 1862*

When *Sept 4, 1862*

Where *New Haven*

Period *3 years*

Present or absent: *Present*

Stipends, \$ *100* for *100*

Due Gov't \$ *100* for *100*

Remarks:

Book mark: *Ames*

(500)

*John A. Reggs*  
Det., Co. F, 7 Reg't Conn. Infantry.

Age *30* years.

Company Muster Roll

For *Sept 4, 1862*

Joined for duty and enrolled: *Sept 4, 1862*

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Present or absent: *Present*

Stipends, \$ *100* for *100*

Due Gov't \$ *100* for *100*

Remarks:

Book mark: *Ames*

(500)

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** What do I get when I order a compiled service record?

**Answer:** A compiled military service record consists of a card or cards on which is recorded information about a soldier that was collected from muster rolls, returns, pay vouchers, hospital registers, prison records, and other records. The abstracted information may include references to wounds, hospitalization, absence from the unit, court martials, and death. This will not represent all of the information about a soldier scattered among a variety of records.

CMSRs are \$25 and worth every penny. You fill out the same electronic form on-line at the National Archives as you do for pension files. CMSRs prove where a soldier was at any given time that the roll is made. You can find a lot of surprises in the CMSRs. You can verify or rule out whether your ancestor was present for duty when his regiment was in battle or whether he was on furlough, hospitalized, etc. These cards and records don't represent all of the information about a soldier but are invaluable when comparing them against the record of the soldier's regiment and his pension records.



Some items you might find in a soldier's CMSR file would be re-enlistment papers, casualty sheets, hospital stays, furlough dates, and definite proof if he was present for duty during battle. Don't overlook this information.

**VOLUNTEER RE-ENLISTMENT.**  
TOWN OF  
STATE OF  
Connecticut  
Seymour

I, John H. Riggs, born in Seymour,  
in the State of Connecticut, aged thirty-two years  
and by occupation a farmer, do hereby acknowledge to have  
volunteered to serve as a SOLDIER in the Army of the United States on the day of January, 1864.

THREE YEARS, unless sooner discharged by proper authority: Do also agree to accept  
such bounty, pay, rations and clothing, as are, or may be, established by the law for volunteers  
do re-enlist as a veteran volunteer, and I, John H. Riggs, do  
solemnly swear, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America,  
and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies or opposers whom-  
soever; and that I will observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States,  
and of the officers appointed over me, according to the Rules and Articles of War.

Witness my hand and subscribed to, at St. Helena Island, N.C., John H. Riggs  
this first day of January, 1864.

Geo. L. Jamieson  
Major, 7th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry

I CERTIFY ON HONOR, That I have minutely inspected the Volunteer named John H. Riggs,  
personally in his enlistment, and that he was entirely sober when enlisted; that of the best of my judgment and belief,  
he is of lawful age; and that, in accepting him as duly qualified to perform the duties of an able-bodied Soldier, I have  
entirely observed the Regulations which govern the recruiting service.

This soldier has light eyes, dark hair, dark complexion, is 5 feet 6 inches high,  
Seventh Regiment of Connecticut Volunteers,  
S. S. Arnold  
Capt. 7th Connecticut Recruting Officer.

**CASUALTY SHEET.**

Name, John H. Riggs  
Rank, Private, Company F, Regiment, 7th  
Arm, Inftry, State, Conn.  
Place of casualty, Pocotaligo  
Nature of casualty, Wounded slightly  
Date of casualty, Oct. 22, 1862.

FROM WHAT SOURCE THIS INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED

Report of Killed, Wounded, and Missing of the \_\_\_\_\_ Regiment.  
Brigade, \_\_\_\_\_ Division, \_\_\_\_\_ Corps, dated \_\_\_\_\_ Officers & Men under  
Command of Brig. Genl. Wm. H. Perry in the engagement  
of Pocotaligo, Oct. 22, 1862.  
Page 11 of Page 2  
Index II of Page 4

W. L. Scott  
7-12-1891. Clerk

These forms for re-enlistment and casualty accompanied the CMSR for a Seymour, Connecticut soldier, John Harpin Riggs of the 7<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.



# Pension Applications & Files – a wealth of personal information on the life and death of a soldier

3-111.

## SURGEON'S CERTIFICATE.

Enter character and number of claim. Pension Claim No. 744 981

Name of claimant John H. Riggs Address of claimant 87 Elm St. New Haven, P. O.

Company Co. 7 Reg't 16th Conn. State Conn.

Character and nature of claim Failure of vision (partial) Date of examination October 14th 1899

He receives a pension of Five dollars per month.

He makes the following statement upon which he bases his claim for service:

*That in 1863 while at Morris Bluff he became afflicted with acute blindness and in 1865 while at Morris Bluff he became blind. He was found to have been blind since and before being placed in the hospital and is unable to get along in the world.*

Attention is invited to the outline of the human skeleton and figure upon the back of this certificate, which should be used to indicate precisely the location of a disease or injury, the entrance and exit of a missile, an amputation, etc.

We hereby certify that upon examination we find the following objective conditions:

Pulse rate 92 intermittent, respiration 18, temperature 98.6

height 5 feet 0 inches, actual weight 144 pounds, age 38 years.

The external appearance of the face, etc. of both eyes normal, the anterior structures, conjunctiva, cornea, sclera, as also anterior chamber and iris, are perfectly normal, the pupils clear and the iris responsive to light; the media is clear, aqueous humor, lens and vitreous body are all perfectly transparent, and the structures at the fundus clearly recognizable to light as far as the corneal reflexion in this case of extreme myopia interferes with details. There was extreme posterior staphyloma of both eyes with extensive choroidal atrophy and a large "cone" at each optic nerve. The "cone" however amounted to a ring at the optic nerve and quite as pronounced in the left eye. The left eye manifest choroidal atrophy is to be regarded as a sequel to previous retinitis-choroiditis. The fundus of the right eye is normal.

For full certificate to be filed in the records of the Pension Commission, the applicant must be examined by the Pension Commission, and the certificate must be filed in the records of the Pension Commission.

Applicant for Additional

No. 744 981

DATE OF EXAMINATION: Aug 2 1899

J. F. Kelly, Pres. BOARD.

Edw. G. Russell, Secy.

A. J. Smith, Treas.

Post office, New Haven

County, Conn.

State, Conn.

P. S.—Write your Post-office address plainly and in full.

23 1899

10/14/99

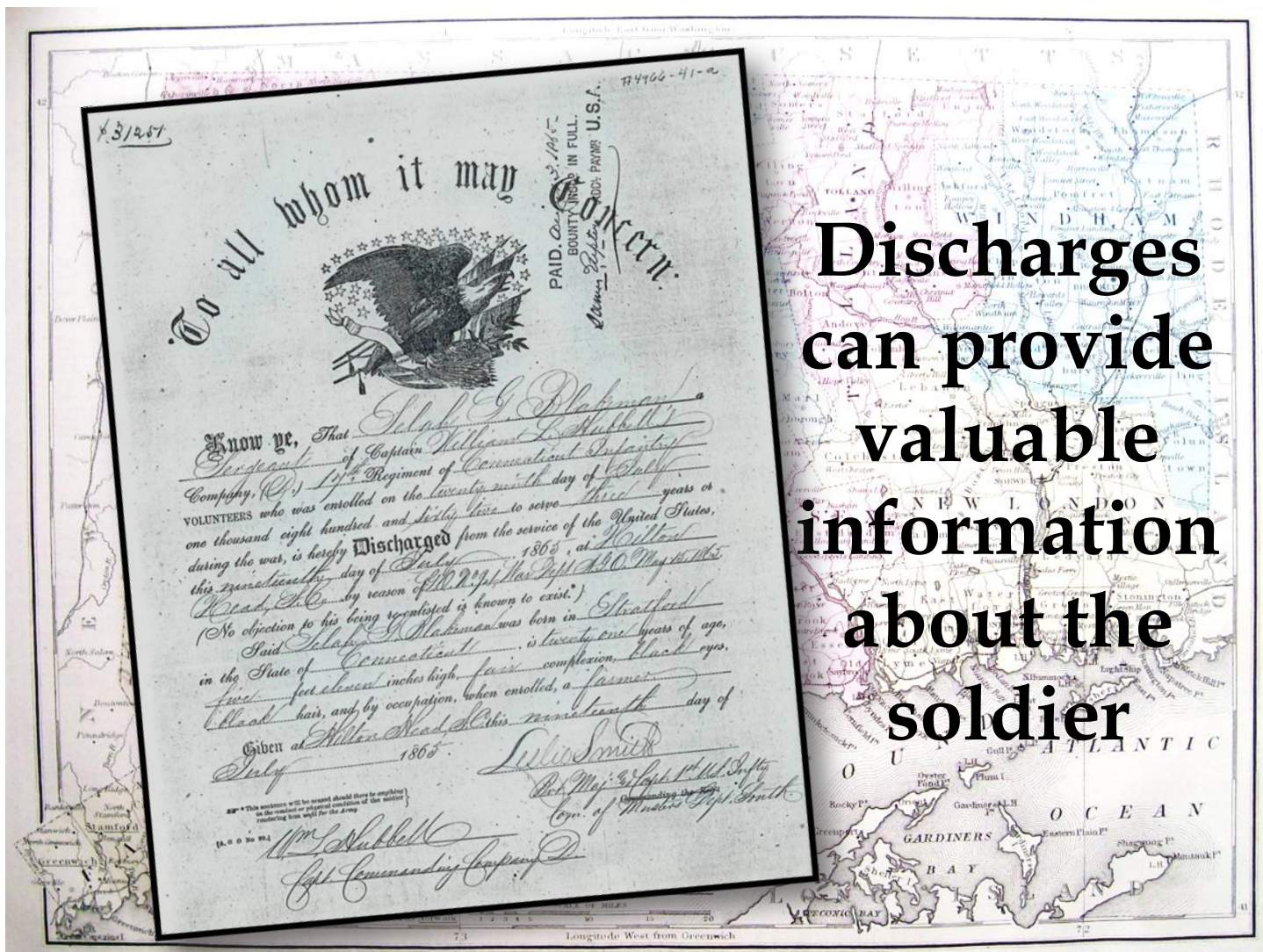
## Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** What is the difference between a complete and a pension documents packet?

**Answer:** The pension documents packet will contain, to the extent that these documents are present in the complete file, eight documents that contain genealogical information about the pension applicant. The pension documents packet will include any of the following items that are in the file - declaration of pension, declaration of widow's pension, Adjutant General statements of service, questionnaires completed by applicants (numbered forms), "Pension Dropped" cards, marriage certificates, death certificates, and discharge certificate. Complete pension files usually provide the most genealogical information for researchers. The complete pension file contains all existing documentation included in the partial file and other supporting documents of a personal nature.

Pension records contain information of birth, marriage, death, children, and health issues. They are a wealth of genealogical information about the soldier and often his family as well. You may find sworn statements from friends and neighbors. Sworn statements from comrades from the regiment, and the soldiers own sworn statements, make pension files a wealth of personal information about military service and the veteran's life after the war. Often the men relay information in their own words about their lives and health, combat experience, and family and these statements are made under oath and attested to by a notary. In the case where a soldier is collecting a pension for being wounded in action, sworn testimony from members of the regiment who witnessed the wounding are included along with surgeon's certificates and the results of examinations. If you are researching a soldier a copy of the pension file is a must.



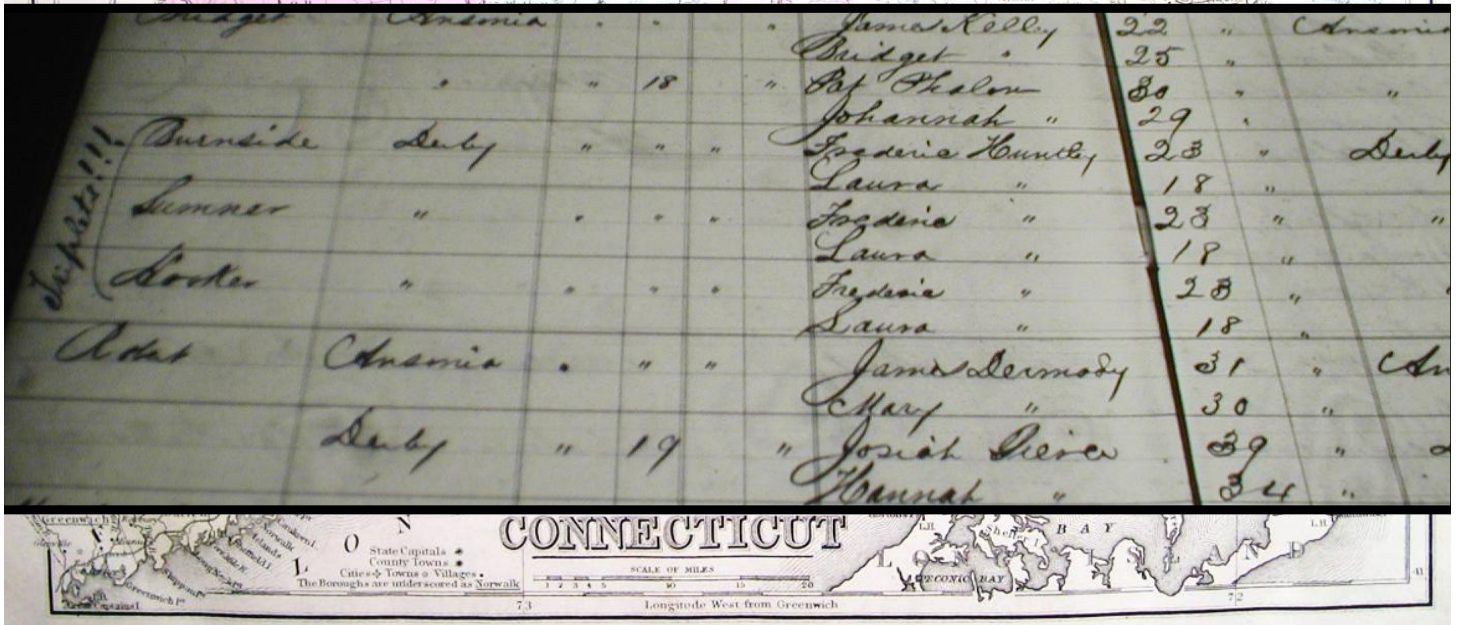


# Discharges can provide valuable information about the soldier

Besides the usual name, rank, and regiment, discharges give the term of enlistment, date and place of discharge, and reason for discharge. They also give a physical description of the soldier for identification purposes and the man's occupation when he enlisted. Fold marks on many original discharges indicate where soldiers probably folded them up and carried them in a pocket or wallet. This copy of Selah Blakeman's discharge (17<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteers, Company D) arrived in the envelope with his pension records from the National Archives. It gives the date he was discharged, his rank at the time, the geographical location of where he was discharged, i.e., Hilton Head. The discharge describes his height, complexion, the color of his eyes and his hair. It states his profession as farmer. It also gives the amount he was paid upon discharge. Discharges are wonderful reference documents.

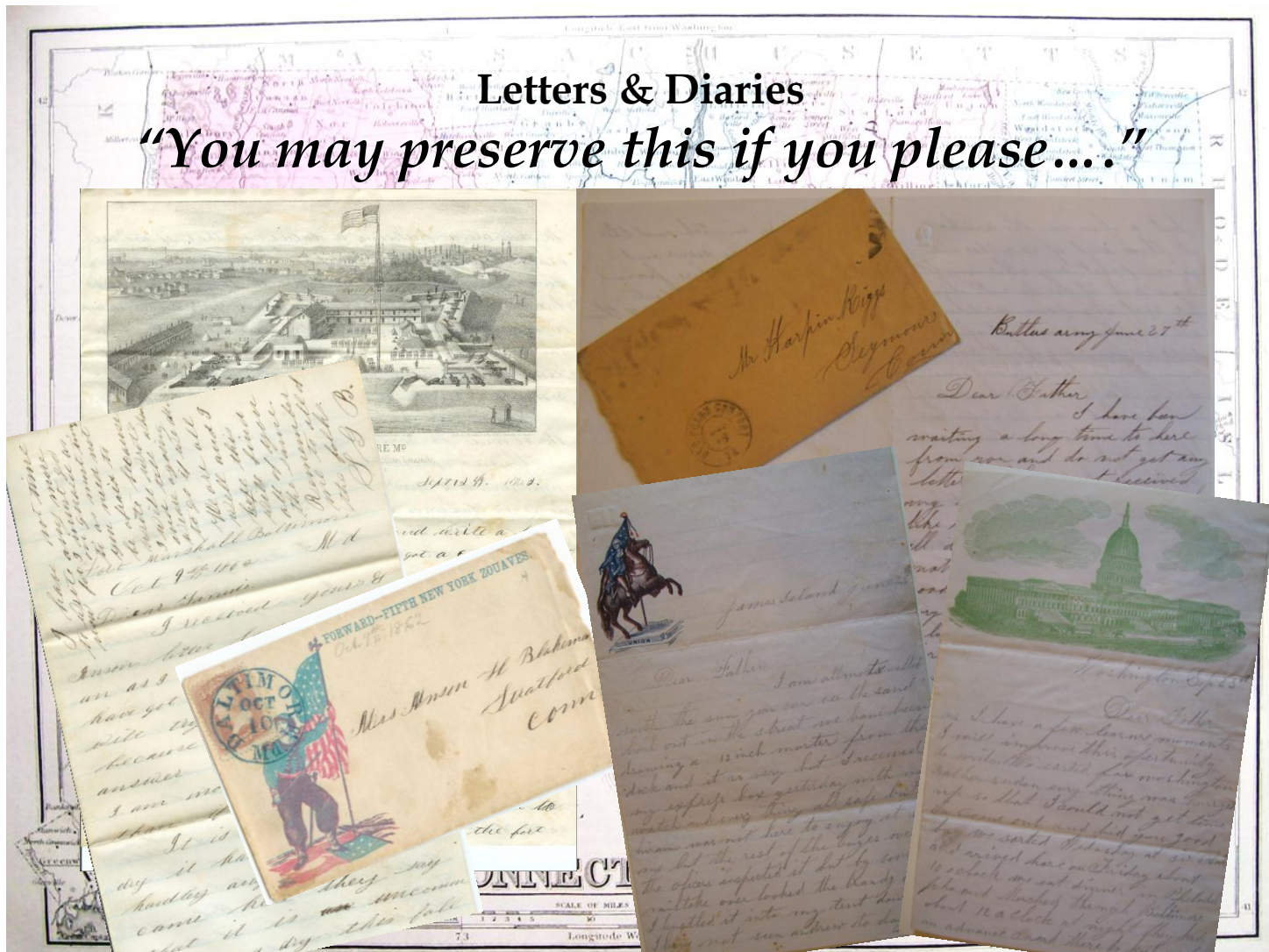


# Vital Records, Town Halls, State and Local Historical Societies are Goldmines for Historical Information on the War and the Home Front



Vital Records come in a variety of forms and are available in libraries, town halls, state and local historical societies. Some vital records are available in print form. Many are available on microfiche. There are many initiatives to digitize this information as well. There are several LDS Family History Centers in Connecticut that welcome the general public and offer assistance and free resources, including vital records which can be ordered upon request for genealogical research. This was an interesting photo taken with a digital camera right from the microfiche reader screen. It's the vital record of births recorded the day after the Battle of Antietam for the town of Derby, Connecticut. I found it while researching a Derby soldier from the 20<sup>th</sup> Connecticut, Co. B. On September 18, 1862 a young couple in Derby named Frederic and Laura Huntley had triplets, he was 23 and she was 18 years old. This view of the vital record for that event shows the town clerk had bracketed the margin of the record of this unusual event with the word Triplets and three exclamation points. In addition to the unusual event of the birth of triplets was the fact the couple chose names for their three boys and the names were recorded in the town record. (many birth records of the period did not give the child's name, but simply the names of the parents, their ages, race, sometimes father's occupation, and the sex of the child) There was apparently a great deal of patriotism displayed in the choice and recording of the names of these three boys chosen to honor three Union generals: Burnside, Sumner and Hooker Huntley. -- It is interesting to note these three generals all participated in the great battle of Antietam, the bloodiest day in our nation's history, which had been fought only the day before, on September 17, 1862. Did the town of Derby already have news of the battle or would it be days before the news reached the valley? When doing research always take a digital camera. This image was made using a photograph of the screen of the microfiche reader displaying the Derby Vital Records at a Church of the Latter Day Saints Genealogy center in Woodbridge, CT.





Union and Confederate soldiers alike realized the historical significance of their participation in the War. Everyone wrote letters if they were literate. Literacy rates were extremely high. Spelling was creative and phonetic, and handwriting, a century and a half later, is often difficult to read. It may take a great effort to decipher some of the handwriting and faded words, but it's worth the effort. To be able to read a soldier's letters is a remarkable opportunity. Sometimes soldiers sent packages of letters home with specific instructions for their families to preserve them. Other times they kept the letters with them carrying them through battle. Some soldiers took measures to protect their written legacy in letters and diaries. In February 1863, Pvt. Friend Smith, 20<sup>th</sup> Connecticut, Co. B, would write his wife: "I assure you your letters are read and reread over & over again. I send them back because I want them preserved & I find some others do the same." Many thousands of these fragile written papers have been lost, damaged, and destroyed due to careless treatment over the years. Almost every soldier who took part in the war, North and South, was conscious they were participating in a cataclysmic event of National magnitude. Even soldiers who were moderately literate wanted to document their experiences and communicate them to loved ones back home. Psychologically, they wanted to leave something behind for their families to know. It was the letters that held all their feelings and thoughts. Reading Civil War letters today it is apparent these feelings were especially acute because of the insecurity, unpredictability, and danger of the soldiers' experience both in camp and in battle. All were conscious of their finite mortal existence in an infinite cause. Tens of thousands of soldiers kept diaries of their experiences; millions of soldiers sent their letters home to be preserved. Tragically many did not survive the years. Private Smith not only numbered every letter he wrote for future reference but he kept a diary as well. On New Year's Day, 1863 he mailed it home to his wife. Some soldiers and families dressed up their mail with colorful, patriotic stationery as you see above. All who wrote hoped their loved ones would keep them in their thoughts and return their written words with news of home. Almost every letter home asked for families to write back often. Requests for stamps, paper, envelopes from home were common. Letters, if available, shed so much light on the lives of this great American generation.



**Copy of the first and last pages of a letter from July 4, 1863 from Pvt. J. Henry Blakeman, 17<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Infantry, to his mother describing his wounding and the death of his best friend, Stephen Crofutt on the first day of the battle**

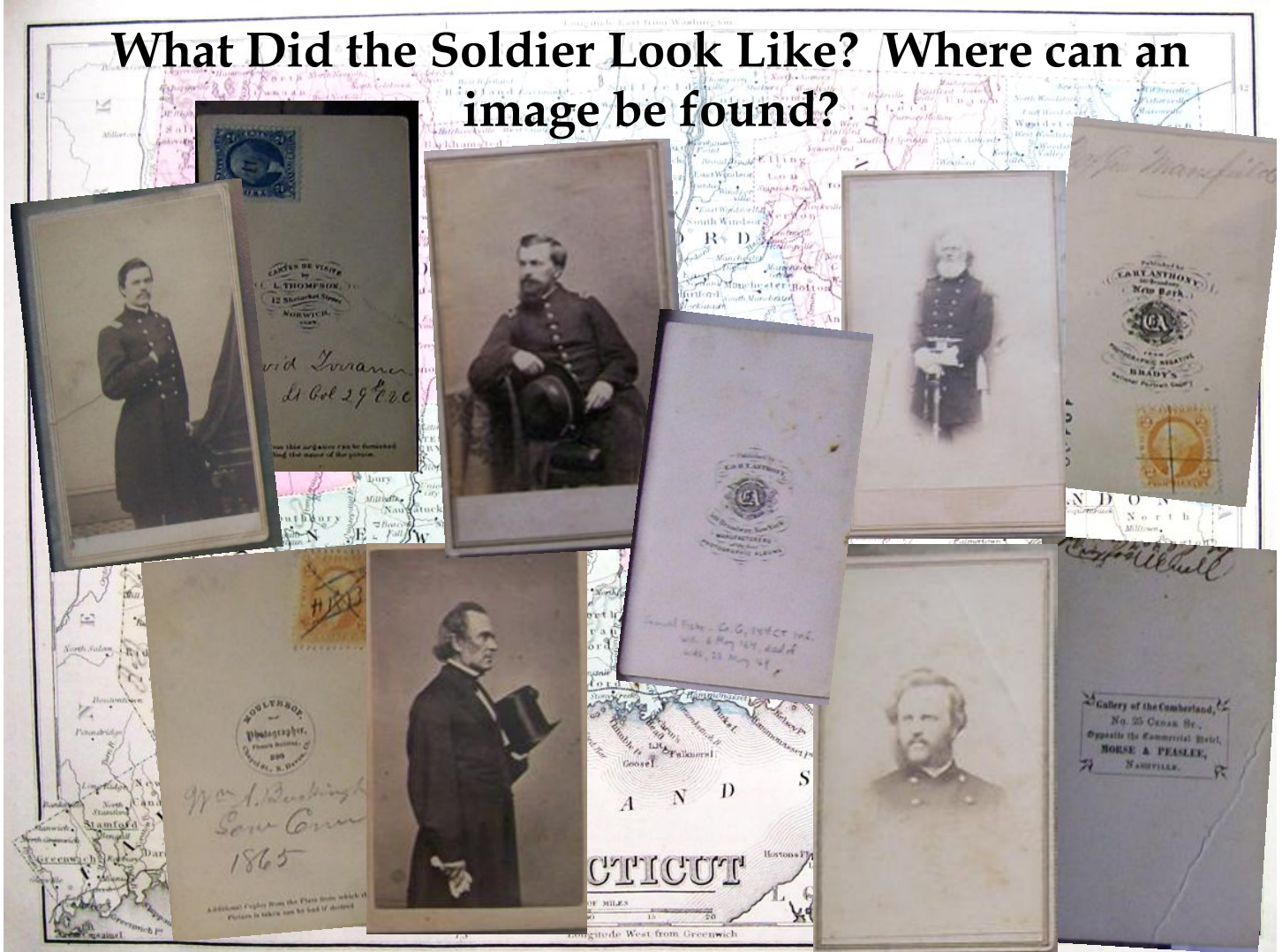


This July 4, 1863 letter was written the day after the Battle of Gettysburg ended in Union victory. The entire town and surrounding areas were what historian Gregory Coco would call “a vast sea of misery” in a “strange and blighted land” in the aftermath of the battle. From the 11<sup>th</sup> Corps Hospital on the George Spangler farm at Gettysburg, on July 4, 1863, J. Henry Blakeman would write home to his mother describing his wounding, and the death of his best friend, Stephen Crofutt (photo insert) on the first day of the battle:

*Dear Mother, I think I shall have a chance to send a letter this afternoon and knowing your intense anxiety will write a little. You know we have had a terrible fight and men are slain by hundreds but thanks to our preserver I escaped with my life though pretty severely wounded. I was hit the first day before I had time to fire my gun, taken prisoner and kept one day and then taken to the city and the next day our folk took the town and I was taken to our hospital some three miles back. Here we have to lie on the ground and last night we had a terrible rain so I am as wet as water can make me but that is good for the wound. I was struck by a rifle ball in the left side between the hip and ribs passing through the flank.. Dr. says he thinks it did not enter the cavity and if not it will heal soon. Do not worry about me for it will do no good. I don't mind it much can get up and walk around quite spry and have a good appetite. I can hardly bring my mind to tell you that Stephen was killed by the same volley that wounded me. He was within three feet of me was shot through the head and killed instantly. Stephen was liked by the whole co. and will be much mourned. I know it will almost kill his mother but reality is better than suspense and what I tell you you can depend upon. I saw Selah yesterday morning a few minutes he escaped unhurt. Our Regt is badly cut up they numbered only eighty yesterday. Co. D. only five besides Lieut. Peck. Col. Arrived yesterday morning and had command of the Brigade. Dol. Fowler is killed Maj Brady is wounded and Capt Burr in command of the Regt. I lost everything I had but my canteen and little water. Even lost my cup. I got this sheet of paper of Stiles Wells. It was in a small portfolio in his breast and a ball passed through the whole fifty thickness but did not hurt him it probably saved his life. He was afterwards wounded in the leg. Sylvester is hurt in the shoulder not seriously. There are twelve of us from Co. D here together wounded they say this morning that the Rebs are getting off as fast as possible and I guess they are pretty badly whipped. The 11<sup>th</sup> Corps did not run much this time as their cas. Plainly shows. I cannot tell you where to direct to me now for I don't know where we shall be taken. I will write again as soon as I am established in a hospital. Don't worry about me I am feeling as well as circumstances can permit. So with much love and many good wishes for your welfare I remain you Son in good spirits. Henry P.S. Tell them I was hit face toward them no reb saw my back. Henry*



# What Did the Soldier Look Like? Where can an image be found?



Photographic images of people were common during the war. By 1861 photographic technology evolved and images could be printed and reproduced on card stock using glass plate negatives. These small,  $3\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ , photographic cards were called CDVs, short for Cartes de Visite. CDV photographs were imported from Europe to the U.S. about 1859. When the war began hundreds of thousands of new recruits flocked to hometown photographers to have their images made in uniform. Millions of soldiers had their portraits taken upon mustering into service, on leave, and in the field. Their loved ones also flocked to hometown photographers. Of the millions of these soldier images produced, hundreds of thousands still exist. However, so many of the existing images are unidentified and unidentifiable. Unidentified images abound and if you are searching for a photograph of your ancestor you will need fine research skills and very good luck. Soldier images abound in family albums, local libraries, the Connecticut State Historical Society, the Connecticut State Libraries. They may appear in regimental histories or even on dedicated websites. Many of the images taken during the war have tax stamps affixed to the back of the card and were cancelled by hand. Many have back marks listing the photographer. In the examples above, from left to right, each image is shown with its reverse photographer's mark. Connecticut men from left to right: Lt. Col. David Torrance, 29<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Colored Regiment; Connecticut Governor William Buckingham in 1865; Captain Samuel W. Fiske, 14<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteers, Co. G, wounded May 6, 1864, Wilderness, Va., died May 23, 1864; top: General Joseph K. Mansfield, 12<sup>th</sup> Corps, Killed September 17, 1862, Antietam, Md.; bottom: Lt. Col. William Burr Wooster, 20<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteers, 1864, Colonel 29<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Colored Regiment.

\*Darrah, William, C., *Cartes De Visite in Nineteenth Century Photography*, William C. Darrah, Publisher, Gettysburg, PA, 1981, reference pages 4, 5, 7



# Contemporary Newspaper Accounts

**The Statement of an Eye Witness of the Late Battle of Antietam**  
 Lieut. Geo. D. Davis of the 11th Connecticut, called at the *Tribune* office on Sunday morning, and furnished the following statement; he was in the battle of Antietam Creek. His regiment went into the field with 550 men, led by Col. H. W. Kingsbury, formerly of the 1st U. S. Artillery, and under the command of Griffin's Battery. The 11th returned to Antietam Bridge. The 11th Colonel was shot and killed.

**General Headquarters, State of Connecticut.**  
 ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
 Hartford, August 19th, 1862.  
 Special Orders, No. 577.  
 1. As it is claimed that the residences of some Volunteers in the Military service have been erroneously returned to the Adjutant General, appeals will be received at this Office for the purpose of correcting such errors. All returns starting the name of the residence, the name of the person, and the name of the person by whom the return was made, must be forwarded to the Adjutant General's Office, Hartford, August 19th, 1862.

**MAYOR'S OFFICE,**  
**STURDEVANT BLOCK,**  
 (Room formerly occupied by Col. Dwight Morris.)  
 Subscriptions to the War Fund and the payment of amounts already subscribed, will be received at the Mayor's Office.  
 The Finance Committee will be in session daily.  
 July 18  
 61/11  
 J. J. J. Agent.

**Going to the War!**  
 I SHALL close my business within the next ten days. All persons having unsettled accounts on my books will please call and settle immediately, as at the expiration of ten days my books will be placed in the hands of a collector. Will sell my present stock at cost.  
 aug 19 10  
 S. STERLING, Jr.

**Special Town Meeting.**  
 Notice is hereby given to the legal voters of the town of Bridgeport, that there will be a Special Meeting in Washington Hall, on Saturday, August 23d, 1862, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of authorizing the town to borrow such sum of money as will enable them to carry out the vote of the town passed August 1862, in relation to paying Bounties to Volunteers for the call of the President for 300,000 men, and in relation to the 14th Regiment, and to issue the notes of the town for

**COONEY'S LADY'S BOOK** for August, received and for sale at  
 No. 2 Exchange Place.

**Notice.**  
 WHEREAS my wife Catharine Landy has left my bed and board, this is to forbid all persons harboring or trusting her on my account and I will not pay any debts contracted by her.  
 HENRY LANDY  
 Stratford, July 14th, 1862.

**UNIVERSAL CLOTHES Wringer!**  


Postage stamps, according to an Act lately passed, are a legal tender for all sums under five dollars. It is reported that new issues, on thicker paper, are to be made, and without gum on the backs.

**Hoop Skirts!**  
**Cuban Skirts**  
 For sale at the manufactory, No. 25 Water street.  
 July 19 '62  
 S. M. CHESNEY.



**THE LATEST NEWS.**  
**BY TELEGRAPH.**  
**THE FEDERAL LOSS.**  
**It will not Exceed Ten Thousand.**

**"Stonewall's" Arm Reported Amputated.**  
 BALTIMORE, Sept. 28.—The *American's* special from Sharpsburg says our total loss at the battle of Antietam will amount to ten thousand. The official figures in two corps (Sumner's and Hooker's) are as follows:—  

SUMNER'S CORPS.				
Officers.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	
Enlisted men.	89	3708	458	100
Total for corps	890	3797	458	5115

HOOKER'S CORPS.				
Officers.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	
Enlisted men.	68	653	187	787
Don't die.	15	187	25	1187
Reserves (P.A. reserves)	24	449	25	699
Total for the corps	347	2016	160	2523

 General Burnside's loss in killed and wounded will be about sixteen hundred. The total loss in these three army corps is therefore about 8,500. The loss in General Franklin's and General Bank's corps (now commanded by General Williams) will bring the casualties fully up to the total stated, though there may be some considerable reduction in the number of missing.  
 General Griffin, whose brigade pickets the river at Blackburn's and Reynolds's fords, opposite Shepherdstown, keeps strict watch on the rebels, and is active in reconnoitering the country along the Virginia side of the Potomac. On Friday morning, a battalion of cavalry crossed and soon afterwards a boy appeared on the opposite bank, shouting to our pickets to fire. He came over and said he had enlisted with the rebels at Frederick, but becoming disgusted with the service, deserted to come home. "The rebels are reported to be in strong force ten miles back from the river. He also said that Jackson had had his arm amputated in consequence of a wound received at Antietam. These stories of rebel deserters are, however, notoriously unreliable.



**500 WOMEN WANTED**  
 TO WORK ON  
**MILITARY WORK**  
 THE WORK GIVEN OUT.  
 IRVING HULL,  
 ELM-ST., SECOND DOOR FROM COR. MAIN  
 Bridgeport, August 21st, 1862.

**Colored Men of Conn.**  
 YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS OF RHODE ISLAND invite you to respond with them to the call of General Saxton, for a Regiment of Colored Men, to aid in putting down this rebellion. The regiment, if organized, will be subject to the same service, and the officers and men drawing the same pay and rations as other regiments now in the service of the United States.  
 A ROLL IS NOW OPEN AT THE BARBER'S HALL of the subscriber, Nos. 18 and 19 Wall street, Bridgeport, where all information will be given in the matter by one of the committee appointed by the colored men of Providence.  
 aug 20 1862  
 R. H. LANE.

The newspaper clippings above are taken from the Bridgeport Evening Standard and the Hartford Courant dated, 1862 the second year of the Civil War. Many newspapers have on-line archives. In Connecticut the Hartford Courant, the oldest operating paper in the nation, has all of its issues on-line and searchable since it was founded in 1764. To access the Hartford Courant for free with your library card (as long as it is from a Connecticut library) you can log onto the Connecticut Digital Library and go to the Heritage Quest and/or ProQuest search engines under ICONN. Local newspapers from the Civil War years can be found nationwide both on-line and at local libraries on microfilm. They are a tremendous and rich historical record. Eyewitness accounts of the battles, letters home, casualty lists, etc. Beware, however, of the possible inaccuracy of contemporary accounts. To read the article titled "The Latest News" (above right) today we know Stonewall did not lose an arm at Antietam. Eight months later in May of 1863, he would indeed lose his arm and subsequently his life at Chancellorsville.



# Hartford Courant On-Line and The Connecticut War Record

Conn. Soldiers in Hospital at Baltimore  
Hartford Daily Courant (1840-1887); Aug 12, 1863; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Hartford Courant  
pg. 2

**Conn. Soldiers in Hospital at Baltimore.**  
Mr. Cornish reports the following Connecticut soldiers in the Patterson Park Hospital, Baltimore. They expressed great pleasure in seeing him, as the only Connecticut man outside of the army they had seen outside of the army for months.

Daniel P. Knowlton, Co. I, 5th; George Draper, Co. F, 18th; Theodore Sharp, Co. K, 16th; L. F. Peltou, Co. G, 16th; O. E. Pitcher, Co. D, 17th; H. T. Loper, Co. B, 16th; Charles Miller, Co. F, 11th; D. Blakesley, Co. H, 18th; George Ridge, Co. K, 5th; F. R. Green, Co. F, 18th; Patrick McGran, Co. B, 1st Ct. cavalry; Frank P. Manhanse, 2d Ct. battery; Sergt. Charles McCormick, Co. I, 5th; T. L. Smith, Co. C, 17th.

**In the Jarvis Hospital, Baltimore—**P. H. Blake-man, Co. D, 17th; Geo. W. Baldwin, Co. I, 14th; Christopher Congdon, Co. B, 8th; George Cook, corporal, Co. I, 18th; A. J. Comstock, Co. E, 18th; W. H. Clark, Co. F, 18th; J. H. Dennis, Co. K, 19th; C. T. Doolittle, sergeant, Co. A, 20th; Geo. E. Hayes, Co. D, 17th; Charles B. Lewis, corporal, Co. D, 17th; Patrick Murphy, Co. F, 5th; W. H. Patch, Co. A, 17th; Charles McElroy, Co. E, 17th; Ralph C. Saunders, Co. C, 18th; Ed. H. Thacher, Co. K, 17th; Terrence Townner; C. I. Wells, Co. D, 17th; C. H. White, 2d Ct. battery; F. I. Smith, Co. A, 20th; Luke Tiffany, 1st heavy artillery.

Mr. Cornish finds that excellent care is taken of all our wounded men in all the hospitals of Baltimore and Gettysburg, and that their wants are well supplied. He urges the necessity of sending acids, such as lemons and pickles, and hopes that every Connecticut family having a cucumber vine will remember to prepare some pickles for the soldiers, in good cider vinegar. Cotton shirts, drawers and socks, mosquito netting, and other hospital comforts are in constant demand, and can never be contributed too liberally.

## THE CONNECTICUT WAR RECORD.

PECK, WHITE & PECK,  
Publishers.

OUR STATE POINTS TO DEEDS, NOT ACRES.  
NEW HAVEN, SEPTEMBER, 1863.

VOL. I. No. 2.  
\$1 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.



For the Connecticut War Record.

**Brigadier General Mansfield.**  
The ancestry of General Mansfield were of English extraction. They appear among the most distinguished names in the early settlement and history of the colonies. The ancestor of this sketch, Joshua Kins Peck Mansfield, was the son of Mary and Henry Stephen 22, 1808. In 1817 he entered the Military Academy at West Point, and graduated with high honors in 1822, being only two remain in the service at the present time, viz. George Wright, Colonel of the Ninth Regular Infantry and Brigadier General of Volunteers, and

David H. Vinton, Lieutenant-Colonel and Deputy Quartermaster-General. In accordance with regulations governing the appointment of cadets to the corps of Engineers, Cadet Mansfield was, on the 1st of July, 1822, appointed brevet Second Lieutenant of Engineers. Thus he continued for nearly ten years, his commission as First Lieutenant bearing date March, 1832. In July, 1838, he was promoted to the rank of Captain, and on the outbreak of the Mexican War was intrusted with the responsible post of Chief Engineer of Taylor, during the years 1846 and 1847. In the defense of Fort Brown, which was attacked on the 2d of May, and heroically defended until the 20th, Captain

Mansfield was particularly distinguished, and received the brevet of Major for his services.

In the three days' conflict at Monterey, 21st, 22d and 23d of September, 1847, Major Mansfield again distinguished himself and was breveted Lieutenant Colonel for gallant and meritorious conduct. At the storming of Monterrey he was severely wounded, but in five months after, he was again at his post, having been breveted Colonel for gallant services in the battle of Buena Vista, Feb. 23, 1847.

In 1851, Colonel Mansfield was still Captain in the corps of Engineers, his name being third on the list. At that time the following distinguished officers were his associates in the Engineers: General H. W. Halleck, G. B. McClellan, Horatio E. Wright, G. W. Cullum, Foster, H. W. Benson, L. G. Barnard, and Quartermaster-General Meigs. The Rebel Generals, Robert E. Lee, Peter G. T. Beauregard, and Charles S. Stewart, were also officers in this corps at the same time.

On the resignation of Inspector-General George A. McCall, now Brigadier-General of Volunteers, Colonel Mansfield was selected, May 28, 1862, to fill the important post of Inspector-General, with the full rank of Colonel, and thereupon resigned his rank as Captain of Engineers of the regular army, then just created by Congress.

During the present rebellion General Mansfield was chiefly with the army of the Potomac, and though nearly sixty years of age he bore the exposure and fatigue incident to active service even better than many of half his years. He is said to have planned and constructed the defenses around Washington. Called suddenly by the Government from less perilous to assume active command in the field, it was on that fatal

Above is the casualty list printed in August 1863 in the Hartford Courant after the Battle of Gettysburg. Newspapers were sought after both at home and by men in the service. Albert F. Sherwood describes in *Memories of Old Derby* that he was 19 and working in an old wood turning shop in the fall of 1861. "The war was on and all were eager for news from the front. The paper arrived at the shop promptly at 7. It was brought by a long lean man named Thompson. His head was drawn by some sort of contraction of neck muscles to one side, almost to his shoulder. He came loaded down with New Haven morning papers, the Palladium and Journal-Currier and whatever the weather, rain or snow, it never hindered his arrival which was as prompt as that of an express (train) today. I have often wondered at the amount of his endurance. He walked from New Haven over the turnpike to Derby, nine miles, across to Birmingham, thence to Ansonia disposing of his load all the way and then returned, passing our shop at about two o'clock in the afternoon on his way home only to repeat the round the next day and every day.....There were five hundred soldiers in the war from our town. Most of them we knew and the Daily Palladium often brought news of the death or severe wounding of some of these. Those were sober hours and we talked of the horrors of war and of the brave boys who were risking their lives for (our) country, many of whom we would never see again. When reverses were announced with lists of killed, and among them close friends and acquaintances, we often spent days of gloom working in silence and wondering when it would all be over. Then again when it chronicled news of victory we were glad, but even victory had cost the precious life of some friend and the load was at our heart's door."

Above right is a page from the Connecticut War Record, a paper started in 1863 to compile all the war news from all the regiments in the state. It was published by Peck, White & Peck in New Haven and cost \$1 per year, paid in advance. After the war it was bound and indexed. It is a precious, contemporary archive, rich in regimental experiences and details. The Connecticut State Library and other local libraries have copies. It may soon be digitized for use on the Internet. Until it is digitized, this source is well worth a research trip if you are looking for information on individuals and regiments.



# Obituaries and Cemeteries

COLONEL W. B. WOOSTER  
Hartford Courant (1887-1922); Se

COLONEL W. B. WOOSTER.

**COLONEL W. B. WOOSTER**  
Death of One of the state's Most  
Known Men.  
Colonel William B. Wooster died sud-  
denly at his home in Ansonia at 8  
o'clock yesterday morning. He had  
been spending the summer as usual in  
the Woodmont cottages and was feeling  
his when he attended the soldiers'  
monument dedication in New Britain  
Wednesday. He returned home yester-  
day night and awoke about 7 o'clock yester-  
day morning, when he was attacked  
with a fit of vomiting.  
Sporadic within an hour.  
William Burr Wooster was born in  
Ansonia, Conn., on August 22, 1851. He

[illegible]

Colonel William H. Wood



# CITY OF SHELTON

## MANY IN TRIBUTE TO COL. BLAKEMAN

### Shelton's "Grand Old Man" Laid at Rest as "Taps" Are Sounded.

A cloud of mourning lay over Shelton yesterday as hundreds gathered at the Shelton Congregational church to pay their final tribute to Col. John Selah Gould Blakeman who died on December 18. The church was filled to the doors with the sorrowing friends and relatives of Shelton's "grand old man." Services at the church were conducted by Grand Secretary William H. DeWitt, assisted by Rev. H. H. Chaplain of the Grand Army Mr. Davis, assisted by Rev. Dr. Watson L. Phillips of Mt. Carmel, and Rev. Carl H. Wilhelm, pastor of the Shelton Congregational church. Rev. H. H. DeWitt, commander of the 10th Wildomar, was present and as

## FINED \$10, ZELA WILL APPEAL CASE

### Torrington Man, Who Hit "Dummy Cop," Not Satisfied with Decision of Court.

Marcel Zela, aged 24, of 20 Winter street, Torrington appeared in the city court this morning before Deputy Judge J. N. Sinsabaugh charged with reckless driving and having a mirror on truck. Zela hit the silent cop at the corner of Howe avenue and Center street during the week and knocked the base to smithereens. The charge of reckless driving was nolleed and on charge of failing to have mirror he was fined \$10 and costs amounting to \$22.58. He filed notice of appeal.

**SHELTON CONG. CHURCH.**

Xmas Pageant and Special Music  
Mark Services Yesterday.

The Christmas season was ushered in at the Congregational church in a glorious burst of song and beauty, and the large numbers who attended the two services indicated high approval of the feast that had been prepared for them by the untiring labors of those in charge.

A full choir of almost thirty voices, directed by George Wakefield, assisted by F. Floyd Beeman's usual efficient manipulation of the organ, sang the Christmas music with fine finish and musical appreciation, impressing the Christmas message deeply upon the imagination and soul of the congregation.

The Christmas sermon by Rev. Carl H. Wilhelm centered around the idea of the infant Jesus, his topic being "A Child Is Born."

The pageant in the evening was evidently accepted by the community as a community affair, as the audience that completely filled the main floor and gallery was quite representative of the entire community. The vested choir marched in procession to the singing of "Adeste Fideles," and then, after a pause for the announcements and offertory, the audience gave attention to a constantly changing pageant of dramatic and musical beautv. the

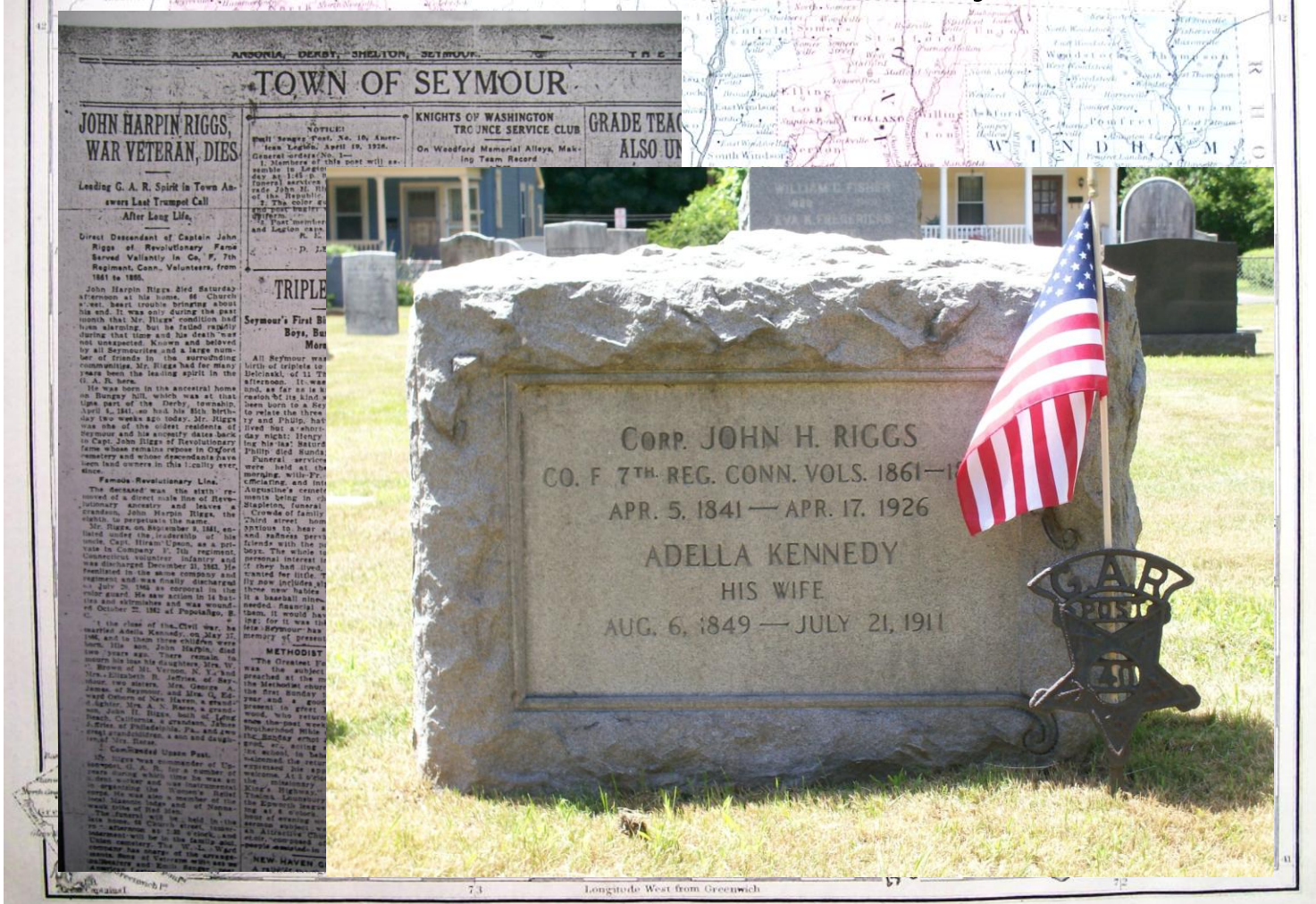


COL. SELAH G. BLAKEMAN

Obituaries are some of the most informative research finds. Often they are a short narrative of the life and service of the deceased. If a man died after 1900, when technology could finally print photographs in the newspapers, a photograph may be printed as part of the obituary. Obituaries are sometimes a way to identify an image of the man. Obituaries can provide insight into so much, for example while researching a soldier from the 20<sup>th</sup> Connecticut and still in the early stages of trying to put his life together, I found his obit after a trip to the local cemetery to see 1) if I could find a stone 2) if the stone had exact dates of death so that I could locate them in the microfiche of the local paper. Using that information I found an exact account of his wounding, including the fact that he carried the bullet home with him in his neck after release from the hospital and subsequently one Sunday after eating dinner and feeling like he swallowed a fish bone, he coughed up a minie ball. Local libraries may have local papers on microfilm and with the dates which you can get from vital records, the tomb stones, regimental histories, a variety of places you can begin the search for more information. If you are looking for the obituary of a prominent Connecticut personality or high ranking military man, such as Col. William B. Wooster, above right, the Hartford Courant is a good place to search.



# Where to find Obituaries and Cemetery Records?



There is no one way, step-by-step, method to locating graves and obituaries. The good news is that there are many, many resources for research. For obituaries you often have to have access to a local newspaper with historical archives. Heritage Quest has a number of these as well as Ancestry.com. Some are available through local libraries. By 1900 newspapers had the technology to print photographs and often did print them of local veterans who participated in the political and public lives of the towns where they lived. Records of veteran burials abound on a local, state, and national level.



# The Grand Army of the Republic GAR

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was an organization composed of veterans of the Union Army. The GAR was the first organized veterans groups in American politics. With the death of the last Civil War veterans the GAR became The Sons of the Union Veterans. (SUVVCW) which exists today. These organizations offer venues and on-line resources for researching Civil War Soldiers. Almost every Union soldier joined a local GAR post after the war and was a member.



The Grand Army of the Republic Badge. Authorized by Congress to be worn on the uniform by Union veterans

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was an organization composed of veterans of the Union Army. The GAR was the first organized veterans groups in American politics. With the death of the last Civil War veterans the GAR became The Sons of the Union Veterans. (SUVVCW) which exists today. These organizations offer venues and on-line resources for researching Civil War Soldiers. Almost every Union soldier joined a local GAR post after the war and was a member.

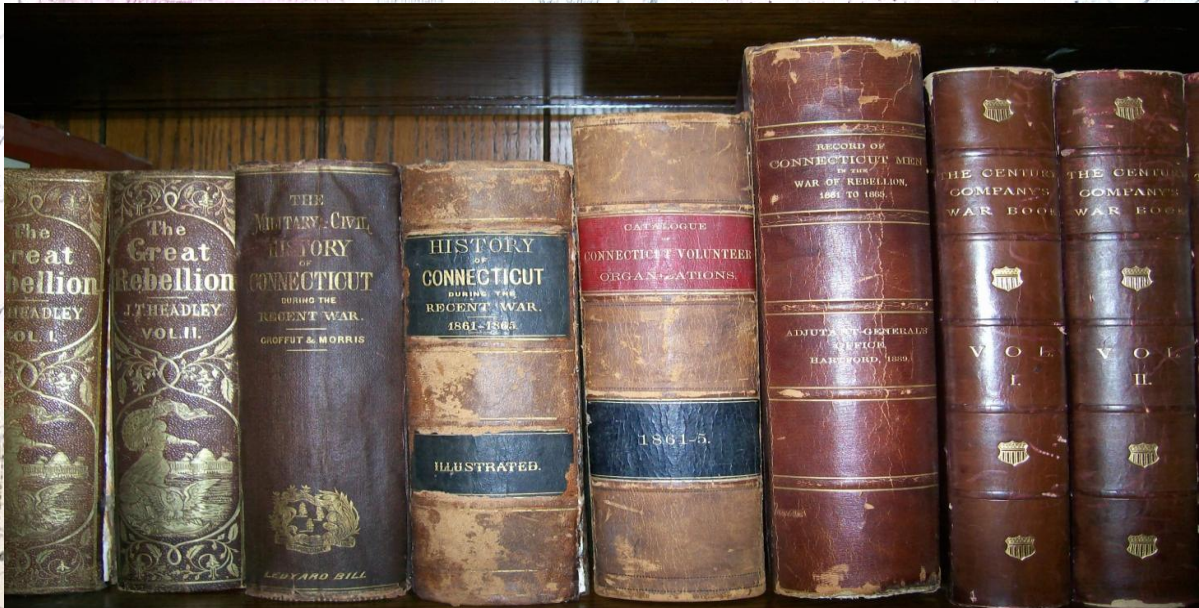


# GAR Memorial Record

Many of the GAR posts had large memorial record books often donated by the citizens of the town so that the members of the post could record their service. These books, if they still exist, often are in the local libraries, historical societies, or town halls. Many are gone forever. If you know what GAR post your ancestor belonged to and if you can locate the memorial record you may find that the man listed his service or recorded a memory. These books are fascinating windows into the lives and service of veterans. The book above from Kellogg Post No. 26 in Derby, Connecticut As the old veterans passed away their service to the nation was commemorated in these memorial volumes. The page shown records the passing and service of Col. William Burr Wooster, Colonel of the 29<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Colored Regiment. The words below his name, underlined in red, state: The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death!



# Connecticut Bookshelf on Google Books



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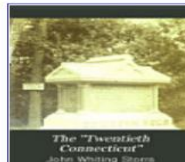
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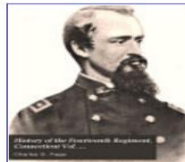
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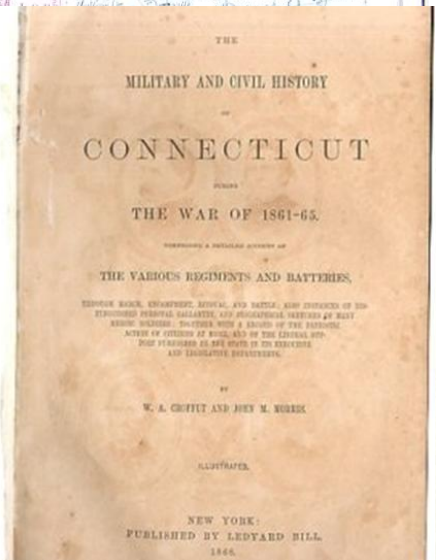
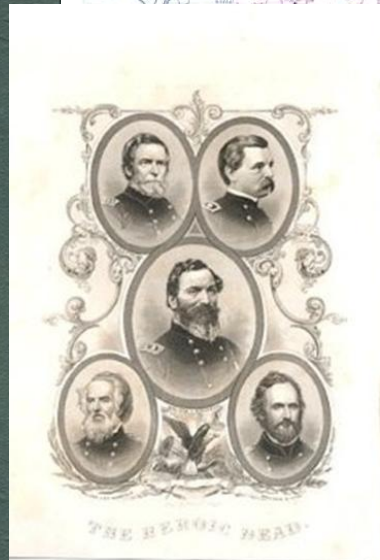
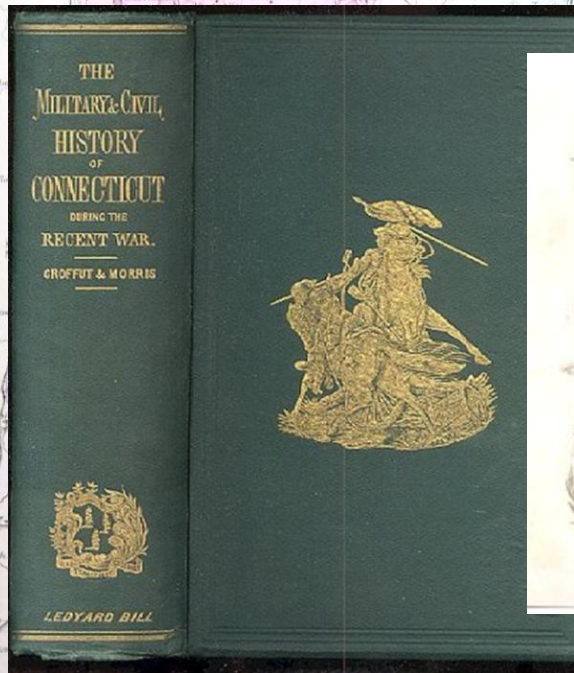


Catalogue of Co

Google has digitized many rare, historical and research volumes that are otherwise extremely difficult to find or consult without a great deal of travel to research facilities, various libraries, and historical societies. Many of these volumes are simply too expensive for the casual researcher to purchase from rare book dealers. If the book is digitized on Google Books it is also fully searchable and is a boon to locating information. This is an outstanding research tool and several historical volumes are highlighted and available for Connecticut specific research, including some of the rare regimental histories.



# The Military and Civil History of Connecticut



[http://books.google.com/books?id=60krAQAAIAAJ&pg=PA1&dq=connecticut+civil+war+history&hl=en&ei=RK97TYPEBK Tj0gHDppDwAw&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=6&sqi=2&ved=0CFEQ6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=60krAQAAIAAJ&pg=PA1&dq=connecticut+civil+war+history&hl=en&ei=RK97TYPEBK Tj0gHDppDwAw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=6&sqi=2&ved=0CFEQ6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q&f=false)

This book provides exactly what it states in the title. It is the military and civil history of Connecticut. It gives narrative descriptions of the soldiers of Connecticut in the field, and brief descriptions of the patriotic support furnished by the citizens of the Connecticut home front. Almost every town in Connecticut has some reference. In it you can find descriptions of every regiment and a listing of service information on every son of Connecticut that served. There is information on the role that various Connecticut men and regiments played in battles. It has many steel engraving portraits. It is an excellent and fully searchable resource.



## Google Books Link (click below)

<http://books.google.com/books?id=O1C6ZB0sAFoC&printsec=frontcover&dq=author:%22Connecticut.+Adjutant-General%27s+Office%22&hl=en&ei=tft7TazzF9Oltwf5huWzDg&sa=X&oi=bookresult&ct=result&resnum=4&ved=0CD8Q6AEwAw#v=onepage&q&f=false>

# CATALOGUE OF CONNECTICUT VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS,

WITH ADDITIONAL ENLISTMENTS AND CASUALTIES

To July 1, 1864.

COMPILED FROM RECORDS

IN THE

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,

AND

Published by Order of the Legislature.

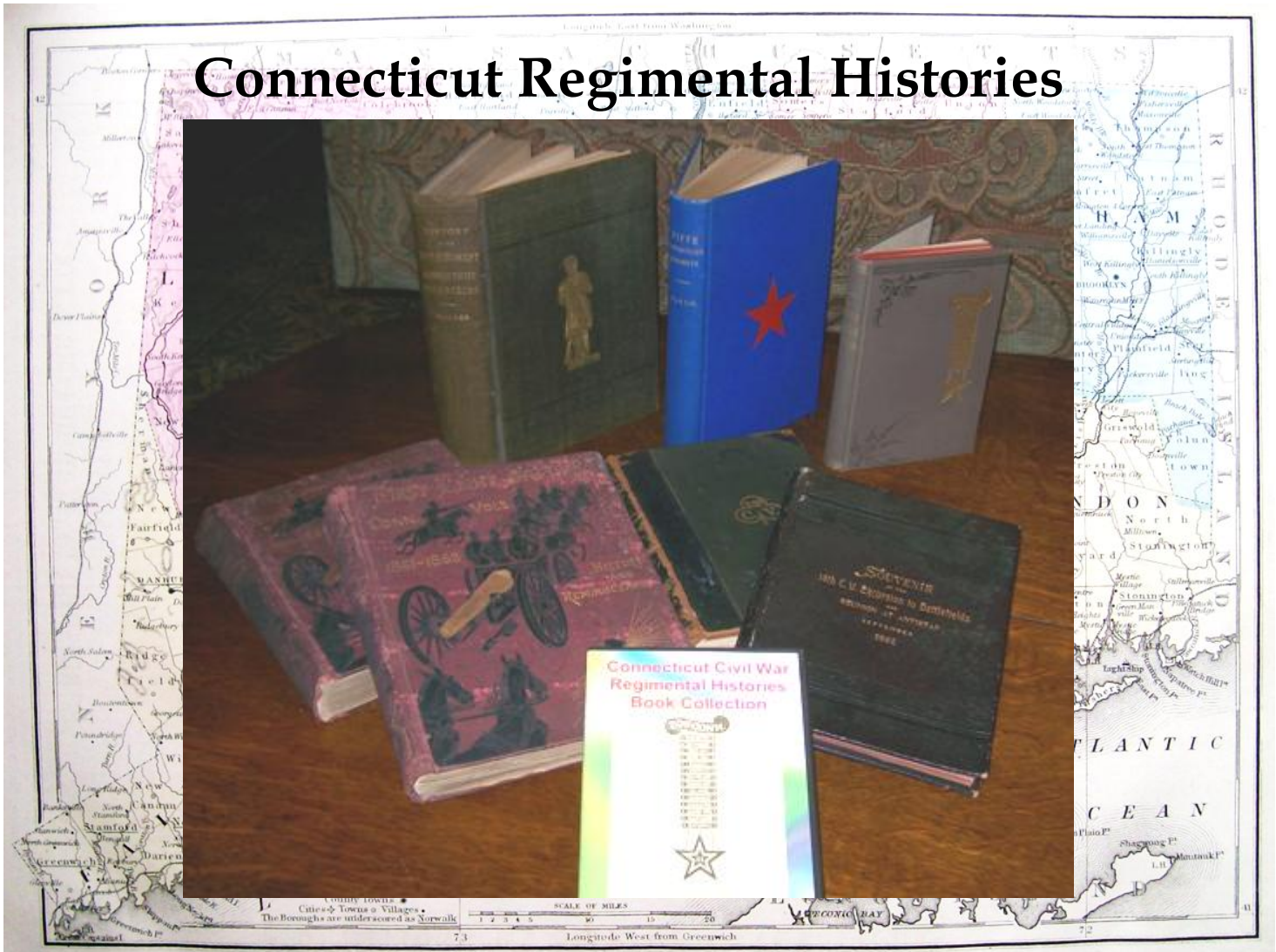


HORACE J. MORSE, ADJUTANT-GENERAL.

Connecticut Volunteer Organizations is another fabulous resource for Connecticut Research. This complete book, fully searchable on Google Books provides comprehensive information on infantry, cavalry and artillery regiments in the service of the U.S. from Connecticut. It also provides brief summaries showing the operations and service of these regiments and batteries. You can search for soldiers by name. Regiments are listed in order followed by companies from each. Information on each soldier including dates of muster, if they were KIA, wounded, taken prisoner or survived the war. Substitutes and draftees are also listed under the regiment they were assigned to.



# Connecticut Regimental Histories



Regimental histories are a rich source of information if one was published. Regimental Histories vary in quality depending on the author or authors. Some are considered nothing more than the reminiscences of old men. Some are first class records of service. These volumes are invaluable if you are aware of their flaws. If you are researching a regiment one of the first things to do is to see if there is a published regimental history. Often they are available at local libraries in the original. You can purchase reprints from the Higginson Book Company. Google books has several full length Connecticut regimental histories scanned and fully searchable. If you prefer, you can purchase regimental histories on CD ROM. Some are sold as single books on a single CD or there are CD Rom products that contain all of the published Connecticut regimentals on a single disc. Before you purchase, be sure the CD Rom is searchable.



## This Volume is a Modern Print Must for Connecticut Research

### CIVIL WAR VOLUNTEER SONS OF CONNECTICUT



BLAIKIE HINES

A one volume reference that presents for the first time the only concise and comprehensive history of Connecticut's involvement in the Civil War. The book is divided into two parts. The first lists every regiment and regimental experience in the war. The second half lists every town in Connecticut that sent men to war along with statistics on how many men the town furnished for the war effort, the casualty rates, most costly battles for the home front, etc.

#### About the Author (from Amazon)

Blaikie Hines, a passionate Civil War historian and artist, is the great, great grandson of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania Volunteers. He was raised in Darien, Connecticut and inherited an extensive Civil War collection from his father.

## Connecticut Civil War History at the Centennial – Fifty Years Ago



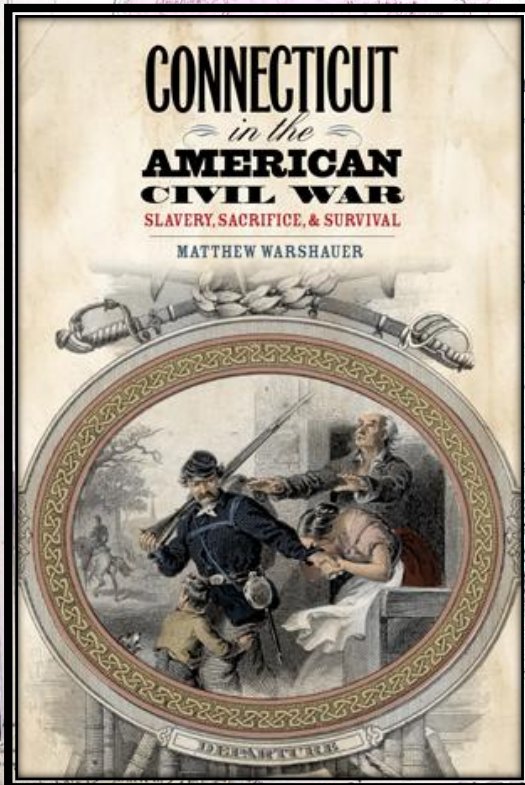
JOHN NIVEN  
CONNECTICUT FOR THE UNION  
The Role of the State in the Civil War



John Niven's, *Connecticut for the Union: The Role of the State in the Civil War* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1965) was written at the request of Connecticut's Civil War Centennial Commission. The book is now out of print, and though it offers a solid primer to the state's Civil War history, a great deal has been written in the Civil War field since its publication. The availability of resources, both nationally and within Connecticut, has increased dramatically.



# Connecticut's Civil War



From the book jacket:

*A riveting account of Connecticut's involvement in the Civil War*

*Connecticut in the American Civil War* offers readers a remarkable window into the state's involvement in a conflict that challenged and defined the unity of a nation. The arc of the war is traced through the many facets and stories of battlefield, home front, and factory. Matthew Warshauer masterfully reveals the varied attitudes toward slavery and race before, during, and after the war; Connecticut's reaction to the firing on Fort Sumter; the dissent in the state over whether or not the sword and musket should be raised against the South; the raising of troops; the sacrifice of those who served on the front and at home; and the need for closure after the war. This book is a concise, amazing account of a complex and troubling war. No one interested in this period of American history can afford to miss reading this important contribution to our national and local stories.



# The Connecticut Historical Society On-line Civil War Research

<http://www.chs.org/page.php?id=516>

## Connecticut Historical Society museum & library

### Connecticut History Online

A [collaborative digital collection](#) of more than 15,000 historic images, documents, maps, oral histories, and objects from partner organizations, including the Connecticut Historical Society at [www.cthistoryonline.org](http://www.cthistoryonline.org).

### Subject Guide to African American Resources

A thematic guide to artifacts, manuscripts, and books in the Connecticut Historical Society collection, created in 1994. Although incomplete, it provides a partial view of [African and African American-related materials](#) in the collection.

### Civil War Manuscripts Project

An in-depth survey of the [Civil War manuscript holdings](#) of the Connecticut Historical Society compiled in the 1990s, with some later additions. Browse by name, residence, or regiment. Includes some detailed examinations consisting of transcriptions, content analysis, genealogical or biographical information, and more.

### Civil War Monuments Survey

Just in time for the sesquicentennial! As the Civil War anniversary begins in 2011, the [Civil War Monuments](#) survey is back on the Connecticut Historical Society's website after a much-needed web code scrubbing (11 year-old code is hard to scrub). PLEASE NOTE: **the content and the photographs have not been updated.** A new Civil War Monuments website is under construction, under the guidance of Mary Donohue of the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, and Matt Warshauer, of Central Connecticut State University, but we all decided that we would revive the old site until the new one is completed.



### Research

[Catalogs & Online Resources](#)

[Collection Highlights](#)

[Using the Research Center](#)

[Family History](#)

[Research Services](#)

The Connecticut State Historical Society has many research avenues and Civil War exhibits on line, digital collections, a Connecticut Civil War Monument database with pictures and statistics on the State's monuments. The Civil War manuscript holdings can be searched on-line, alphabetically. Solders with materials in the collection also have their regiments listed. Click on the links above and explore. CHS has historical, digital journeys and educational materials that are fascinating. CHS is definitely worth a visit.



Visit the Connecticut State Library at: <http://www.cslib.org>

## CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY



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### Research Guide to Civil War Materials at the Connecticut State Library

The Connecticut State Library contains a wealth of information useful to genealogists seeking Civil War ancestors as well as to historical researchers examining political, economic, social, and military aspects of the Civil War. For convenience this research guide is divided into the following categories:

- [Introductory Materials](#)
- [Archival Materials](#)
- [Artifacts](#)
- [Battle Flags](#)
- [Bounty Claims](#)
- [Conscientious Objectors](#)
- [Discharge Papers](#)
- [Genealogical Information](#)
- [General Histories](#)
- [Newspapers](#)
- [Payrolls and Muster Rolls](#)
- [Pensions](#)
- [Photographs](#)
- [Prisons](#)
- [Regimental Histories](#)
- [Service Records](#)
- [Soldiers' Homes and Hospitals](#)

#### Introductory Materials

An introduction to Civil War genealogical research may be found in:

- Groene, Bertram H. *Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor*. Winston-Salem, NC: John F. Blair, Publishers, 1973 [CSL call number HistRef CD 3047 .G76].

#### Collections

- › [History & Genealogy](#)
- › [Newspapers](#)
- › [Colt Collection](#)
- › [Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped](#)
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**Pictorial Americana**

Selected Images from the Collections of the Library of Congress

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*Pictorial Americana*, a 1955 Library of Congress publication, is being prepared for the Internet in stages. Links are added to the sections below as the content becomes available on the Web. For further information about *Pictorial Americana*, including rights and how to obtain copies, see the [Introduction](#).

[History \(through 1899\)](#) | [General Subjects](#) | [Views](#)

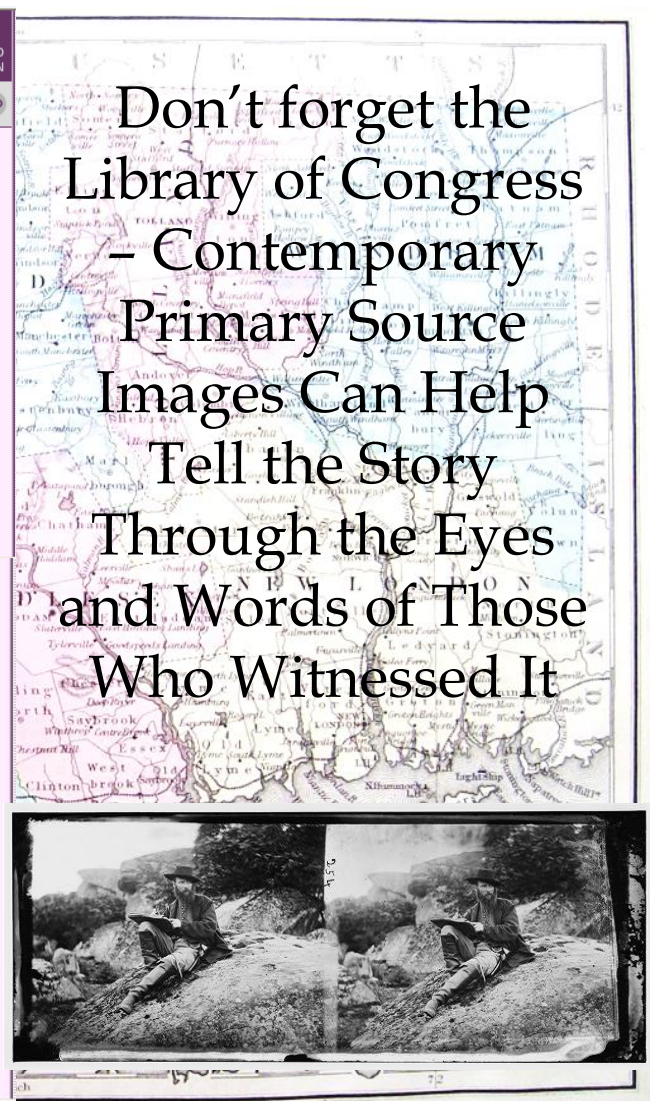
[Introduction](#) (background information, obtaining copies, rights)

**History (through 1899)**

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- [Settlement and Colonial Life](#)
- [French and Indian War](#)
- [The Revolution](#)
- [Tripolitan War](#)
- [Military History, 1811-1815](#)
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  - [1864](#)
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  - [1866 \(Aftermath\)](#)
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- [Spanish American War and Philippine Insurrection](#)



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The Library of Congress provides us with primary source images that allow us to “see” and “witness” events through the eyes of the people who took part in them. During the Civil War it was not possible to reprint photographs in publications. Photography could not record action scenes. Therefore, the illustrated papers of the day sent out battlefield artists who took notes and drew images on the spot, often in the heat of battle. Alfred Waud, photographed here by Alexander Gardner, in *Devil’s Den* at Gettysburg followed the Army of the Potomac from Antietam to Appomattox and many of his drawings and notes record the exact scenes that an infantry man diarists or letter writer recorded in words. These on the spot drawings are amazing resources. Use them with your research especially when you have written information in letters about battles, encampments, marches and the recorded experiences of the men and women of the Civil War generation.



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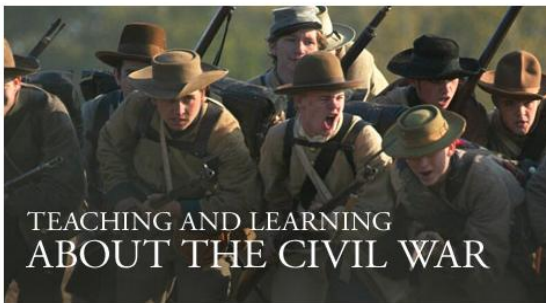
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1862: Riot at abolition meeting in  
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1863: Union amphibious  
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Confederates, Steele's Bayou,  
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CIVIL WAR CALENDAR

★  
**EDUCATION  
EVENTS**

March 26: Living history, "Sherman's  
Army Returns to Kennesaw," at the  
Southern Museum

March 27: Lecture, "Manassas:  
Legends and Lies," with John  
Hennessey

April 3: Curator tour of the exhibit  
"Threads of War: Clothing and  
Textiles of the Civil War" at the  
Charleston Museum

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# Throughout The 150<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Keep Current With All Things Connecticut And Civil War

<http://www.ccsu.edu/page.cfm?p=2296>

Connecticut Commemorates the Civil War

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CIVIL WAR

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### Connecticut & the Civil War: A Sesquicentennial Commemoration

April 12, 2011 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the American Civil War. In the Great Rebellion, as it is often known, some 620,000 Americans, both Union and Confederate, lost their lives. When the war began Connecticut regiments were called to arms by decrees from both President Abraham Lincoln and Governor William Buckingham, who served as the state's chief executive throughout the war. Connecticut offered 55,000 men, 47% of its male population between the ages of 15-50. This was the most massive war mobilization in state and nation's history. Connecticut troops served in every major engagement of the war, from Bull Run, to Antietam, Gettysburg, and on to Richmond.

Connecticut's industrial capacity, especially its arms industry, was instrumental to the North's success. The state was home to such notables as Colt, Sharps, the Collinsville Company, as well as Hotchkiss & Sons, which produced artillery and shells, the Hazard Gun Powder Factory, and many more war related industries. State industry also produced a wide variety of non-lethal items, from brass insignia to rubber tents and raincoats, and many textiles.

Connecticut women made the war possible by procuring and shipping every conceivable item to the front lines, so that the soldiers would not do without. Women met every train that returned home, often loaded with wounded and dead soldiers.

Yet there was also considerable opposition within Connecticut to both the war and the Lincoln administration. The state was hardly united in its devotion to the Union, and politics during the war was fierce and closely contested.



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**Slide 1:** images, left to right: Connecticut Governor William A. Buckingham, author's collection; Pvt. J. Henry Blakeman, 17<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteers, Warren Manuscript, Bridgeport Public Library; Pvt. Stephen Crofutt, 17<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteers, courtesy Shelton Historical Society; Pvt. George Warner, 20<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteers, author's collection; Sgt. Selah G. Blakeman, 17<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteers, courtesy Stratford Historical Society

**Slide 2:** slide and text from Information from: *Your Ultimate Guide to Genealogy On-Line, Essential Tips and Tools to Trace Your Roots on the Web*, from the Editors of Family Tree Magazine

**Slide 3:** screen clips from *The American Civil War Research Database*, <http://www.civilwardata.com/>

**Slide 4:** image of Selah G. Blakeman letter, March 15, 1863, courtesy of the Stratford Historical Society, photo by author

**Slide 5:** screen clips from [CWSS -- the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System](#), image of general index card, Cpl, John Harpin Riggs, 7<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteers, photo by author

**Slide 6:** screen clips from National Archives, Find and Request Military Service Records, [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)

**Slide 7:** screen clip of completed electronic pension request form for Kady Brownell, 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Rhode Island, [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)

**Slide 8:** copies of Compiled Military Service Record, National Archives copies, Cpl. John Harpin Riggs, 7<sup>th</sup> Connecticut, photo by author

**Slide 9:** reenlistment and casualty sheet from Compiled Military Service Record, National Archives copies, Cpl. John Harpin Riggs, 7<sup>th</sup> Connecticut

**Slide 10:** pension records from Cpl. John Harpin Riggs, 7<sup>th</sup> Connecticut, pension file, National Archives copies

**Slide 11:** discharge papers of Sgt. Selah G. Blakeman, 17<sup>th</sup> Connecticut, copied from pension file, National Archives

**Slide 12:** Vital record of births, Town of Derby, CT, September 18, 1862, photo by author

**Slide 13:** images left to right of Sgt. Selah G. Blakeman, 17<sup>th</sup> Connecticut, letters, Stratford Historical Society; images of Cpl. John Harpin Riggs, 7<sup>th</sup> Connecticut, letters, New Haven Historical Society, Whitney Library, photos by author

**Slide 14:** Copy of Pvt. J. Henry Blakeman, 17<sup>th</sup> Connecticut, letter of July 14, 1863, from Lewis Leigh Collection, Book 40, U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA; inset image of Pvt. Stephen Crofutt, courtesy of Shelton Historical Society

**Slide 15:** images, left to right from author's collection: Lt. Col. David Torrance, 29<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Colored Regiment; Connecticut Governor William Buckingham in 1865; Captain Samuel W. Fiske, 14<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteers, Co. G, wounded May 6, 1864, Wilderness, Va., died May 23, 1864; top: General Joseph K. Mansfield, 12<sup>th</sup> Corps, Killed September 17, 1862, Antietam, Md.; bottom: Lt. Col. William Burr Wooster, 20<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteers, 1864, Colonel 29<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Colored Regiment.

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**Slide 16:** Newspaper clipping from the Bridgeport Evening Standard, microfiche, Bridgeport Public Library; Report on the Battle of Antietam, Hartford Courant, September 29, 1862, ProQuest Historical Newspapers

**Slide 17:** Hartford Courant, August 12, 1863, ProQuest Historical Newspapers; Connecticut War Record, New Haven, 1863, Vol. I, No. 2, Peck, White, Peck Publishers; Sherwood, Albert, F., *Memories of*



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Slide 18: Hartford Courant, September 21, 1900, ProQuest Historical Newspapers; Evening Sentinel, December 19, 1924; microfiche, Seymour Public Library; Blakeman cemetery plot, Riverside Cemetery, Shelton, CT, photo by author

Slide 19: Evening Sentinel, April 19, 1926, microfiche, Seymour Public Library; Riggs cemetery plot, Union Cemetery, Seymour, CT

Slide 20: Grand Army of the Republic, badge image from Wikipedia

Slide 21: Grand Army of the Republic,, Kellogg Post 26 Memorial Record, Derby Public Library, photos by author

Slide 22: Photo of author's bookshelf; screen clip of Google Books

Slide 23: *The Military and Civil History of Connecticut*, Google Books

Slide 24: *Catalogue of Connecticut Volunteer Organizations*, Google Books

Slide 25: Selection of Connecticut Regimental Histories from author's library

Slide 26: Image of *Volunteer Sons of Connecticut*, description of text, author bio from Amazon.com

Slide 27: Image of *Connecticut for the Union*, photo from author's library; description of text from <http://www.ccsu.edu/page.cfm?p=3732>

Slide 28: Image and description of *Connecticut in the American Civil War: Slavery, Sacrifice & Survival* (Wesleyan University Press, 2011) from <http://www.ccsu.edu/page.cfm?p=3732>

Slide 29: Image of The Connecticut Historical Society On-line Civil War Research <http://www.chs.org/page.php?id=516>

Slide 30: Connecticut State Library at: <http://www.cslib.org>

Slide 31: Prints and Photographs Reading Room of the Library of Congress, <http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/>

Slide 32 & 33: The Civil War Trust, [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org)

Slide 34: Connecticut Commemorates the Civil War, <http://www.ccsu.edu/page.cfm?p=8578>