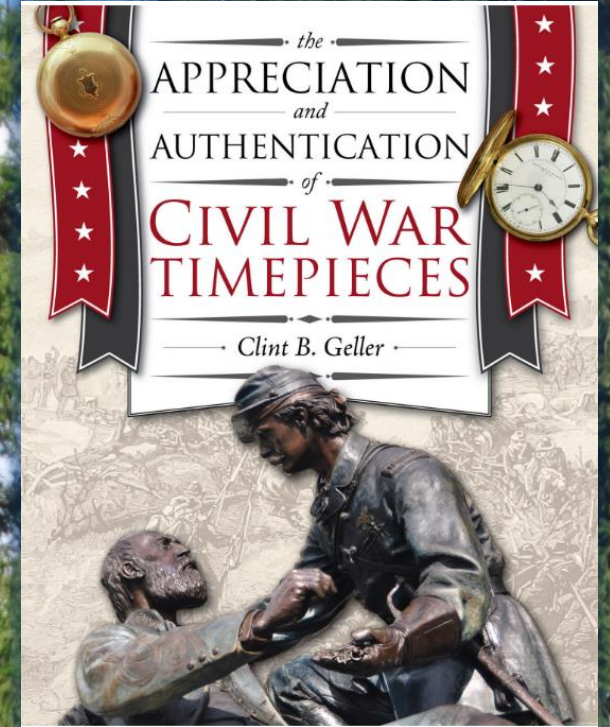


# CLINT GELLER'S CIVIL WAR WATCH COLLECTION

## PART II

Last Update: August 12, 2023



# PROVENANCES & WATCHES

## Part I

Bvt. Maj. Gen. John Wallace Fuller – **Fuller's OH Brigade** – Waltham AT&Co Grade KW16, 18K HC

Brig. Gen. Wm. Jackson Palmer – **Col. 15<sup>th</sup> PA Cavalry** – Waltham AT&Co Grade KW16 with aftermarket SW/button setting, 18K E.T.&Co. HC

Brig. Gen. Jos. Tarr Copeland – **MI Cavalry Brigade** – Waltham AT&Co Grade Model 1857, J. R. Reed & Co. 18K HC

Col. (later Brig. Gen.) Geo. Washington Gallup – **14<sup>th</sup> KY Infantry** – Swiss Lepine Caliber Type V, 18K HC with extra picture on rear lid

Lt. Col. John Hodges Jr. – **59<sup>th</sup> MA Infantry** – Waltham AT&Co Grade Model 1859, silver AT&Co HC

Lt. Col. Elial Foote Carpenter – **112<sup>th</sup> NY Infantry** – Waltham Wm. Ellery grade Model 1857, silver HC

## Part II

Major Josiah Bottsford Cobb – **12<sup>th</sup> IN Cavalry** – Waltham AT&Co Grade Model 1857 18K HC

Captain John Eddy – **95<sup>th</sup> IL Infantry** – Waltham AT&Co Grade KW20, split push piece, 18K HC

Captain William Wesley Mosier – **1<sup>st</sup> Union TN Cavalry** – F. H. Clark, Memphis TN, English private label, Sterling HC

Captain Edwin Ruthven Peckens – **52<sup>nd</sup> PA Infantry** – English  $\frac{3}{4}$  plate lever, Adams & Co., Liverpool, 18K HC

Lt. James A. Sage – **25<sup>th</sup> MI Infantry** – Waltham P. S. Bartlett Grade Model 1857, coin silver HC

2<sup>nd</sup> Asst. Engineer (Warrant Officer) Charles Jabez Coney, USN – **USS Watchuseff & USS San Jacinto** – Waltham 11J Wm. Ellery Model 1857

Coin silver OF Case, & Model 1852 Naval officer's sword, coin silver OF

Pvt. Benjamin Weston Woodward – **AOP Subsistence Dept.** – EH&Co. Model 1862-N (Series III), 18K HC

CSN O&H (likely, CSN Cdr. John Mercer Brooke) – **Bureau of Ordnance & Hydrography** – Unsigned English lever fusee, Chester hallmarks for 1863-64, Sterling HC

# MAJOR JOSIAH B. COBB, 12<sup>TH</sup> INDIANA CAVALRY

Presented by  
Col. Edward  
Anderson  
12<sup>th</sup> Ind. Cav.  
to  
Maj. J. B. Cobb  
of "ours."



*Maj. J. B. Cobb  
to Christ Lane*

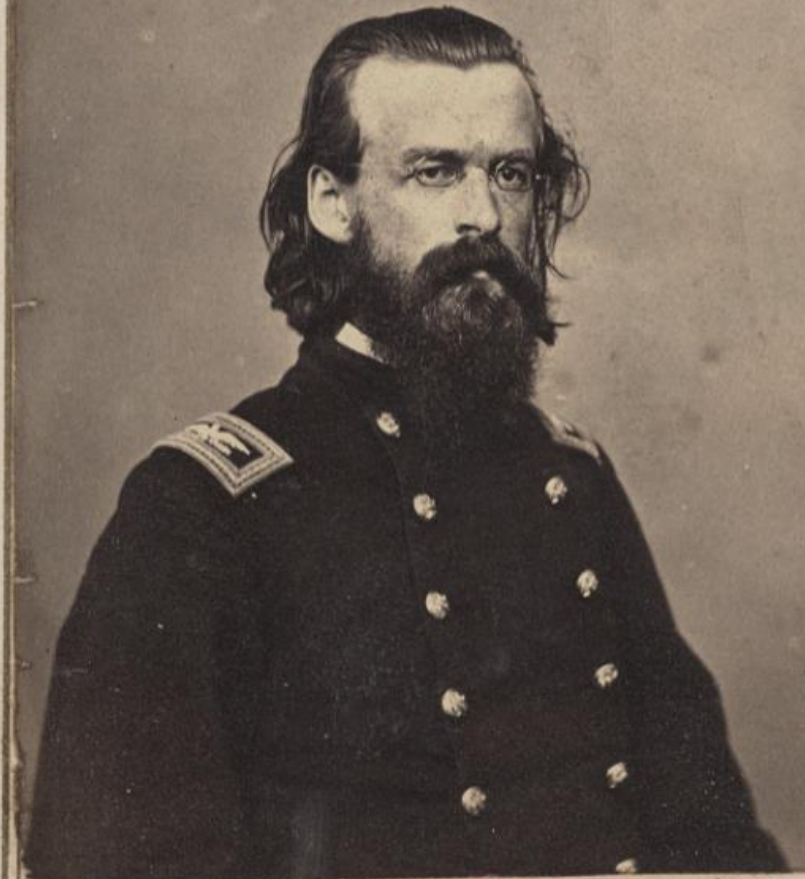


18K G.W. & Co. Hunting Case



## PRESENTATION TO MAJOR COBB

The watch shown here was presented to Major Josiah B. Cobb by his commanding officer, Colonel Edward Anderson of the 12<sup>th</sup> IN Cavalry. Given the date of completion of the movement at the Waltham factory in October of 1863, this generous, \$100 plus gift was very likely occasioned by Cobb's promotion to Major in early 1864.



**Colonel Edward Anderson**  
**37<sup>th</sup> IL Infantry & 12<sup>th</sup> IN Cavalry**

# MAJOR COBB'S WATCH

WALTHAM MODEL 1857, 15 JEWEL AT&CO GRADE, SN 85,082



## Cobb Watch Movement

The movement of Major Cobb's watch is an "Appleton, Tracy & Company" Grade Model 1857, SN 85,082 finished between October 1 and October 31, 1863 with 15 jewels, internal stopwork, and a solid gold, uncompensated balance wheel. AT&Co Grade Model 1857 Waltham watches appear to have been the most popular choice for in-service and end-of-service presentations to Union field officers (majors through colonels).



# COBB WATCH CASE DETAIL

The 18 karat gold hunting style case has a beautiful sawtooth engine turning pattern on the interior of the front lid, with the retailer's mark of Giles, Wales & Company and an engraved band. (This was the same company that chartered the United States Watch Company of Marion NJ in 1864, though that company's first watches did not reach the market until 1867.)



# JOSIAH B. COBB

The photogenic Major Cobb had previously served as a Sergeant in the 2nd IN Cavalry. During Cobb's service with the 2<sup>nd</sup> IN Cavalry, the unit participated in such major engagements as Shiloh (April 6-7, 1862), the Siege of Corinth (April 29 to May 30, 1862), Perryville (October 8, 1862), and possibly Stones River (December 31, 1862 to January 2, 1863). Cobb returned to his home town of Goshen in 1863, where he raised a company of the 12th IN Cavalry. The company elected him Captain. After the war Cobb raised horses, a fitting occupation for a former cavalryman, and operated a racetrack on his property outside of Goshen. He served terms as both the Mayor of Goshen (1884), and as an Elkhart County Commissioner (1901).





## 12<sup>TH</sup> INDIANA CAVALRY

The 12th Indiana Cavalry, also known as the 127<sup>th</sup> Indiana Regiment, was organized at Kendallville, in the winter of 1863, and was mustered in on March 1, 1864. It left the state on May 6 for Nashville, Tenn., where it was equipped, although only six companies were mounted. The mounted portion was sent overland to Huntsville, AL on May 29, where they were actively engaged in ridding the country of guerrillas. They fought many skirmishes and minor engagements, losing quite a number in killed and wounded. In September of 1863, the regiment was ordered to Tullahoma TN, where they tangled repeatedly with Confederate general Nathan Bedford Forrest's command, and with rebel guerrillas. On March 12, 1865, the regiment proceeded to Mobile AL, where it participated in the battles of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely. On April 17th, it executed a cavalry raid of over 800 miles through Alabama and Georgia, thence to Columbus, Mississippi, which place was reached on May 20. The regiment was mustered out on Nov. 10, 1865.

Of the 1,357 men who served in the 12<sup>th</sup> Indiana Cavalry, 168 were either killed in action, or died of wounds or disease, and 7 were unaccounted for.



**12th Cavalry Battle Flag  
35 stars - 1 in each corner &  
2 concentric circles of 12 & 19**

# CAPTAIN JOHN EDDY, 95<sup>TH</sup> IL INFANTRY & CAMP BUTLER

18K Semi-Drum Style Case



# WATCH OF CAPTAIN JOHN EDDY, 95<sup>TH</sup> 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, a stopwork (not visible), and a temperature-compensated bimetallic balance with gold alloy screws. The single sunk Roman numeral enamel dial is signed "American Watch Company."

The inscription of 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  
Case with  
Two Lift Springs**

**The dual push piece with lift springs actuating both lids is a scarce 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 95<sup>th</sup> 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**

# 95<sup>th</sup> 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 95<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry Regiment

# 95<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry at Vicksburg



95<sup>th</sup> 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

## (1<sup>st</sup> 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 48<sup>th</sup> VA Infantry, part of Stonewall Jackson's storied force, and Ira served with the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> TN Mounted Infantry. A few months later this unit was reorganized at Camp Dennison, near Cincinnati Ohio, as the 1<sup>st</sup> East Tennessee (henceforth, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 datemark and matching movement and case SN 17,685 support the authenticity of the provenance.

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



**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), 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 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 Wm. Mosier purchased it before the war 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.**



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. 1<sup>st</sup> TN Cav.  
Vol 1<sup>st</sup> Brig. 1<sup>st</sup> Div.  
1<sup>st</sup> Cav. A. C.\*

Mil<sup>t</sup>. Dep<sup>t</sup>. Miss

\*Atlanta  
Campaign



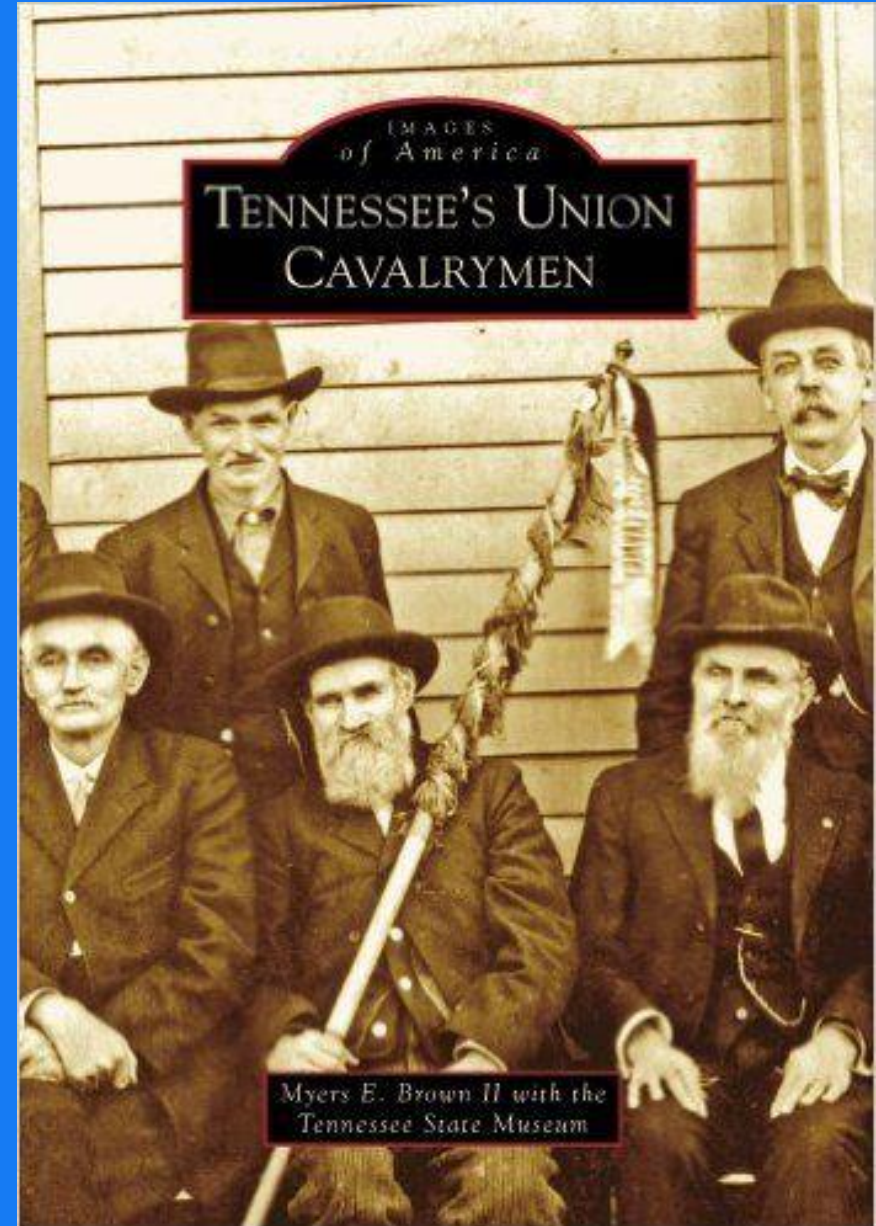
This fob likely was originally part of Mosier's corps badge, which was worn on his hat. It would have been attached through the two now empty holes. Officers' corps badges often were personalized.

# Union 1<sup>st</sup> (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 1<sup>st</sup> (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 17<sup>th</sup> 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*, a prominent 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. He 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)

# 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> TN Cavalry ordered a courageous cavalry charge that temporarily checked the rebel assault and saved their entire division from capture or annihilation.

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 the 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 lost some of its best and bravest men in this engagement. In the battle, two officers and seven enlisted men of the 1<sup>st</sup> TN were killed or died of their wounds, and nine enlisted men were wounded.

After the Battle of Mossy Creek, the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

# 1<sup>st</sup> East Tennessee Cavalry



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

# CAPTAIN EDWIN RUTHVEN PECKENS

(52<sup>ND</sup> PA INFANTRY)

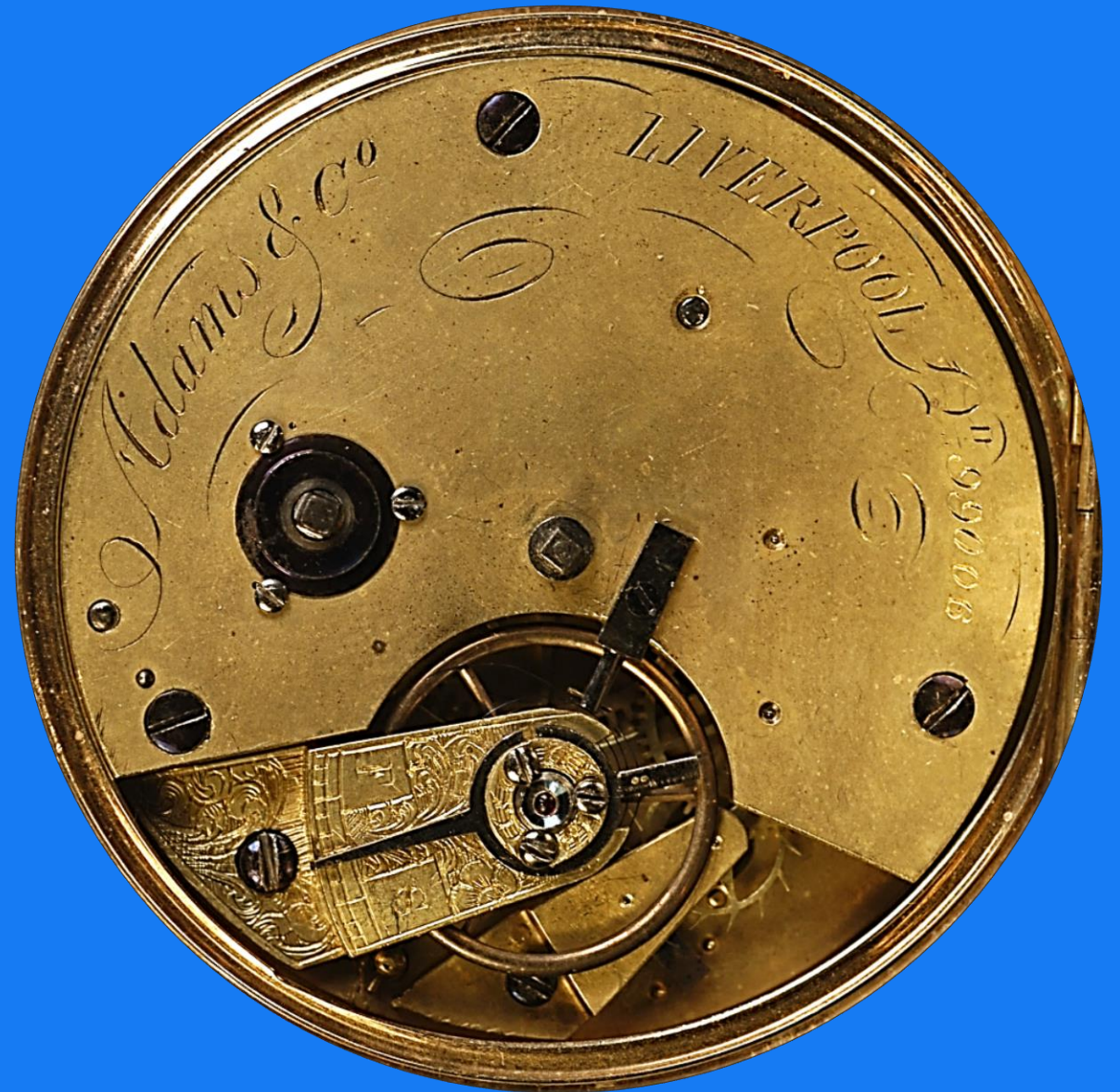


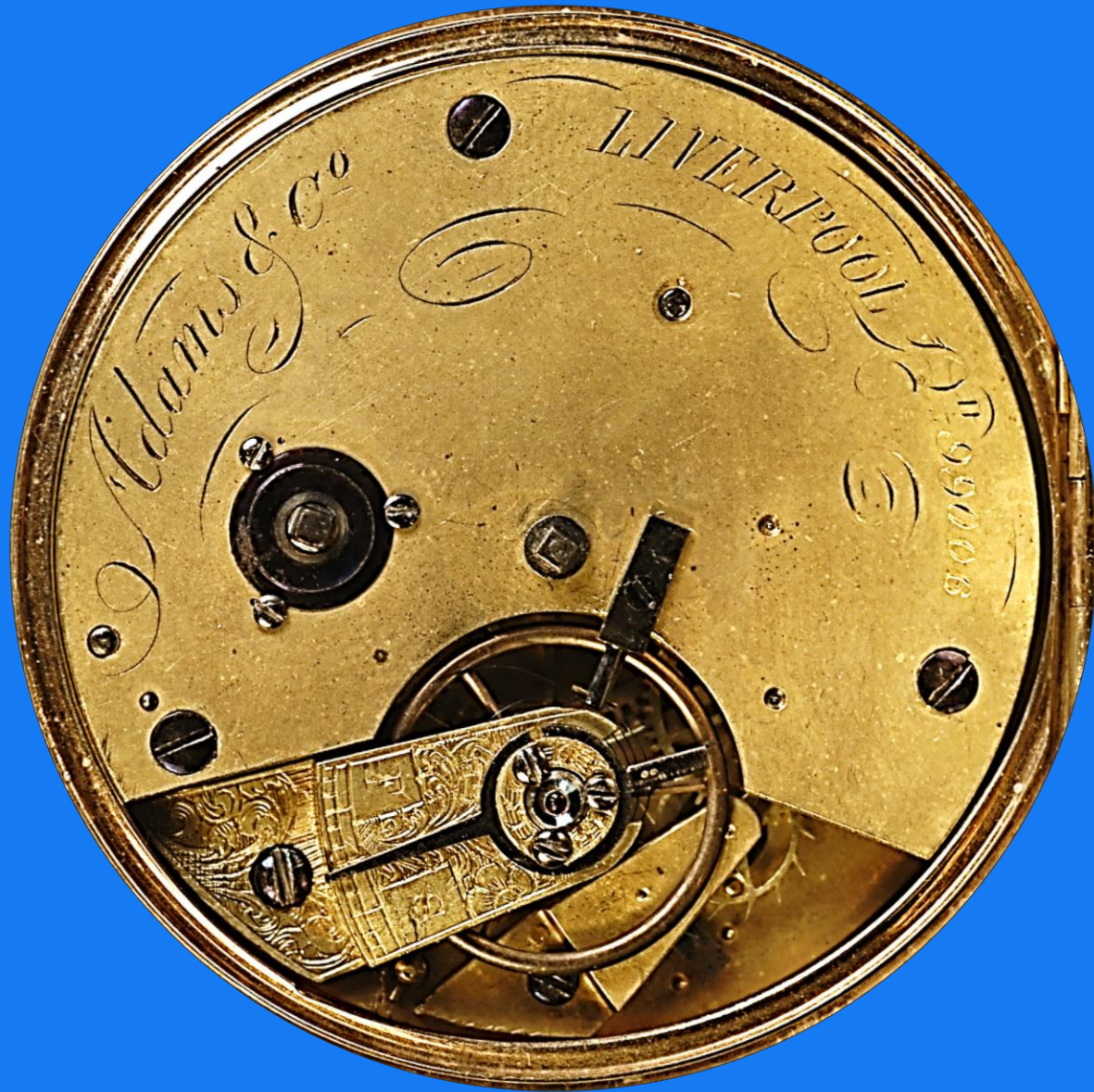
# Captain E. R. Peckens Service Summary

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





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 an English style lever escapement, a ratchet tooth escape wheel, seven jewels, a going barrel, and an uncompensated balance wheel. The gilding on the watch plates has long since faded. The single sunk enamel dial is unsigned.

# Captain Peckens 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.

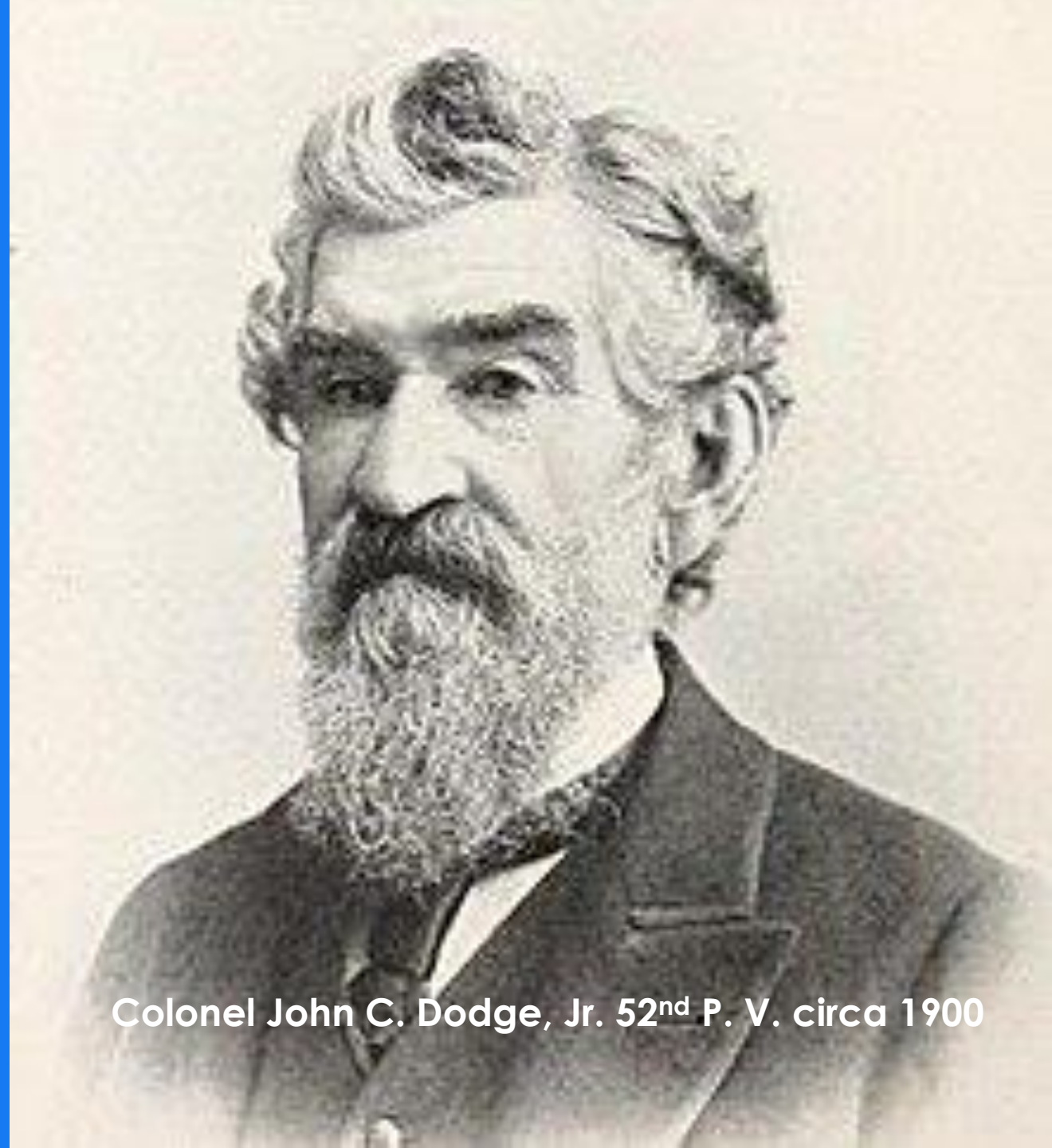




## 52<sup>nd</sup> P.V.

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. 52<sup>nd</sup> 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.)



Battle of Fort Sumter, April 12-13, 1861

### Aftermath of Sumter Shelling



The dedicated 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 fifty of these men perished in the Confederate POW camps of Columbia and Andersonville before they could be freed. It was no mean accomplishment for Captain Peckens to have earned the respect of such men.

# FIRST LIEUTENANT JAMES A. SAGE (25<sup>TH</sup> MICHIGAN INFANTRY)



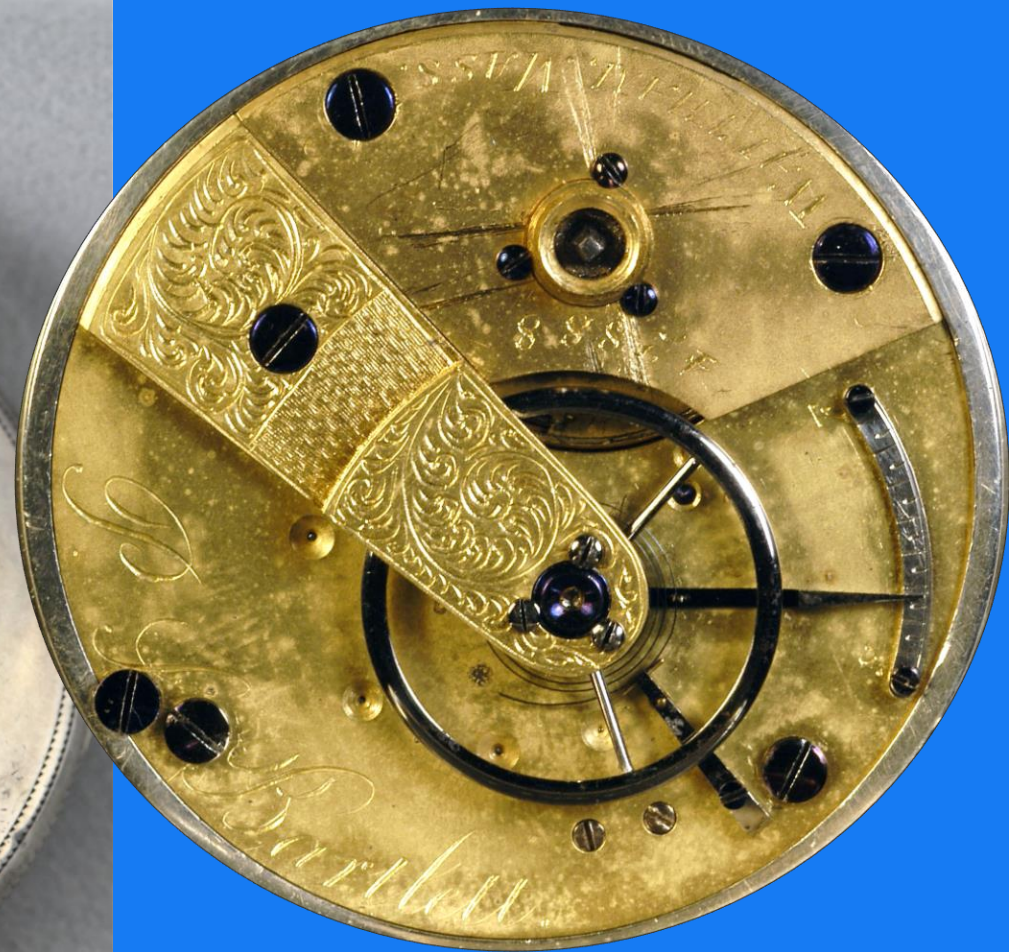
A silver Waltham watch, shown on the following slide, was presented in 1862 to Sergeant James A. Sage of Otisco Michigan by the officers and men of the 25<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry, Company B. An image of Lieutenant Sage is shown on the preceding slide, based on a photo taken after his first promotion. 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.

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.

# 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 seven jewels and an uncompensated monometallic steel balance. P. S. Bartlett Grade watches were warranted, 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.

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

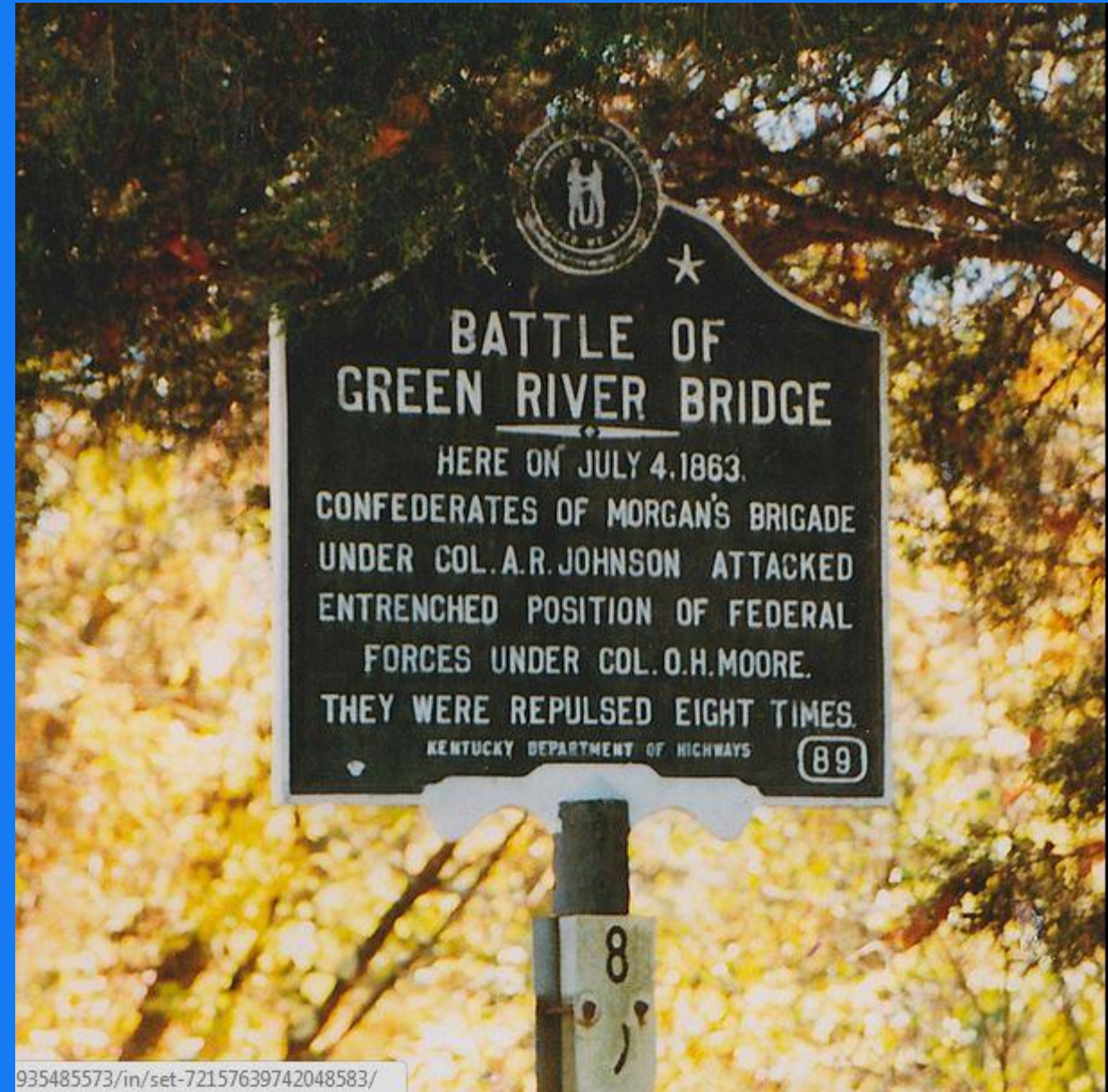
The front lid of Lt. Sage's well worn watch case, which was once engine turned, sports a blank shield and its interior surface exhibits the American Watch Company marking indicating that it was made in the American Watch Company's own case department. The company marking is surrounded by an appealing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

# 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> MI suffered 1 officer and 34 enlisted men killed in action or mortally wounded and 2 officers and 141 enlisted men who died of disease, for a total of 178 fatalities.

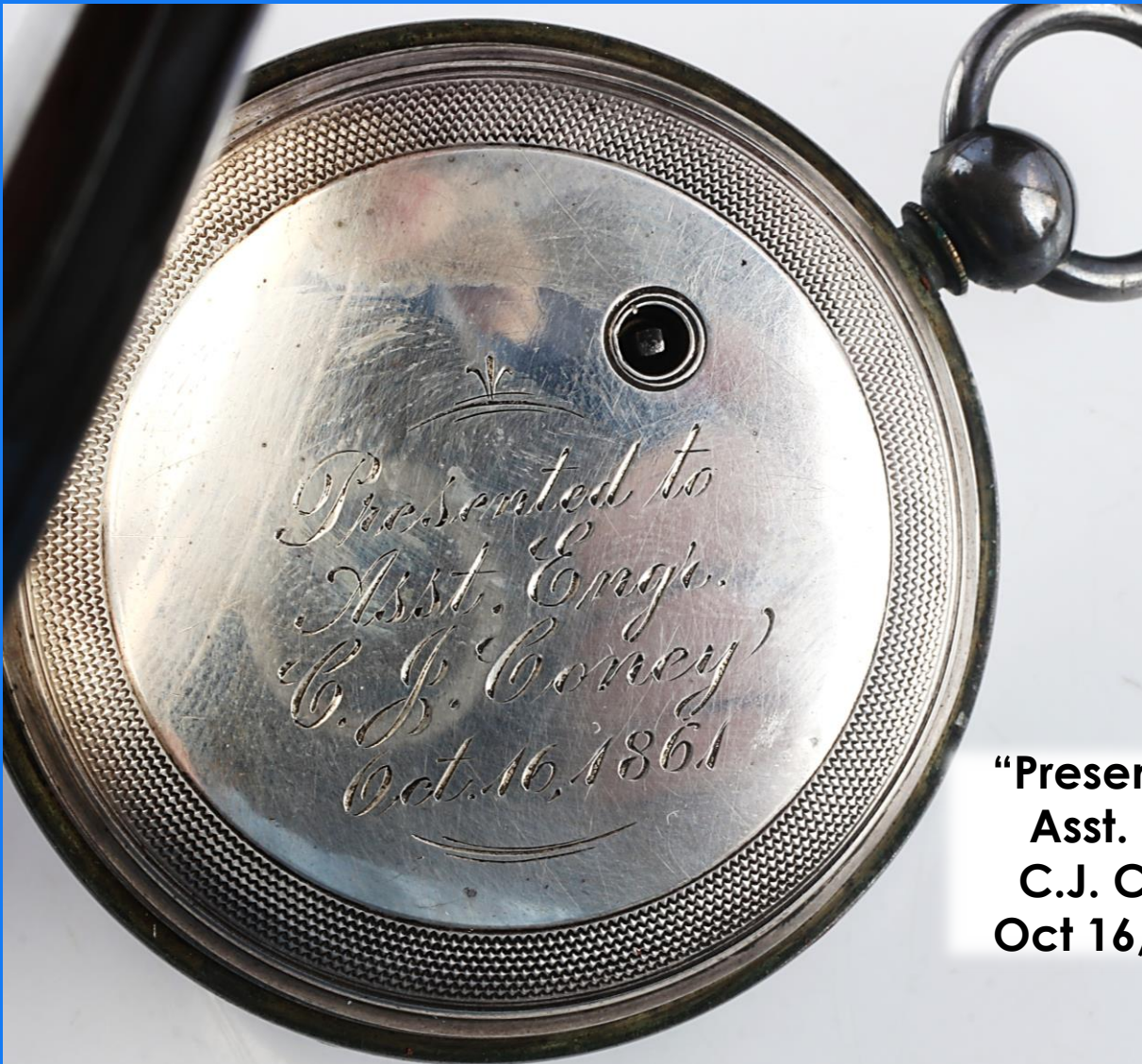




# ASST. ENGINEER CHAS. J. CONEY, USN - WATCH & SWORD

(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"

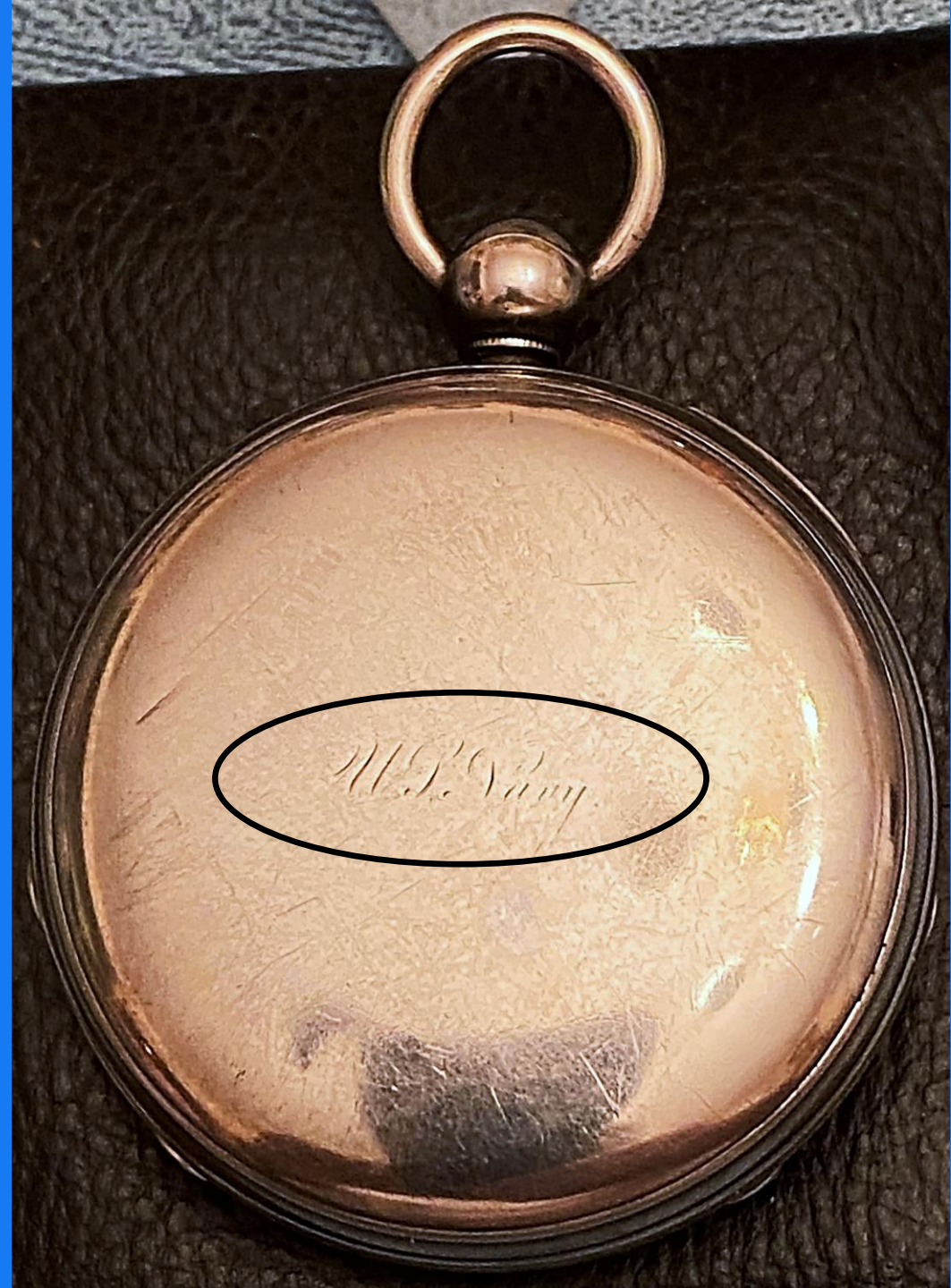


# Asst. Engineer

## 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 would have been responsible for operating and maintaining the steam propulsion plant.

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 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.



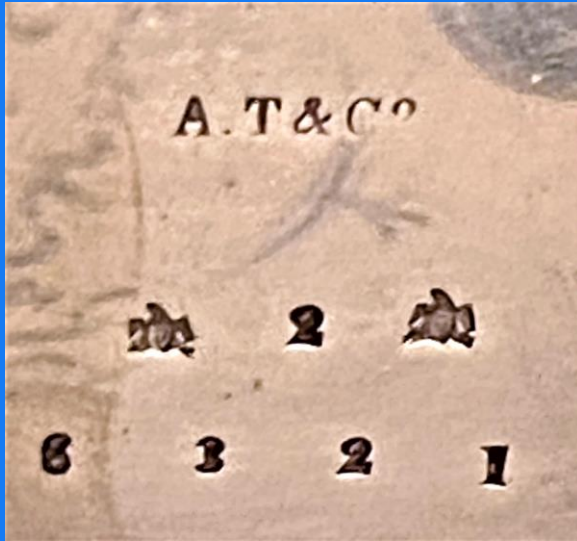
# C. J. Coney's Watch



# 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.

According to the Waltham factory production records, movement SN 63,082 was finished in February, 1863, approximately 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. He was 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 the 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.

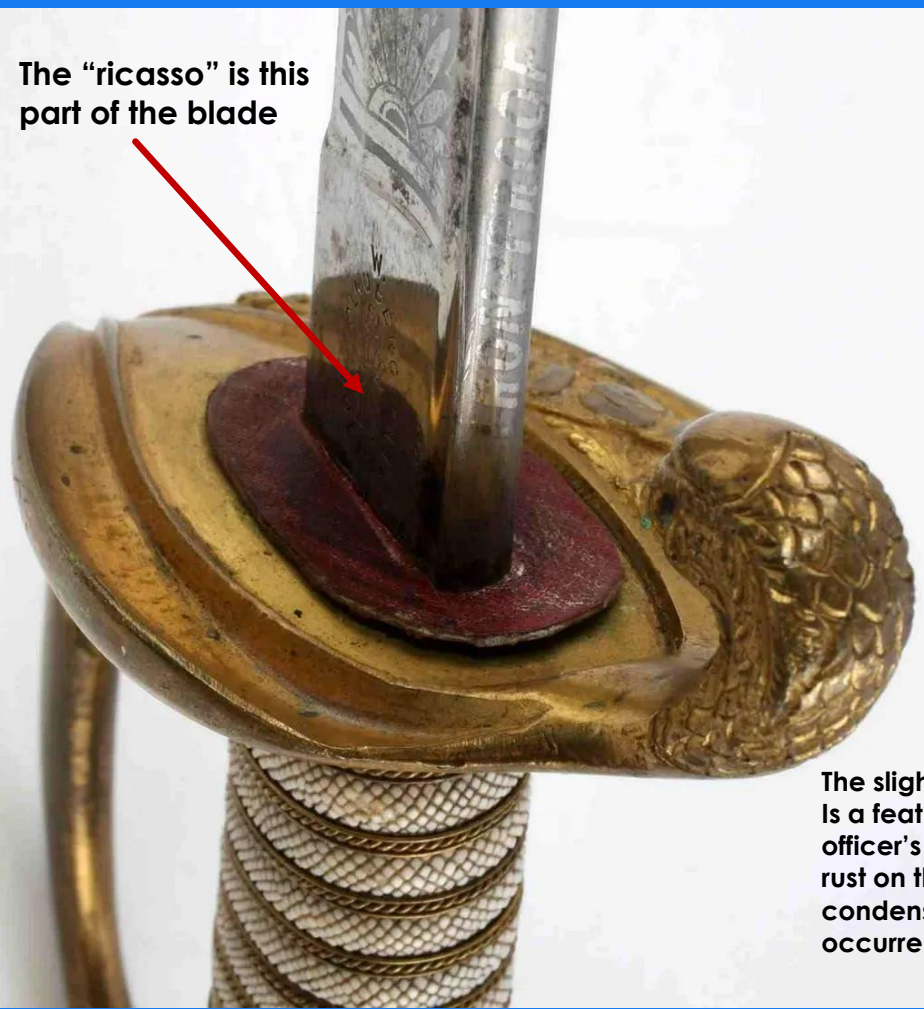


Close-up of the rear lid interior. Some reflections from the dust cover are visible

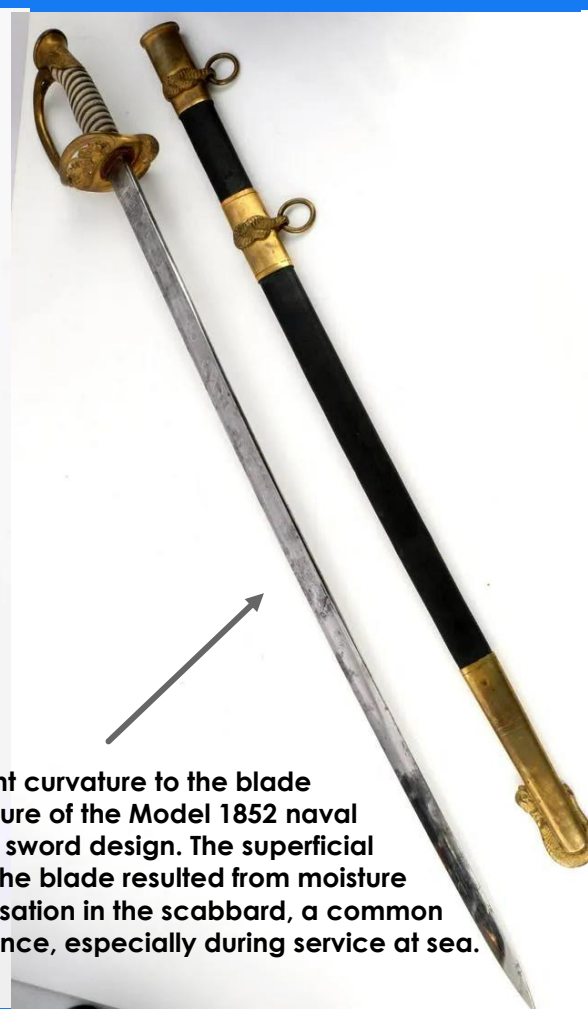


# C. J. Coney's Sword

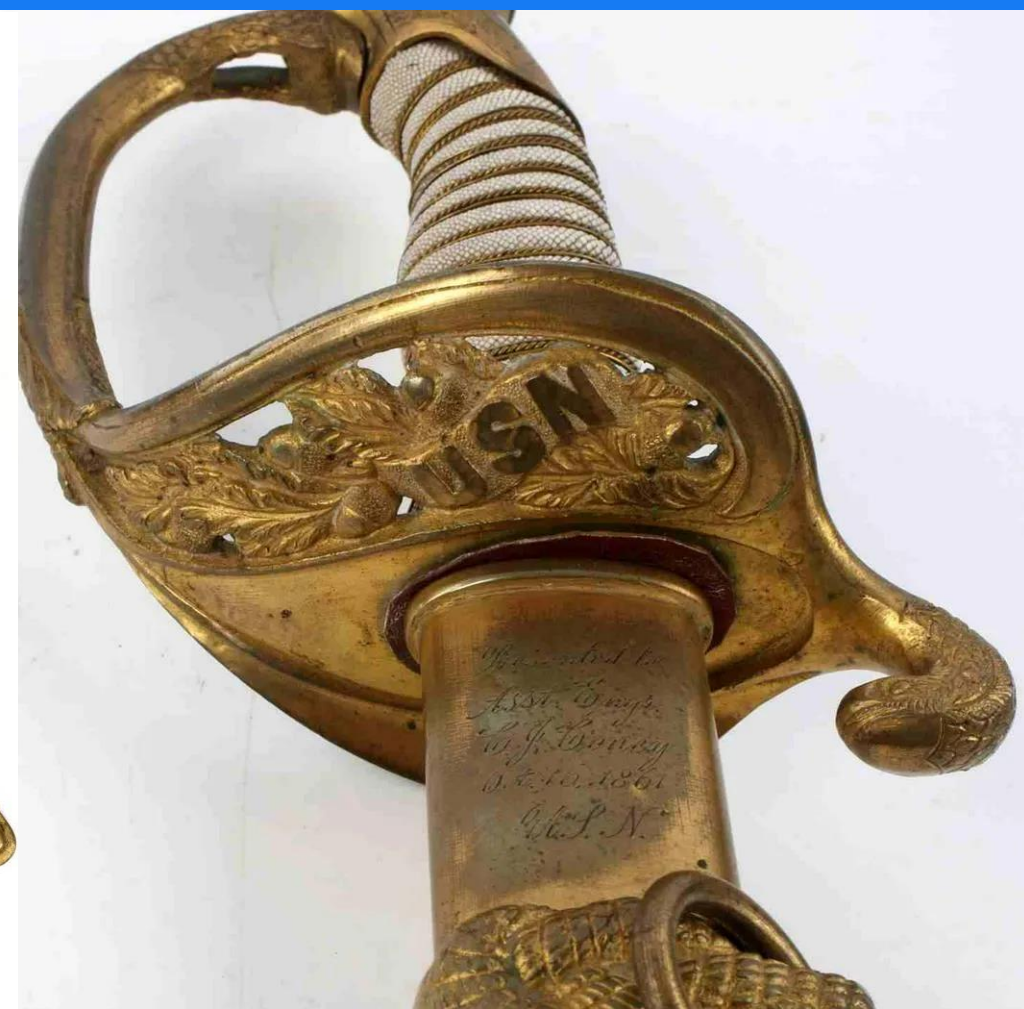
Engineer Coney's Sword is a Model 1852 US Naval officer's sword marked on the ricasso as made by Wilhelm Clauberg of Solingen, in western Prussia (now Germany). Clauberg was a prominent exporter of American Civil War presentation swords from a city famous for swordmaking since the middle ages. The brass hilt includes the Navy regulation "USN" in the molding, and the spine of the blade carries the enigmatic marking, "Iron Proof." Both sides of the blade exhibit elaborate, delicate etching to a distance of approximately eight inches below the ricasso, and both designs include "USN." 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.



The "ricasso" is this part of the blade



The slight curvature to the blade is a feature of the Model 1852 naval officer's sword design. The superficial rust on the blade resulted from moisture condensation in the scabbard, a common occurrence, especially during service at sea.



# 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." Given his surname, complexion, and birthplace, he was likely of Irish ancestry. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Engineer\*  
1864 Jun. 9: Warranted No. 1 – 3/4\*\*  
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 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Engineer was equivalent in rank to an Army Second Lieutenant.

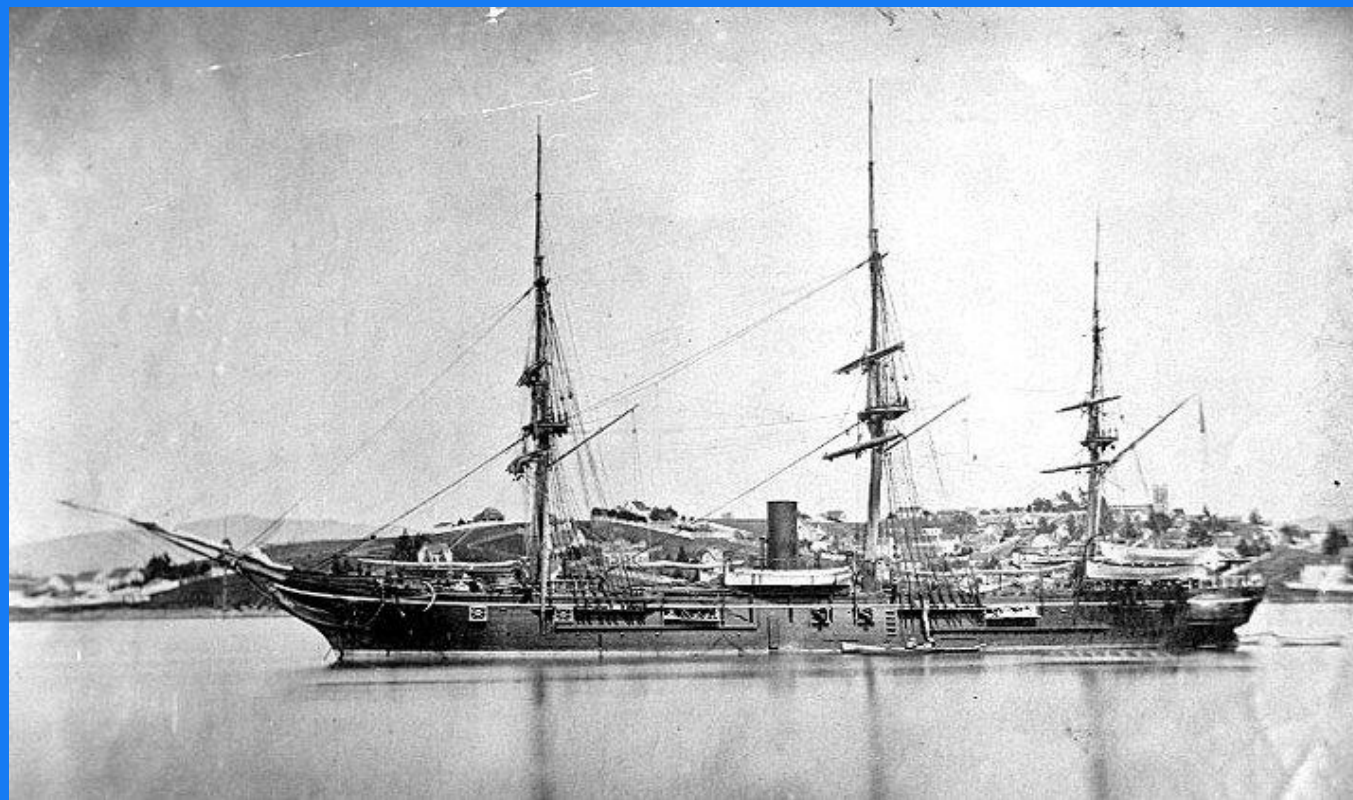
\*\* Meanings of "1 – 3/4" and "No. 3B" are unknown

# 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



The *USS San Jacinto* is depicted 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.

## 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."

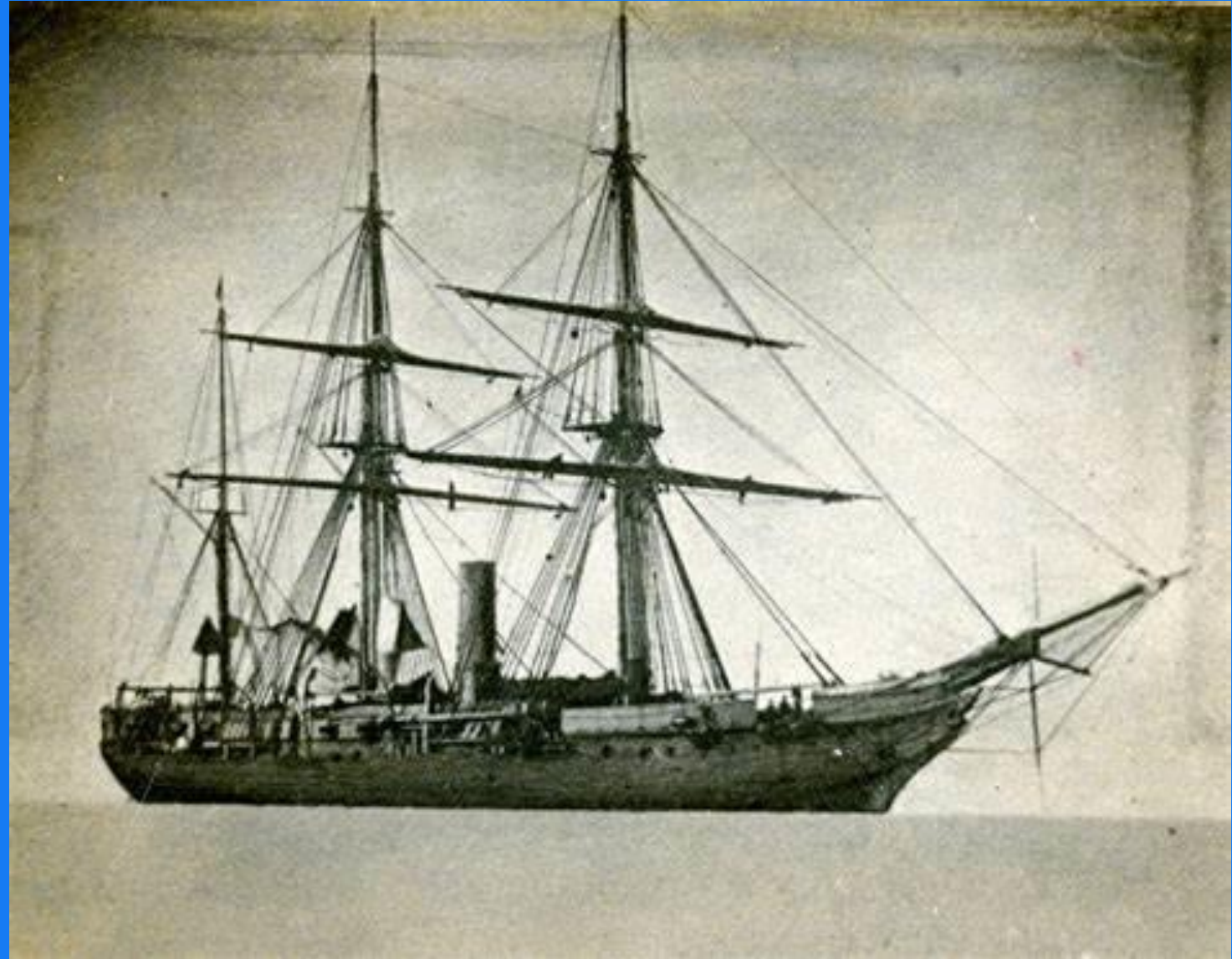
*As an engineer on the San Jacinto, Charles Coney would have played an important part in keeping San Jacinto's "balky engines" running.*

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*; and, 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.



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 )

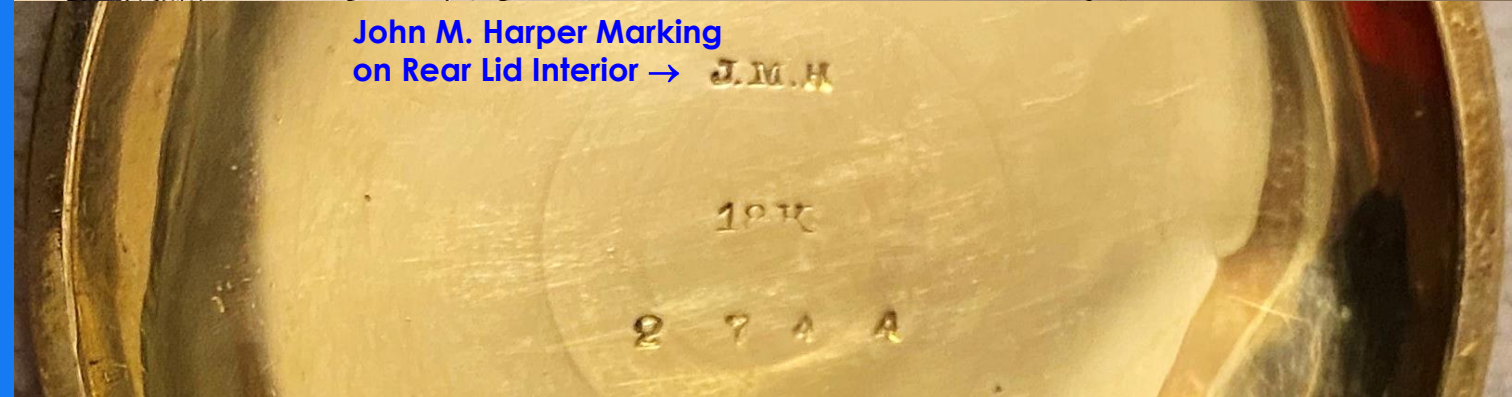


The surviving Howard watch factory production records tell us that movement serial number 5,455 was finished on September 19, 1864 with a chronometer balance (i.e., a bimetallic balance wheel) and a "patent regulator," and was sold to John M. Harper, a prominent wholesale factory customer who cased and sold many Howard watches in the Civil War period. Mershon's patent regulator, whose patent date, April 26, 1859, is engraved on the balance cock, is a rack-and-pin device intended to provide more precise regulation by reducing the deflection 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 main wheel invention, which both protects the escapement and wheel train against reverse impulses that may occur during mainspring breakages, and also provides maintaining power to keep the watch running during winding. 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 were "quick train," meaning that they beat 5 times per second rather than only 4.5, in order to make the watch less likely to stop if jolted. Furthermore, nearly all Howard movements of the Civil War period had fifteen jewels and were "N" Size, which was slightly larger than a standard American 18 Size.

The single sunk Roman numeral enamel dial with two-line script Howard signature and teardrop style hands are standard for Howard products of the period. Notice the elegant engraving on the gold bezel of this particular watchcase.

8 78 Roxbury, Sept. 1864

Sept 19	5457	Chro bal n. Moot Pat. Reg.	John M. Harper	John M.
Sept	52			" "
Pr	53			" "
	54			" "
	→ 55			SN 5,455 → "
	56			"
	57			"
	58			"
	59			"
	5460			"
Sept 20	5461	Chro Bal n. Moot. Pat. Reg.		"



# Case of Pvt. Woodward's Watch



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 damaskeening 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.

# 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. At the time of his death he was residing in Watkins (now Watkins Glen) NY, where he is now 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.

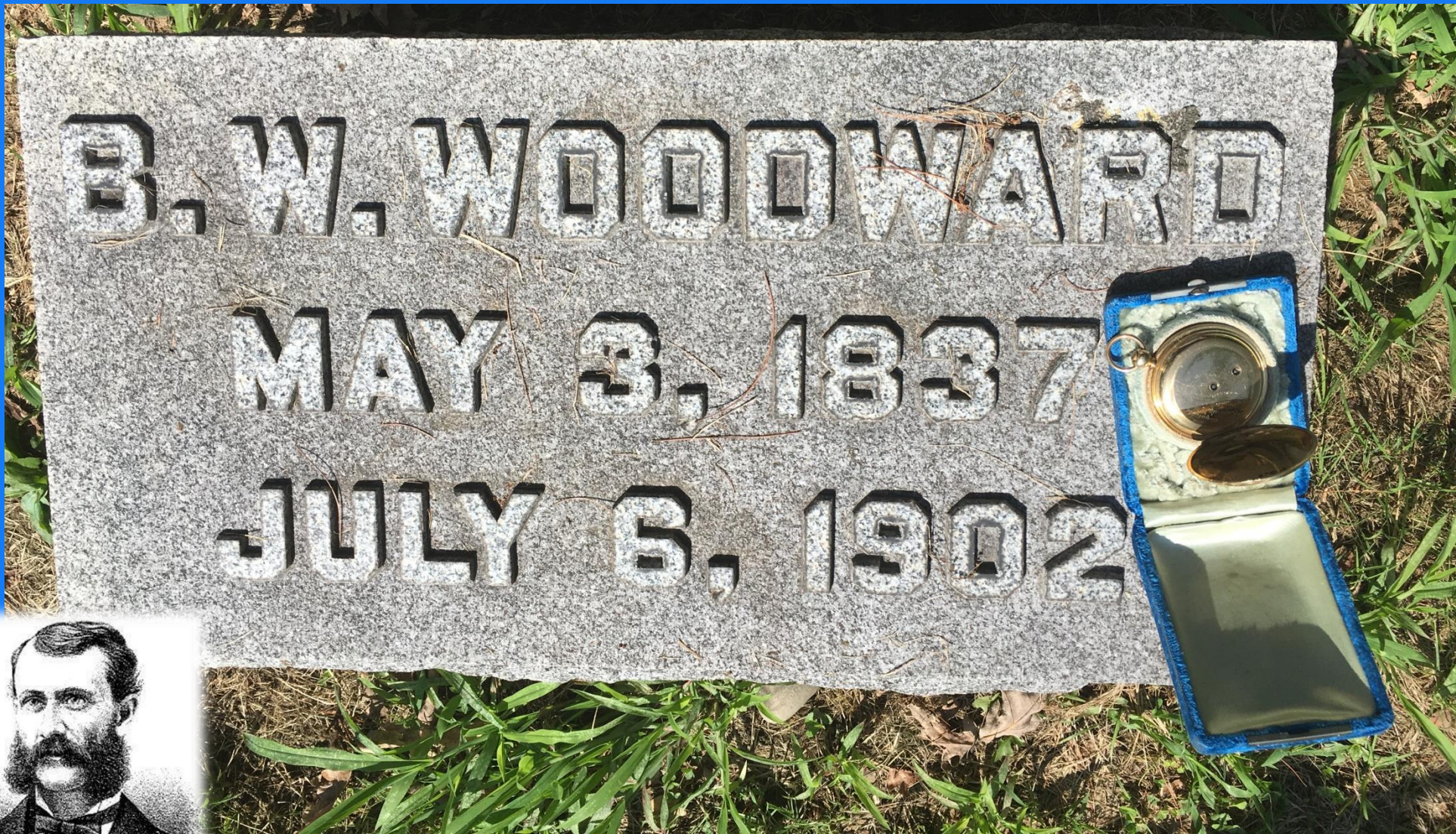
The Army of the Potomac (AoP) Subsistence Department was responsible for providing all food and medicines necessary to sustain the AoP’s soldiers both on campaign and in its more permanent camps.



*Benj W. Woodward*

# Army of the Potomac Subsistence Department Wagons & Railcars



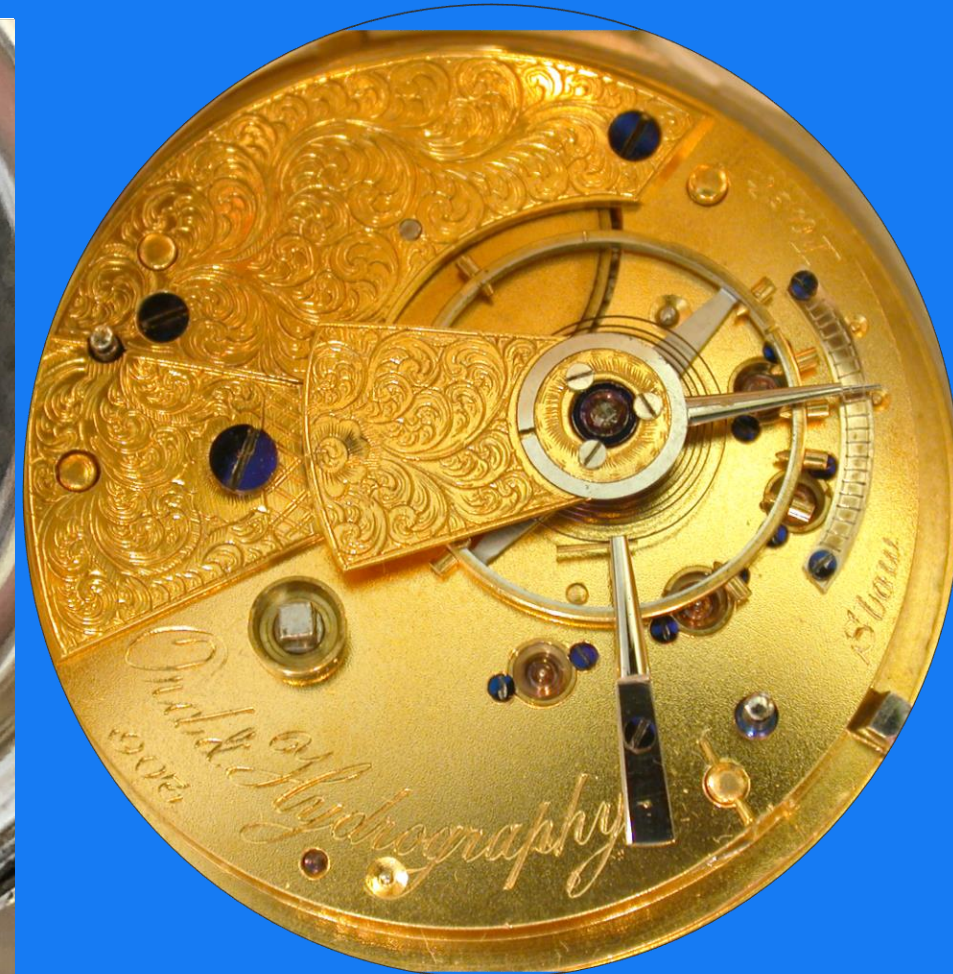
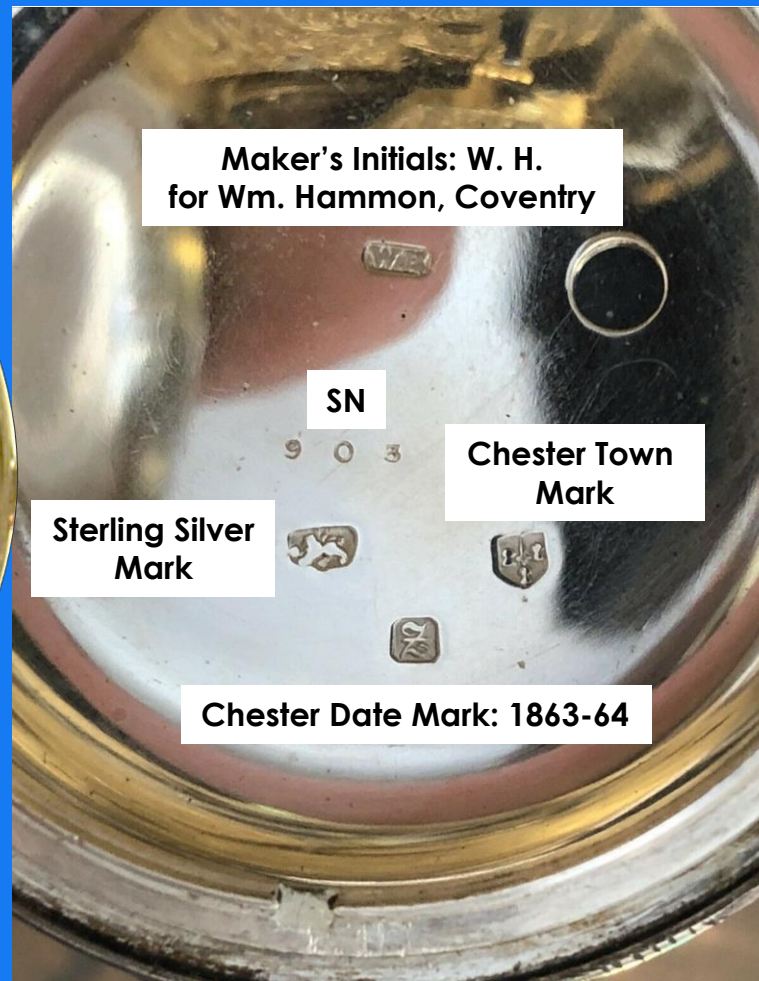


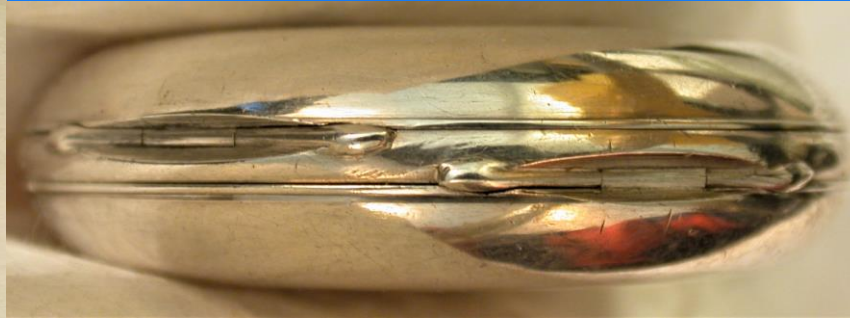
Judge Woodward and his watch were briefly reunited in the Greenwood Cemetery in Watkins Glen, NY, on July 29, 2018.



# CSN O&H WATCH

ENGLISH 15 JEWEL LEVER FUSEE, UNSIGNED MOVEMENT SN 903  
STERLING SILVER HC W. MATCHING SN AND CHESTER DATE MARK FOR 1863-64  
MOVEMENT ENGRAVED "ORD. & HYDROGRAPHY"  
PUTATIVE PROVENANCE: CDR. JOHN MERCER BROOKE, CSN





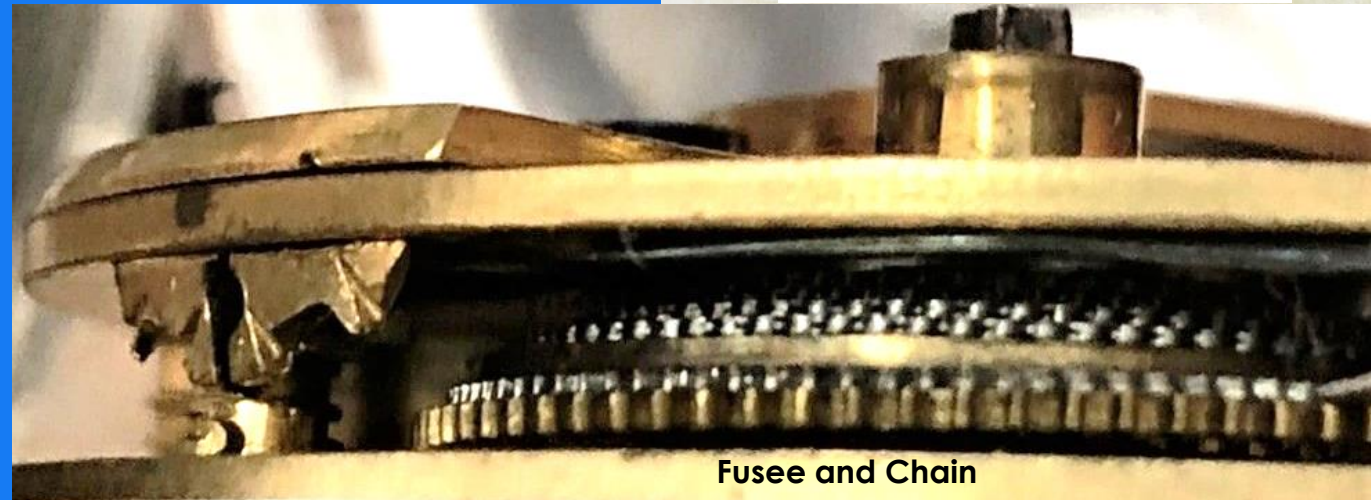
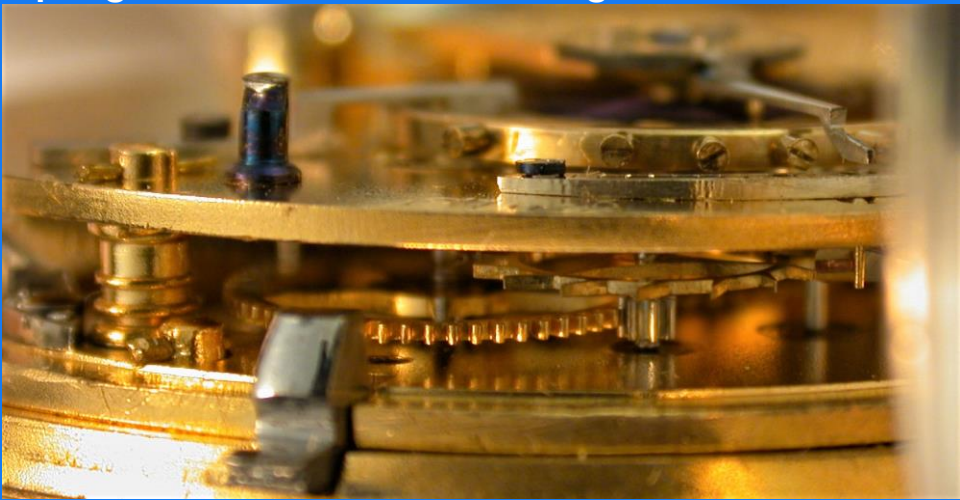
Of the three English watch movements in the Geller Civil War Provenance Watch Collection, the CSN O&H watch is one of two with an English “swing-out” case (shown below, and at right). The O&H watch is also the only Confederate provenance watch in the Geller Collection. It was acquired because government-procured Civil War watches are such rare pieces of history. The 15 jewel movement includes a fusee mechanism, which is typical of English lever escapement watches of the period. The fusee, shown at lower right, is a conical pulley with a chain wrapped around it, such that as the watch runs down and the motive force provided by the mainspring decreases linearly in accordance with Hooke’s Law of spring forces, the moment arm through which the motive force acts increases, maintaining a roughly constant motive torque throughout the running period. The movement, which like the case, is likely of Coventry manufacture, has a simulated compensated balance with an uncut inner steel lamina.

The preceding slide shows the “hallmarks” that are characteristic of English watchcases: the town mark, indicating that this particular case was assayed in the town of Chester; the Sterling silver mark, indicating that the silver of the case is 92.5% pure; the maker’s initials, “W. H.,” for William Hammon, of Coventry; and the date mark, indicating that this case was assayed at the Chester guild hall between August 5, 1863 and August 4, 1864.

At right, the movement of the CSN O&H watch is shown in its swung-out position with its integral gilded brass dust cover in place. The dust cover can be released by sliding the blued steel latch spring clockwise, and then lifting the cover off.



Movement in swung-out position with integral dust cover in place



Fusee and Chain



My watchmaker believes this watch hadn't been apart since it was made in 1863, before he disassembled it in 2021. The steelwork and gilded plates are virtually pristine.

## Army-Procured Watches Were Rare

While Civil War soldiers carried watches to war by the many hundreds of thousands, very few of these watches were issued to servicemen by their respective governments. To the contrary, both Union and Confederate officers were given allowances with which to purchase their own uniforms and accoutrements, including watches, whereas enlisted men usually were expected to obtain their own timepieces, if they wanted them, without the assistance of their respective governments. Thus the watch shown on this and the preceding two slides is highly unusual, as it appears to have been procured directly by the Confederate States Navy.



The CSN would have to have had a very specific purpose in mind to expend precious foreign exchange in order to procure a watch from England and have it run through the Union naval blockade. The Union army too procured a small number of watches for some telegraphers and signal men, and perhaps a few navy warrant officers as well. The markings on this CSN watch suggest that its specific purpose was to mark the times of coastal depth readings so they could be adjusted for the tides and/or for developing tide tables. The specific features of this very ordinary lever fusee watch are also consistent with such an intended purpose. That accurate coastal depth mapping was important to the CSN can be appreciated from the fact that blockade runners, who were vital to both the Southern economy and the Confederate war effort, needed to exploit every marginal advantage they had or could develop, and a superior knowledge of the Southern coastal tides and shallow, shifting and often unmarked water channels was certainly one of these.

While no personal provenance is known to be documented, the previous owner of the watch reports being told that it had been owned by CSN Commander John Mercer Brooke, who became Chief of the CSN Bureau of Ordnance & Hydrography at about the same time the watch would have arrived in the CSA. That provenance seems eminently plausible, given that no other watch with similar markings is known to exist, and the CSN's Bureau of O&H was heavily involved in procurements from England. If nothing else, the watch may have found its way to Brooke at the war's end, there being no CSN anymore to which to return it.

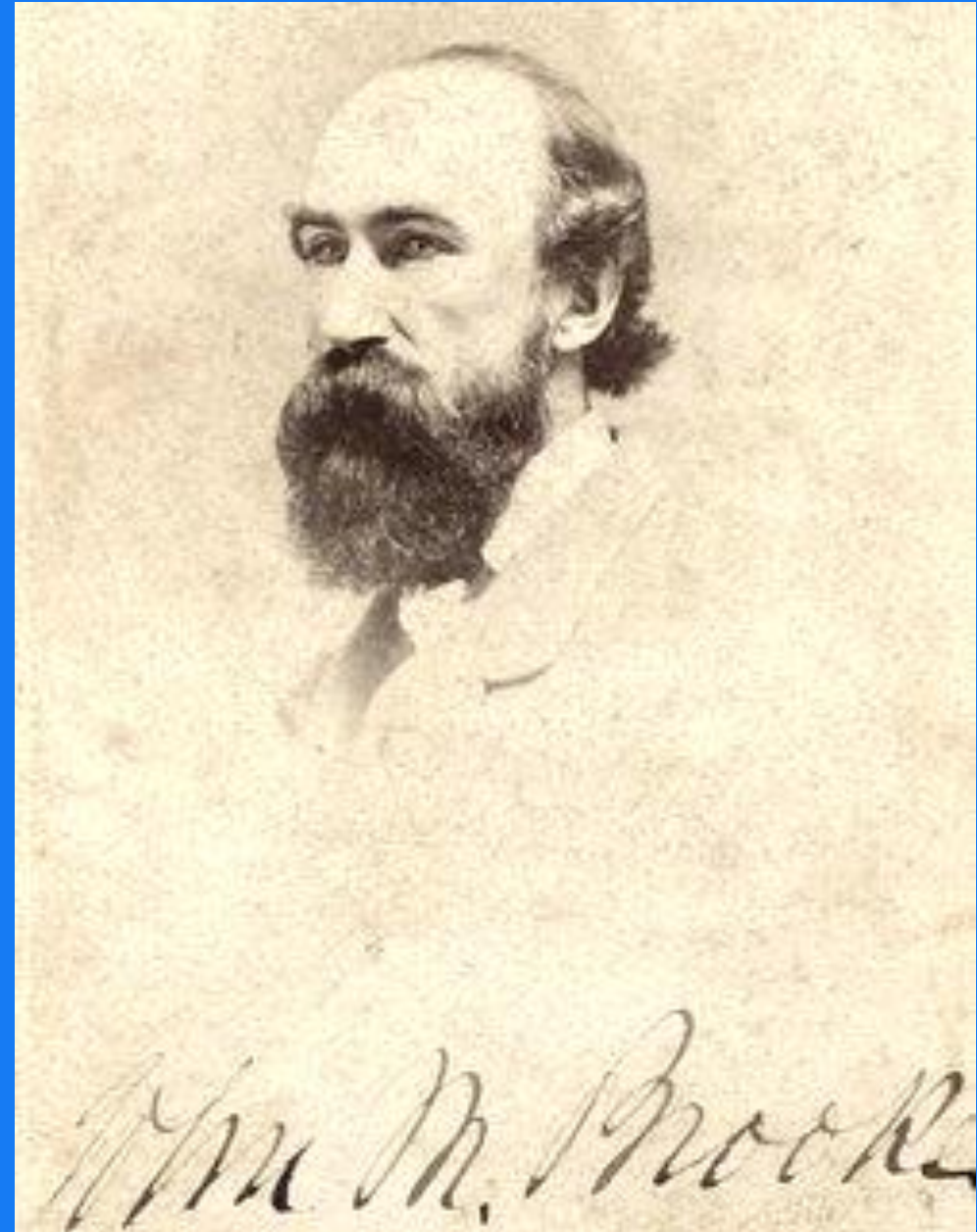
# COMMANDER JOHN MERCER BROOKE, CSN

John Mercer Brooke (December 18, 1826 – December 14, 1906), the putative original owner of the CSN O&H watch, a native of Florida and an early graduate of the US Naval Academy, was an American sailor, engineer, scientist, and educator. In the 1850's Brooke developed new, more accurate technology for mapping the sea floor, and as such was instrumental in the laying of the first Transatlantic Cable.

In 1861, Brooke resigned from the U.S. Navy to join the Confederate Navy. He was involved in the conversion of the frigate USS *Merrimack* into the ironclad CSS *Virginia*, which famously fought the USS Monitor at Hampton Roads on March 2, 1862. Brooke also is credited with the development of a muzzle-loading rifled gun for naval use and coastal defense. The gun, which became known as the "Brooke rifle," was made of wrought iron and was suited to the manufacturing limitations of the Tredegar Iron Work in Richmond. In 1862, Brooke was promoted to the rank of commander, and in 1863, to Chief of the Confederate Navy's Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography, responsible for both arms and ammunition procurements and coastal depth mapping. After the war, Brooke joined the faculty of the Virginia Military Institute, at Lexington, Virginia, as a professor, from which position he retired in 1899. He died in Lexington in 1906 and is buried in its Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery.



Left: A 7 inch Brooke Rifle captured aboard the Confederate ironclad CSS *Atlanta*.



**USS *Brooke* (FFG-1), named for John Mercer Brooke, was the lead ship of her class of guided missile frigates in the USN from 1962-1988.**



# Concluding Remarks

This concludes my presentation of the Clint B. Geller Collection of Civil War Provenance watches. The fourteen watches in this collection involved the careers of at least fifteen men, from a private to a brevet major general and perhaps a Confederate navy commander, whose service touched twenty one combat regiments or brigades, one of them African American, and two ships from eight Northern states and the Confederacy, 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 one 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, June 6, 2023*