



# CIVIL WAR PLACES RESEARCH KIT

## VERMONT'S CIVIL WAR STORY

Though the battles of the Civil War were fought far to the south, the Civil War required an incredible effort from, and took an incredible toll on, those at home. More than 28,000 Vermonters served in state regiments in the American Civil War from 1861 to 1865, and nearly 6,000 died. As the war's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary approaches in 2011, historians are turning toward a new focus on wartime life on the home front, asking questions like these: Who went to war, and who stayed home? What did Vermonters think about slavery and the causes of the Civil War? How did the war change Vermont and Vermonters?

## THE SEARCH FOR VERMONT'S CIVIL WAR PLACES

In Vermont's well-preserved landscape, one of the best ways to connect to the past is through places. In 2006, the Vermont Humanities Council began a project with Civil War historian Howard Coffin to identify places in Vermont related to the Civil War: the buildings and greens, towns halls and churches, farms and factories where Vermonters mobilized, worked, argued, worried, and mourned. Howard Coffin is working on an ambitious book that will profile Civil War sites in every Vermont town. We invite you to join the search for Civil War places! Contribute your research to Howard Coffin's unique project, and create your own guided tour or exhibit of local Civil War history. You don't need to be a trained historian to easily discover Civil War sites, and they exist in every town.

## DOING LOCAL CIVIL WAR RESEARCH

Put simply, Civil War sites are places somehow related to the war. We invite you to explore what and where those places could be. This kit includes a list of places, people, and historical themes of the war to rouse your curiosity, as well as where to find information and how to use research resources. Above all, use your imagination, and be observant. Civil War sites include the Constitution House in Windsor, where Vermont's state constitution outlawed slavery in 1777, a cave in Barnard where a man hid to avoid the draft, the house in Jay of the last surviving Civil War veteran who died in 1944.

Help add to the list and write Vermont history!



*Created under grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the NEH.*

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## CIVIL WAR PEOPLE

Civil War soldiers, as well as drummer boys, doctors, and nurses, came from all over Vermont. During the war, many Vermonters understood that they were part of an epic event, and they kept diaries, wrote letters, and passed their stories along orally. Towns mobilized and financed troops, and responded publicly to major events, holding parades at the war's end, and funerals after Lincoln's assassination. Women supported the war effort by sewing uniforms, sending necessities to soldiers in need, and stepping in to run the businesses and farms of the absent men. After the war, Civil War veterans and women took to the task of memorializing the war, holding annual encampments and erecting memorials. People you look for may include:

### SOLDIERS

- Lives changed after returning home
- Had a post-war disability
- Served in unusual roles (musician, deserter, doctor)
- Left a written record
- Killed in action
- Died in, or survived a prison camp
- Confederates from Vermont
- Had a unique family situation

### WOMEN

- Sanitary Commission members
- Members of GAR Women's Relief Corps
- Worked as teachers in the South
- Members of wartime sewing circles
- Factory workers
- Nurses
- Left a written record
- Ran a farm or business during wartime
- Went to war

### CHILDREN

- Orphaned by the war
- Took on unusual responsibilities
- Drummer boys

### AFRICAN-AMERICANS

- Served as soldiers
- Went to war as orderlies or servants
- Lived in Vermont before, during, or after the war
- Freedom won by the war

### BUSINESSPEOPLE

- Manufactured products for the war
- Made profits from the war
- New businesses created by the war

### POLITICIANS AND ACTIVISTS

- Politicians at the local, state, and national level during the war
- Veterans prominent in politics
- Veterans prominent in state and national Veteran's Organizations
- Prominent supporters of the war
- Copperheads (Confederate sympathizers), Quakers, and other opponents of the war
- Organizers and members of anti-slavery societies
- Famous anti-slavery activists who spoke in Vermont

## CIVIL WAR PLACES

Where did people live, work, and congregate? What sites in Vermont saw Civil War activity? (This is only a partial list. You will likely find other types of sites.)

**HOUSE**  
**FARM**  
**FACTORY**  
**INN**  
**RAILROAD STATION**

**CHURCH**  
**SCHOOL**  
**MEETING HOUSE**  
**TOWN HALL**  
**DRILL FIELD**

**GREEN**  
**CEMETERY**  
**MONUMENT**  
**QUARRY**

## MAJOR THEMES OF THE CIVIL WAR

These themes may help you consider the many unexpected ways that the Civil War affected Vermont communities.

### **Soldier's Life and Death:**

*Who fought? Who came home? How did they stay healthy, and who nursed their wounds and battled common diseases?*

Sites could include soldiers' homes, cemeteries, medical facilities, houses where women made war provisions or sent food to their soldier sweethearts, or places where a chapter of the Women's Sanitary Commission met.

### **The Debate over Slavery:**

*Did Vermonters agree about the Civil War's causes? What was life like for African-American Vermonters? When did anti-slavery activism begin in Vermont?*

Sites might include places where African-Americans lived, houses where anti-slavery societies met or halls where abolitionists spoke, while angry crowds gathered outside.

### **Work on the Home Front**

*How did Vermont towns finance their participation in the war? What was manufactured for the war effort? Did anyone profit from the war? Who ran the farms while soldiers were gone?*

A factory, a farm, a home where a sewing circle met, or any enterprise affected by the war could be a site, as well as drill fields, public buildings, and railway stations.

### **Remembering the War:**

*How did Vermonters remember the war and the dead, and how did that process change over time? Was it revised or re-evaluated? How did communities mourn Lincoln's death?*

Cemeteries, monuments, Veterans organizations, GAR encampment sites, and memorial halls are all possible sites.

## SOURCES: WHERE TO LOOK

Documents from the Civil War era, objects, and books and articles about Civil War and local history may lead you to Civil War places. These might include:

<b>Letters</b>	<b>Photographs</b>	<b>Diaries</b>
<b>Gravestones</b>	<b>Monuments</b>	<b>Newspapers</b>
<b>Town reports</b>	<b>Town books</b>	<b>Reminiscences</b>
<b>Artifacts</b>	<b>Recruitment records</b>	<b>GAR records</b>

To connect the stories in these documents with places, you might also use **historical and current maps, rosters of enlisted soldiers, census records, regimental histories, town histories, grave registries**, and many other resources.

## LOCAL SOURCES

### Historical Society

- Look for collections of Civil War letters, diaries, photographs, and more. Read a **town history** or old **newspapers** for reference to Civil War events.
- *List of local historical societies:*  
<http://www.vermonthistory.org/lhs/lhsindex.htm>.

### Town Clerk's Office

- Inquire at the office for **old town books, town meeting records, vital records, property records, and grave registries**.
- *Find addresses of town clerks at:*  
[http://www.vermont-elections.org/elections1/town\\_clerks\\_guide.html](http://www.vermont-elections.org/elections1/town_clerks_guide.html).  
Or contact the Secretary of State's office at (800) 439-8683

### Public Library

- Search for old town books, collections of letters, old newspapers, maps, local histories, and more.
- <http://www.publiclibraries.com/vermont.htm> lists public libraries.

### Local knowledge

- Ask around for people in your town known to be well informed about local history. Interview them or ask for a town tour.
- Spread the word via the local paper or other networks that you are conducting a search. **Many documents may be in the possession of neighbors and friends!** Put out a call for old letters, photographs, family collections, private publishers, or unpublished reminiscences.

### Look at your landscape

- A **cemetery** is a great place to start. Civil War era gravestones, often identifiable by their bronze G.A.R. star, sometimes note units served in and death in battle. Look for memorial plaques, or interesting epitaphs. Bring a pocket mirror or spray bottle of water to help illuminate hard to read lettering.

- Look at road signs, monuments, on village greens, and at any historic building, especially those traditionally used as gathering places.

## RESOURCES ON THE WEB

### Ancestry.com

- **www.ancestry.com** has access to national and state census records and vital records. By using census records, you can find the birth date and town of any person included in the census. This is a great source when looking for non-soldiers. *Ancestry.com offers a free three-day trial, and then a monthly fee.*

### Heritage Quest

- **www.heritagequestonline.com** also offers access to census records. *Most library card holders can get free access through their public library's website.*

### Footnote.com

- **www.footnote.com** offers many historical documents, many of which are free.

### National Archives

- **www.archives.gov/research/civil-war/** The National Archives hold the pension records of soldiers, which often contain remarkable information. *They can be accessed for a fee.*

### National Park Service Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Database

- **http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/**  
This database may contain useful information on specific soldiers.

### ArcCat Database.

- **http://arccat.uvm.edu**  
ArcCat is an online catalog describing archival and manuscript collections held by various Vermont institutions. Use it to locate collections of manuscripts and records all around the state.

### Vermont Newspaper Project.

- **http://library.uvm.edu/vtnp/**  
Search by subject or place of coverage for where specific Vermont newspapers are held.

### Vermont in the Civil War Website

- **www.vermontcivilwar.org**
- Includes lists of Vermont men imprisoned at Andersonville.
- Cemetery database of where soldiers' graves are located in Vermont.
- Database of soldiers, searchable by name and listing home town, age, and service.
- Online, searchable version of George Benedict's classic Civil War history.
- Contextual resources such as bibliography, timeline, and others.

## RESOURCES THROUGHOUT VERMONT

### Vermont Historical Society Library

- **Town Histories.** Always a good place to start. *Many are also available at local public libraries, historical societies, and elsewhere.*
- **Manuscript collection.** The VHS has a specific Civil War manuscript index, for finding diaries, letters, vouchers, maps, photos, broadsides, genealogies and more.
- **Civil War books.** Search the index for regimental histories, collections of letters, and reminiscences.
- **Grave Registry.** Located in the reference room. Find the location of a Civil War era person's grave.
- **Maps.**
  - **Walling's maps** of the 1850s and **Beer's Atlases** of the 1860s. Both show the exact location and family names of some dwellings in all Vermont towns. Find the exact house of a soldier or his family both before and after the Civil War.
- **Books.**
  - **Peck, Theodore.** *Revised Roster of Vermont Volunteers During the War of the Rebellion, 1861-66* (1892). Includes information about Vermonters who served in the war, including their ages, places of enlistment, and brief history of their regiment.
  - **Benedict, George.** *Vermont in the Civil War.* This is the classic history of Vermont's role in the Civil War.
  - **Hemenway, Abbie M.** *Vermont Historical Gazetteer* (1879). Contains town histories, including Civil War history for many.
- **Location:**

Vermont History Center, 60 Washington Street, Barre, VT 05641.  
802-479-8500, [vhs-info@state.vt.us](mailto:vhs-info@state.vt.us),  
[www.vermonthistory.org/library.htm](http://www.vermonthistory.org/library.htm)

### University of Vermont Bailey Howe Library Special Collections

- **Resources:** Includes legislative records, newspapers, UVM records, books, manuscripts, and maps.
- **Location:**

Special Collections, Bailey/Howe Library  
University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405  
802-656-2138, [uvmsc@uvm.edu](mailto:uvmsc@uvm.edu)  
<http://library.uvm.edu/about/specialcollections/index.html>

### Vermont Department of Libraries

- **Resources: Newspapers** are often the best place to find home front-related Civil War events, such as announcements of gatherings, talks, or important news. Most are on microfilm. Also available here are **census records, government records**, and more.

- **Location:**  
Reference and Law Division  
190 State St., Montpelier, VT, 05609-0601  
802-828-3265  
<http://dol.state.vt.us>

#### **Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium**

- **Resources:** Civil War diaries, farm journals and account books, municipal records, Civil War Governor Erastus Fairbanks's dispatches, a photograph collection, and Woman's Relief Corps records.
- **Location:**  
1302 Main Street, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819,  
802-748-2372  
[www.fairbanksmuseum.org](http://www.fairbanksmuseum.org)

#### **Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History**

- **Resources:** manuscripts, ephemera, maps, books, and photographs, mostly relating to Addison County.
- **Location:**  
1 Park Street, Middlebury, VT 05753  
802-388-2117 or [Info@HenrySheldonMuseum.org](mailto:Info@HenrySheldonMuseum.org)  
[www.henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://www.henrysheldonmuseum.org)

#### **Norwich University Archives and Special Collections**

- **Resources:** Norwich University history, Vermont military history, and more.
- **Location:**  
Kreitzberg Library, Norwich University  
158 Harmon Drive, Northfield, Vermont 05663  
[speccoll@norwich.edu](mailto:speccoll@norwich.edu) or 802-485-2722  
<http://www.norwich.edu/academics/library/specialcollections.html>

#### **Vermont's Vital Records and Military Records.**

- **Resources:** Surviving Civil War records include enlistment data, correspondence, battle reports, death notices, and much more. Birth, death, marriage, and divorce records, land records, probate indexes, and other genealogical records such as town, church, naturalization and census records.
- **Location:**  
State of Vermont Public Records Division, Reference/Research Section,  
1078 U.S. Rt. 2 Middlesex, Montpelier, VT 05633.  
802-828-3286  
<http://www.bgs.state.vt.us/gsc/pubrec/index.html>

## **Vermont State Archives**

- **Resources:** Municipal records, Governor's records, election records, legislative records, records of Corporations, photographs, town histories, and Vermont State papers.
- **Location:**  
Office of the Secretary of State, 26 Terrace St., Montpelier, Vt. 05609  
archives@sec.state.vt.us or 802-828-2308,  
[www.vermont-archives.org](http://www.vermont-archives.org)

## **HOW TO CITE YOUR SOURCES**

It's important to give full credit to the sources of information that you used in your search, so that historians who might look at your research can do the same. Citing sources is simple and necessary. For detailed descriptions for citing different kinds of sources, visit the **Chicago Manual of Style's Quick Guide**.  
[http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)

### **BOOKS, ARTICLES, MANUSCRIPTS, NEWSPAPERS**

Be sure to include the author, title, place and name of publisher, date of publication, and page numbers. For rare or unpublished documents, identify where the document can be found, unless its location in private hands is confidential.

Fuller, James. *Men of Color, To Arms! Vermont African-Americans in the Civil War*. New York: University Press, 2001, 21.

### **ONLINE SOURCES**

Include the title of the website, its web address, and the date you accessed it. If possible, include the author and title of the specific post.

Vermont in the Civil War, <http://www.vermontcivilwar.org> (accessed October 9, 2008).

### **EMAILS, CONVERSATIONS, AND ORAL HISTORY**

For an email, cite the sender, recipient, and the date of the message. For a conversation, record the date and the people involved.

Conversation between author and Howard Coffin, Civil War Historian, (October 9, 2008).

A step by step guide to doing oral history can be found here:  
[http://dohistory.org/on\\_your\\_own/toolkit/oralHistory.html](http://dohistory.org/on_your_own/toolkit/oralHistory.html)

### **UNDERGROUND RAILROAD SITES**

Underground Railroad sites do exist in Vermont, but so do many unconfirmed legends. Raymond Zirblis's 1996 work, *Friends of freedom: the Vermont Underground Railroad Survey Report* ranks most supposed sites and whether they are likely sites or simply legends. It is possible that you may uncover new evidence, but use this comprehensive survey as part of your research. It is available at the Vermont Historical Society, UVM Library, through the Division of Historic Preservation, and in many other places.

## CIVIL WAR RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

### **The Flow of History**

A site that explores Civil War history in the Upper Valley, the Flow of History offers educational materials, including a rentable Civil War teaching kit created with the Vermont Historical Society. The kit includes replicas of common primary sources and artifacts, including a soldier's haversack, a doctor's kit, and a Ladies Aid Society care package.

**[www.flowofhistory.org](http://www.flowofhistory.org)**

### **Valley Quest Program**

This program helps students create place-based learning "quests." The program has developed a Civil War "quest," where historical clues lead participants on a tour of Civil War related places.

**[www.vitalcommunities.org/ValleyQuest/ValleyQuest.htm](http://www.vitalcommunities.org/ValleyQuest/ValleyQuest.htm)**

### **Vermont Historical Society's Digital Resources**

VHS has digitized two collections of Civil War letters. Their Underground Railroad Project, also available online, includes teaching tools, documents, and background information. The VHS library holds an extensive Civil War manuscript collection.

**[www.vermonthistory.org](http://www.vermonthistory.org)**

**[www.pbs.org/civilwar/war/facts.html](http://www.pbs.org/civilwar/war/facts.html)**

Civil War facts, maps, and other information.

## FINDING A CIVIL WAR PLACE STEP BY STEP

1. Search the online roster at **[www.vermontcivilwar.org](http://www.vermontcivilwar.org)** to find the name of a soldier in your town or in your family.
2. Search the census at **[www.heritagequestonline.com](http://www.heritagequestonline.com)** to find your soldier before and after the war. Did he own his own home, live with his parents, or board with another family as a farm laborer?
3. Look at a copy of the Beers Atlas at your local library or VHS, or order one online. The Beers Atlas lists the last names of homeowners next to their houses. Find your town's map, and look for the home your soldier lived in.
4. Go for a walk or drive and try to find the house if it still exists.
5. If it does, inquire to be sure that the existing house is old enough. The present inhabitants may know something more about your soldier.
6. If it doesn't, go back to the Beers Atlas and then look nearby for a cemetery, or the church or school that your soldier likely attended.
7. Let Howard Coffin know about the site and see it included in his upcoming book.
8. Look for more sites, and create an exhibit, walking tour, or other resource.

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- <http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/>. The Valley of the Shadow is an archive of primary sources that compares two neighboring northern and southern communities in Pennsylvania and Virginia.

### Letters, Records, Regimental Histories, Recollections:

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### **The Home Front:**

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### **Slavery and Freedom:**

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- Blight, David W., ed. *Passages to Freedom: The Underground Railroad in History and Memory*. New York: Smithsonian Institution, 2004.
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### **Women:**

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## VERMONT HUMANITIES COUNCIL CIVIL WAR PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

The VHC sponsors public programming throughout the state, and many of our programs have Civil War themes. Host a speaker series, living history presentation, or reading and discussion group around Civil War themes in your community! More information on all of these programs, as well as speaker bios and descriptions, are available on the VHC's website, [www.vermonthumanities.org](http://www.vermonthumanities.org). Or contact us at [info@vermonthumanities.org](mailto:info@vermonthumanities.org).

### Community Reading and Discussion Programs

#### Our Civil War Legacy ~ 5 sessions

Discuss the crucial final month of the war and how, but for a handful of important decisions and a good deal of luck, the outcome—of the War and of the country—might have been very different.

Robert Penn Warren, *The Legacy of the Civil War*

Jay Winik, *April 1865, the Month That Saved America*

Drew Gilpin Faust, *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*

David Blight, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory*

Tony Horowitz, *Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War*

#### Lincoln: Bicentennial of His Birth, 2009 ~ 3 sessions

Abraham Lincoln turns 200 in 2009. Celebrate with an in-depth look at the man behind the president in two celebrated biographies and Lincoln's own words.

David Herbert Donald, *Lincoln* (Pulitzer Prize-winner 1996)

Doris Kearns Goodwin, *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*

Selections from *The Portable Lincoln*, Andrew Delbanco, ed.

#### Seminal Statements of American Values ~ 5 sessions

Founding documents and landmark speeches help us to understand America's operating principles and values – what they mean, how well we practice what we preach, and what relationship words have to action in good times and bad.

*Declaration of Independence*

*Constitution of the United States*

Abraham Lincoln, *Gettysburg Address*

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, *The Four Freedoms*

Martin Luther King, Jr., *I Have a Dream*

#### Slavery and the Civil War ~ 3 sessions

With the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War beginning in 2011, what better time to undertake an intergenerational discussion of the root causes of the War, and the experience of soldiers on both sides.

Julius Lester, *To Be a Slave*

Gary Paulsen, *Nightjohn*

Jim Murphy, *The Boys' War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk About the Civil War*

### Speaker's Bureau

- **“A Woman, Ain't I?”**  
Speaker Kathryn Woods brings the story of Sojourner Truth to life.
- **“Even we here....”: Abraham Lincoln in Your Town**  
Speaker Michael Fox Kennedy explores Lincoln's life as a husband and father, and his rise to the presidency and Civil War ordeal.
- **Meet Lucy Stone**  
Judith Black portrays the “shining star” of the antislavery movement, Lucy Stone shows how the antislavery and women's rights movements intersected.
- **Susan B. Anthony – the Invincible!**

- Sally Matson brings to life this abolitionist and women's suffrage activist.
- **Vermont History through Song: The Civil War Songbook**  
Singer and researcher Linda Radtke takes her audience through the state's Civil War history using popular songs of the era.
- **Alec Turner: A Trek from Slavery to Freedom**  
Jane Beck shares the story of a slave from Virginia who died a freeman, farmer, and landowner in Grafton, Vermont, recorded as told by his daughter, Daisy.
- **Civil War Sites in Vermont**  
Historian Howard Coffin shares sites he's found, and explains how to do local Civil War research.
- **George Houghton: Vermont's Civil War Photographer**  
Don Wickman shares images and the story of the Brattleboro War photographer's work in the field of war.
- **Letters to Vermont**  
Don Wickman introduces audiences to the letter writers who wrote home during the Civil War.
- **Vermont and the Civil War**  
Howard Coffin addresses the Vermont contribution to the Civil War, from Cedar Creek to Gettysburg.

### **Community Grants Program**

The Vermont Humanities Council offers grants to support public programs, educational outreach, and teacher enrichments. Apply for funding for a Civil War related project!

## **CIVIL WAR PLACES TO VISIT IN VERMONT**

### **National Park Service Civil War walking tour of Woodstock, Vermont.**

<http://www.nps.gov/mabi/planyourvisit/civil-war-home-front-walking-tour.htm>

### **Vermont Civil War Expo**

<http://www.18thvt.com/>

Put on by the 18<sup>th</sup> Vermont Regiment, a group of re-enactors and educators.

### **St. Albans: Confederates Attack Vermont!**

<http://www.stamuseum.com/>

### **Hildene: The Lincoln Family Home**

<http://www.hildene.org/>

### **Lakeview Cemetery in Burlington**

Located between North Avenue and Lake Champlain, this beautiful cemetery holds the graves of distinguished general George Stannard, as well as Vermont members of black Civil War regiments, among many other Civil War graves.

### **Rokeby Museum**

The Ferrisburgh home of the Quaker Robinson family is a national historic landmark and one of the best documented Underground Railroad sites.

[www.rokeby.org](http://www.rokeby.org)

## WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED YOUR RESEARCH

- Share your Civil War research with Howard Coffin for possible inclusion in his book on Vermont's Civil War places.  
**hjcoffin@comcast.net**  
**802-223-1909**  
**33 Hebert Road, Unit 3,**  
**Montpelier, VT 05602**
- Create a booklet or exhibit, write an essay, or any other project.
- Use VHC's Civil War walking tour example to create a local Civil War tour.
- Download VHC's **Civil War Places logo** and include it on any materials you create, so that it will be known as part of the statewide project.
- Donate any new writing or photographs you have found to a Historical Society or museum, where it will be preserved and made available to the public.
- Upload historic or contemporary photos of Civil War places to the UVM Landscape Change Program's historic photo database, at **[www.uvm.edu/landscape](http://www.uvm.edu/landscape)**
- Include your research on Civil War women in the Vermont Women's History Project database at [www.womenshistory.vermont.gov](http://www.womenshistory.vermont.gov).
- Submit an essay on your research to the scholarly journal *Vermont History*  
**<http://vermonthistory.org>**
- Share your findings with VHC at [www.vermonthumanities.org](http://www.vermonthumanities.org) and at [www.vermontcivilwar.org](http://www.vermontcivilwar.org)

Be on the lookout for more Civil War events and projects both in Vermont and nationwide as the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the war begins in 2011!

## Finding Major Crandall

*An essay by Howard Coffin describing his own search for Civil War Sites.*

At the Vermont Historical Society (VHS), I found the Civil War diary that Maj. Richard Crandall kept during 1864, the war's bloodiest year. Crandall's writing sometimes betrayed a touch of poetry, and I wished to know more. By example, in the trenches at Cold Harbor he wrote one evening, "We lay in the front close upon the enemy. Evening—our bands are playing national & home airs. A rebel band, not to be outdone, has just struck up 'Dixie.'"

*The Roster of Vermonters Who Served in the Civil War* (Peck's Roster) told me that he joined the Second Vermont Regiment in the fall of 1861 as a captain, and that he served until his death on June 7, 1864, at which time he held the rank of major. His residence was listed as the town of Berlin, VT.

The VHS's graves record for Vermont Civil War soldiers told me that Crandall is buried in the Berlin Corners Cemetery. His stone was easy to find, a small obelisk with an inscription noting that Crandall had died at Cold Harbor, Va., on June 7, 1864. His parents' names were on the stone beside his.

Neither the 1878 *Beer's Atlas* nor Walling's maps of 1858, both at the VHS, showed a home owned by Crandalls in Berlin. With the assistance of a librarian at VHS I checked the Berlin census records. The census taker in 1860 had gone house by house along each town road, and there, on the road along the back side of Berlin Pond, he took note of the Crandall family. But the property was listed as owned by another individual. Obviously, the Crandalls did not own their home. I found the two houses listed in the census on either side of the Crandalls. Then I walked into the woods and found the cellar hole. Fronting it along the road, side by side, were two huge and aging maples, probably planted by some couple, perhaps the major's parents, as "his and hers" maples.

Seeking further information, I contacted the Berlin Historical Society. A member named Turner told me that the major's only sister, Adeline (Addie) Crandall Turner, had married one of his ancestors. Indeed, Mr. Turner showed me some of Addie's Civil War era letters. One spoke of her sadness when she learned of brother Richard's death. Also, I learned that Addie's husband lost three brothers to sickness during their service in Vermont regiments. Addie and her Crandall husband lived in Duxbury, and Mr. Turner directed me to their farmhouse, on a dirt road well back in the hills. Also, he told me that Crandall's brother John was a surgeon in the 13<sup>th</sup> Vermont, a regiment that, I knew, fought at Gettysburg.

At the Vermont State Library in Montpelier I searched microfilms of the *Vermont Watchman*, a Montpelier newspaper, from around the time of Crandall's death. I found a brief notice saying that the body had arrived at the Montpelier train station on June 15, 1864 and that the funeral took place at the Berlin Corner church. That church, I discovered, still stands, beside the cemetery where Crandall is buried.

Then in the *Watchman* I found a tribute written to Crandall by a young man who had attended Dartmouth with him just before the war. He praised Crandall as a true friend and recalled that the two of them had camped one night on Mount Ascutney in the summer of 1863. He said that while watching the stars, Crandall talked of Second Fredericksburg, fought that spring, saying of the Union battle line's advance, "To have lived a minute then, were worth a thousand years."

I visited Dartmouth College Rauner Special Collections in Webster Hall in Hanover, N.H., and learned that Crandall entered Dartmouth in the fall of 1859 and left in his junior year to enlist. A

biographical sketch included in the history of the class of 1863 said that he had “possessed a noble intellect, which reveled with delight in the classics, and was filled with rapture by poetry and song.” His file contained a letter in which Crandall described the Battle of Lee’s Mills, in the spring of 1862. In it Crandall wrote that he was the only Vermont officer to have actually led his men in the famous charge through a mill pond and against enemy earthworks.

Crandall’s college file also disclosed that his brother remained in the army after the war and was, for a time, surgeon in George Armstrong Custer’s Seventh Cavalry Regiment. Doctor Crandall departed the Seventh some time before the battle at Little Big Horn.

On June 5, 1864, the day before Crandall was mortally wounded at age 26, he wrote in his diary: “What a Sabbath this has been. How different from the quiet Sabbaths of my N. E. home. The crash of rifles and the roar of cannon for the sweet chiming of church bells.”

In the diary’s June 7 space the following entry is written: “This morning my dear, dear son was mortally wounded by a rebel sharp-shooter, and died this evening.” His Dartmouth records included a notation that he was shot in the abdomen, and lived for several hours.

In the June 17 space, his father noted: “Today my dear and noble son Richard’s remains were committed to its final resting-place...”

Also, I learned from the *Vermont Watchman* that a poem was found in Major Crandall’s possessions, one he wrote in the Army of the Potomac’s encampment at Brandy Station, Va., just before fighting commenced in the spring of 1864. It concludes:

Sound the clarions of war, be the battle begun  
And the night of our land shall be changed in the morning.  
But oh! if I fall in a cause so sublime,  
I shall join the brave souls that already have bled;  
Tell parents and friends to let the bells chime  
In slow plaintive airs for her sons that have died.

## NATIONAL EVENTS

**1793** First Fugitive Slave Law passed.

Allows slave owners to cross state lines in the pursuit of fugitives and making it a federal crime to help runaway slaves.

**1850** Second Fugitive Slave Law passed.

**1854** Republican Party formed for abolition of slavery.

**1857** Supreme Court rules on the Dred Scott case, deciding that an African-American could not be a citizen of the U.S.

**1859** John Brown's attempted slave insurrection at Harper's Ferry, Virginia escalates tensions surrounding slavery.

**1860** Abraham Lincoln elected president as the first Republican.

**1861**

**January:** South Carolina secedes from the Union, followed by Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas.

**February:** The Confederate States of America is formed with Jefferson Davis as president.

**April:** The Civil War begins with the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. Lincoln calls for 75,000 men to serve for three months.

**July:** Congress authorizes Lincoln to call for 500,000 men.

**1863**

**January:** Lincoln issues the *Emancipation Proclamation*, freeing all slaves in territories held by Confederates.

**March:** Congress enacts a draft for male citizens aged 20 to 45.

**July 1-3:** The war turns against the South as the Confederates are defeated at the Battle of Gettysburg.

**July 13-16:** Antidraft riots in New York City. At least 120 persons are killed and \$2 million in damage caused.

**1864**

**November:** Lincoln is re-elected.

**1865:**

**April 9:** Gen. Robert E. Lee surrenders his Confederate Army to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia.

**April 14:** Lincoln is assassinated.

December: The Thirteenth Amendment is ratified, outlawing slavery.

**1865-1877**

Era of Reconstruction in the South.

## VERMONT EVENTS

**1777** Vermont is formed as an independent republic. Its constitution outlaws slavery.

**1791** Vermont becomes the 14<sup>th</sup> state.

**1840** Vermont extends right of trial by jury and access to attorney to fugitive slaves.

**1850** Vermont enacts Personal Liberty Law in response to Fugitive Slave Law.

**1861** Vermont responds to Lincoln's call for troops with the 1<sup>st</sup> Vermont Infantry, followed that year by 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry regiments and 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry.

**1862** 7<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup> Vermont Infantry regiments, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Batteries mustered.

**April 16:** Vermont sustains first heavy casualties in battle of Lee's Mills.

**1863**

**July 3:** 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> regiments help stop Pickett's Charge on the last day of Gettysburg.

**1864**

3<sup>rd</sup> Battery and 17<sup>th</sup> Regiment mustered in.

**May 5-10:** Battle of the Wilderness, Vermont units 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry and Sharpshooters engaged with heavy casualties.

**October 19:** St. Albans Raid. A group of Confederates rob three banks.

Simultaneously, Vermonters are instrumental in the Union victory at Cedar Creek that assures Lincoln's re-election.

**1865**

**March 9:** Vermont ratifies the Thirteenth Amendment, abolishing slavery.

**April 2:** Vermont Brigade leads the assault breaking the Confederate lines at Petersburg.

**Post-War**

**October 23, 1868:** First Grand Army of the Republic Encampment, every year until 1942.

**Sept 22, 1944.** Last surviving veteran, Gilbert Lucier of Jay, dies at age 97.