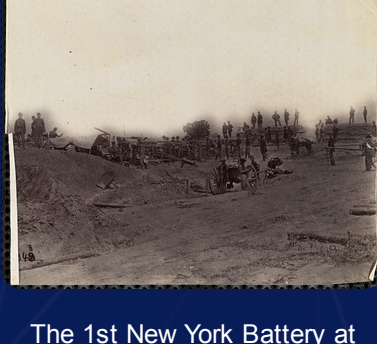




BLUE AND GRAY EDUCATION SOCIETY GREAT PHOTOGRAPHY HUNT

Check out the results from last week's Medford Photo #51, then scroll down to see this week's mystery Medford Photo #52—and email us what you know!



The 1st New York Battery at Petersburg

Medford Photo #51

The Medford files identify this photo as "the first New York Battery in front of Petersburg."

One cohort fills in some details: "[It's] Capt. Andrew Cown's 1st New York Independent Battery Light Artillery within Confederate works on the Petersburg line."

And some more: "A large number of men standing around in an earthwork. There is a cannon in the center. An upturned wheelbarrow at the left. Mathew Brady is apparently in the center, facing left."

And some more about Cown: "He served as a Union artilleryist ... and distinguished himself at the Battle of Gettysburg and the Battle of Saylor's Creek."

The spelling of Cown varies between Cown and Cowan.

We also received some details about the 1st New York Battery: "The 1st New York Battery served at the Battle of Yorktown and the Battle of Williamsburg under the division's senior artilleryist Capt. Romeyn B. Ayres. It took part in the Seven Days' Battles, the Battle of Seven Mountain at Crampton's Gap, the Battle of Antietam, and the Battle of Fredericksburg. In the Chancellorsville Campaign, the battery served in the Second Battle of Fredericksburg, and supported the division of B.G. Albion Howe at the Battle of Salem Church.

"The battery was assigned to the Artillery Brigade of VI Corps in May 1863. In that arrangement it served in the Battle of Gettysburg. On July 3, 1863, it was placed just south of the copse of trees on Cemetery Ridge, in time to resist Pickett's Charge. Cown's guns filled a gap in the infantry line left when a regiment left the front. Cown ordered his men to fire a 'double canister' on a group of Confederates trying to penetrate the federal line, and their fire broke up that threat.

"The battery served in the VI Corps Artillery Brigade in the Overland Campaign and in the earliest stage of the Siege of Petersburg. Then it served with the Army of the Shenandoah of M.G. Philip Sheridan from October 1864, and in Sheridan's portion of the Valley Campaigns of 1864. Cown was wounded at the Third Battle of Winchester. His battery saw particularly hard service at the Battle of Cedar Creek.

"In the Army of the Potomac, Captain Cown, who had received the brevet rank of major, took command of the Artillery Brigade when Col. Charles H. Tompkins was assigned to other duties. Cown was in charge of the VI Corps guns during the Appomattox Campaign. At the Battle of Sailor's Creek on April 6, 1865, Cown had gathered 20 guns near the Hillsman House. Two divisions of VI Corps attacked the Confederate rearguard under Lt. Richard S. Ewell. Ewell's men attacked the VI Corps divisions as they crossed the stream. The Federals were thrown back. However, Cown's guns stopped the Southern advance, allowing the infantry to reform and counterattack. The Confederate line was hit in the front by VI Corps and in the flank by federal cavalry. It collapsed, and Ewell was among the southerners captured on the field."

Medford Photo #52

March 24, 2021, blueandgrayeducation.org



Tell us what you know! Who or what is it? Where is it? When is it? Where is the original image housed?

Respond [here](#).

Results will be published next week in this Dispatch.



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What is the Medford Collection?

In the late 19th century, Gen. Samuel C. Lawrence collected photographic images like we used to collect baseball cards. It was his passion, and whenever copies were presented or opportunities existed to grow his collection, he collected—nearly 3,700 images. Most are familiar to us—Lawrence did not acquire images shot entirely or exclusively for him. Thus what we know is that the original and countless copies exist around the world.

Lawrence was able to identify some and marked them accordingly. Some no doubt were misidentified, while others were unknown to him. In partnership with the [Medford Historical Society & Museum](#), BGES would like to put the spotlight on these timeless looks at the past and provide Medford with additional meaningful information about its collection. You can help by joining BGES's GREAT PHOTOGRAPHY HUNT: REVEALING THE TRUE STORY.

We want to hear from you the answers to the great four questions: Who or What is this? Where is this? When was this? Where is the original of this?

You can reply to this Dispatch with what you know. We will compile and evaluate the answers and forward credible information to the Medford Historical Society.

We know that you know or you know someone who knows!

Now we all want to know.

For a look at additional images for examination and comment, [click here](#).

Medford Photo Provenance Project Dispatch is published every Wednesday. This is an active project in conjunction with the Medford Historical Society and is an effort to improve the provenance and documentation of their collection. Lacking a staff expertise in the Civil War and photography, they are counting on the Civil War, historical, and photographic communities to help them fill in the empty spaces. With over 3,600 images, the project is a long-term one. In addition to these weekly releases, BGES will be posting 15 additional images at their website for examination and comment. The posting will change monthly, allowing us to showcase over 200 images a year.

[Click here](#) to go to the BGES website posting.

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Established in 1994, BGES is a small but active nonprofit and tax-exempt Civil War educational group. It has a long list of completed projects and has others in addition to this that are underway or planned. It is supported by donations from its members and the general public. Membership is open to all.

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