



BLUE AND GRAY EDUCATION SOCIETY GREAT PHOTOGRAPHY HUNT

Check out the results from last week's Medford Photo #54, then scroll down to see this week's mystery Medford Photo #55—and email us what you know!



Commissary Depot, City Point, Virginia

Medford Photo #54

The Medford files identify this photo as "Commissary Depot, City Point, Virginia."

One of our cohort indicates that the photo was taken by Andrew Russell.

Our cohort points us to this excerpt from an article published by the Virginia government:

"When General Grant made the fateful decision to cross the James River in June 1864 and attack Lee's forces defending Petersburg, he immediately brought the war front and center to City Point (present-day Hopewell). Situated at the confluence of the James and Appomattox rivers, City Point made a perfect supply base for the invading Union Army. As fighting raged on the outskirts of Petersburg, the first Union supply ships began arriving. A beehive of activity quickly transformed the sleepy little hamlet into one of the busiest ports in the world. As many as 200 ships a day landed and off-loaded hundreds of thousands of tons of supplies destined for the fighting front. Construction workers built over a half mile of wharfs along the shoreline, as some 2,000 newly hired contract stevedores (mostly ex-slaves from the surrounding countryside) moved goods into just-built warehouses, or onto the interminable line of six-mule wagons going back and forth from Petersburg.

"In the nine and half months that City Point was operational, it was the biggest Union supply base in the entire Civil War. The U.S. Military Railroad Construction Corps built the longest military railroad in the war (over 22 miles) and ran as many as 25 engines and 275 railroad cars along the Petersburg lines. Union quartermaster and commissary personnel stored as many as 9,000,000 soldiers' rations and 12,000 tons of hay and oats for the animals on an average day. And operated a field bakery capable of producing and delivery upwards of 100,000 rations of fresh bread daily."

"In the nine and half months that City Point was operational, it was the biggest Union supply base in the entire Civil War. The U.S. Military Railroad Construction Corps built the longest military railroad in the war (over 22 miles) and ran as many as 25 engines and 275 railroad cars along the Petersburg lines. Union quartermaster and commissary personnel stored as many as 9,000,000 soldiers' rations and 12,000 tons of hay and oats for the animals on an average day. And operated a field bakery capable of producing and delivery upwards of 100,000 rations of fresh bread daily."

Medford Photo #55

April 14, 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.



[Learn More About BGES](#)

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 longterm 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.](#)

Copyright © BGES 2020

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.

[Learn More About BGES](#)

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

P.O. Box 1176
Chatham, VA | 24531 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.