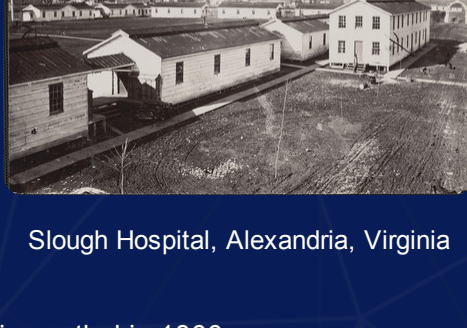




BLUE AND GRAY EDUCATION SOCIETY GREAT PHOTOGRAPHY HUNT

Check out the results from last week's Medford Photo #61, then scroll down to see this week's mystery Medford Photo #62—and email us what you know!



Slough Hospital, Alexandria, Virginia

Medford Photo #61

The Medford files identify this photo as "Slough Hospital, Alexandria, Virginia."

One of our cohorts adds this info: "Slough General Hospital included a headquarters building, 16 barracks, a mess hall, laundry, storehouse, stable, and dead house. Originally it was the barracks for garrison troops and became a hospital in May 1864. Slough was the last general hospital to close and was

dismantled in 1866.

"The photographer was Mathew Brady. The image date was ca 1863.

"The complex was named for Alexandria's military governor during the war, Gen. John Slough. The background and death of General Slough are interesting. John Potts Slough (February 1, 1829–December 17, 1867; last name pronounced like 'plough') was an American politician, lawyer, Union general during the American Civil War, and chief justice of New Mexico. He commanded the Union forces at the Battle of Glorieta Pass.

"He was initially captain and later colonel of the 1st Colorado 'Pike's Peakers' Infantry Regiment. In 1862 a Confederate army was invading the New Mexico Territory, had defeated Col. Edward R. S. Canby's troops at the battle of Valverde, and captured Albuquerque and the capital of Santa Fe. Coming to the aid of the Union forces in New Mexico, Slough marched his regiment to Fort Union and, as the senior ranking officer, assumed command of the post and its New Mexico volunteers.

"A Confederate force under Lt. Col. William Read Scurry was moving to capture Fort Union. Colonel Slough marched his regiment toward Glorieta Pass to intercept Scurry. ... the armies met at Pigeon's Ranch on the Santa Fe Trail below Glorieta Pass Slough and Scurry fought an initially indecisive action at the Battle of Glorieta Pass. The Texans were pushing the Coloradans back, but the battle was turned to a victory for the Union after Slough sent Maj. John M. Chivington on a flank attack, which destroyed the Confederates' supply train. The battle was considered a Union strategic victory but a Confederate tactical victory. Slough's regiment had stopped the advance of the Confederates, which soon abandoned New Mexico and retreated back to Texas.

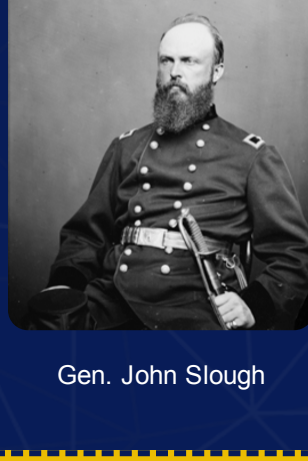
"He was appointed brigadier general of volunteers on August 25, 1862, and became the military governor of Alexandria, Virginia. For the rest of the war, he commanded the District of Alexandria.

"In January 1866, United States President Andrew Johnson appointed him to serve as chief justice of the New Mexico Territorial Court. ... He also arrived to reform the legal system. Among the cases with the greatest impact was his decision that Pueblo Indians were U. S. citizens, could testify in his courts, especially in land disputes, and were equals in the eyes of the court, a decision eventually upheld by the U. S. Supreme Court. In February 1867, he attacked the system of peonage in New Mexico, in anticipation of the Federal law against debt peonage—involuntary servitude—signed by President Johnson on March 2, 1867. His entire career was that of a reformer, and what he found in New Mexico he thought was akin to the slavery he had fought in the Civil War to defeat.

"Many New Mexicans sought his removal, because of these destabilizing decisions, but also for his efforts to correct courtroom antics, especially after a decision against an old padron for selling liquor to Indians. A local jury would not convict; he removed them and held a new trial. After Slough sentenced the padron to a year in prison, the territorial governor pardoned him, which sent Slough into a tirade. In 1867 William Logan Rynerson, a member of the Territorial Legislative Council, took part in a campaign to denigrate the judge, and authored a resolution in the legislature to have the judge removed, leading Slough to slander Rynerson publicly. On December 15, 1867, Rynerson drew a gun on the judge in Santa Fe and said, 'Take it back.' Slough exclaimed, 'Shoot and be damned!' and Rynerson fired. Mortally wounded, Slough drew a derringer but was unable to fire. He died two days later.

"In a mockery of a trial, Rynerson was found not guilty (by reason of self-defense). ...

The historian Richard Henry Brown says that the murder of Slough 'helped affirm the position of New Mexico as apparently the only place where assassination became an integral part of the political system.'"



Gen. John Slough

Medford Photo #62

June 2, 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](#).

Please respond no later than next Tuesday. Results will be published next Wednesday 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 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.

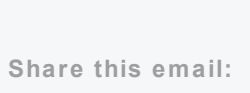
[Click here to go to the BGES website posting.](#)

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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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