



## BLUE AND GRAY EDUCATION SOCIETY GREAT PHOTOGRAPHY HUNT

Check out the results from last week's Medford Photo #64 then scroll down to see this week's mystery Medford Photo #65—and email us what you know!



Thomas Antisel, Major and Surgeon,  
U.S. Volunteers

### Medford Photo #64

The Medford files identify this photo as "Thomas Antisel, Major and Surgeon, U.S. Volunteers."

One of our cohorts adds this info: "Antisel was a brigade surgeon of the U.S. Volunteers, medical director of the 12th Corps, and surgeon-in-chief of Harewood Hospital in Washington, D.C. He was an extremely talented physician, scientist (versed in military surgery, toxicology, physiology, botany, geology, hygiene, chemistry, etc.)."

"Antisel attended the Dublin School of Medicine, the Apothecaries' Hall of Ireland, and the Royal College of Surgeons in London, graduating from the latter with an MD in November 1839. He studied chemistry in Paris and Berlin in 1844. Upon his return to Dublin in 1845, he secured a lectureship in botany at the Peter St. School of Medicine, teaching there until 1848.

"Antisel was a member of the Young Ireland movement of the 1840s, and joined the Irish Confederation in 1847 ... Antisel set up a short-lived revolutionary newspaper, *The Irish Tribune*, in June 1848. The paper was closed down on the grounds of sedition in July 1848 after just five issues. Following the closure of the paper, Antisel emigrated to the United States, arriving in New York on November 22, 1848. He set up and operated a clinic and medical laboratory in New York City from 1848 to 1854, while also lecturing in chemistry in a number of medical colleges in Massachusetts and Vermont. He took up a post as expedition geologist and botanist on state surveys in southern Arizona, New Mexico, and California, working primarily with Lt. John G. Parke, investigating the proposed routes for the Southern Pacific railroad from 1854 to 1856. His work on the geology of the region added to greater understanding of the science in America. In 1856, Antisel was employed as chief examiner in the U.S. Patent Office in Washington, D.C., with responsibility for chemical inventions. He lectured in chemistry at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., covering other subjects such as toxicology, military surgery, physiology, hygiene, and pathology, over the periods 1858 to 1869, and 1880 to 1882.

"Antisel served in the Union Army during the American Civil War, firstly as a brigade surgeon in the U.S. Volunteers from 1861, and later as the medical director of the 12th army corps. He concluded his service as surgeon-in-charge of Harewood hospital, Washington in October 1865, being granted a brevet commission as colonel. From 1866 to 1871, he was chief chemist in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"Antisel was one of several scientists who were hired in 1871 as foreign advisors to work in Hokkaido, Japan, under Horace Capron [Secretary of Agriculture]. He was selected for his strong background in chemistry coupled with geology. He served his remaining time in Japan as a chemist for the Ministry of Finance, where he developed inks used for the printing of paper currency. For his services, he was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun by Emperor Meiji before his departure in 1876.

"Antisel published widely in numerous journals on topics such as agricultural chemistry, botany, oceanography, city sanitation, and animal disease, but he did not publish a significant treatise. He died in Washington on June 14, 1893, and is buried in the Congressional Cemetery."

### Medford Photo #65

June 23, 2021, [blueandgrayeducation.org](http://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 he was 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.

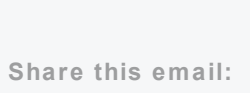
[Click here to go to the BGES website posting.](#)

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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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