

George Swift Family c1905

- George and Carrie Swift
- Children
 - Carrie (b 1881)
 - Ida (b 1883)
 - Mary (b 1887)
 - George Jr (b 1895)

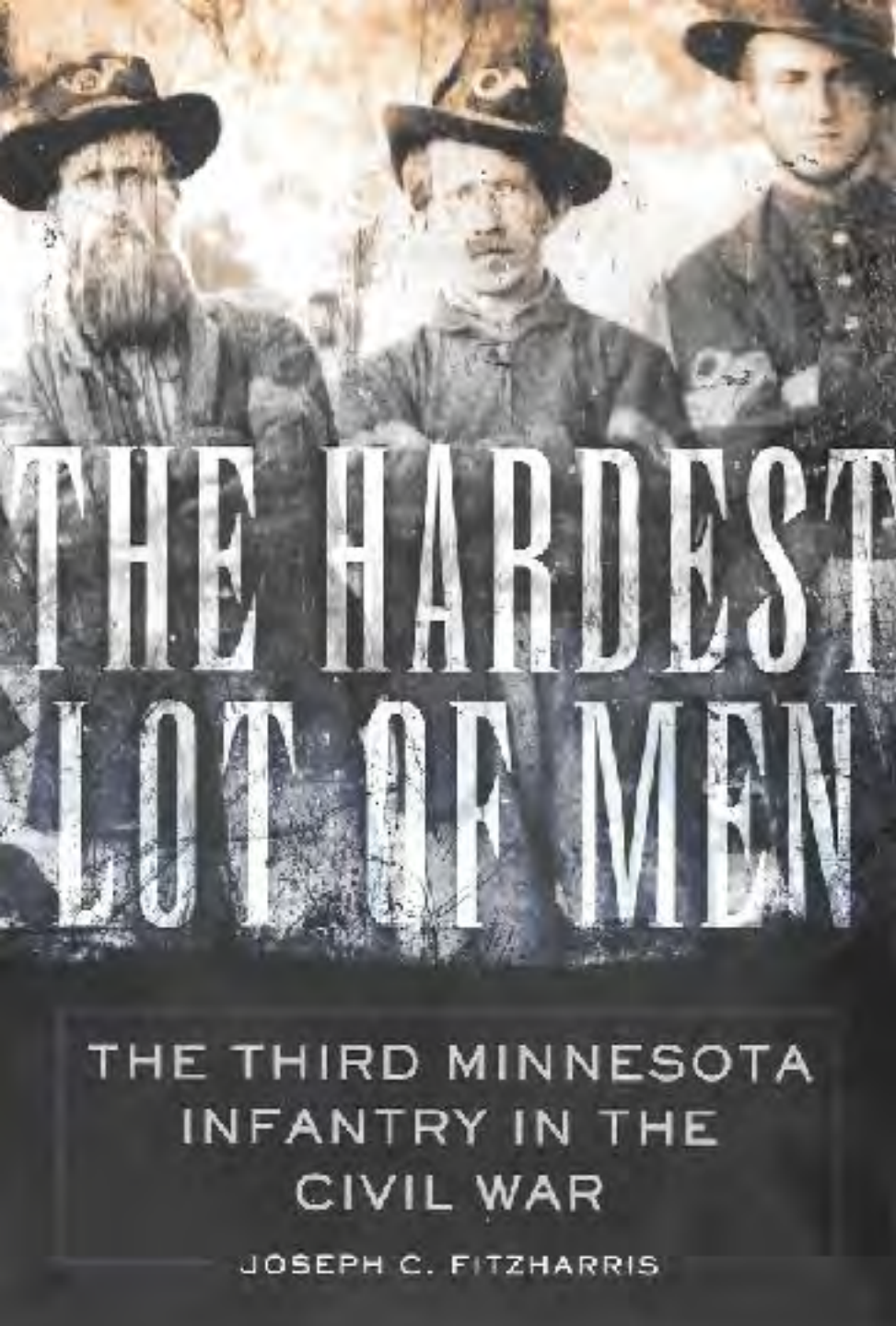


George Earl Swift

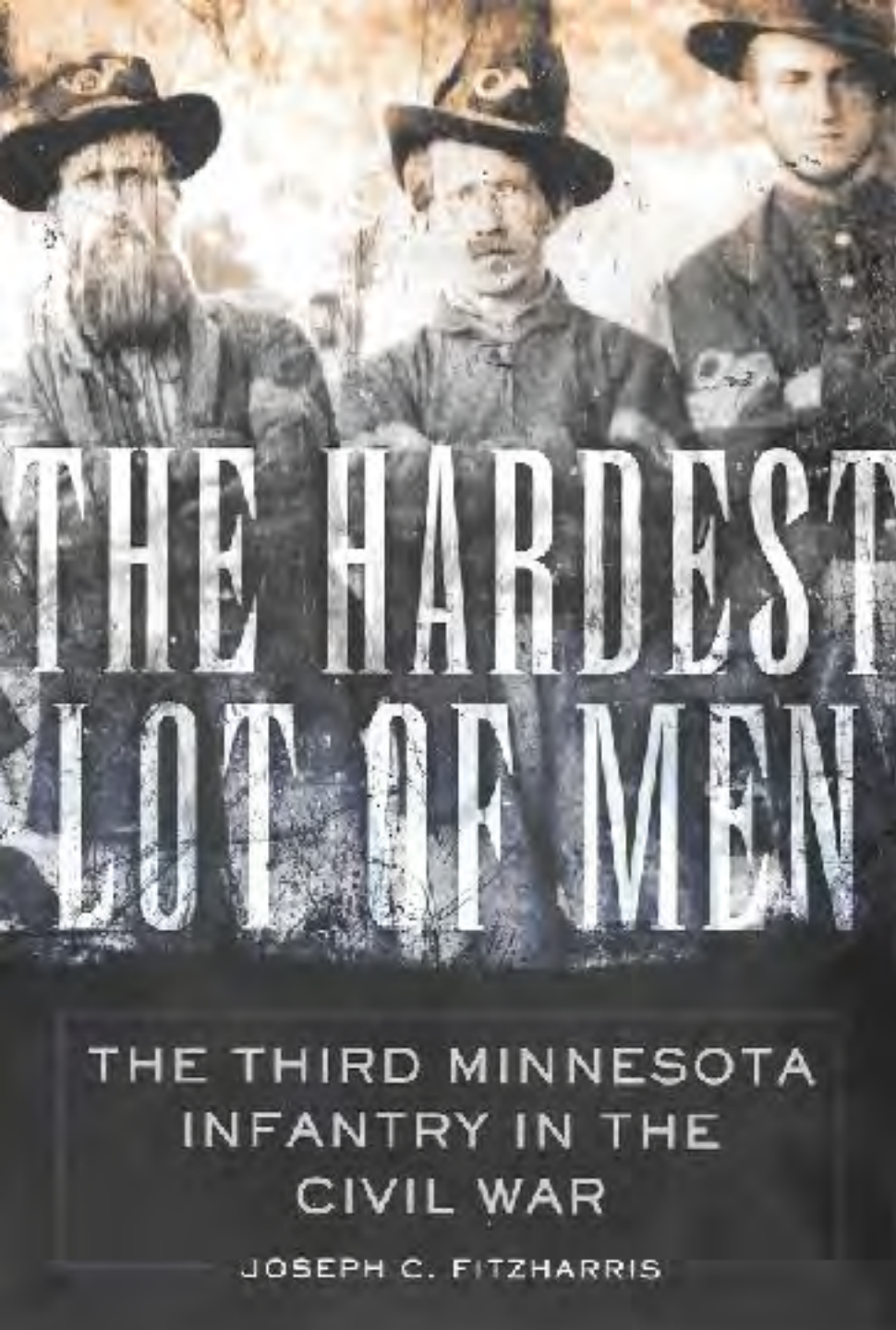
(1848-1936)

At the age of 13, George joined the 3rd Minn. Reg. at Fort Snelling and served as a drummer boy throughout the Civil War. The 3rd Minn. was captured during the battle of Missionary Ridge. After an exchange of prisoners, he was placed in Co. F., 69th Ohio, which was part of Sherman's March to the Sea.

Carrie Swift Craig
Christmas, 1952



The beginning of the quest



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Private John Boxell “...kept an eye on one of the drummer boys, thirteen-year-old George Stringer, who was, he said, about the size of his own son, Billy.” (p 61)

???

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- Are George *Swift* and George *Stringer* the same person?

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- How could George enlist at such a young age?

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- How could George enlist at such a young age?
- How did he transfer from the Minnesota 3rd to the Ohio 69th
DESERTER?

Family Genealogy (revisited)

- George Earl Swift was born in Boston, July 16, 1848
- George's father drowned in 1848, before his son was born.
- George's mother married William [REDACTED] in 1850.
- They had children in Boston, St. Paul, and Minneapolis
- After the war, he was a professional musician until 1885, when he became a druggist; owned drugstores in Minneapolis, Osseo, and Robbinsdale until 1915.

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- “But that night I did not return to the cows. I got on a boat which was going downriver instead and I went to Fort Snelling. There I hung around the ‘old Minnesota Third,’ and after a few weeks found myself with Sherman’s army marching to the sea.”

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George Earl Swift
Minneapolis Daily Star

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George Earl Swift
Minneapolis Daily Star
February 21, 1925

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- North surrendered after most units were overrun
 - Minnesotans responded with “amazement, regret and grief.”

Prisoner Exchange / Parole

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- Lacking means for dealing with large numbers of captured troops early in the American Civil War, the Union and Confederate governments both relied on the traditional European system of parole and exchange of prisoners.
- A prisoner who was on parole promised not to fight again until his name was "exchanged" for a similar man on the other side. Then both of them could rejoin their units. While awaiting exchange, prisoners were briefly confined to permanent camps.
- The exchange system broke down in mid-1863 when the Confederacy refused to treat captured black prisoners as equal to white prisoners.

Wikipedia on *Civil War Prison Camps*

Minnesota 3rd Infantry After Murfreesboro

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- Route:
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 - Steamboat to St. Louis
- Nashville under Garrison Control of Ohio 69th
 - Minnesotans there for “about a week”
 - Asked to help defend the city and provide sentry duty
 - Soldiers felt “honor bound” to refuse
 - George enlists with Ohio

Ohio 69th Roster

- George's Enlistment details
- August 1, 1862
 - 19 days after Murfreesboro
 - 16 days after his 14th birthday

Names.	Rank.	Age.	Date of Entering the Service.
Jared P. Miller.....	Corporal	19	Oct. 14, 1861
William Richey	do.....	28	Sept. 15, 1861
John Tucker	do.....	35	Oct. 16, 1861
Jesse W. Havens	do.....	45	Dec. 9, 1861
John Schmidtman.....	do.....	21	Oct. 21, 1861
John J. Simmons.....	do.....	19	Nov. 18, 1861
Alexander House.....	do.....	19
Daniel Spangler	do.....	30	Feb. 22, 1864
George W. Brown.....	do.....	16	Feb. 26, 1864
Philip Diefenbach.....	Musician	23	Oct. 14, 1861
George E. Stringer.....	do.....		
Arhart, Gasner G.....	Private	27	Feb. 26, 1864
Baker, Henry.....	do.....	18	Jan. 3, 1864

Replaces injured drummer.

Name.	Rank.	Age.	Date of Entering the Service.	Period of Service.	Remarks.
Jared P. Miller.....	Corporal	19	Oct. 14, 1861	3 yrs.	Mustered out Dec. 31, 1864, at Savannah, Ga., on expiration of term of service.
William Riehey.....	do.....	23	Sapt. 15, 1861	3 yrs.	Mustered out Dec. 31, 1864, at Savannah, Ga., on expiration of term of service.
John Tucker.....	do.....	35	Oct. 16, 1861	3 yrs.	Appointed Corporal March 5, 1864; killed June 5, 1864, in action at Pumpkin Vine Creek, Ga.; veteran.
Jesse W. Havens.....	do.....	45	Dec. 9, 1861	3 yrs.	Discharged May 30, 1863, at Louisville, Ky., on Surgeon's certificate of disability.
John Schmidtman.....	do.....	21	Oct. 21, 1861	3 yrs.	Died Dec. 14, 1863, at Chattanooga, Tenn.
John J. Simmons.....	do.....	19	Nov. 18, 1861	3 yrs.	Appointed Corporal March 5, 1864; killed Sept. 1, 1864, in battle of Jonesboro, Ga.; veteran.
Alexander House.....	do.....	19	3 yrs.	Appointed Corporal March 5, 1864; killed March 19, 1865, in battle of Bentonville, N. C.; veteran.
Daniel Spangler.....	do.....	30	Feb. 22, 1864	3 yrs.	Appointed Corporal Jan. 3, 1865; mustered out with company July 17, 1865.
George W. Brown.....	do.....	18	Feb. 26, 1864	3 yrs.	Appointed Corporal May 11, 1865; mustered out with company July 17, 1865.
Philip Diefenbach.....	Musician	23	Oct. 14, 1861	3 yrs., Tenn. on Surgeon's certificate of disability.
George E. Stringer.....	do.....	14	3 yrs.	Mustered out June 5, 1865, at Washington D. C., by order of War Department.
Arhart, Gasner G.....	Private	27	Feb. 26, 1864	3 yrs.	Mustered out with company July 17, 1865.
Baker, Henry.....	do.....	18	Jan. 3, 1864	3 yrs.	Mustered out with company July 17, 1865.

1891 Pension Application

U.S. Civil War Pension Form 1891 No. 11				
NAME OF SOLDIER: <i>Stringer, George E.</i> <i>Srmt George E (alias)</i>				
NAME OF DEPENDENT: <i>Widow,</i> <i>Minor,</i>				
SERVICE: <i>569 Ohio Inf</i>				
U.S. Civil War Pension Form Form No. 11 Date 7/17/0				
DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED
<i>Nov 14</i>	<i>Invalid,</i> <i>Widow,</i> <i>Minor,</i>	<i>1072024</i>	<i>1137789</i>	<i>Miss</i>
ATTORNEY: <i>Gray & Pulliam.</i>				
REMARKS: <i>C2481440</i>				

1891 Pension Application

- National Archives

U.S. Civil War Pension Form
1891 No. 11

NAME OF SOLDIER: Stringer, George E.
Smyth, George E. (alias)

NAME OF DEPENDENT: Widow,
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SERVICE: 9 69 Ohio Inf

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U.S. Civil War Pension File
Serial 1137789
File 7/17/0

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Minneapolis Pension Bureau
June 21/90
File 7/17/0

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- US Civil War Pension Files
- Same information in Minnesota Pension Files
- 1936 Obituary lists Ohio service, nothing about Minnesota

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Minneapolis Pension Bureau
3000 Hennepin Ave.
St. Paul, Minn.

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- Disappointed with Minnesota loss?
- Move to a winner?
- Formalize enlistment?
- Seek more Adventure?

Adventures with Ohio 69th

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- George “Mustered out June 5, 1865, at Washington D.C., by order of the War Department,” six weeks short of his 17th birthday

Looking Back

October 1908, he traveled to Hamilton Ohio to participate in the 29th Annual Reunion of the 69th Regiment.



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October 1908, he traveled to Hamilton Ohio to participate in the 29th Annual Reunion of the 69th Regiment.

“Sometimes a soldier carried the drum of a tired boy and on one or two occasions carried the boy himself for short distances when it just seemed he couldn’t go on.”

Minneapolis Journal, February 27, 1929



Sources

1. Carrie Swift Craig Family Genealogy, 1952
2. Fitzgerald's book on the 3rd Minnesota in the Civil War
3. Stones River National Battlefield (phone)
4. Minnesota History Center (consultation/visit)
5. National Archives pension files
6. State Infantry records
 - a) [Ohio Civil War Central](#) website
 - b) *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars*, 1891
7. Star Tribune newspaper archive (*Tribune, Daily Star, Journal, Etc.*)
8. Local Archives
 - a) Hennepin County Library Special Collections
 - b) Robbinsdale Historical Society
9. Lake Crystal Cemetery

Robbinsdale Drugstore

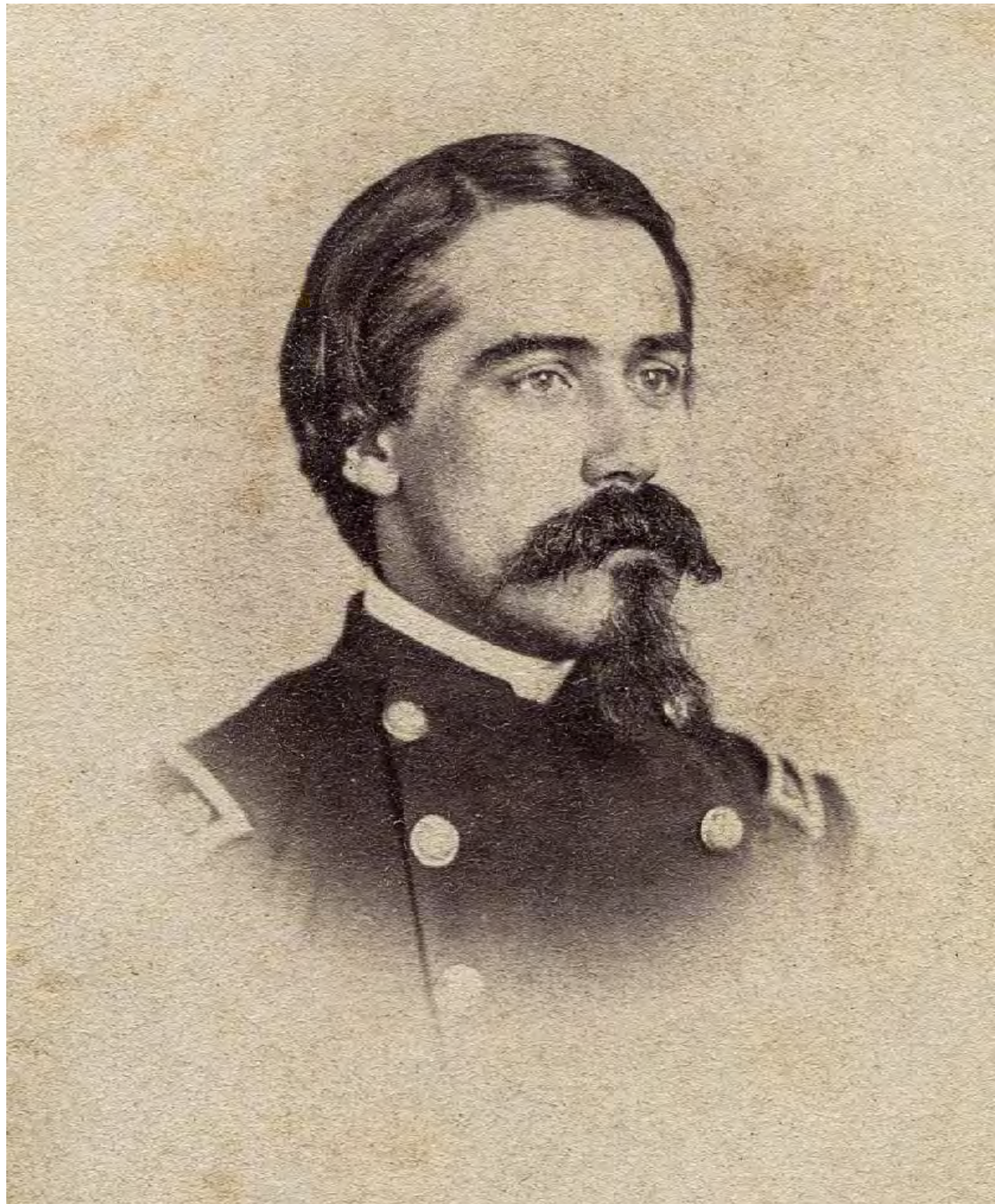
- 4157 West Broadway
- “the Swift girls will deliver your order”
- 1893 Village’s first telephone
- Village post-office/postmaster
- Another store on Bryant N & Broadway in Minneapolis



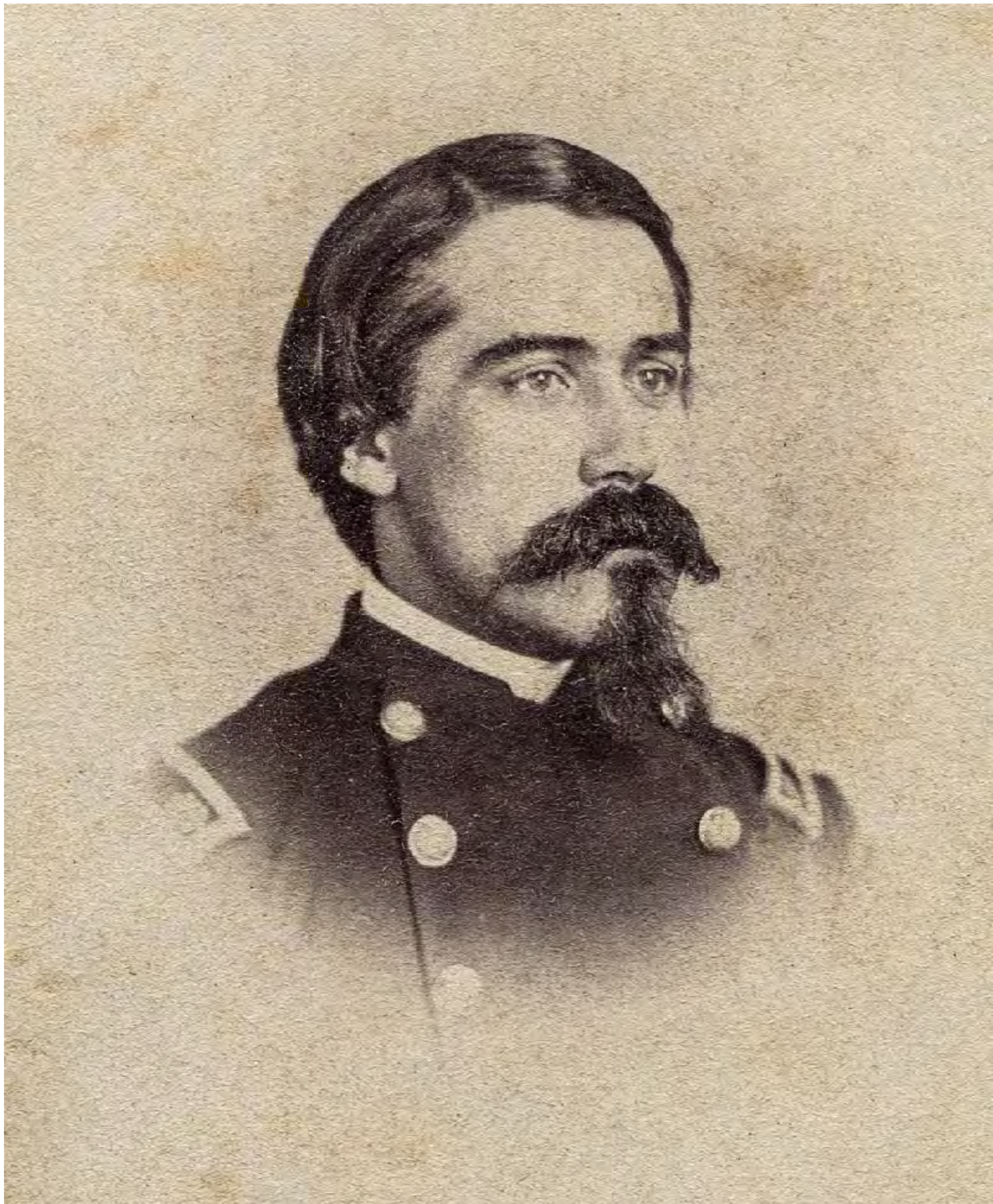


George E Swift

Undated. Probably taken years later

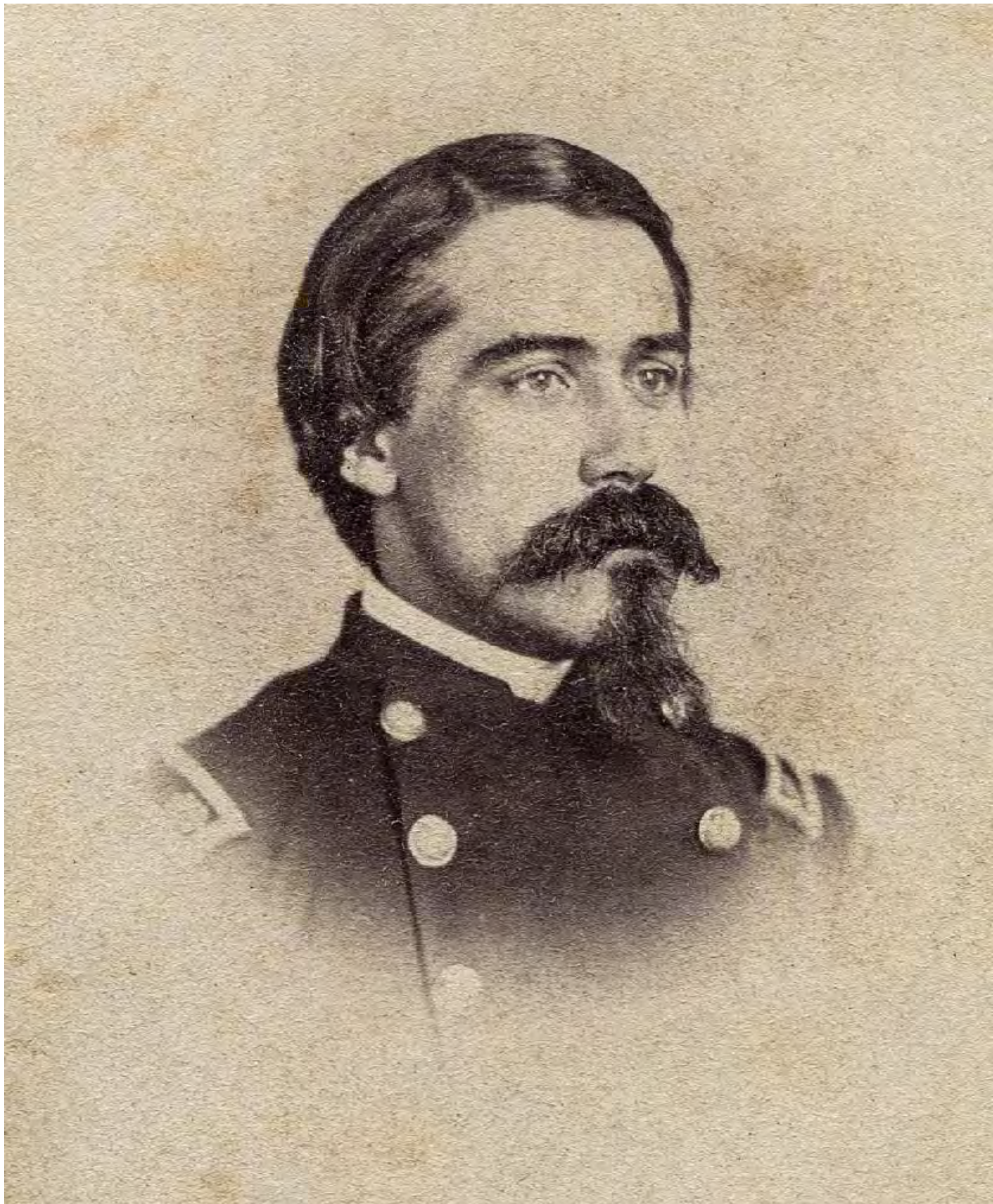


Theodore Read



Theodore Read

Born 11 April 1835
Athens Ohio

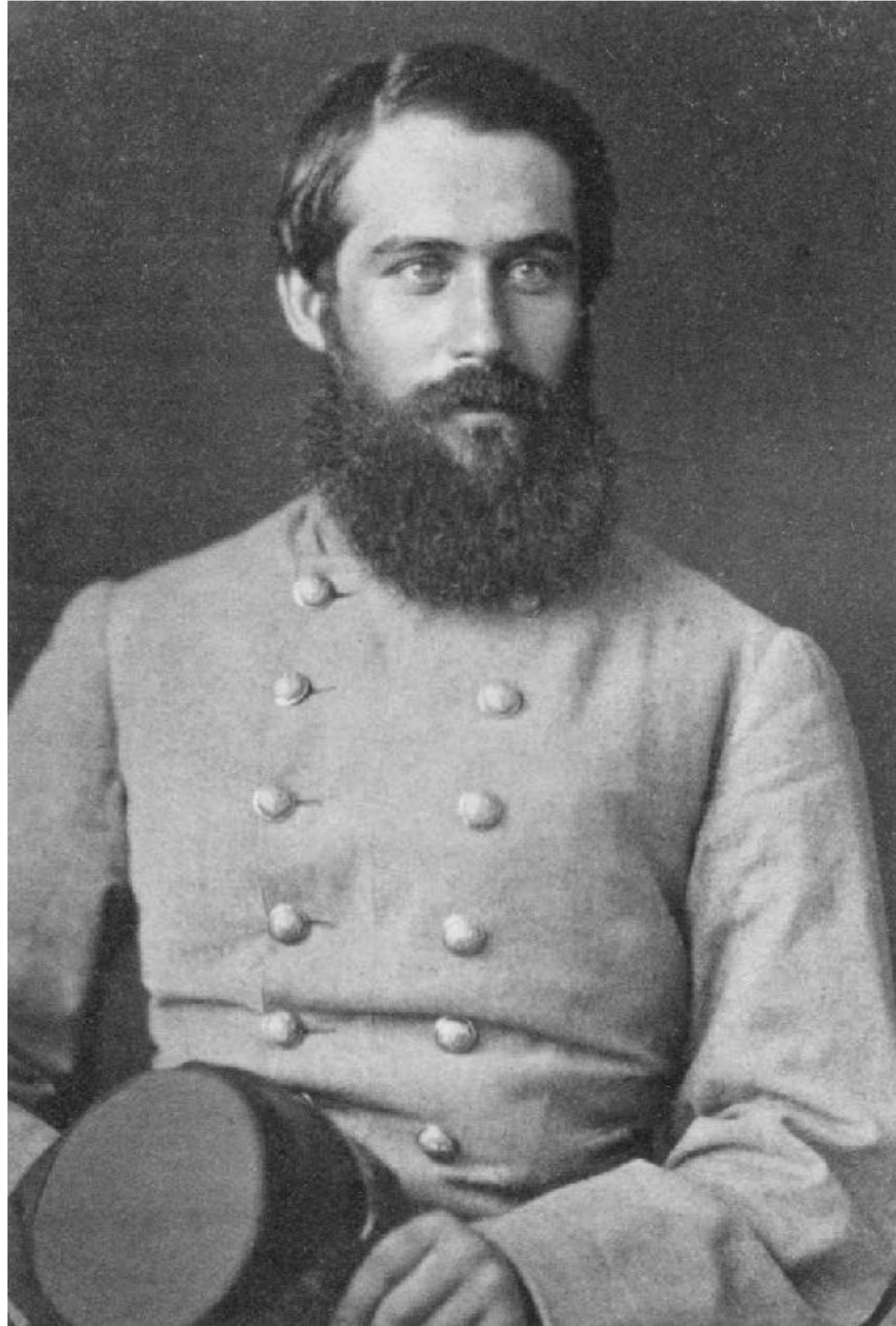


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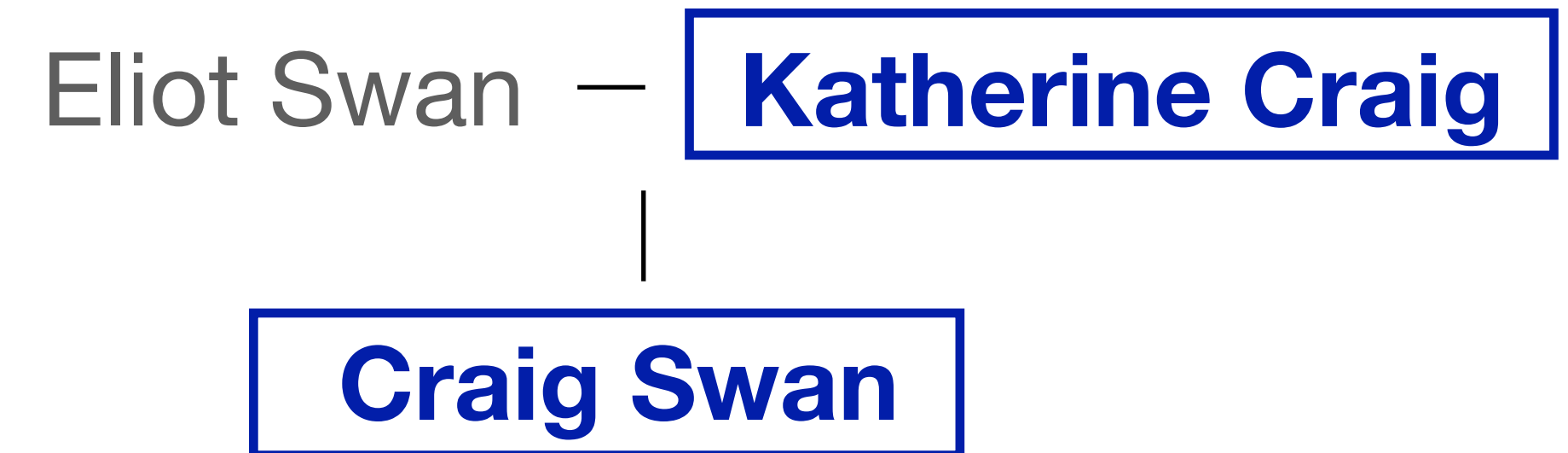
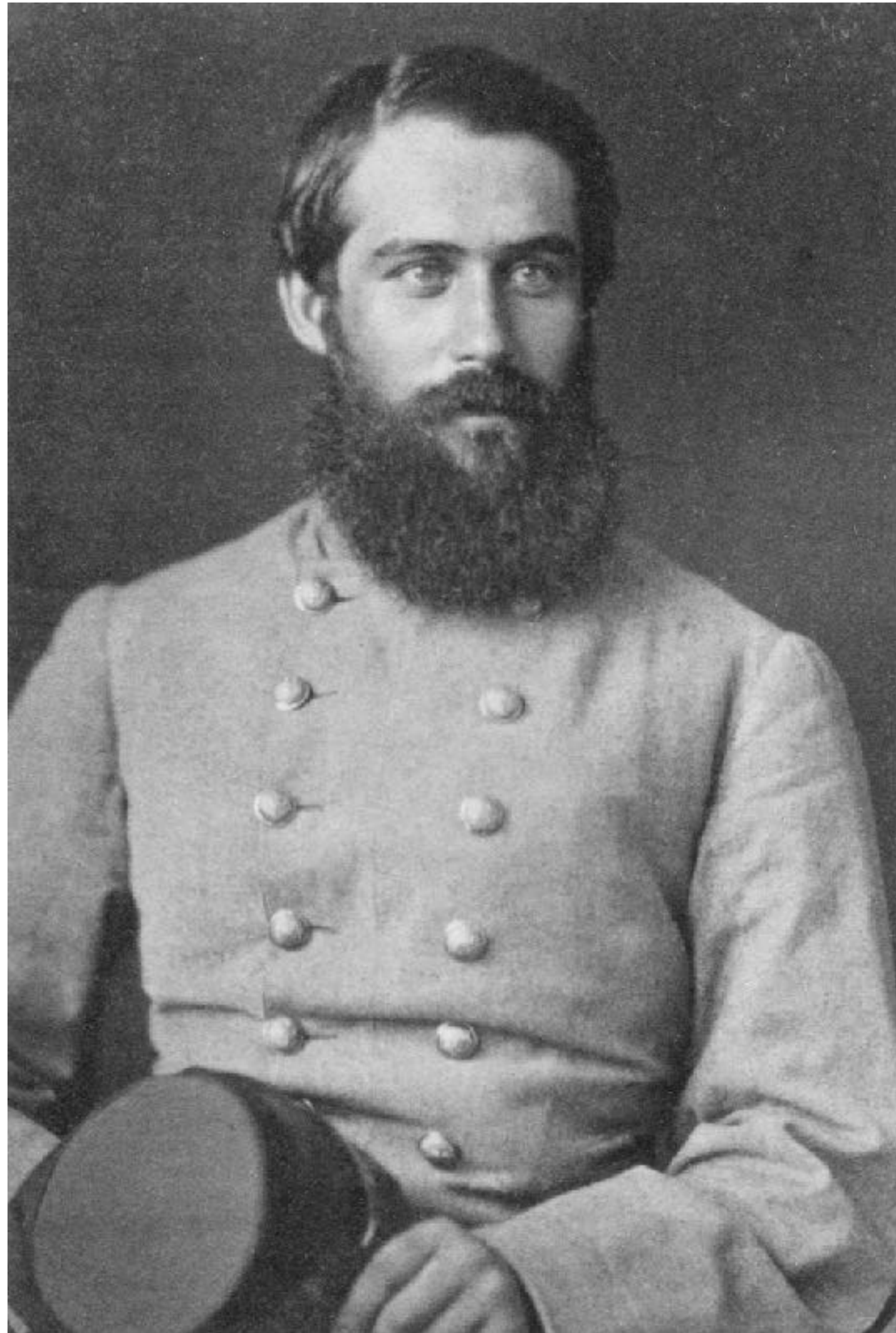
Born 11 April 1835
Athens Ohio

Died 6 April 1865
Appomattox High Bridge
Prince Edward County, Virginia

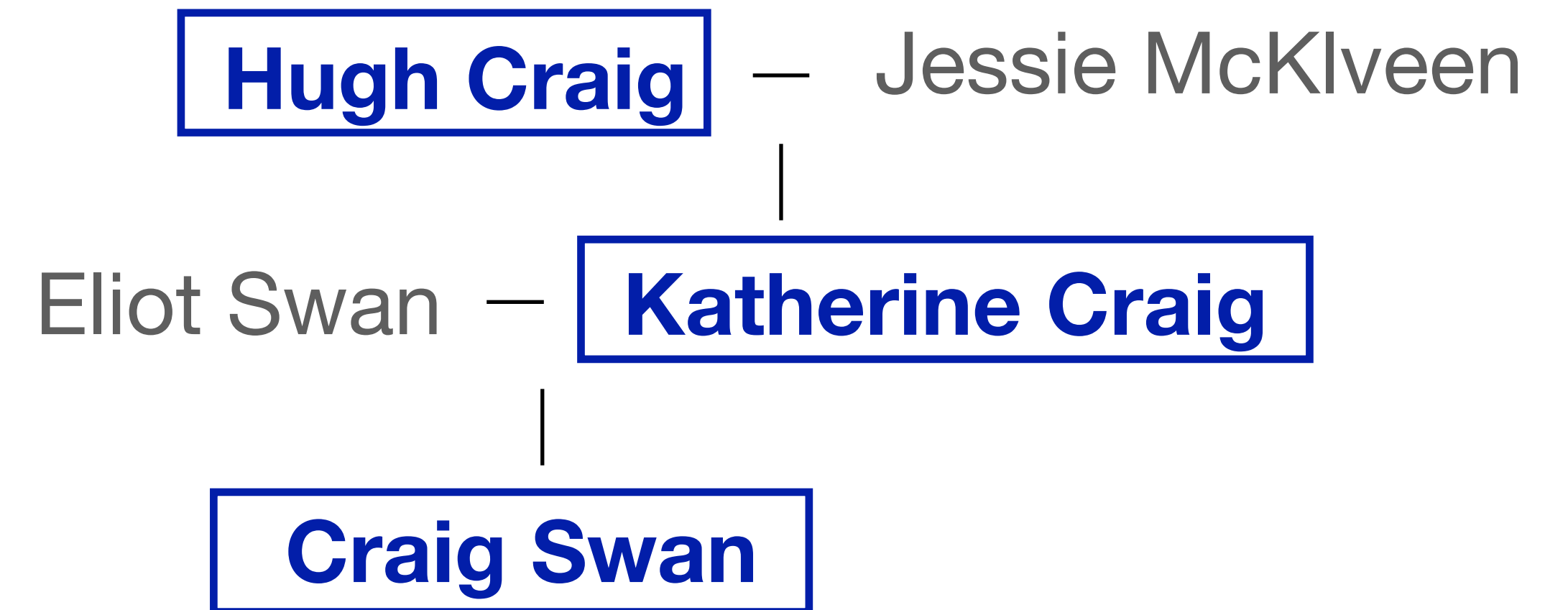
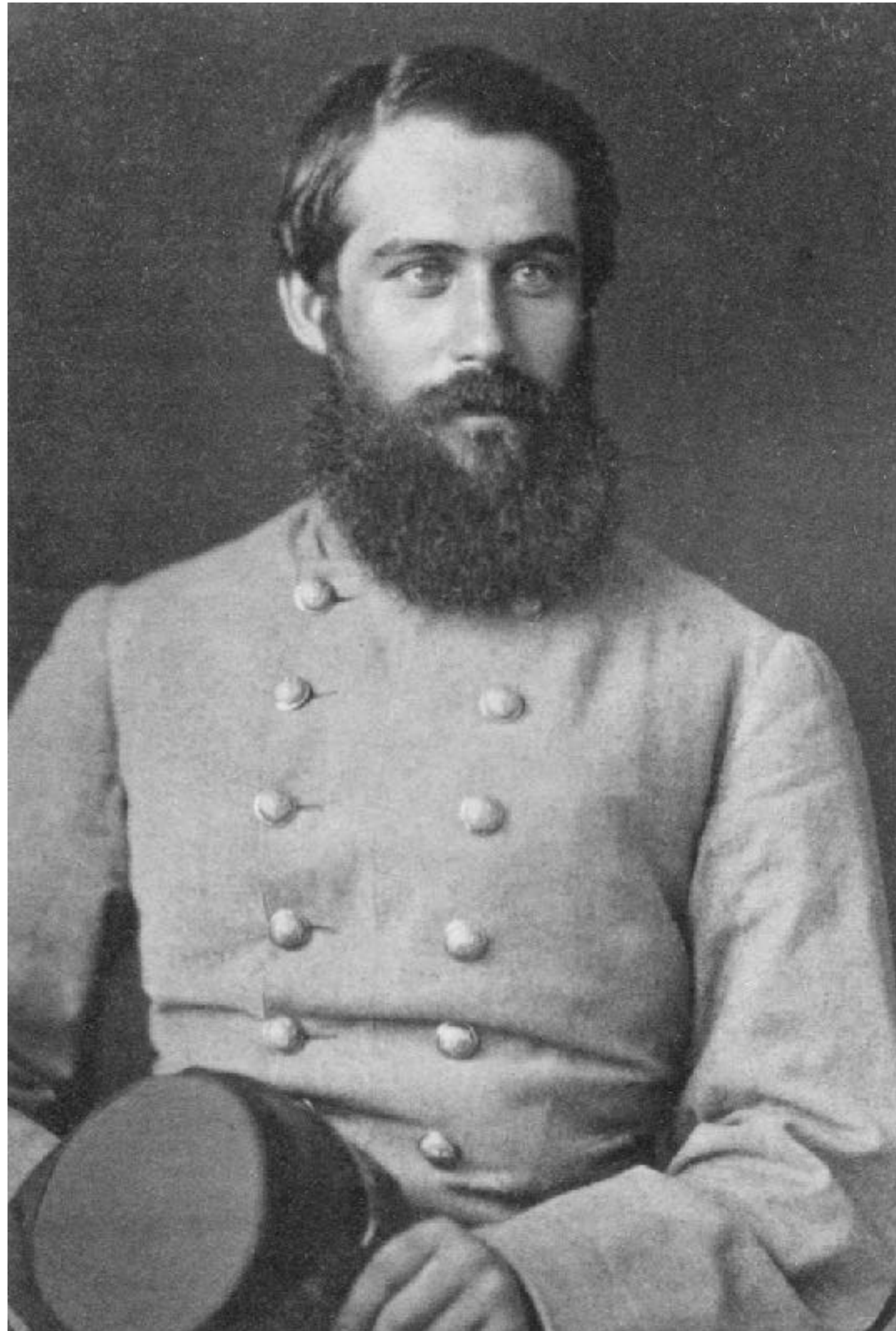
My relationship to Theodore Read



My relationship to Theodore Read



My relationship to Theodore Read



My relationship to Theodore Read



Alice Read

— John Henderson Craig

Hugh Craig

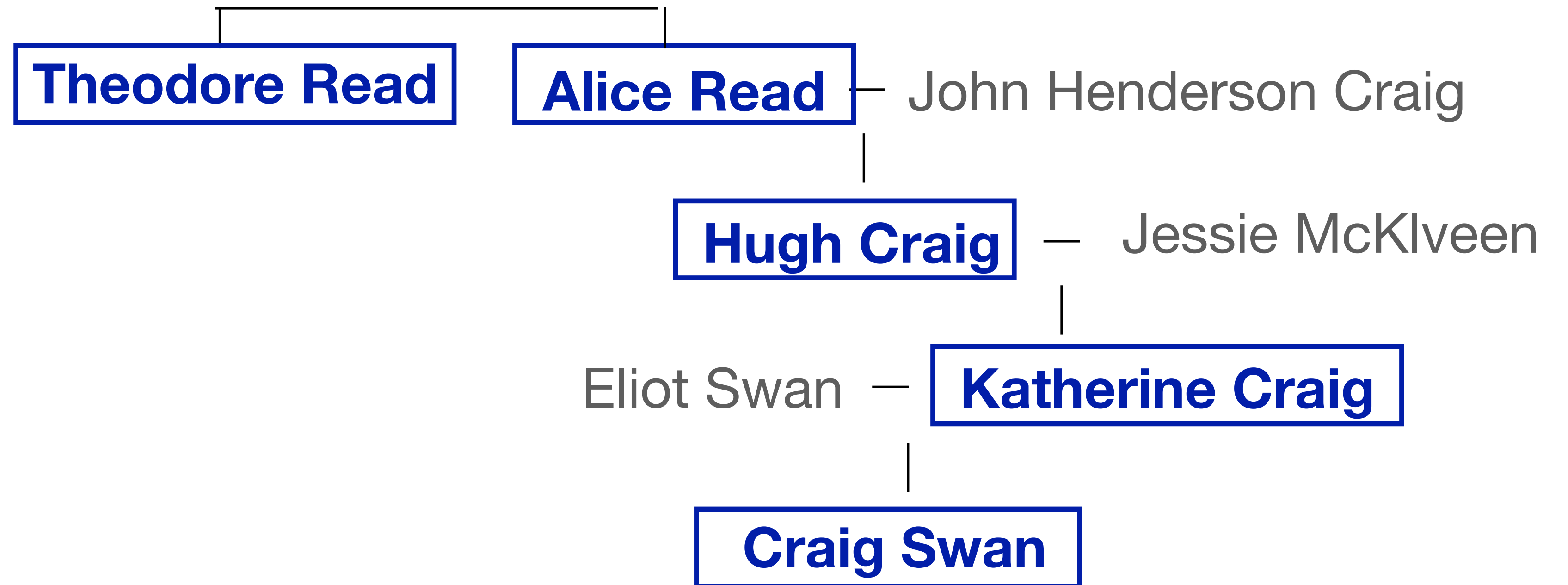
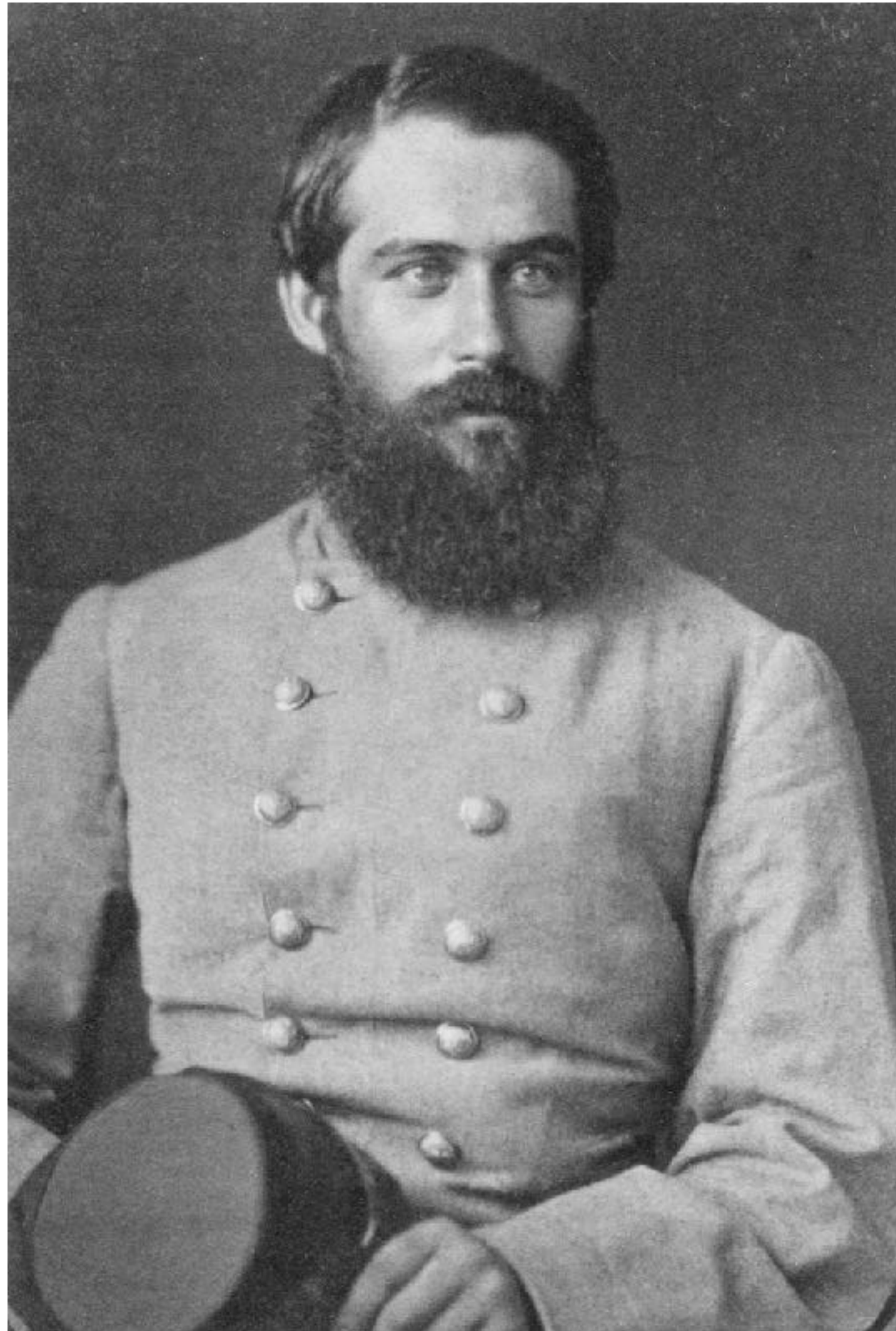
— Jessie McKlveen

Eliot Swan —

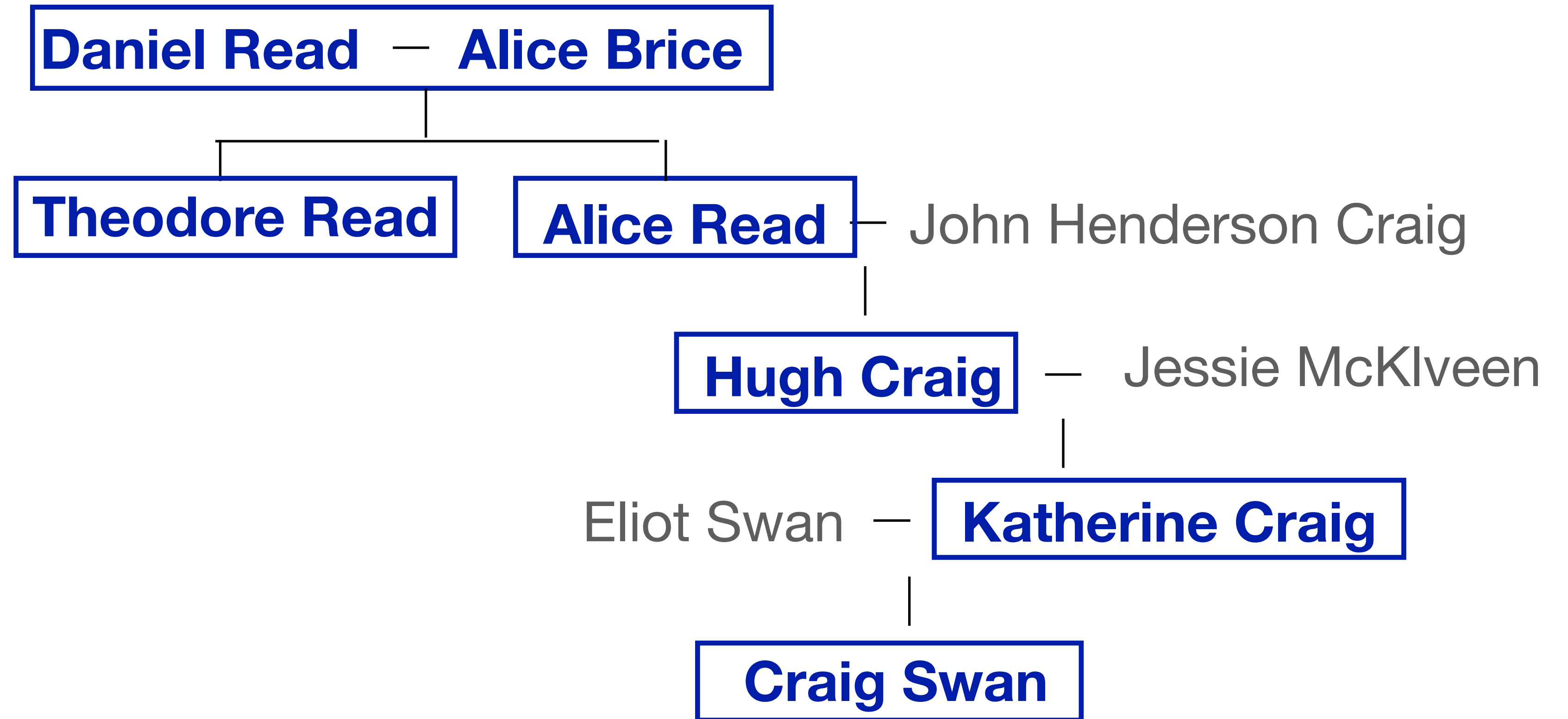
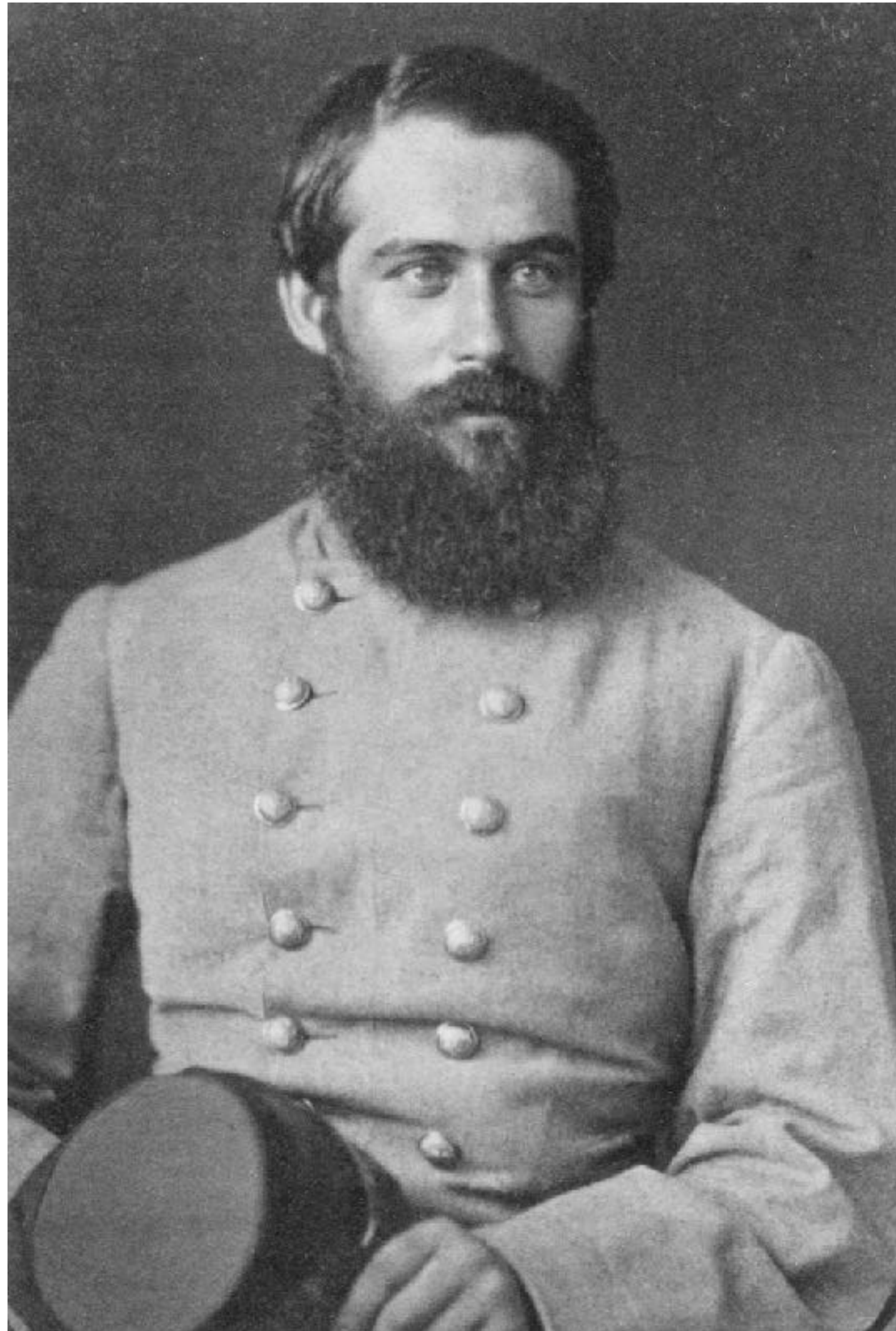
Katherine Craig

Craig Swan

My relationship to Theodore Read



My relationship to Theodore Read



THE
PRESIDENT of the United States of AMERICA,



(To all who shall see these presents greeting)

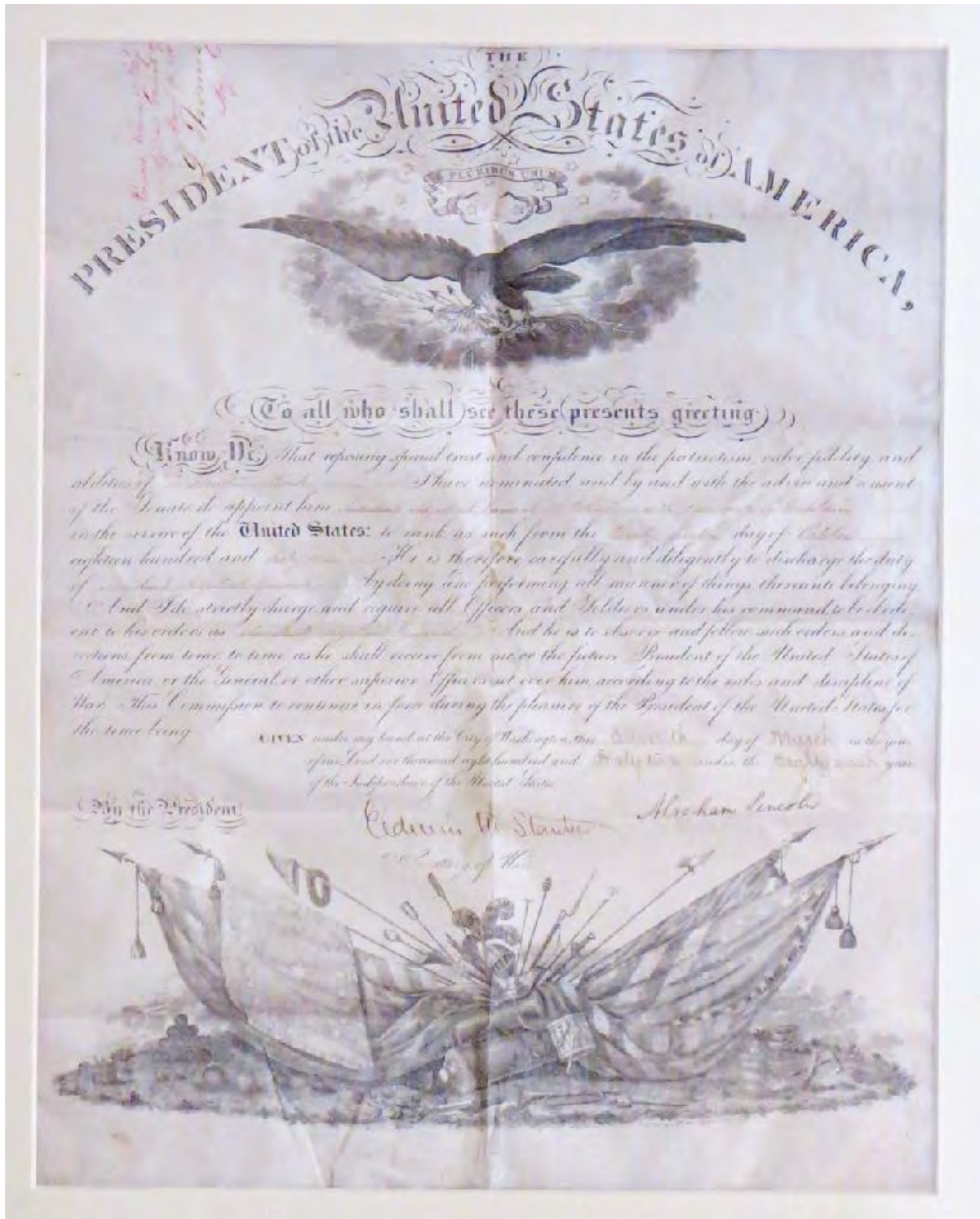
Know Ye That rejoicing in your trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, fidelity, and abilities of the brave and gallant General Winfield Scott, I have nominated, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate do appoint him Major General of the United States: to rank as such from the 1st day of October next. It is therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of the said General, and to perform all manner of things thereunto belonging, and to be strictly charged and required all Officers and Soldiers under his command to be obedient to his orders, and to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time as he shall receive from me, or the future President of the United States of America, or the General or other superior Officer set over him, according to the rules and discipline of War. This Commission to continue in force during the pleasure of the President of the United States for the time being.

By the President

Edwin M. Stanton
Alexander Lincoln

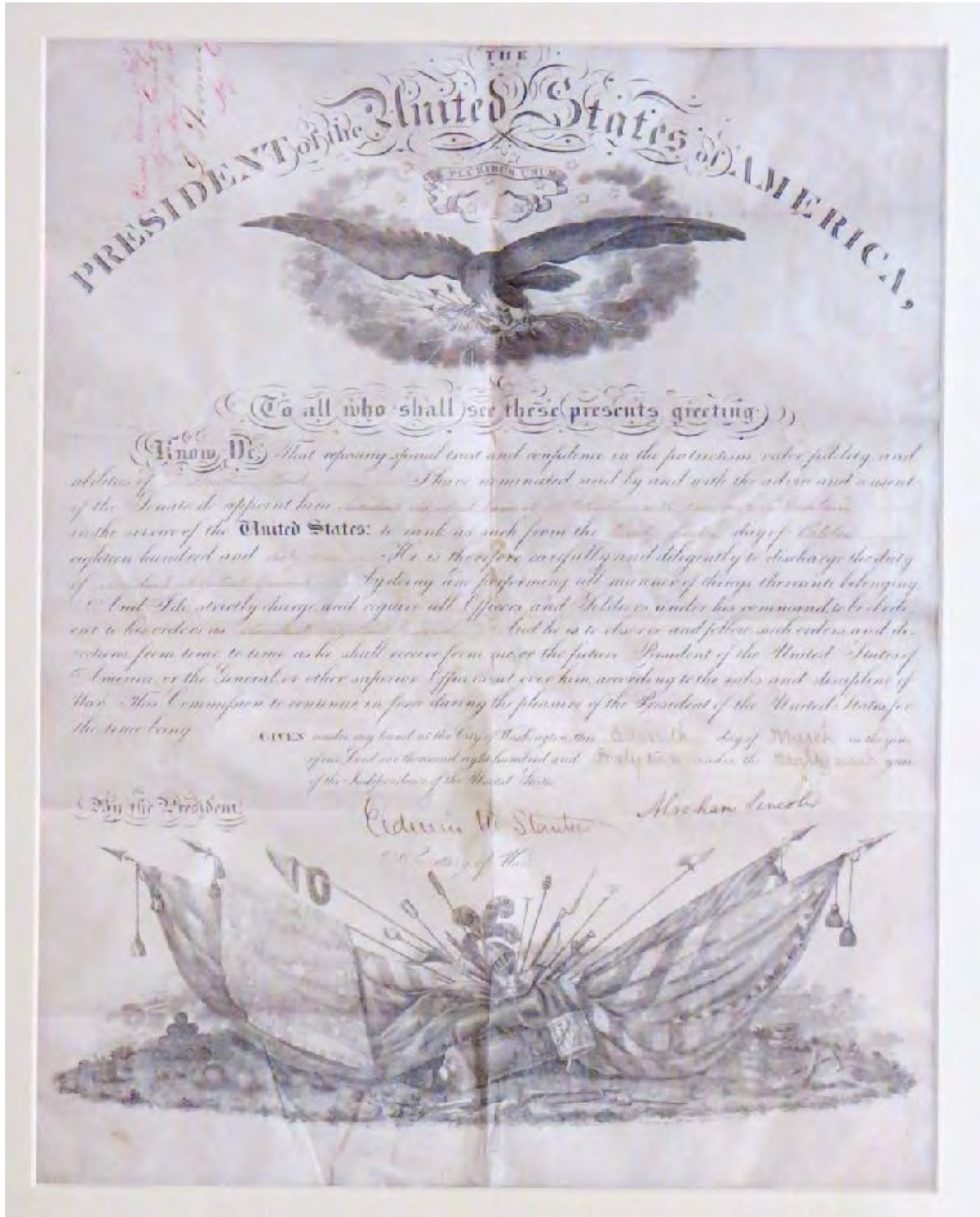


Family Heirlooms

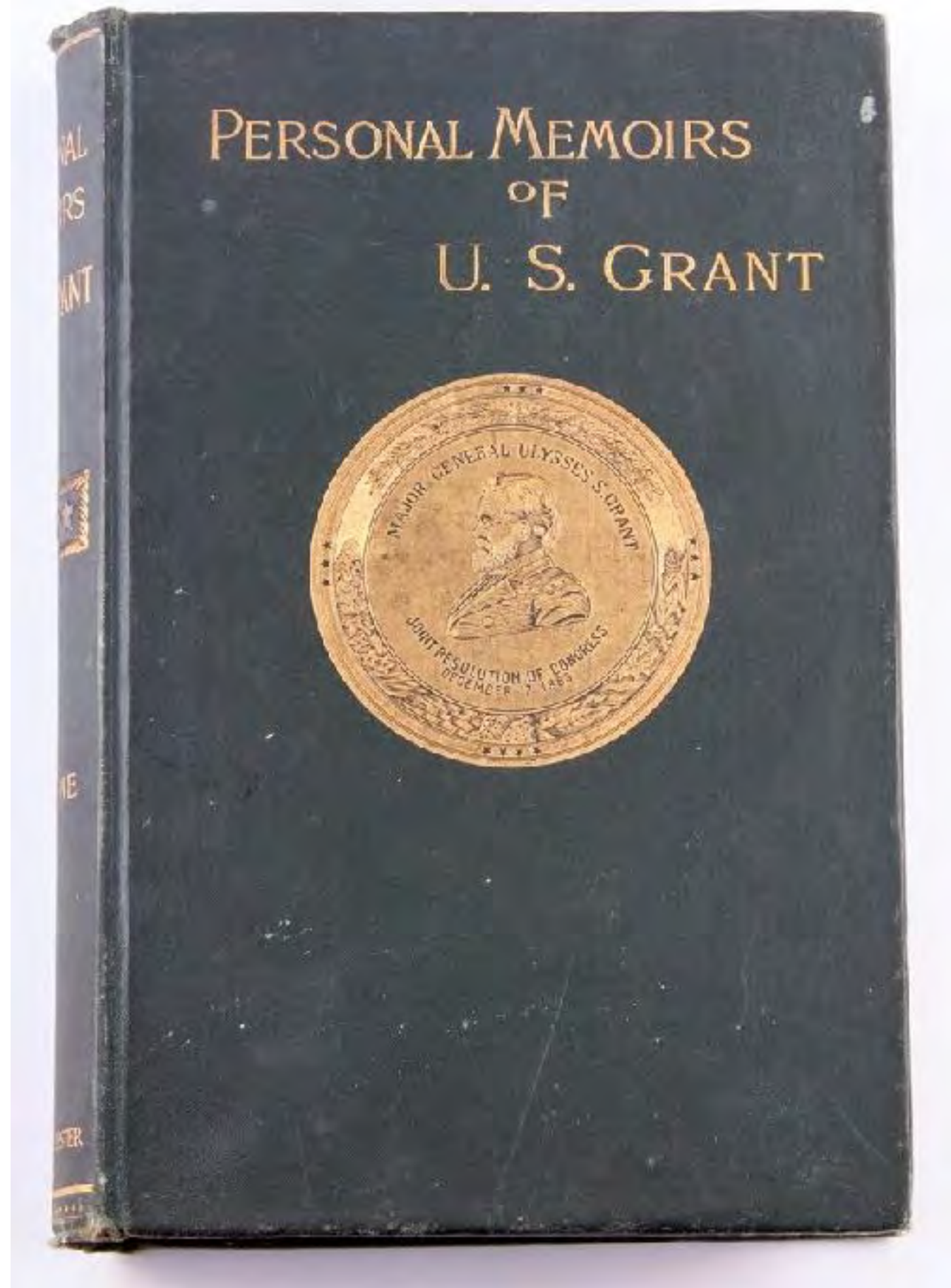


Family Heirlooms





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Theodore Read - Timeline



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1854 Graduated Indiana University



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Department of Interior, Washington, DC



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April 1861 Three month enlistment
8th Illinois Infantry regiment



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October 1861 Commissioned Assistant Adjutant General
with rank of Captain

Read accepts Commission, October 1861

Washington

Oct 28 1861

Sir;

I have to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from the War Department, of the 24th instant, informing me of my appointment as Assistant Adjutant General of Volunteers with the rank of Captain, in the Army of the United States. I very cheerfully accept the appointment tendered me and herewith return to your office my Official Oath properly filled up, subscribed and attested.

In obedience to the requirements of your Office I have also to state that I was born in the State of Ohio; am twenty-six years of age; my residence is at Davis, Edgar Co, Illinois. I have reported to Gen I. W. H. Brooks for orders.

Very Respectfully

Adjutant General U.S.A. Theodore Reuel

Read accepts Commission, October 1861

and encloses signed Oath of Office

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Very Respectfully
Theodore Read

Adjutant General U.S.A.



J. Theodore Read
appointed an Assistant Adjutant General in the Army of the United States, do solemnly swear, or affirm, that I will bear true allegiance to the United States of America, and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies or opposers whatsoever; and observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of the Officers appointed over me, according to the Rules and Articles for the government of the Armies of the United States.

Theodore Read

Sworn to and subscribed before me,
at Washington D.C.
this 28 day of Oct 1861

Read accepts Commission, October 1861

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Sworn to and subscribed before me,
at Washington D.C.
this 28 day of Oct 1861

When promoted in
August 1864
the Oath of Office
had become
a more
elaborate document

OATH OF OFFICE.

One to accompany the accept-
officer appointed or commis-
the oath by him to be admin-
tered into the service



use of every examination
dones by the President, and
istered to every officer mem-
of the United States.

*I, Theodore Read, having been appointed
a Major and Assistant Adjutant General in the **MILITARY
SERVICE** of the United States, do solemnly swear that I have
never voluntarily **BORNE ARMS** against the United States since I
have been a citizen thereof; that I have voluntarily given no **AID,
COURTENANCE, COUNSEL, or ENCOURAGEMENT** to persons engaged in **ARMED HOSTILITY**
thereto; that I have neither sought, nor accepted, nor attempted
to exercise the functions of **ANY OFFICE WHATSOEVER**, under any
authority, or pretended authority, **IN HOSTILITY** to the United States;
that I have not yielded a voluntary **SUPPORT** to any **PRETENDED
GOVERNMENT, AUTHORITY, POWER, or CONSTITUTION** within the United States,
HOSTILE or INIMICAL thereto. And I do further swear that, to
the best of my knowledge and ability, I will **SUPPORT and DEFEND**
the **CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES** against all enemies, **FOREIGN and
DOMESTIC**; that I will bear true **FAITH and ALLEGIANCE** to the same;
that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or
purpose of evasion; and that I will **WELL and FAITHFULLY** discharge the
DUTIES of the **OFFICE** on which I am about to enter: So help me God.*

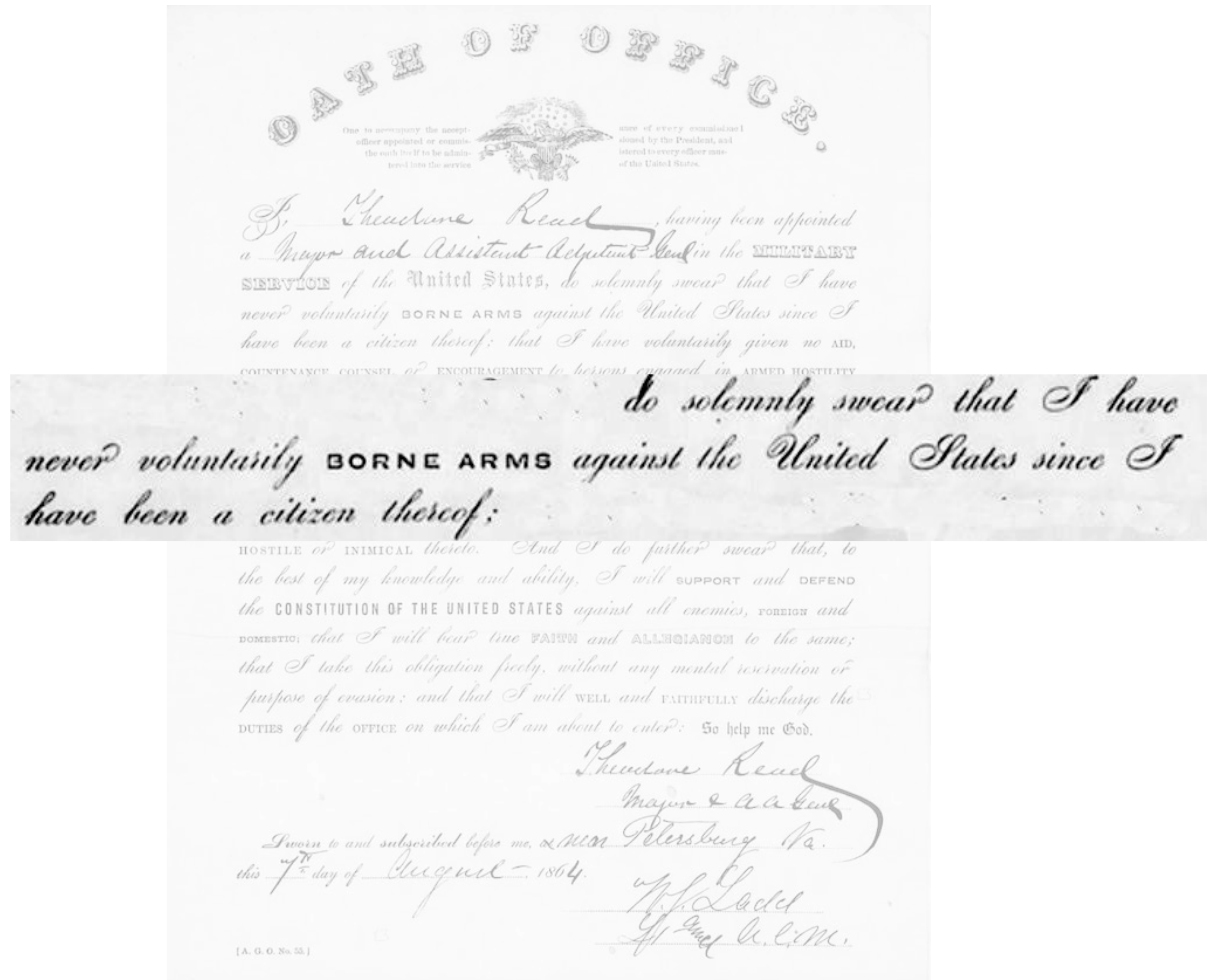
*Theodore Read
Major & Adjutant*

*Sworn to and subscribed before me, at New Petersburg Va.
this 7th day of August, 1864.*

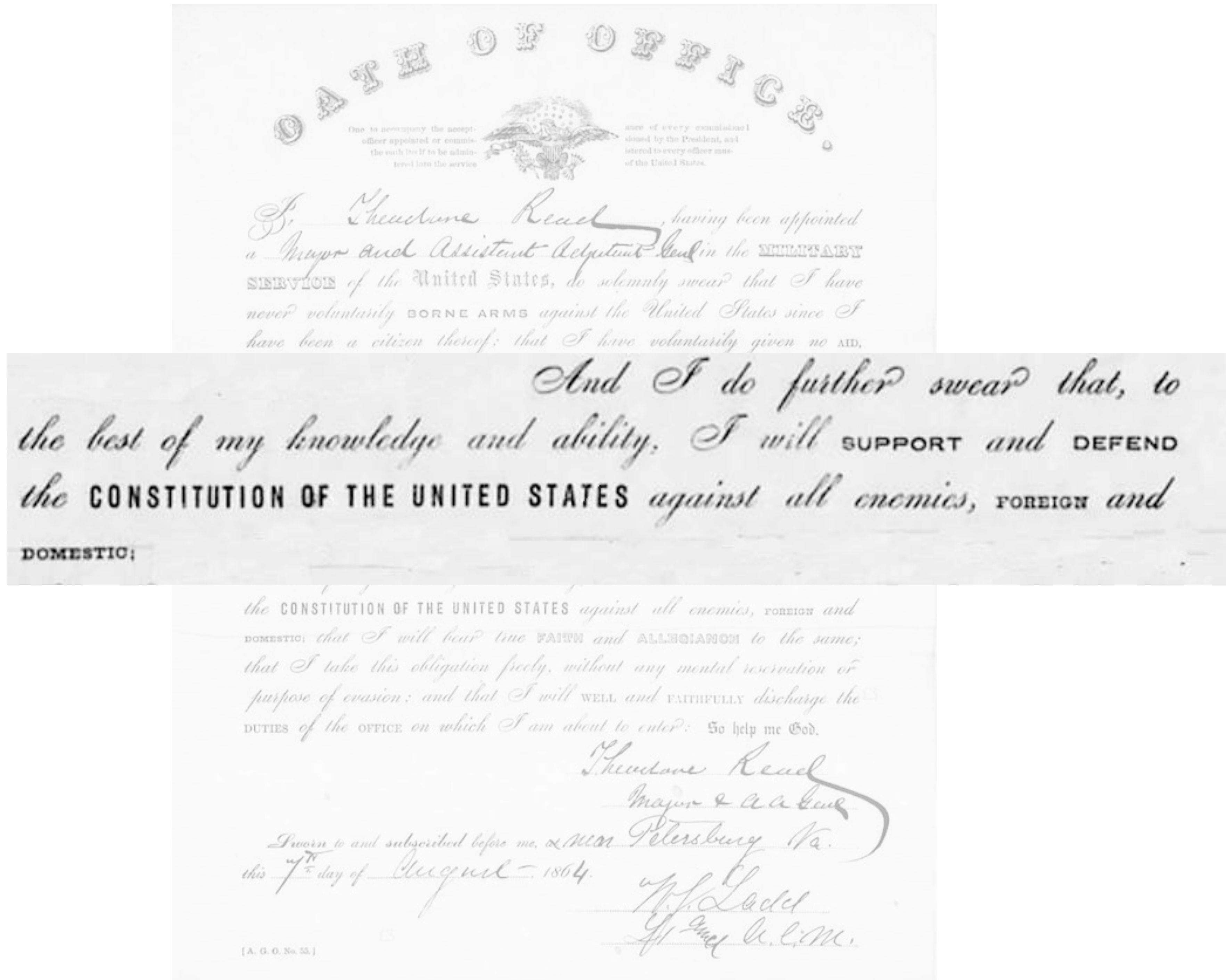
*W. J. Ladd
J. Genl. U. S. A.*

[A. G. O. No. 55.]

When promoted in
August 1864
the Oath of Office
had become
a more
elaborate document



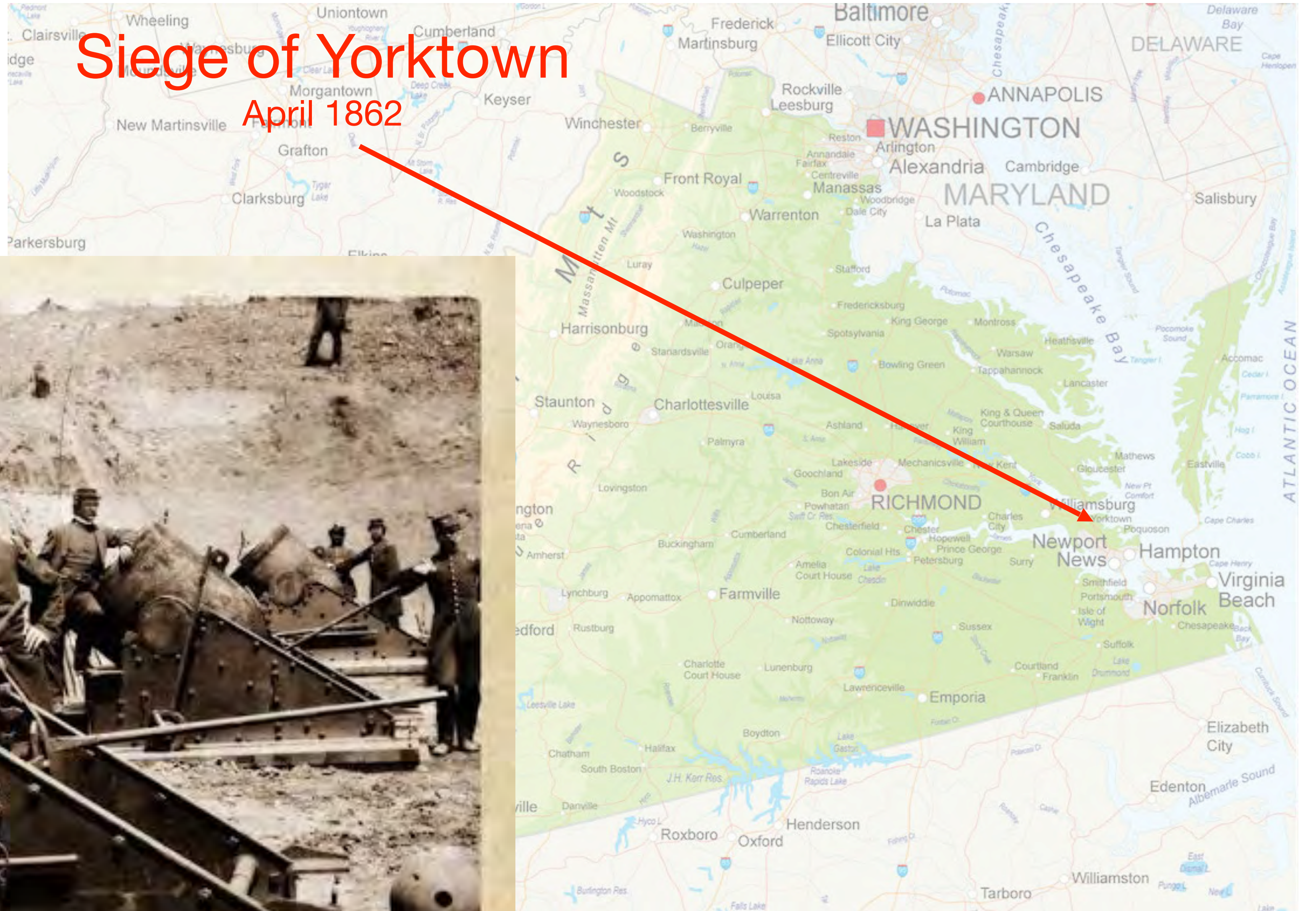
When promoted in
August 1864
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elaborate document





Siege of Yorktown

April 1862



Seven Days Battle

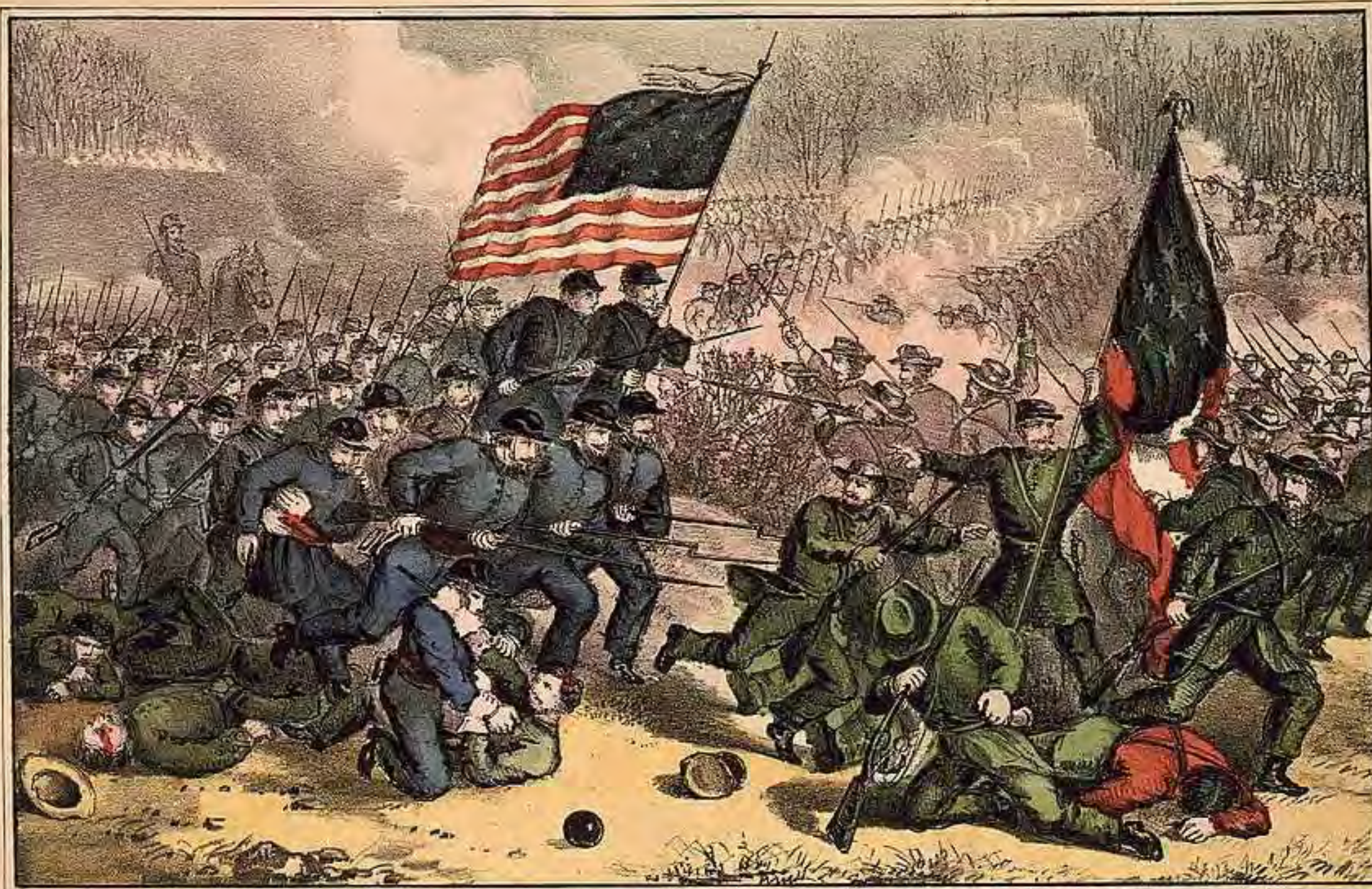
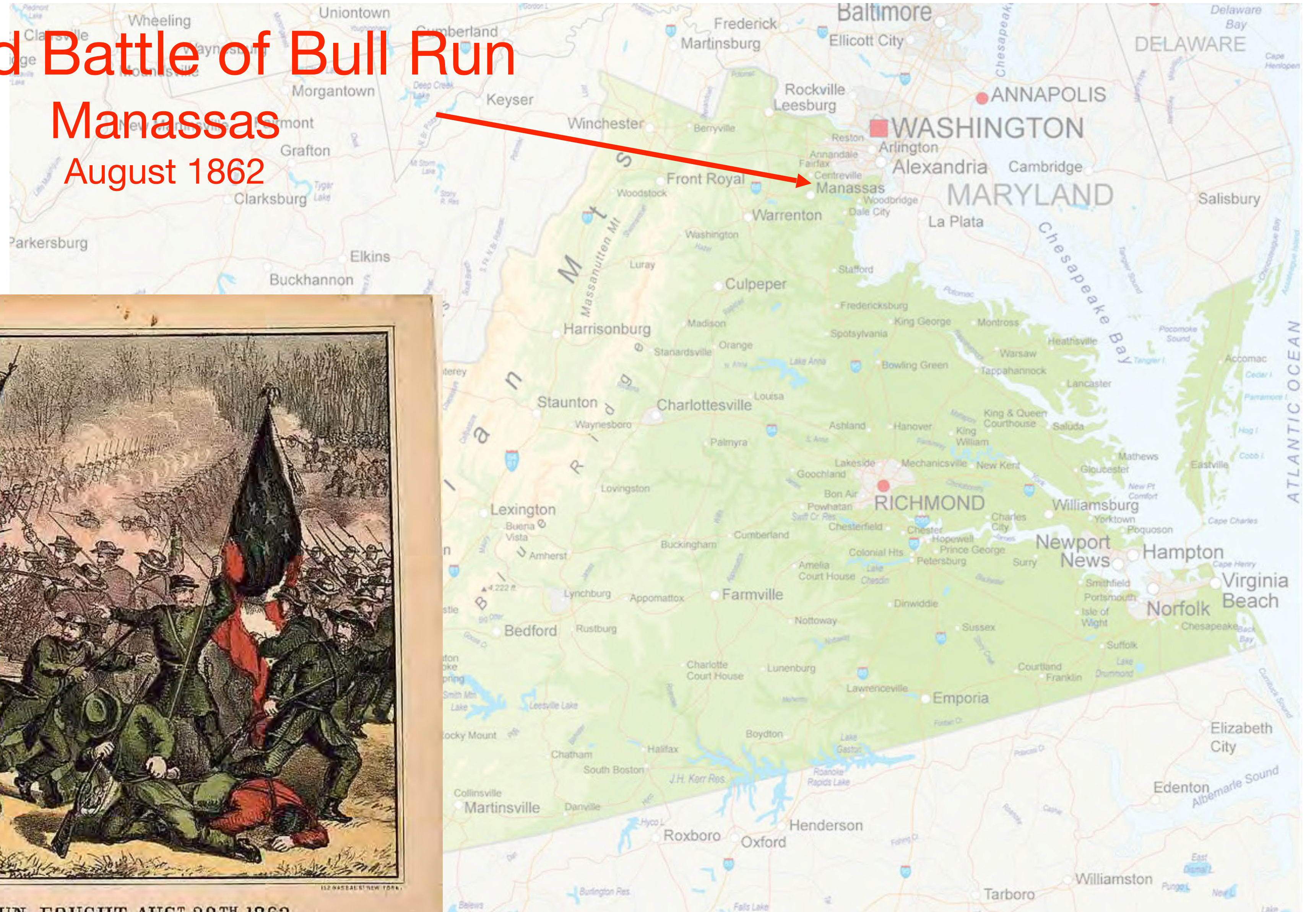
June 1862



Second Battle of Bull Run

Manassas

August 1862

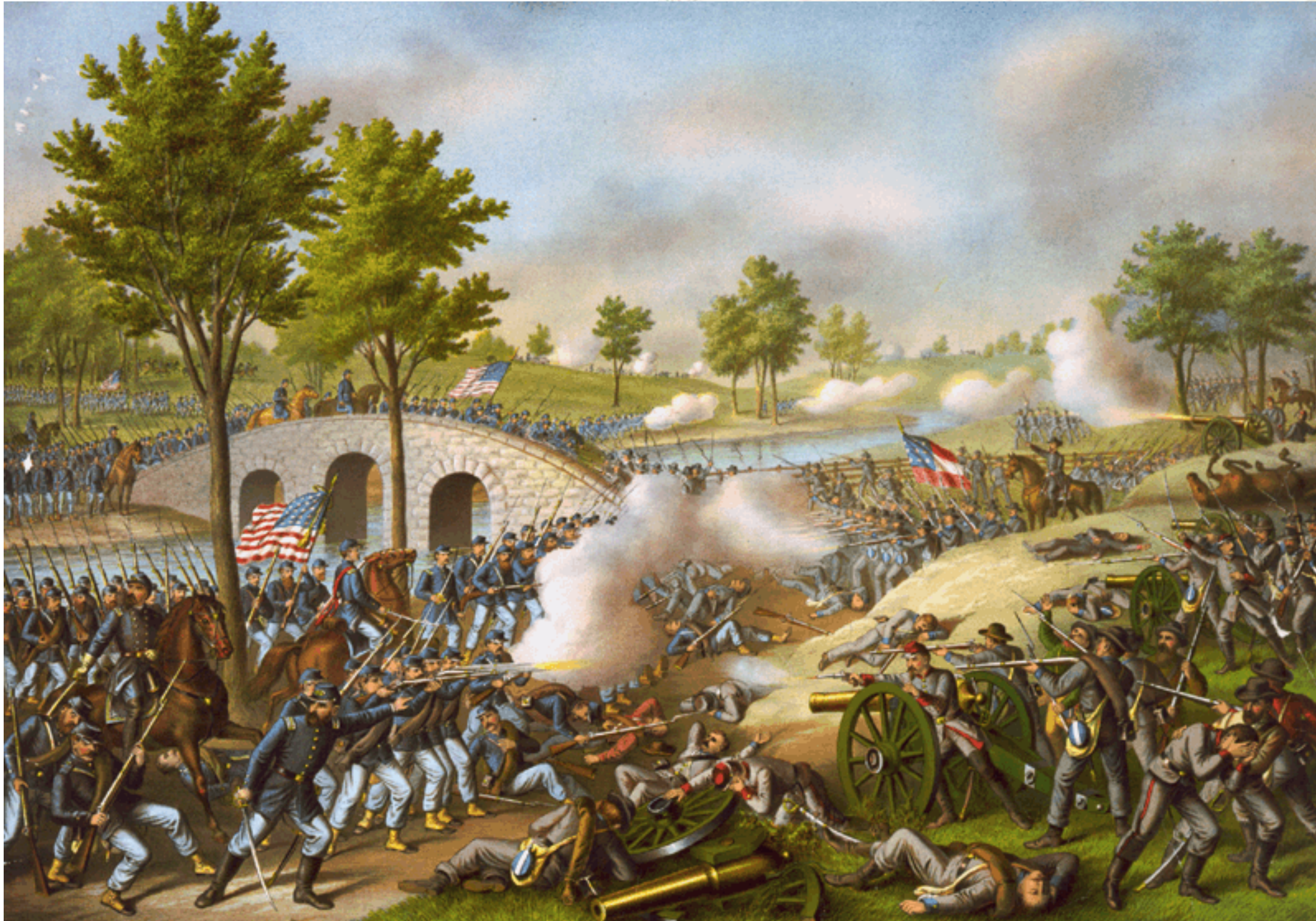


THE SECOND BATTLE OF BULL RUN, FOUGHT AUG. 29TH 1862.

Between the "Army of Virginia" under Maj. Gen. John Pope, and the combined forces of the Rebel Army under Lee, Jackson, and others. This terrific battle was fought on the identical battle field of Bull Run, and lasted with great fury from daylight until after dark, when the rebels were driven back and the Union Army rested in triumph on the field.

Antietam

September 1862



Fredericksburg

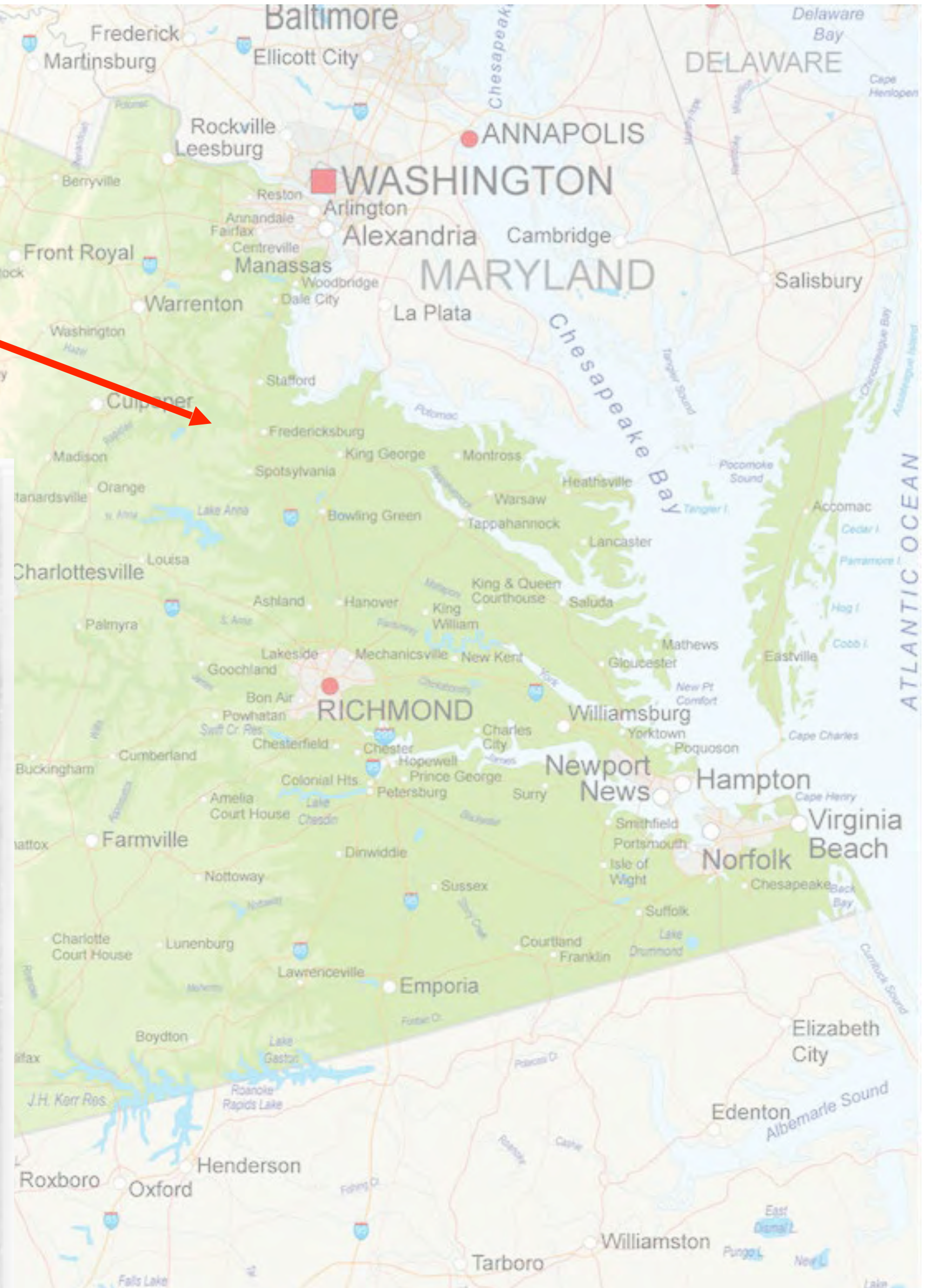
December 1862





BATTLE OF CHANCELLORSVILLE, VA. MAY, 3RD 1863.

This terrible battle was fought between the "Iron Brigade" under Von Meade, and the Rebel Army, under command of General Lee. General Jackson's "Longstreet and Hill" - The Rebels advanced in overwhelming numbers, but the Iron Division fought with desperate gallantry, holding the Rebels in check, and inflicting dreadful slaughter among them.



Letter from Daniel Read

Some time in October 1862, he became S. A. C. of the 1st Division, 6th Army Corp (Sargwicks), but without change of rank, and served as such until on 3rd of May '63, in the battle of Chancellorsville, (rather on the Plank Road leading from Fredericksburg) he received a terrible wound from a shell which carried away the acromion process and deltoid muscle of his left shoulder, ~~and~~ mangling a large surface. The surgeons wrote me that not one man in fifty would have survived this wound, and that "his life was due not more to his fine constitution and perfect bodily habits than to his self-control and the power of his will in sustaining himself under the endurance of pain".

It was not until after the middle of June that he was able to come to the home of his parents in this city, and it was then sooner than he should have come in the condition of his wound. In July he was obliged to submit to a painful surgical operation for the removal of detached pieces of bone. ^{By} For this operation he declined taking chloroform, and without a groan or the movement of a muscle in his face, a gash of three inches in length was cut into inflamed and sensitive parts of the flesh. Dr. Hoyt the surgeon, declared he had never in a long experience ^{witnessed} such power of will in resisting pain. After this operation he suffered much less pain and soon grew impatient for duty. He

Letter from Daniel Read

Some time in October 1862. He became S. S. of the
1st Division, 6th Army Corp (Virginia) but without change of
rank and served as such until in 31st of May '63, in the battle
of Chancellorsville (rather on the flank being leading from Dicks
company) he received a terrible wound from a shell which
carried away the acromion process and deltoid muscle of
his left shoulder and mangling a large surface. The surgeons
wrote me that not one man in fifty would have survived this

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Letter from Daniel Read

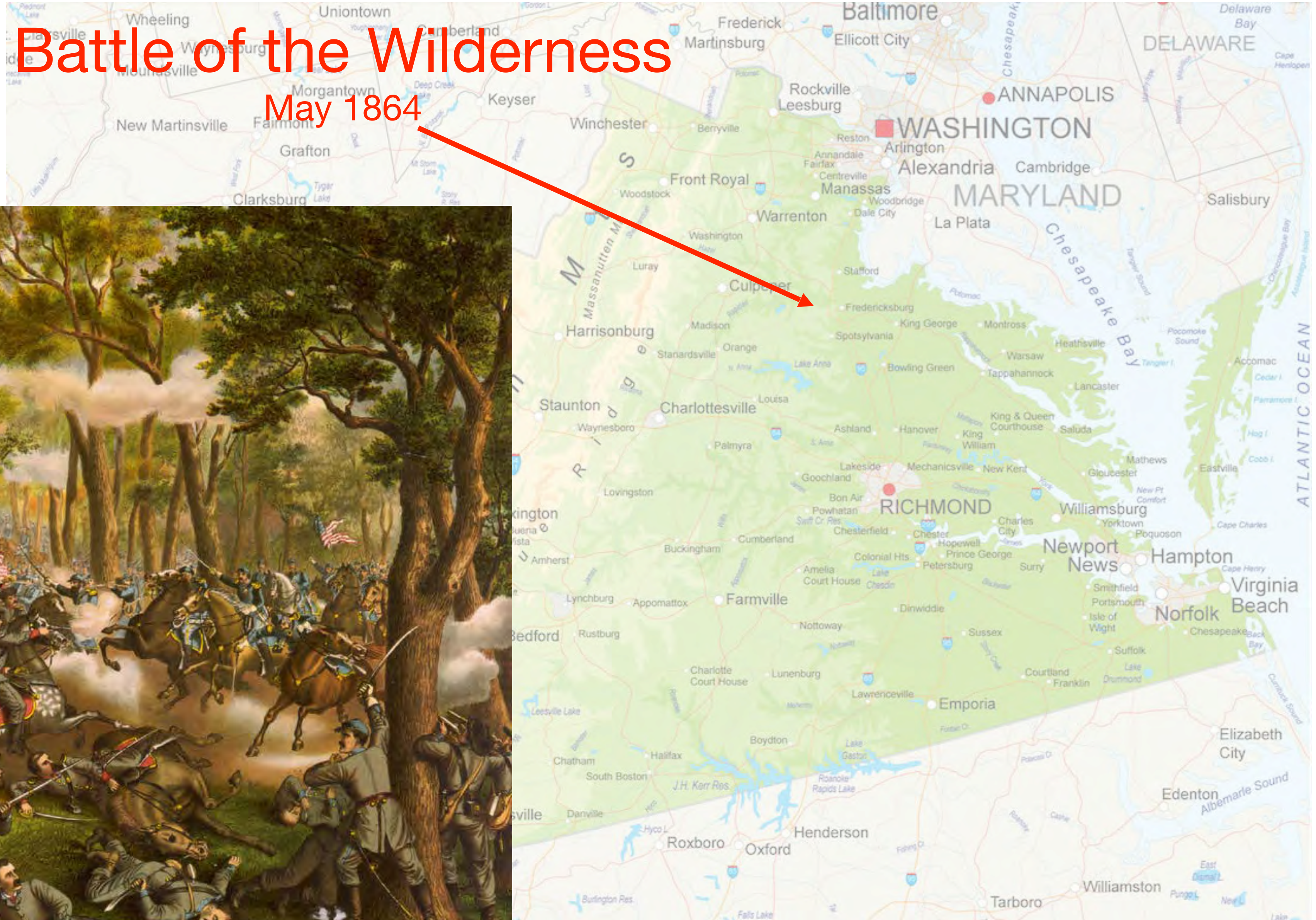
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Battle of the Wilderness

May 1864



Cold Harbor

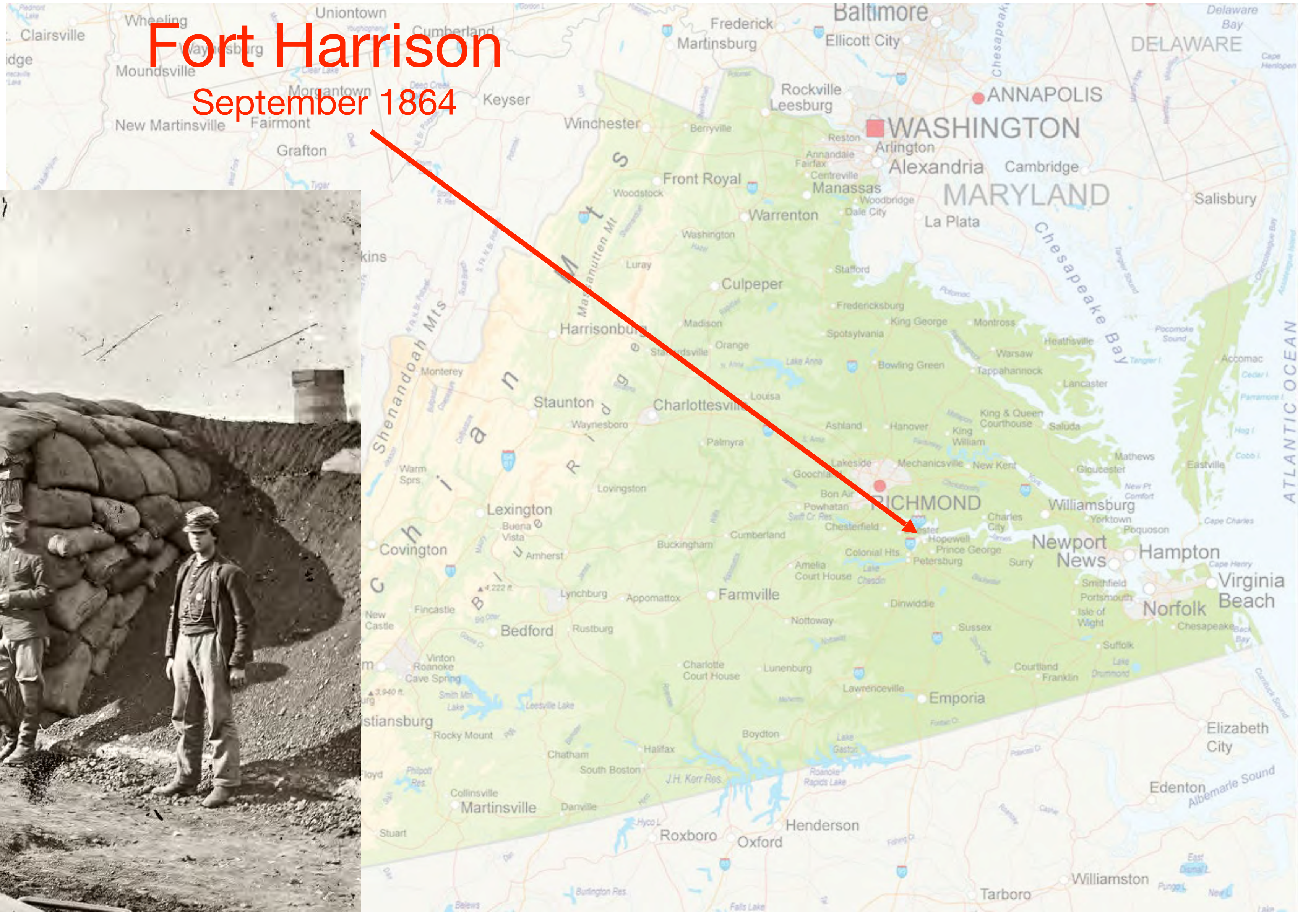
June 1864



Abingdon 5,728 ft. Mt Rogers Independence

Fort Harrison

September 1864



Theodore marries

Theodore marries
Mary Vincent

THE STATE OF OHIO, } ss.
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, }

_____ having made application for a **Marriage License** for
Theodore Reed and Mary Vincent
of said County, and being duly sworn, on his oath, says that Theodore is of the age
of twenty-one years, that he has no wife living, that said Mary is of the
age of eighteen years, that she has no husband living, and that the parties are not nearer of kin than first cousins,
as he verily believes.

Subscribed and sworn to, the 19 day of
Oct., 1864, before me,

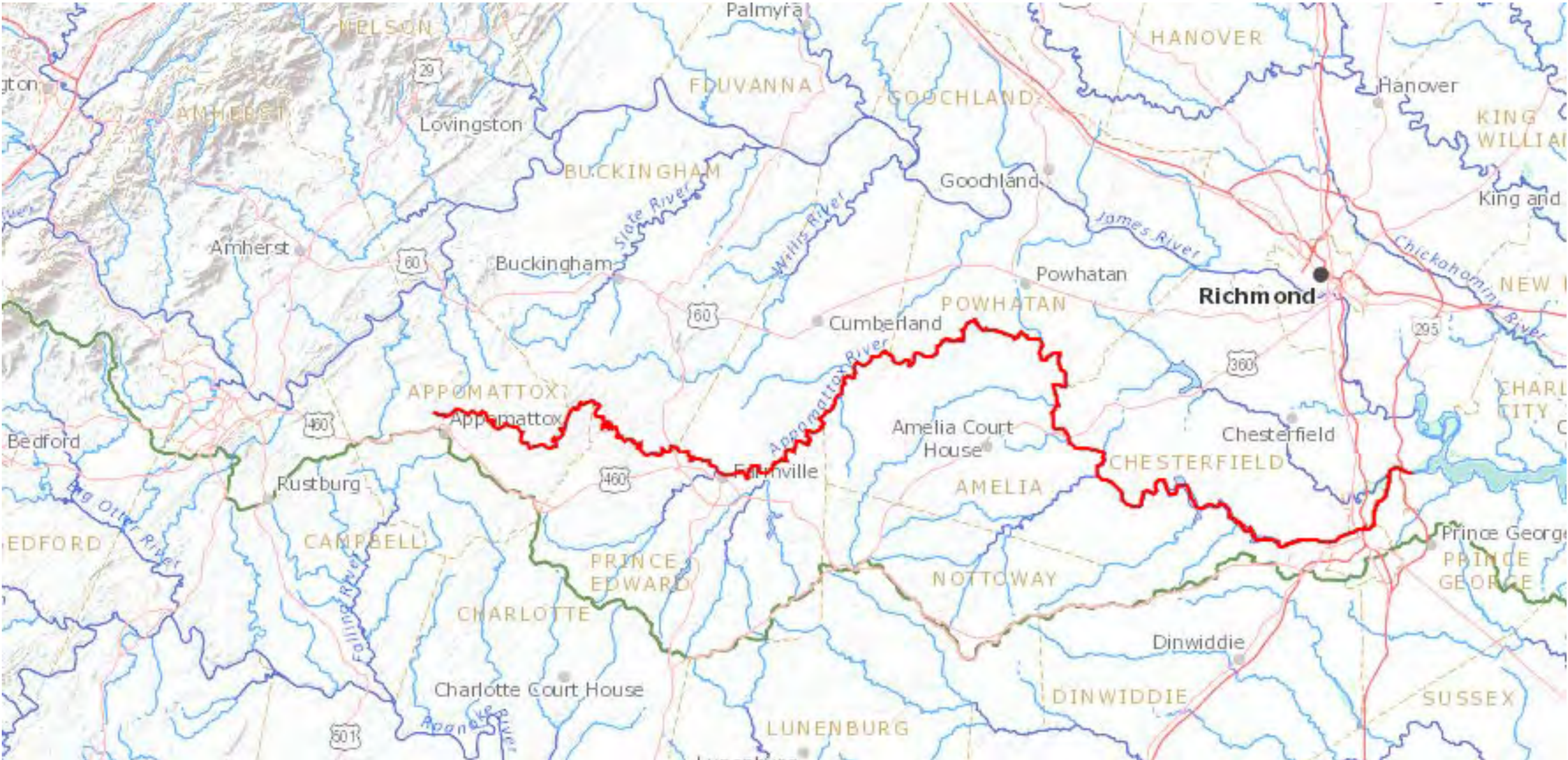
L. J. Smith Probate Judge.
Deputy Clerk.

J. A. Vincent

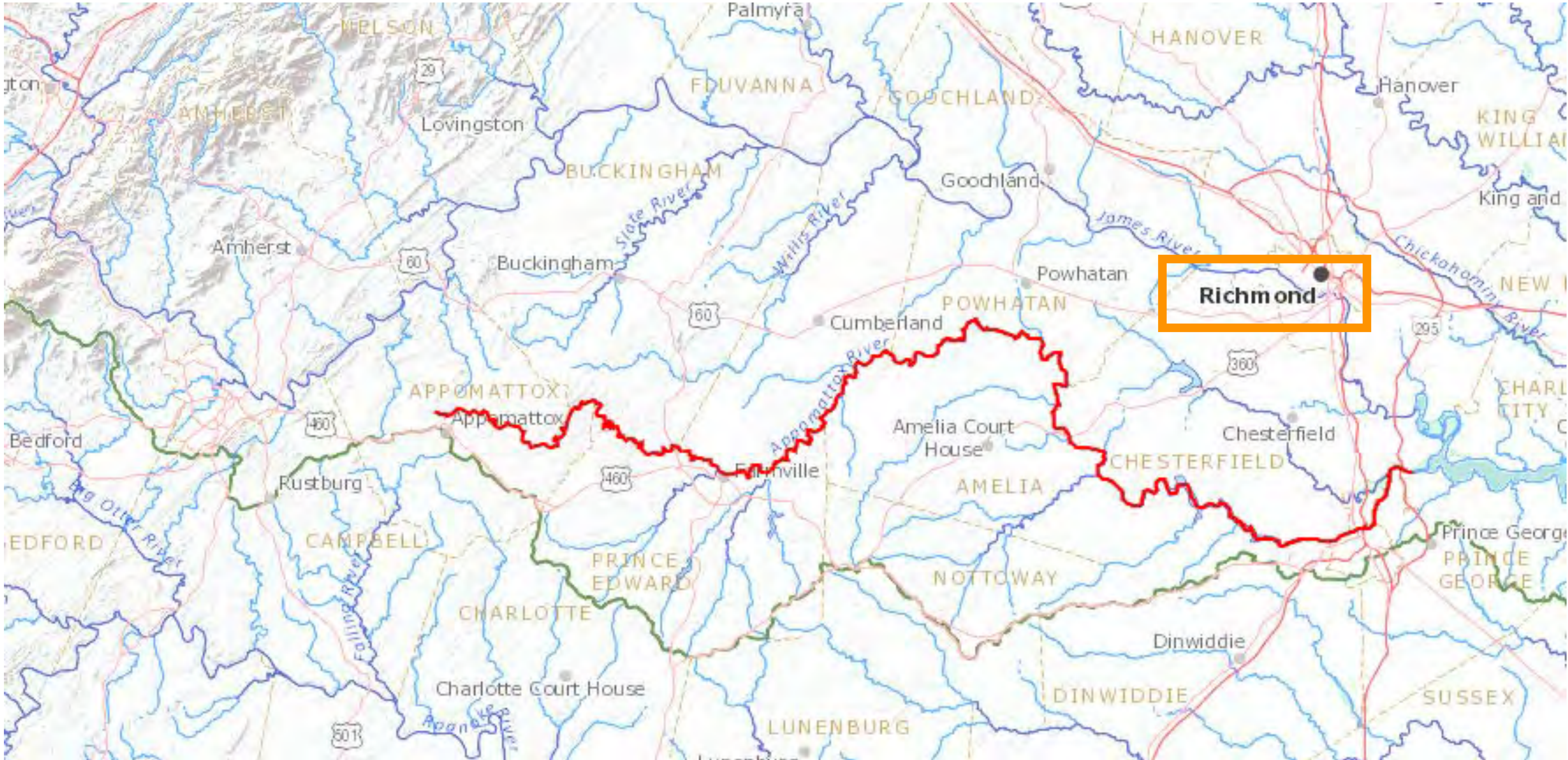


19 October 1864

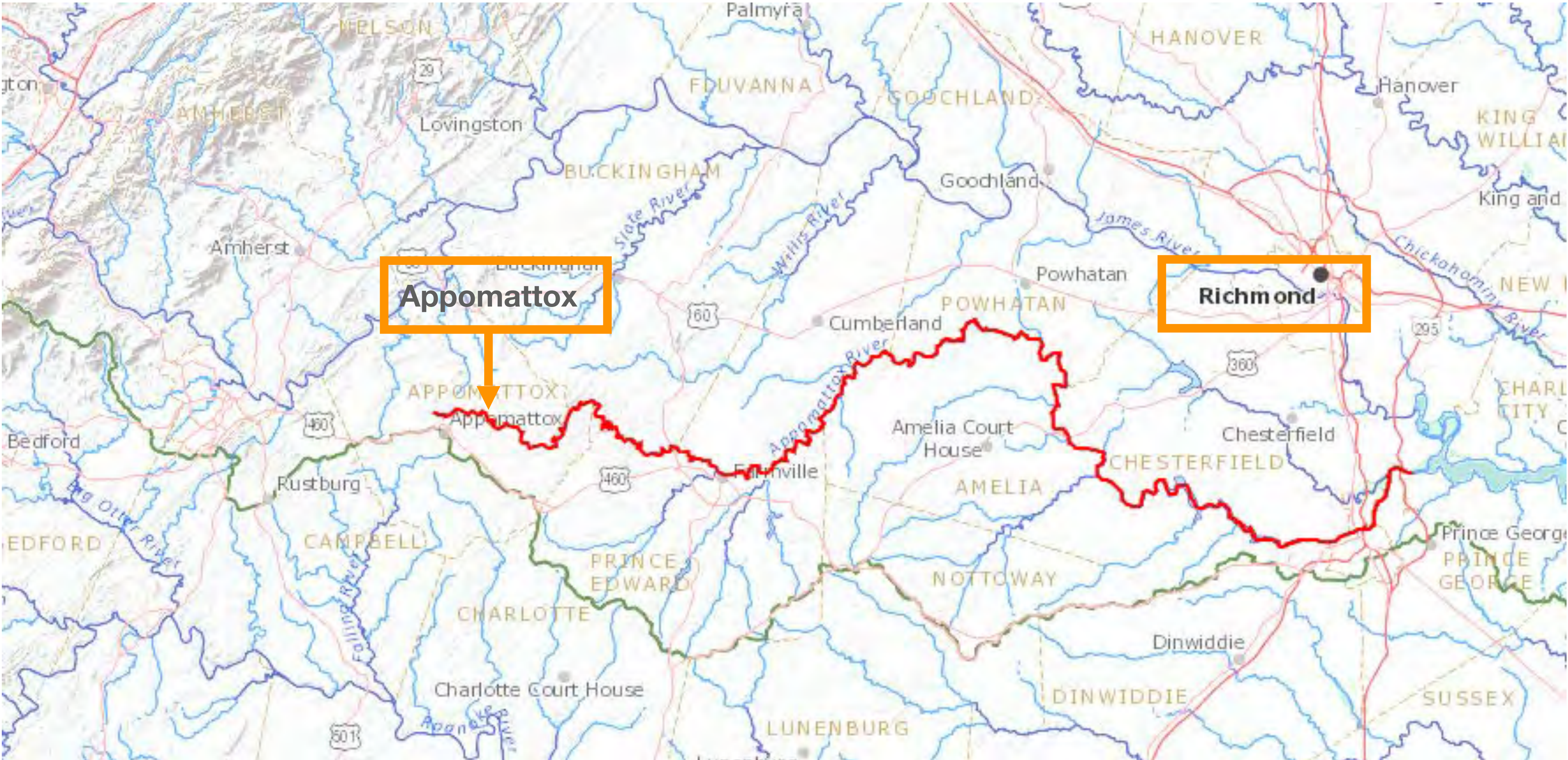
Appottamox River



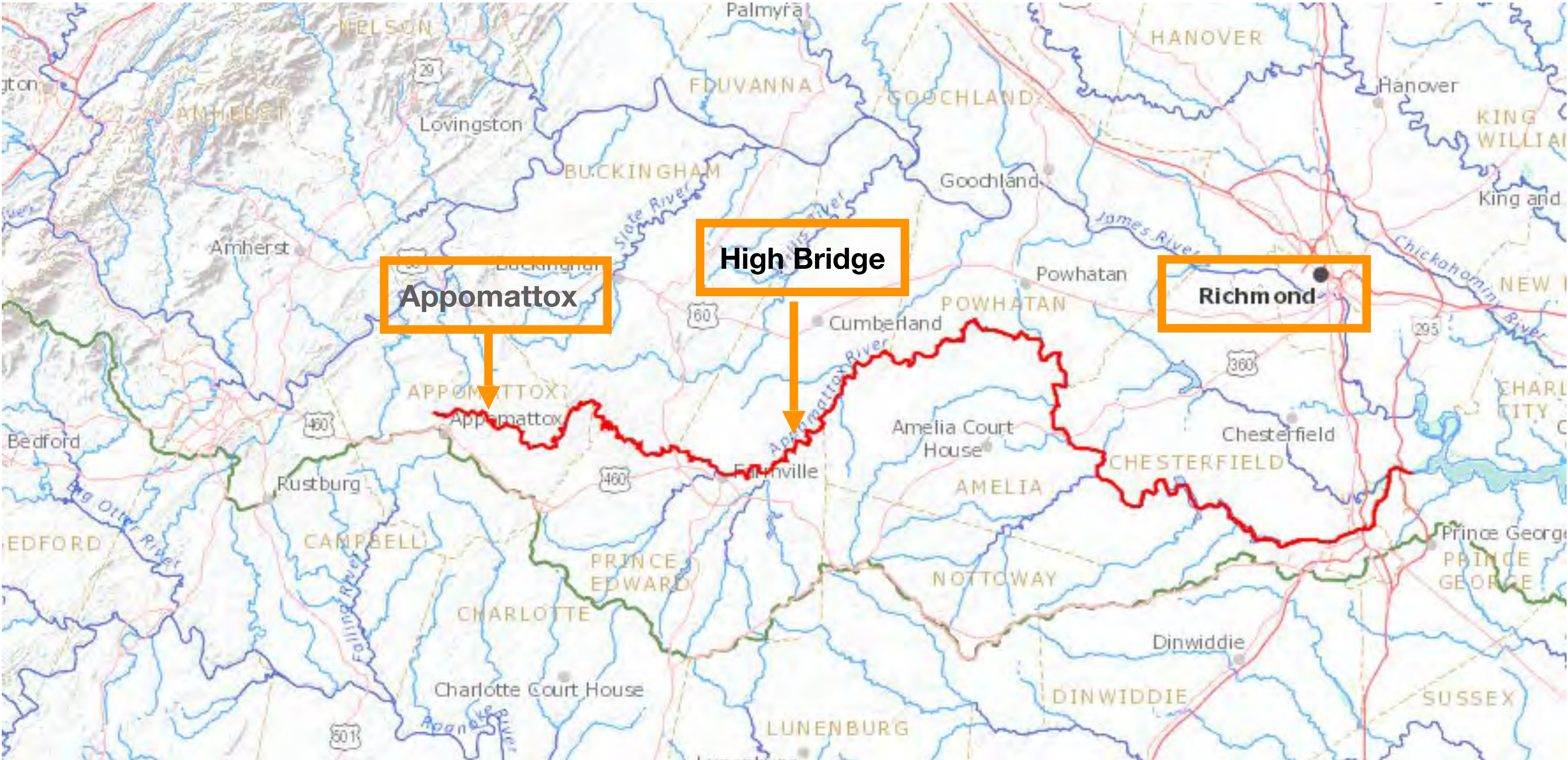
Appottamox River



Appottamox River



Appottamox River



High Bridge over the Appomattox River



Lithograph by Edward Beyer, 1857



High Bridge
over
Appomattox River

Photo by
T. H. O'Sullivan
Library of Congress



High Bridge
over
Appomattox River

Photo by
T. H. O'Sullivan
Library of Congress

Battle of High Bridge

4th Massachusetts Cavalry



by Mortimer Lamb

High Bridge today





Read Family plot

Forest Hill Cemetery - Madison, Wisconsin



Read Family plot

Forest Hill Cemetery - Madison, Wisconsin

General Theodore Read
late
the Adjutant General of the Army of the James
fell 6th of April, 1865,
in his 29th year,
near the Appomattox Bridge, where, with less than three regiments, he
met and held in check Lee's Army, attempting a retreat
through that pass; and by the Spartan-like sacrifice
of himself and heroic band, contributed
essentially to the surrender
which followed.

He enlisted a private, was soon
Asst. Adjutant General, serving as such
of a Brigade, of a Division, of the 10th, 18th, and 24th
corps, and at his death, of the Army of the James; participating
in the various campaigns and battles of the Potomac, being three times
wounded. He was a lawyer, and eloquent as a speaker and writer.
Early professing his Christian faith, he illustrated in
his brief life the noblest virtues of man, and
died a Patriot-Hero.

References

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Web Resources

Fold3 - military documents, images and other materials

available through many local libraries or private subscription

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Report of the Proceedings of The First Triennial Reunion of the Army of the James, 1868

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