

CIVILWARDATA.COM
ANOTHER FREE
SEARCH ENGINE

**A GRAVE
DOWN UNDER**



HOW MANY SERVED



**CANADIAN MEDAL OF
HONOR RECIPIENTS**



ANDERSONVILLE

GRAVES MATTER



So Many Graves, Such Little Time

I for one have no idea how Terry Middleton and his band of searchers accomplished so much data collection, considering they all had full time jobs and when they began this journey. There was very little in the way of digital resources available even a decade ago let alone twenty years ago..

As was mentioned in the first issue, *“this little newsletter, “Graves Matter” is intended to be an occasional update on the work Company I has done, and continues to do.”*, we are amazed how much data is now being accumulated,

**An artist's depiction
of the monument
dedicated to the
40,000 Canadians
who fought in the
American Civil War.
(Rob McLachlan)**

that if we don't share it more regularly, we will never be able to catch up.

So Company "I"'s second information source is going to be distributed a little more regularly as time permits.

From the feedback that we received on Issue 1, it appears we are on our way to accomplishing our two primary objectives: of educating readers about Atlantic Canada's Civil War history and serving as a helpful tool for those interested in their ancestors and the communities they came from.

Civil War Data .com

Another helpful search engine for identifying Canadians East and West (Ontario & Quebec) along with those from the Atlantic British Colonies (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland) who served in the Civil war can be found at civilwardata.com

It is provided by Historical Data Systems, Inc. P.O. Box 35 Duxbury, MA 02331. It is another free search engine that has nearly every Union soldier, and known Confederates and others such as Navy etc.

This research tool, can be a great help for digging into the weeds and finding out little deals such as the residence they lived in verses the community where they signed up. It is a great help in tracking down where they spent the rest of their lives after the war and locating their gravesite.

In addition, it often provides details of when and where an individual mustered out, deserted or went missing. If your lucky the pension data and even grave locations are recored there.

By simply typing in a Canadian Atlantic Province we found several men in their database from New Brunswick who declared their residence to be New Brunswick and obtain quite a list. As a result we now have expanded out list of Atlantic born Canadians who served in the State of Massachusetts to over 220 names.

Some of the Gettysburg Monuments



There are 466 monuments and 367 tablets in the nine square miles that encompasses the Gettysburg National Military Park recognizing the men and women of both sides of the conflict who fought in this three day pivotal battle.

How Many Served?

So where do our numbers stand thus far? Well that depends. Although our primary research has focused on those “Atlantic’s” who served in the State of Maine, we are also working on finding any person born in these parts who served in the Civil War in other States as well.

All that we can report on, on any given day is the number of men and women that we have identified, and entered on our database and that changes on a daily basis.



So here are some numbers as of this moment Atlantic born Canadians who served.

Maine - 892	Vermont - 1	Minnesota - 207	Colorado - 1
Massachusetts - 222	Pennsylvania - 4	Nebraska - 11	Connecticut - 2
New York - 17	Ohio - 1	Iowa - 11	Rhode Island - 1
New Hampshire - 4	Michigan - 13	Wisconsin - 5	District of Columbia - 3
New Jersey - 2	Illinois - 9	Kentucky - 3	
United States Navy - 165	U. S Regulars & Volunteers - 13		Confederate Military - 44

Of these numbers, we have reached 605 grave-sites discovered. Both sets of numbers will be increasing as more research is conducted.

Medal of Honor Recipients

Since its inception the highest and most prestigious honour a member of the United States Military can receive for having distinguished themselves by acts of valour, is to be award the Medal Of Honor.

Its first inception was in 1861 when the US Navy created the Medal of Valor, which was followed by the Army in 1862 with its comparable award, the Medal of Honor. Since then the Navy medal was renamed and subsequent Medal of Honor was created for the Air Force. Members of the United States Marine Corps and Coast Guard receive the Navy version of the MOH.

At the beginning of the American Civil, the Medal of Honor did not exist and the highest award of the day was the Certificate of Merit which, was issued in the Mexican-American War.

1862- 1895 Army version



1862- 1912 Navy version



The designs of the respective medals of honour have changed significantly over the course of history. During the Civil War the two medals were awarded for a variety of heroic deeds that today would not be considered for this highest of American military honours. But back in the day there was no award bravery during war or peacetime, so the MOH was awarded for these acts.

During the Civil War numerous MOH's were awarded for acts associated with "saving the flag, and with the passage of time and improvements in military tactics and communication, these acts of heroism have morphed into a and unfair perception of insignificance, instead of heroism. Modern uneducated generations wrongly look upon these acts of bravery as if those soldiers were playing capture the flag like a bunch of Boy Scouts. The modern public has no concept of how important the flag was to a regiment. It was the primary means of communicating in the heat of battle, and the flag bearer was unarmed and was the enemies primary target. Without the flag, the entire regiment could fall a part in a hurry. To defend it was all important, to capture the enemies Flag often meant the destruction of the enemy physically and psychologically.

During the Civil war 1,523 MOH's were awarded, of these at least 38 were to Canadian born men, 14 from Atlantic Canada.

Our research to date has identified 63 Canadian born men have received the Medal of Honor since its creation. This number will increase as more research has been conducted.

It should be noted that not all medals awarded were done so in a timely manner. Sadly this was not the case, and many men didn't get recognized for several decades after the fact. Others like the Black Newfoundlander Joachim Pease left the military before he could be presented with his medal and he disappeared into the mists of time. He MOH is on display in the National Museum of the US Navy. Others like John Lindsay Hanna of Nova Scotia were stopped of their medals. Hanna had been awarded the Medal of Honor, for being one of President Lincoln's funeral honour guards. Over thirty years later, he and others MOH recipients had their medals revoked because a review committee in 1917 decided to tighten the standards and strike many from the official list, while at the same time giving the medal to those the committee deemed worthy. The end result was many men suffered the indignation and humiliation of being stripped of a medal they had been rightfully issued by the standard of the day.

Civil War Medals of Honor by State / Unit/ Canadian Province

Total = 39	NfLd	PEI	NS	NB	Ont.	Que.	Total
CT					1		1
IL			1		1	1	3
Mass.				1			1
MI					2		2
MN						2	2
NY			1		5	1	7
US Cav.		1					1
USMC					1		1
US Vol.				1		1	2
USN	4		3	1	3		12
VT			1			2	3
WI						1	1
Total	4	1	6	3	12	8	38



Down Under So Far From Home

One of the challenges associated with chasing down the graves of Civil War veterans from Atlantic Canada, is dealing with much of the “official information”, such as deserters. The question becomes, when is a man a deserter and when is he not?

So much of the data available to researchers is regurgitated data from some official report and a sprig of information where they may have ended up after desertion.

Fortunately honour is a gift a man gives himself and nobody can take it from him, only he can throw it away. True deserters often change their name and go into hiding, but the wrongfully accused often demand to have the record set straight. Such was the case of a New Brunswick River-man from Woodstock, Carleton Co.

His name was George Johnson Fairweather (1838 - 1908) who at the age of 23 enlisted in Company A, Maine 04th Infantry as a Private on 23 Dec 1863. No record of where he enlisted so it is entirely likely he was recruited in his hometown of Woodstock, not far from the Maine border with New Brunswick. As a member of the 4th Maine he saw plenty of action at 2nd Bull Run, the Peninsular Campaign, Battles of Fredericksburg, Yorktown, Williamsburg, White Oak Swamp, Charles City Crossroads and Malvern Hill.

He was ‘officially reported as a deserter on March 23, 1864 after he allegedly failed to report back to his unit, after being on furlough. The record seems to end there. In fact he had found his way into the 19th Maine Infantry by re-enlisting.

After his service to America ended, he found his way to New South Wales, Australia. He later applied for his pension and discovered he had been recorded as a deserter. He then set the record straight and had his name cleared and he was granted his pension.

George Fairweather lived out the rest of his life as a bachelor and a recluse living in a hut near Burrawang, Bowral, New South Wales, 117 kilometres south of Sydney. In August 1908, he collapsed and was brought to hospital by the local Police Constable where he died shortly thereafter alone.

For nearly eighty years he laid in an unmarked paupers grave, until two researchers, Roy Parker and Barry Crompton, working in the 1980’s and early 1990’s gathered enough data on him that, the United States Veteran’s Administration provided a headstone, which, was erected at the Bowral cemetery on June 13, 1992. Later Roy Parkers daughter, Mrs. Virginia Crocker published the results of their work in the 2000 volume, “Civil War Veterans in Australia”.

Andersonville

No other single community name from the Civil War strikes the same cord of revulsion than “Andersonville”.

This notorious prisoner of war camp has been the subject of books, movies and even a play (starring Canada’s own William Shatner). Its Commandant, the Swiss born Captain Henry Wirz (1823 - 1865) later became the only person in the Civil war to be tried, convicted and subsequently hanged for war crimes.

The camp was actually called Camp Sumter, and was built during the last months of the war and was originally intended to be a temporary holding camp for prisoner exchanges.

At its peak the camp held 32,000 Union prisoners, making it the fifth-largest city in the Confederate States of America.

The living conditions in the rectangular, open-air stockade encompassing 16-1/2 acres, was atrocious. An estimated 45,000 Union prisoners were incarcerated there during the camp's 14-month existence, of which, nearly 13,000 died from disease, dysentery, and malnutrition.

Many of those men who lay buried in the massive graveyard at Andersonville National Cemetery were from Atlantic Canada and include but are not limited to:

From New Brunswick: Morris L Moore (NB), William Ricker (St. Andrews), William John Sawyer (Miramichi) and John Stretch (St. David).

From Nova Scotia: John Burden (Pictou), John Carr (Halifax), William H. Condon (NS), Thomas Bryce Drysdale (Tatamagouche).

