

Tammany Hall Lodge No. 5 Civil War Incident

Compiled by R.'W.'. Gary L. Heinmiller
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Note: In the below accounts, there is a reference to both Maj. Gen Benjamin Franklin Butler and to Col. John Germond Butler. It appears that both were involved in the Tammany Hall Lodge No. 5 incident.

Blake, William E.,	(1Lt) 3rd NY Inf. Vols,	Excelsior Lodge No. 195, New York, NY
Butler, Benjamin Franklin,	(Maj. Gen)	Pentucket Lodge, Lowell, MA.
Butler, John G.,	(Col.) 147th Vols,	Central City Lodge No. 305, Syracuse, NY
Chase, Jackson H.,	(1Lt & QM) 3rd NY Inf. Vols.,	Masters Lodge No. 5, Albany, NY; Temple Lodge No. 14
Mulford, John Elmer,	(Lt. Col.) 3rd NY Inf. Vols,	Myrtle Lodge No. 131, Montour Falls, NY

Blake, William E., (1Lt) 3rd NY Inf. Vols, **Excelsior, 195**

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<http://c296220.r20.cf1.rackcdn.com/riteWorks0511.pdf>

During the peninsula campaign, the 3rd regiment of NY made up of **Lt. Col. John Mulford**, who was at the time WM of **Mystic [sic] [Myrtle] Lodge No. 131**, along with **Lt. William Blake** – SW of **Excelsior Lodge No. 195** in NY, discovered looters in front of Tammany Lodge No. 5 in VA. The Union officers found lodge furniture and records including the warrant of constitution from 1787 had been removed from the lodge building. These two Union officers took charge of these items and ended up shipping them to the Grand Lodge of MD asking them to protect these Masonic treasures. All items were later transferred back to the Grand Lodge of Virginia and returned to the local lodge.

<http://www.32masons.com/wp-content/documents/RiteRecorder-November2013.pdf>

Brother Benjamin Franklin Butler: Beast of New Orleans

Learn about this colorful character's impact on the Masonic side of the Civil War
by Nick Kurzynski, 32°

The year is 1861; the month, June; and the 3rd Regiment, New York Volunteers is encamped at Camp Hamilton, VA about one mile from a small village called Hampton and two miles from Fortress Monroe. The village had been deserted by its frightened populace, who left libraries, homes, meeting places, and businesses exposed to anyone who wanted to loot them. After the villagers deserted the town, a mob of former slaves descended on it, took whatever they needed for their survival, and destroyed what they did not want.

Brother **J. H. Chase** of the 3rd Regiment, New York Volunteers heard that there was a Masonic Hall in Hampton and, fearing for its safety, reported this to the commanding general, Brother and Maj. Gen. **Benjamin Franklin Butler**. Bro. Chase was ordered to proceed with sufficient force to the Masonic Hall and take charge of the Masonic property and report back to Maj. Gen. Butler. The detachment was commanded by Wor. Bro. **John Mulford**, Worshipful Master of **Mystic [sic] [Myrtle] Lodge No. 131** of New York and was accompanied by Bro. and Lt. **William E. Blake**, Senior Warden of **Excelsior Lodge No. 195** of New York.

Maj. Gen. Butler was an interesting figure. He was a member of Pentucket Lodge, Lowell, MA. During the first part of the war, Butler secured all of Maryland and Washington, D.C. for the Union. Butler declared all escaped slaves who made it into his area as "Contraband of War." These slaves were considered free and were not to be returned to their owners. His declaration of "Contraband of War" came a year before President Lincoln declared the slaves free in his great Emancipation Proclamation speech. President Lincoln thought very highly of Butler and promoted him to be the first Major General of the Volunteers. Butler served also in the south in New Orleans, where he was the military governor. After the city was captured, Butler ordered the implementation of harsh regulations to control the civilians and, due to his treatment of the civilians, he was given the moniker, "Beast of New Orleans." His treatment of the civilians is still remembered today.

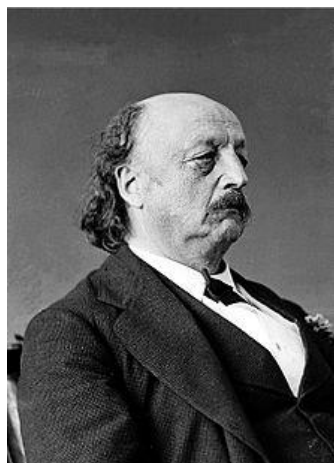
In Hampton, VA, Bro. Butler's detachment of the New York Volunteers found the hall where St. Tammany Lodge No. 5 met. Most of the furniture and regalia was found, along with records and warrants. One warrant was dated 1787. The jewels are in the possession of the Lodge today. Bro. Chase kept these furnishings in his possession, hoping to return them to Richmond, VA, when he had the opportunity. But due to the war, Bro. Chase was not able to reach Richmond, so he had to transfer everything to M.W.B. John S. Berry, Grand Master of Maryland. These furnishings, regalia, warrants, and records were brought to and stored at a Lodge in Baltimore, MD. They were eventually shipped to the Grand Lodge of Virginia with this statement included in Bro. Chase's letter to the Grand Master of Maryland: "When this property shall be returned to our Brethren in Virginia, please convey them our fraternal regards, and say although we come in the defense of our rights, as we honestly believe, still we come not to wage war upon an order expressly founded to inculcate the exercise of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth."

The furniture of the Lodge, which Bro. Chase had saved for the Brothers of St. Tammany Lodge, consisted of items of ritual significance: the bible, square, and compasses. A Masonic meeting cannot begin without these items. Masonic regalia also included chairs, podiums, and additional equipment used in degree work, such as a sword. The Lodge warrant or charter would be of great concern to any Mason. Without this charter, a Masonic Lodge would not be able to function and bring new members into the fold. Masonic soldiers finding these warrants or charters, often printed on vellum or sheepskin, in destroyed Masonic halls would go to great lengths to ensure their rightful return.

St. Tammany Lodge No. 5 is still in existence in Hampton, VA, although Hampton was burned in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. A Lodge in Hampton was traced through Scottish records to the date of March 9, 1756, when the Grand Lodge of Scotland issued a warrant for a Lodge to begin in the Colony of Virginia. There was also a Lodge that was warranted in Hampton on February 26, 1759 by the Grand Lodge of England. The earlier Lodge became dormant, and it has not been determined whether there was any connection between the Scottish and English warranted Lodges. The name of St. Tammany came into use under the English warrant. The name Tammany is thought to have originated from the chief of the Delaware Indians

BLAKE, WILLIAM E.—Age, 31 years. Enrolled [3rd NY Inf. Vols.], April 25, 1861, at Albany; mustered in as first lieutenant, Co. I, May 14, 1861, to serve two years; appointed adjutant, November 6, 1861; resigned, October 11, 1862; commissioned first lieutenant, July 4, 1861, with rank from May 2, 1861, original; first lieutenant and adjutant, with rank from October 3, 1861, vice Moore, promoted.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Butler



Benjamin Franklin Butler (November 5, 1818 – January 11, 1893) was a [major general](#) of the [Union Army](#), politician, lawyer and businessman from [Massachusetts](#). Born in [New Hampshire](#) and raised in [Lowell, Massachusetts](#), Butler is best known as a [political](#) major general of the Union Army during the [American Civil War](#), and for his leadership role in [the impeachment](#) of [U.S. President Andrew Johnson](#). He was a colorful and often controversial figure on the national stage and in the Massachusetts political scene and ran several campaigns for [Governor](#) before his election to that office in [1882](#).

Butler, a successful trial lawyer, served in the [Massachusetts legislature](#) as an antiwar [Democrat](#) and as an officer in the [state militia](#). Early in the Civil War he joined the Union Army, where he was noted for his lack of military skill, and his controversial command of [New Orleans](#), which brought him wide dislike in the South and the "Beast" epithet. He helped create the legal idea of effectively freeing fugitive slaves by designating them as [contraband of war](#) in service of military objectives, which led to a political groundswell in the North which included general [emancipation](#) and the end of slavery as official war goals. His commands were marred by financial and logistical dealings across enemy lines, some of which probably took place with his knowledge and to his financial benefit.

Butler was dismissed from the Union Army after his failures in the [First Battle of Fort Fisher](#), but soon won election to the [United States House of Representatives](#) from Massachusetts. As a [Radical Republican](#) he opposed President Johnson's [Reconstruction](#) agenda, and was the House's lead manager in the Johnson impeachment proceedings. As Chairman of the House Committee on Reconstruction, Butler authored the [Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871](#) and coauthored the landmark [Civil Rights Act of 1875](#).

In Massachusetts, Butler was often at odds with more conservative members of the political establishment over matters of both style and substance. Feuds with Republican politicians led to his being denied several nominations for the governorship between 1858 and 1880. Returning to the Democratic fold, he won the governorship in the 1882 election with Democratic and [Greenback Party](#) support. He ran for president on the Greenback ticket in [1884](#).

Benjamin Franklin Butler was born in [Deerfield, New Hampshire](#), the sixth and youngest child of John Butler and Charlotte Ellison Butler. His father served under General [Andrew Jackson](#) at the [Battle of New Orleans](#) during the [War of 1812](#) and later became a [privateer](#), dying of [yellow fever](#) in the [West Indies](#) not long after Benjamin was born.^[1] He was named after [Founding Father Benjamin Franklin](#). His elder brother, Andrew Jackson Butler (1815–1864), would serve as a colonel in the Union Army during the Civil War and joined him in New Orleans.^[2] Butler's mother was a devout [Baptist](#) who encouraged him to read the Bible and prepare for the ministry.^[1] In 1827, at the age of nine, Butler was awarded a scholarship to [Phillips Exeter Academy](#), where he spent one term. He was described by a schoolmate as "a reckless, impetuous, headstrong, boy", and regularly got into fights.^[3]

Butler's mother moved the family in 1828 to [Lowell, Massachusetts](#), where she operated a [boarding house](#) for workers at the [textile mills](#). He attended the public schools there, from which he was almost expelled for fighting, the principal describing him as a boy who "might be led, but could not be driven."^[4] He attended Waterville (now [Colby](#)) College in pursuit of his mother's wish that he prepare for the ministry, but eventually rebelled against the idea. In 1836, Butler sought permission to go instead to [West Point](#) for a military education, but did not receive one of the few places available. He continued his studies at Waterville, where he sharpened his rhetorical skills in theological discussions, and began to adopt [Democratic](#) political views. He graduated in August 1838.^[5] Butler returned to Lowell, where he clerked and read law as an apprentice with a local lawyer. He was [admitted to the Massachusetts bar](#) in 1840, and opened a practice in Lowell.^[6]

After an extended courtship, Butler married [Sarah Hildreth](#), a stage actress and daughter of Dr. [Israel Hildreth](#) of Lowell, on May 16, 1844. They had four children: Paul (1845–1850), [Blanche](#) (1847–1939), Paul (1852–1918) and Ben-Israel (1855–1881).^[7] Butler's business partners included Sarah's brother Fisher, and her brother-in-law, W. P. Webster.^[8]

Law and early business dealings

Butler quickly gained a reputation as a dogged criminal defense lawyer who seized on every misstep of his opposition to gain victories for his clients, and also became a specialist in [bankruptcy law](#).^[6] His trial work was so successful that it received regular press coverage, and he was able to expand his practice into [Boston](#).^[9]

Butler's success as a lawyer enabled him to purchase shares in Lowell's Middlesex Mill Company when they were cheap.^[10] Although he generally represented workers in legal actions, he also sometimes represented mill owners. This adoption of both sides of an issue manifested when he became more politically active. He first attracted general attention by advocating the passage of a law establishing a [ten-hour day](#) for laborers,^[11] but he also opposed [labor strikes](#) over the matter. He instituted a ten-hour work day at the Middlesex Mills.^[12]

Entry into politics

During the debates over the ten-hour day a [Whig](#)-supporting Lowell newspaper published a verse suggesting that Butler's father had been hanged for [piracy](#). Butler sued the paper's editor and publisher for that and other allegations that had been printed about himself. The editor was convicted and fined \$50, but the publisher was acquitted on a technicality. Butler blamed the Whig judge, [Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar](#), for the acquittal, inaugurating a feud between the two that would last for decades and significantly color Butler's reputation in the state.^[13]

Butler, as a Democrat, supported the [Compromise of 1850](#) and regularly spoke out against the [abolition of slavery](#). However, at the state level, he supported the coalition of Democrats and [Free Soilers](#) that elected [George S. Boutwell](#) governor in 1851. This garnered him enough support to win election to the [state legislature](#) in 1852.^[12] His support for [Franklin Pierce](#) as president, however, cost him the seat the next year. He was elected a delegate to the [1853 state constitutional convention](#) with strong Catholic support, and was elected to the [state senate](#) in 1858, a year dominated by [Republican](#) victories in the state.^[14] Butler was nominated for governor in 1859 and ran on a pro-slavery, pro-tariff platform; he narrowly lost to incumbent Republican [Nathaniel Prentice Banks](#).^{[10][15]}

In the [1860 Democratic National Convention](#) at [Charleston, South Carolina](#), Butler initially supported [John C. Breckinridge](#) for president, but then shifted his support to [Jefferson Davis](#), believing that only a moderate Southerner could keep the Democratic party from dividing. A conversation he had with Davis prior to the convention convinced him that Davis might be such a man, and he gave him his support before the convention split over slavery.^[16] Butler ended up supporting Breckinridge over Douglas against state party instructions, ruining his standing with the state party apparatus. He was nominated for governor in the 1860 election by a Breckinridge splinter of the state party, but trailed far behind other candidates.^[17]

Civil War

Although he sympathized with the South, Butler stated "I was always a friend of southern rights but an enemy of southern wrongs" and sought to serve in the Union Army.^[18] His military career before the Civil War began as a private in the Lowell militia in 1840.^[19] Butler eventually rose to become colonel of a regiment of primarily [Irish American](#) men. In 1855, the nativist [Know Nothing](#) Governor [Henry J. Gardner](#) disbanded Butler's militia, but Butler was elected [brigadier general](#) after the militia was reorganized. In 1857 [Secretary of War](#) Jefferson Davis appointed him to the Board of Visitors of [West Point](#).^[20] These positions did not give him any significant military experience.^[21]

1860

After [Abraham Lincoln](#) was elected president in November 1860, Butler traveled to [Washington, D.C.](#) When a secessionist South Carolina delegation arrived there he recommended to lame-duck President [James Buchanan](#) that they be arrested and charged with treason. Buchanan refused the idea. Butler also met with Jefferson Davis and learned that he was not the Union man that Butler had previously thought he was. Butler then returned to Massachusetts,^[22] where he warned Governor [John A. Andrew](#) that hostilities were likely and that the state militia should be readied. He took advantage of the mobilization to secure a contract with the state for his mill to supply heavy cloth to the militia. Military contracts would constitute a significant source of profits for Butler's mill throughout the war.^[23]

Petitioning for military leadership appointment

Butler also worked to secure a leadership position should the militia be deployed. He first offered his services to Governor Andrew in March 1861.^[23] When the call for militia finally arrived in April, Massachusetts was asked for only three regiments, but Butler managed to have the request expanded to include a brigadier general. He telegraphed [Secretary of War Simon Cameron](#), with whom he was acquainted, suggesting that Cameron issue a request for a brigadier and general staff from Massachusetts, which soon afterward appeared on Governor Andrew's desk. He then used banking contacts to ensure that loans that would be needed to fund the militia operations would be conditioned on his appointment. Despite Andrew's desire to assign the brigadier position to [Ebenezer Peirce](#), the bank insisted on Butler, and he was sent south to ensure the security of transportation routes to Washington.^{[24][25]} The nation's capital was threatened with isolation from free states because it was unclear whether [Maryland](#), a slave state, would also secede.^[26]



Engraving depicting the [Baltimore riot of 1861](#)

1861: Baltimore and Virginia operations

The two regiments Massachusetts sent to Maryland were the [6th](#) and [8th](#) Volunteer Militia. The 6th departed first and was caught up in [a secessionist riot in Baltimore, Maryland](#) on April 19. Butler traveled with the 8th, which left [Philadelphia](#) the next day amid news that railroad connections around Baltimore were being severed.^[27] Butler and the 8th traveled by rail and ferry to Maryland's capital, [Annapolis](#), where Governor [Thomas H. Hicks](#) attempted to dissuade them from landing.^[28] Butler landed his troops (which needed food and water), occupying the [Naval Academy](#). When Hicks informed Butler that no one would sell provisions to his force, Butler pointed out that armed men did not necessarily have to pay for needed provisions, and he would use all measures necessary to ensure order.^[29]

After being joined by the [7th New York Militia](#), Butler directed his men to restore rail service between Annapolis and Washington via [Annapolis Junction](#),^[30] which was accomplished by April 27. He also threatened Maryland legislators with arrest if they voted in favor of secession and eventually seized the [Great Seal of Maryland](#). Butler's prompt actions in securing Annapolis were received with approval by the US Army's top general, [Winfield Scott](#), and he was given formal orders to maintain the security of the transit links in Maryland.^[31] In early May, Scott ordered Butler to lead the operations that occupied Baltimore. On May 13 he entered Baltimore on a train with 1000 men and artillery, with no opposition.^[32] That was done in contravention to Butler's orders from Scott, which had been to organize four columns to approach the city by land and sea. General Scott criticized Butler for his strategy (despite its success) as well as his heavy-handed assumption of control of much of the civil government, and he recalled him to Washington.^[33] Butler shortly after received one of the early appointments as [major general](#) of the volunteer forces.^[26] His exploits in Maryland also brought nationwide press attention, including significant negative press in the South, which concocted stories about him that were conflations of biographical details involving not just Butler but also [a namesake from New York](#) and others.^[34]



Map of [Fort Monroe](#), 1862

Fort Monroe, Virginia

When two Massachusetts regiments had been sent overland to Maryland, two more were dispatched by sea under Butler's command to secure [Fort Monroe](#) at the mouth of the [James River](#).^[26] After being dressed down by Scott for overstepping his authority, Butler was next assigned command of Fort Monroe and of the [Department of Virginia](#).^[35] On May 27, Butler sent a force 8 miles (13 km) north to occupy the lightly defended adjacent town of [Newport News, Virginia](#) at Newport News Point, an excellent anchorage for the [Union Navy](#). The force established and significantly fortified Camp Butler and a battery at Newport News Point that could cover the entrance to the James River ship canal and the mouth of the [Nansemond River](#). Butler also expanded Camp Hamilton, established in the adjacent town of [Hampton, Virginia](#), just beyond the confines of the fort and within the range of its guns.^[36]

The Union occupation of Fort Monroe was considered a potential threat on [Richmond](#) by Confederate General [Robert E. Lee](#), and he began organizing the defense of the [Virginia Peninsula](#) in response.^[37] Confederate General [John B. Magruder](#), seeking to buy time while awaiting men and supplies, established well-defended forward outposts near Big and Little Bethel, only 8 miles (13 km) from Butler's camp at Newport News as a lure to draw his opponent into a premature action.^[38] Butler took the bait, and suffered an embarrassing defeat in the [Battle of Big Bethel](#) on June 10. Butler devised a plan for a night march and operation against the positions but chose not to lead the force in person for which he was later criticized.^[39] The plan proved too complex for his inadequately trained subordinates and troops to carry out, especially at night, and was further marred by the failure of staff to communicate all passwords and precautions. A [friendly fire](#) incident during the night gave away the Union position, which was further harmed the advance without knowledge of the layout or the strength of the Confederate positions.^[40] Massachusetts militia general Ebenezer Peirce, who commanded in the field, received the most criticism for the failed operation.^[41] With the withdrawal of many of his men for use elsewhere, Butler was unable to maintain the camp at Hampton although his forces retained the camp at Newport News.^[42] Butler's commission, which required approval from Congress, was vigorously debated after Big Bethel, with critical comment raised about his lack of military experience. His commission was narrowly approved on July 21, the day of the [First Battle of Bull Run](#), the war's first large-scale battle.^[43] The battle's poor Union outcome was used as cover by General Scott to reduce Butler's force to one incapable of substantive offense, and it was implicit in Scott's orders that the troops were needed nearer to Washington.^[44]



Contemporary drawing of military movements in the [Battle of Big Bethel](#), by [Alfred Waud](#)

In August, Butler commanded an expeditionary force that, in conjunction with the [United States Navy](#), took [Forts Hatteras and Clark](#) in [North Carolina](#). That move, the first significant Union victory after First Bull Run, was lauded in Washington and won Butler accolades from President Lincoln. Butler was thereafter sent back to Massachusetts to raise new forces.^[45] That thrust Butler into a power struggle with Governor Andrew, who insisted on maintaining his authority to appoint regimental officers, refusing to commission (among others) Butler's brother Andrew and several of the general's close associates. The spat instigated a recruiting war between Butler and the state militia organization.^[46] The dispute delayed Butler's return to Virginia, but he was in November instead assigned to command of ground troops for operations in [Louisiana](#).^[47]

While in command at Fort Monroe, Butler declined to return to their owners [fugitive slaves](#) who had come within his lines. He argued that Virginians considered them to be [chattel property](#), and that they could not appeal to the [Fugitive Slave Law of 1850](#) because of Virginia's secession. Furthermore, slaves used as laborers for building fortifications and other military activities could be considered [contraband](#) of war.^{[48][49]} It was later made standard Union Army policy to not return fugitive slaves.^[50] This policy was soon extended to the Union Navy.^[51]

New Orleans



Butler directed the first Union expedition to [Ship Island](#), off the [Mississippi](#) Gulf Coast, in December 1861,^[52] and in May 1862 commanded the force that conducted the [capture of New Orleans](#) after its occupation by the Navy following the [Battle of Forts Jackson and St. Philip](#). In the administration of that city he showed great firmness and political subtlety. He devised a plan for relief of the poor, demanded oaths of allegiance from anyone who sought any privilege from government, and confiscated weapons.^[18]

However, Butler's subtlety seemed to fail him as the military governor of [New Orleans](#) when it came to dealing with its [Jewish](#) population, about which the general, referring to local smugglers, infamously wrote, in October 1862: "They are Jews who betrayed their [Savior](#), & also have betrayed us." Butler was considered "notorious for his [anti-Semitism](#)."^[53]

Public health management

In an ordinary year, it was not unusual for as much as 10 percent of the city's population to die of [yellow fever](#). In preparation, Butler imposed strict quarantines and introduced a rigid program of garbage disposal. As a result, in 1862, only two cases were reported.^[54]

Portrait of Butler in his Union Army uniform, Brady-Handy 1862–1865 >

Civil administration difficulties

Many of his acts, however, were highly unpopular. Most notorious was [Butler's General Order No. 28](#) of May 15, 1862, that if any woman should insult or show contempt for any officer or soldier of the [United States](#), she shall be regarded and shall be held liable to be treated as a "woman of the town plying her avocation," i.e., a [prostitute](#). This was in response to various and widespread acts of overt verbal and physical abuse from the women of New Orleans, including cursing at and spitting on Union soldiers and pouring out [chamber pots](#) on their heads from upstairs windows when they passed in the street (with Admiral [David Farragut](#) being perhaps the most notable victim of a chamberpot attack).

There was no overt sexual connotation in Butler's order, but its effect was to revoke the protected status held by women under the social mores of the time, which mandated that any "respectable" woman (i.e., a non-prostitute) be treated with the extra degree of respect due a lady, regardless of her own provocations.^[18] Under General Order 28, however, if a woman showed any form of insult or contempt towards a Union soldier (even so much as turning her back when he approached or refusing to answer his questions), the usual social standards no longer applied, and she could be retaliated against (either verbally or physically) as if she were a common prostitute. The order produced the desired effect, as few women proved willing to risk retaliation simply to protest the Union presence;^[18] but it was seen as extremely draconian by everyone except the Union soldiers in New Orleans, and provoked general outrage in the [South](#), as well as abroad, particularly in [England](#) and [France](#).

He was nicknamed "Beast Butler" or alternatively "Spoons Butler," the latter nickname deriving primarily from an incident in which Butler seized a 38-piece set of [silverware](#) from a New Orleans woman attempting to cross the Union lines.^[55] Although the woman's pass permitted her to carry nothing but clothing on her person (making her carriage of the silverware illegal), the single set of silverware would have normally been considered protected personal valuables, and Butler's insistence on prosecuting the woman as a smuggler and seizing the silverware as wartime [contraband](#) under his dictate of confiscating all property of those "aiding the Confederacy" provoked angry jeers from white residents of New Orleans and the much-repeated perception that he used his power to engage in the petty [looting](#) of the household valuables of New Orleanians.^[18]

Cotton seizures

Shortly after the [Confiscation Act of 1862](#) became effective in September, Butler increasingly relied upon it as a means of grabbing cotton. Since the Act permitted confiscation of property owned by anyone "aiding the Confederacy," Butler reversed his earlier policy of encouraging trade by refusing to confiscate cotton brought into New Orleans for sale. Firstly, he conducted a census in which 4,000 respondents failing to pledge loyalty to the Union were banished. Their property was seized and sold at low auction prices in which Andrew was often the prime buyer. Next, the general sent expeditions into the countryside with no military purpose other than to confiscate cotton from residents who were assumed to be disloyal. Once brought into New Orleans, the cotton would be similarly sold in rigged auctions. To maintain correct appearances, auction proceeds were dutifully held for the benefit of "just claimants", but the Butler consortium still ended up owning the cotton at bargain prices. Always inventive of new terminology to achieve his ends, Butler sequestered, or made vulnerable to confiscation, such "properties" in all of Louisiana beyond parishes surrounding New Orleans.^[56]

Censorship of newspapers

Butler censored New Orleans [newspapers](#). When William Seymour, the editor of the [New-Orleans Commercial Bulletin](#), asked Butler what would happen if the newspaper ignored his censorship, an angry Butler reportedly stated, "I am the military governor of this state — the supreme power — you cannot disregard my order, Sir. By God, he that sins against me, sins against the Holy Ghost." When Seymour published a favorable obituary of his father, who had been killed serving in the Confederate army in Virginia, Butler confiscated the newspaper and imprisoned Seymour for three months.^[18]

Butler closed *The Picayune* when it ran an editorial that he found offensive. Historian [John D. Winters](#) wrote that most of the newspapers "were allowed to reopen later but were so rigidly controlled that all color and interest were drained away" and that churches that planned a special day of prayer and [fasting](#) for the Confederacy were forbidden from doing so. Several clergymen were placed under arrest for refusing to pray for President Lincoln. The [Episcopal](#) churches were closed, and their three ministers were sent to [New York City](#) under military escort.^[57]

Execution of William Mumford

On June 7, 1862, Butler ordered the execution of [William B. Mumford](#) for tearing down a [United States flag](#) placed by Admiral Farragut on the [United States Mint in New Orleans](#). In his memoirs, Butler maintained that Mumford had assembled a party of men,

torn down the flag, dragged it through the streets and then trampled and spat on it and then ripped it into pieces and that Mumford distributed the remnants among members of the party who wore it as if it were a badge of honor, all of which was against the laws of war.^[58] Before Mumford was executed, Butler permitted him to make a speech for as long as he wished, and Mumford defended his actions by claiming that he was acting out of a high sense of patriotism.^[59] Most, including Mumford and his family, expected Butler to pardon him. The general refused to do so, but promised to care for his family if necessary. (After the war, Butler fulfilled his promise by paying off a mortgage on Mumford's widow's house and helping her find government employment.) For the execution and General Order No. 28, he was denounced (December 1862) by [Confederate President Jefferson Davis](#) in General Order 111 as a [felon](#) deserving [capital punishment](#), who, if captured, should be reserved for execution.^[60]

Actions against foreign consuls

Butler also took aim at foreign consuls in New Orleans. He ordered the seizure of \$800,000 that had been deposited in the office of the [Dutch consul](#), imprisoned the French [champagne](#) magnate [Charles Heidsieck](#), and took particular aim at George Coppel of Great Britain, whom he suspended for refusal to cooperate with the Union. Instead, Butler accused Coppel of giving aid to the Confederate cause.

[U.S. Secretary of State William Henry Seward](#) sent [Reverdy Johnson](#) to New Orleans to investigate complaints of foreign consuls against certain Butler policies. Even when told by President Lincoln to restore a sugar shipment claimed by Europeans, Butler undermined the order. He also imposed a strict [quarantine](#) to protect against [yellow fever](#), which had the added impact of delaying foreign commerce and bringing complaints to his headquarters from most foreign consuls.^[61]

Handling of escaped slaves

With the Union occupation, runaway slaves and slaves from abandoned plantations arrived in large numbers in New Orleans. The unattached people had to be fed and housed. A Union officer complained of "a big problem" with the new arrivals. John D. Winters wrote, "Soldiers resented the fact that the pampered Negro was given better tents, equal rations, and was allowed to tear down more fences for sleeping boards than were the soldiers. General [Phelps](#) [an abolitionist] had organized a few squads of Negroes and drilled them daily.... Not knowing what to do with so many Negroes, Butler at first returned the runaway slaves to their masters. But still the contrabands came. Some of them were employed as cooks, nurses, washwomen, and laborers.... [Finally] Butler ordered... the exclusion of all unemployed Negroes and whites from his lines."^[62]

Recall

Although Butler's governance of New Orleans was popular in the North, where it was seen as a successful stand against recalcitrant secessionists, some of his actions, notably those against the foreign consuls, concerned Lincoln, who authorized his recall in December 1862.^[63] Butler was replaced by [Nathaniel P. Banks](#).^[64] The necessity of taking sometimes radical actions and the support he received in [Radical Republican](#) circles drove Butler to change political allegiance, and he joined the [Republican Party](#). He also sought revenge against the more moderate Secretary of State Seward, whom he believed to be responsible for his eventual recall.^[65]

Butler continues to be a disliked and controversial figure in New Orleans and the rest of the South.^[66]

Army of the James

Butler's popularity with the radicals meant that Lincoln could not readily deny him a new posting. Lincoln considered sending him to position in the [Mississippi River](#) area in early 1863, and categorically refused to send him back to New Orleans.^[67] He finally gave Butler command of the [Department of Virginia and North Carolina](#) in November 1863, based in [Norfolk, Virginia](#). In January 1864, Butler played a pivotal role in the creation of six regiments of U.S. Volunteers recruited from among Confederate prisoners of war ("[Galvanized Yankees](#)") for duty on the western frontier.^[68] In May, the forces under his command were designated the [Army of the James](#). On November 4, 1864, while in command of the Army of the James, Butler arrived in New York City with 3,500 troops. Secretary of War [Edwin Stanton](#) had ordered the troops there to prevent disorder on Election Day, November 8,^[69] and because of fear of Confederates coming from Canada to burn the city on Election Day. "Even though he knew nothing about the plot [to burn the city] and did nothing to prevent it, Butler's mere presence with his 3,500 troops" demoralized the leaders of the conspiracy, who postponed it until November 25, when it failed.^[70]

United States Colored Troops

On September 27, 1862, Butler formed the first African American regiment in the US Army, the [1st Louisiana Native Guard](#), and commissioned 30 officers to command it at the company level. This was highly unusual, as most USCT regiments were commanded by white officers only. "Better soldiers never shouldered a musket," Butler wrote, "I observed a very remarkable trait about them. They learned to handle arms and to march more easily than intelligent white men. My drillmaster could teach a regiment of Negroes that much of the art of war sooner than he could have taught the same number of students from Harvard or Yale." The regiment would serve Butler effectively during the [Siege of Port Hudson](#).^[71]

General Butler also commanded a number of United States Colored Troops regiments which he deployed in combat during the [Battle of Chaffin's Farm](#) (sometimes also called the Battle of New Market Heights). The troops performed extremely well, and in the case of the [38th United States Colored Troops](#) regiment, who had overcome overwhelming fire, heavy casualties and thick physical obstacles to overwhelm a more powerful force, he awarded a number of men the [Medal of Honor](#). He also ordered a special medal designed and struck and awarded to 200 African-American soldiers who had served with distinction in the engagement. This was later called the [Butler Medal](#).

Petersburg assault

[Ulysses S. Grant](#), who did not think highly of Butler's military skills, ordered him to attack in the direction of [Petersburg](#) from the east, destroying the rail links supplying [Richmond](#) and distracting [Robert E. Lee](#), in conjunction with attacks Grant would make from the north. Although Petersburg at this time was lightly defended and Butler could have occupied it with little difficulty, he hesitated and allowed a greatly inferior Confederate force under General [Pierre G.T. Beauregard](#) to box up the Army of the James on the Bermuda Hundred Peninsula. As a result, the Army of Northern Virginia arrived and dug in around Petersburg, resulting in an eight-month siege of the city. However, it was his mismanagement of the expedition against [Fort Fisher](#), [North Carolina](#), that finally led to his recall by General Grant. Butler devised a scheme to sail a boat filled with gunpowder up to the fort and detonate it, breaching its defenses, after which infantry would land ashore and storm the place. The plan went completely awry when the boat exploded prematurely in the harbor outside Ft. Fisher, doing no damage whatsoever and was barely even noticed by the Confederate troops manning the fort. Butler landed his infantry ashore, then gave up, recalled them, and reported back that Ft. Fisher was impossible to capture. Afterwards, Admiral [David Dixon Porter](#) informed Grant that it could be taken easily if anyone competent were put in charge.

Fort Fisher and final recall

Although Grant had largely been successful in removing incompetent political generals from service, Butler proved to be one such officer that could not be easily gotten rid of.^[72] As a prominent Radical Republican, Butler was also under consideration as a possible opponent of Lincoln in that year's election,^[73] and Lincoln had asked Butler to serve as his vice president in early 1864.^[72] After the election, however, Grant wrote to Secretary of War [Edwin M. Stanton](#) in early 1865 asking free rein to relieve Butler from military service. Since Stanton was traveling outside Washington, D.C., at the time,^[72] Grant appealed directly to Lincoln for permission to terminate Butler, noting "there is a lack of confidence felt in [Butler's] military ability".^[74] In General Order Number 1, Lincoln relieved Butler from command of the Department of North Carolina and Virginia and ordered him to report to Lowell, Massachusetts.^[72]

Grant informed Butler of his recall on January 8, 1865, and named Major General [Edward O. C. Ord](#) to replace him as commander of the Army of the James.^[72] Rather than report to Lowell, Butler went to Washington, where he used his considerable political connections to get a hearing before the [Joint Congressional Committee on the Conduct of the War](#) in mid-January. At his hearing Butler focused his defense on his actions at Fort Fisher. He produced charts and duplicates of reports by subordinates to prove he had been right to call off his attack of Fort Fisher, despite orders from General Grant to the contrary. Butler claimed the fort was impregnable. To his embarrassment, a follow-up expedition led by Maj. Gen. [Alfred H. Terry](#) and Brig. Gen. [Adelbert Ames](#) (Butler's future son-in-law) [captured the fort](#) on January 15, and news of this victory arrived during the committee hearing; Butler's military career was over.^[72] He was formally retained until November 1865 with the idea that he might act as military prosecutor of Confederate President Jefferson Davis.^[75]

Financial dealings

Negative perceptions of Butler were compounded by his questionable financial dealings in several of his commands, as well as the activities of his brother Andrew, who acted as Butler's financial proxy and was given "almost free rein" to engage in exploitative business deals and other "questionable activities" in New Orleans.^[18] Upon arriving in the city, Butler immediately began attempts to participate in the lucrative inter-belligerent trade. He used a Federal warship to send \$60,000 in sugar to Boston where he expected to sell it for \$160,000. However, his use of the government ship was reported to the military authorities, and Butler was chastised. Instead of earning a profit, military authorities permitted him to recover only his \$60,000 plus expenses. Thereafter, his brother Andrew officially represented the family in such activities. Everyone in New Orleans believed that Andrew accumulated a profit of \$1–\$2 million while in Louisiana. Upon inquiry from Treasury Secretary Chase in October 1862, the general responded that his brother actually cleared less than \$200,000.^[76] When Butler was replaced in New Orleans by Major General Nathaniel Banks, Andrew Butler unsuccessfully tried to bribe Banks with \$100,000 if Banks would permit Andrew's "commercial program" to be carried out "as previous to [Banks's] arrival".^[77]

Butler's administration of the Norfolk district was also tainted by financial scandal and cross-lines business dealings. Historian Ludwell Johnson concluded that during that period: "... there can be no doubt that a very extensive trade with the Confederacy was carried on in [Butler's Norfolk] Department.... This trade was extremely profitable for Northern merchants ... and was a significant help to the Confederacy.... It was conducted with Butler's help and a considerable part of it was in the hands of his relatives and supporters." ^[78]

Shortly after arriving in Norfolk, Butler became surrounded by such men. Foremost among them was Brigadier General [George Shepley](#), who had been military governor of Louisiana. Butler invited Shepley to join him and "take care of Norfolk." After his arrival, Shepley was empowered to issue military permits allowing goods to be transported through the lines. He designated subordinate George Johnston to manage the task. In fall 1864, Johnston was charged with corruption. However, instead of being prosecuted, he was allowed to resign after saying he could show "that General Butler was a partner in all [the controversial] transactions," along with the general's brother-in-law Fisher Hildreth. Shortly thereafter, Johnston managed a thriving between-the-lines trade depot in eastern North Carolina. There is no doubt that Butler was aware of Shepley's trading activities. His own chief of staff complained about them and spoke of businessmen who "owned" Shepley. Butler took no action.^[79]

Much of the Butler-managed Norfolk trade was via the Dismal Swamp Canal to six northeastern counties in North Carolina separated from the rest of the state by [Albemarle Sound](#) and the [Chowan River](#). Although cotton was not a major crop, area farmers purchased bales from the Confederate government and took them through the lines where they would be traded for "family supplies." Generally, the Southerners returned with salt, sugar, cash, and miscellaneous supplies. They used the salt to preserve butchered pork, which they sold to the Confederate commissary. After Atlantic-blockaded ports such as Charleston and Wilmington were captured, this route supplied about ten thousand pounds of bacon, sugar, coffee, and codfish daily to Lee's army. Ironically, Grant was trying to cut off Lee's supplies from the Confederacy when Lee's provender was almost entirely furnished from Yankee sources through Butler-controlled Norfolk.^[80] Grant wrote of the issue, "Whilst the army was holding Lee in Richmond and

Petersburg, I found ... [Lee] ... was receiving supplies, either through the inefficiency or permission of [an] officer selected by General Butler ... from Norfolk through the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal."^[81]

Butler's replacement, Major General [George H. Gordon](#), was appalled at the nature of the ongoing trade. Reports were circulating that \$100,000 of goods daily left Norfolk for Rebel armies. Grant instructed Gordon to investigate the prior trading practices at Norfolk, after which Gordon released a sixty-page indictment of Butler and his cohorts. It concluded that Butler associates, such as Hildreth and Shepley, were responsible for supplies from Butler's district pouring "directly into the departments of the Rebel Commissary and Quartermaster." Some Butler associates sold permits for cross-line trafficking for a fee.^[82] Gordon's report received little publicity, because of the end of the war and Lincoln's assassination.^[83]

Postbellum career

At the urging of his wife, Butler actively sought another political position in the Lincoln administration, but this effort came to an end with Lincoln's assassination in April 1865.^[84] In March 1866, Butler argued in the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of the United States in *Ex parte Milligan*, in which the Court held, against the United States, that military commission trials could not replace civilian trials when courts were open and where there was no war. Butler then turned his eyes to Congress and was elected in 1866 on a platform of civil rights and opposition to President [Andrew Johnson](#)'s weak [Reconstruction](#) policies. He supported a variety of populist or social reform positions, including [women's suffrage](#), an eight-hour workday for federal employees, and the issuance of [greenback currency](#).^[85]



Congressman

Butler served four terms (1867–75) before losing reelection, and was then once again elected in 1876 for a single term. As a former Democrat, he was initially opposed by the state Republican establishment, which was particularly unhappy with his support of women's suffrage and greenbacks. The more conservative party organization closed ranks against him to deny two attempts (in 1871 and 1873) to gain the Republican nomination for [Governor of Massachusetts](#).^[86] In 1874, hostile Republicans led by Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar succeeded in denying him renomination for his Congressional seat.^[87]

In 1868, Butler was selected to be one of the managers of the [impeachment of President Johnson](#) before the [Senate](#).^{[88][89]} Although [Thaddeus Stevens](#) was the principal guiding force behind the impeachment effort, he was aging and ill at the time, and Butler stepped in to become the main organizing force in the prosecution. The case was focused primarily on Johnson's removal of [Secretary of War Edwin Stanton](#) in violation of the [Tenure of Office Act](#), and was weak because the constitutionality of the law had not been decided. The trial was a somewhat uncomfortable affair, in part because the weather was hot and humid, and the chamber was packed. The prosecution's case was a humdrum recitation of facts already widely known, and it was attacked by the defense's [William Evarts](#), who drowned the proceedings by repeatedly objecting to Butler's questions, often necessitating a vote by the Senate on whether or not to allow the question. Johnson's defense focused on the point that his removal of Stanton fell within the bounds of the Tenure of Office Act. Despite some missteps by the defense, and Butler's vigorous cross-examination of defense witnesses, the impeachment failed by a single vote. In the interval between the trial and the Senate vote, Butler searched without success for substantive evidence that Johnson operatives were working to bribe undecided Senators.^[90] After acquittal on the first article voted on,^[91] Senate Republicans voted to adjourn for ten days, seeking time to possibly change the outcome on the remaining articles. During this time, Butler established a House committee to investigate the possibility that four of the seven Republican Senators who voted for acquittal had been improperly influenced in their votes. He uncovered some evidence that promises of patronage had been made and that money may have changed hands but was unable to decisively link these actions to any specific Senator.^[92]

[Harper's Weekly](#) illustration by [Thomas Nast](#) in 1874 with helpless baby "Boston"

Butler wrote the initial version of the [Civil Rights Act of 1871](#) (also known as the Ku Klux Klan Act). After his bill was defeated, Representative [Samuel Shellabarger](#) of Ohio drafted another bill, only slightly less sweeping than Butler's, that successfully passed

both houses and became law upon Grant's signature on April 20.^{[89][93]} Along with Republican Senator [Charles Sumner](#), Butler proposed the [Civil Rights Act of 1875](#), a seminal and far-reaching law banning racial discrimination in public accommodations.^[94] The [Supreme Court of the United States](#) declared the law unconstitutional in the 1883 [Civil Rights Cases](#).^[95]

Butler managed to rehabilitate his relationship with Ulysses Grant after the latter became president, to the point where he was seen as generally speaking for the president in the House. He annoyed Massachusetts old-guard Republicans by convincing Grant to nominate one of his protégés to be collector of the [Port of Boston](#), an important patronage position, and secured an exception for an ally, John Sanborn, in legislation regulating the use of contractors by the [Internal Revenue Service](#) for the collection of tax debts. Sanborn would later be involved in the [Sanborn Contracts](#) scandal, in which he was paid over \$200,000 for collecting debts that would likely have been paid without his intervention.^[96]

Business and charitable dealings

Butler greatly expanded his business interests during and after the Civil War, and was extremely wealthy when he died, with an estimated net worth of \$7 million (\$200 million today). Historian Chester Hearn believed that "[t]he source of his fortune is a mystery, but much of it came from New Orleans..."^[97] However, Butler's mills in Lowell, which produced woolen goods and were not hampered by cotton shortages, were economically successful during the war, supplying clothing and blankets to the Union Army, and regularly paying high dividends.^[98] Successful postwar investments included a granite company on [Cape Ann](#) and a barge freight operation on the Merrimack River. After learning that no domestic manufacturer produced [bunting](#), he invested in another Lowell mill to produce it, and convinced the federal government to enact legislation requiring domestic sources for material used on government buildings. Less successful ventures included investments in real estate in the [Virginia](#), [Colorado](#), and the [Baia Peninsula](#) of western [Mexico](#), and a fraudulent gold mining operation in [North Carolina](#).^[99] He also founded the [Wamesit Power Company](#) and the [United States Cartridge Company](#),^[100] and was one of several high-profile investors who were deceived by [Philip Arnold](#) in the famous [Diamond hoax of 1872](#).

Butler put some of his money into more charitable enterprises. He purchased confiscated farms in the Norfolk, Virginia area during the war and turned them over to cooperative ventures managed by local African Americans, and sponsored a scholarship for African-Americans at [Phillips Andover Academy](#).^[101] He also served for fifteen years in executive positions of the [National Home for Disabled Soldiers](#).^[102]

His law firm also expanded significantly after the war, adding offices in [New York City](#) and Washington. High-profile cases he took included the representation of Admiral David Farragut in his quest to be paid by the government for [prizes](#) taken by the Navy during the war, and the defense of former Secretary of War [Simon Cameron](#) against an attempted [extortion](#) in a salacious case that gained much public notice.^[103]

Butler built a mansion immediately across the street from the [United States Capitol](#) in 1873–1874, known as the [Butler Building](#).^{[104][105][106]} One unit of the building was constructed to be [fire-proof](#) so that it could be rented as storage for valuable and irreplaceable survey records, maps, and engraving plates of the [U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey](#), whose headquarters in the [Richards Building](#) was directly next-door.^{[106][107]} The building was used by President [Chester A. Arthur](#) while the [White House](#) was being refurbished.^{[105][108]} On April 10, 1891, the [Department of the Treasury](#) purchased the building from Butler for \$275,000, and it became the headquarters of the [U.S. Marine Hospital Service](#), with its Hygienic Laboratory (the predecessor of the [National Institutes of Health](#)) occupying its top floor.^{[106][109]}

Governor of Massachusetts and run for President

Butler ran unsuccessfully for Governor of Massachusetts in 1878 as an independent with [Greenback Party](#) support, and also sought the Democratic nomination. The latter was denied him by the party leadership, which refused to admit him into the party, but he was nominated by a populist rump group of Democrats who disrupted the main convention, forcing it to adjourn to another location.^[110] He was renominated in similar fashion in 1879; in both years, the Republicans won against the divided Democrats. Because Butler sought the governorship in part as a stepping stone to the presidency, he opted not to run again until 1882.^[111] In 1882, he was elected by a 14,000 margin after winning nomination by both Greenbacks and an undivided Democratic party.^[112]

As governor, Butler was active in promoting reform and competence in administration, in spite of a hostile Republican legislature and [Governor's Council](#).^[113] He appointed the state's first Irish-American and African-American [George Lewis Ruffin](#) judges,^[86] and appointed the first woman to executive office, [Clara Barton](#), to head the Massachusetts Reformatory for Women. He also graphically exposed the mismanagement of the state's [Tewksbury Almshouse](#) under a succession of Republican governors.^[114] Butler was somewhat notoriously snubbed by [Harvard University](#), which traditionally granted honorary degrees to the state's governors. Butler's honorarium was denied because the Board of Overseers, headed by Ebenezer Hoar, voted against it.^[115]

Butler's bid for reelection in 1883 was one of the most contentious campaigns of his career. His presidential ambitions were well known, and the state's Republican establishment, led by Ebenezer and [George Frisbie Hoar](#), poured money into the campaign against him. Running against Congressman [George D. Robinson](#) (whose campaign manager was a young [Henry Cabot Lodge](#)), Butler was defeated by 10,000 votes, out of more than 300,000 cast.^[114] Butler is credited with beginning the tradition of the ["lone walk"](#), the ceremonial exit from the office of Governor of Massachusetts, after finishing his term in 1884.^[116]

In 1882, Butler successfully prosecuted [Juilliard v. Greenman](#) before the Supreme Court. In what was seen as a victory for Greenback supporters, the case confirmed that the government had the right to issue paper currency for public and private debts.^[117] Butler leveraged the win to run for president in 1884. Nominated by the Greenback and [Anti-Monopoly](#) parties,^[118] he was unsuccessful in getting the Democratic nomination, which went to [Grover Cleveland](#).^[119] Cleveland refused to adopt parts of Butler's platform in exchange for his political support, prompting Butler to run in the general election.^[120] He sought to gain electoral votes by engaging in fusion efforts with Democrats in some states and Republicans in others,^[121] in which he took what were perceived in the contemporary press as bribes \$25,000 from the campaign of Republican [James G. Blaine](#).^[122] The effort was in vain: Butler polled 175,000 out of 10 million cast.^[123]



Butler's memorial at the [Hildreth family cemetery](#) in [Lowell, Massachusetts](#)

Later years and death

In his later years Butler reduced his activity level, working on his memoir, *Butler's Book*, which was published in 1892, and serving from 1866 to 1879 as president of the [National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers](#).^[124]

Butler died on January 11, 1893 of complications from a [bronchial infection](#) a day after arguing a case before the Supreme Court. He is buried in his wife's family cemetery, behind the main [Hildreth Cemetery](#) in Lowell. The inscription on Butler's monument reads, "the true touchstone of civil liberty is not that all men are equal but that every man has the right to be the equal of every other man—if he can."

His daughter Blanche married [Adelbert Ames](#), a Mississippi governor and senator who had served as a general in the Union Army during the war. Butler's descendants include the famous scientist [Adelbert Ames, Jr.](#), suffragist and artist [Blanche Ames Ames](#), [Butler Ames](#), [Hope Butler](#), and [George Plimpton](#).

Legacy

According to biographer Hans L. Trefousse:

Butler was one of the most controversial 19th-century American politicians. Demagogue, speculator, military bungler, and sharp legal practitioner—he was all of these; and he also was a fearless advocate of justice for the downtrodden, a resourceful military administrator, and an astonishing innovator. He was passionately hated and equally strongly admired, and if the South called him "Beast," his constituents in Massachusetts were fascinated by him....As a leading advocate of radical Reconstruction, Butler played an important role in the conflict between president and Congress. His effectiveness was marred by the frequency with which engaged in personal altercations, and his conduct as one of the principal managers of the impeachment trial of Andrew Johnson was dubious. Nevertheless he deserves recognition as a persistent critic of southern terrorism and is one of the chief authors of the Civil Rights Act of 1875. ^[125]

Butler, John G., (Col.) 147th Vols, Central City, 305

John Germond Butler, b. 16 Mar 1834, Utica, Oneida, NY; d. 4 Oct 1917, Syracuse, NY; bur. Saint Agnes Cemetery, Syracuse, NY; Sec. 25, Lot 274.

http://www.zoominfo.com/people/butler_johnny_840453906.aspx

Onondaga Historical Association Museum & Research Center - Butler's Zouaves

www.cnyhistory.org/butlers%20zouaves.htm

In July 1860 John G. Butler formed an independent militia company in Syracuse.

John Germond Butler, or Johnny Butler as he was known, was 26 years old in 1860. He was born in Utica and came to Syracuse when he was four. He pursued a civilian vocation in banking. In 1856, he joined Company D, known as the Syracuse Grays, of the 51st Infantry Regiment, NYS National Guard. In January, 1860 he was promoted to Second Lieutenant. In 1861, Butler and his company of Zouaves were part of the Third New York Infantry Regiment, which saw action in Virginia. In 1863, Butler left the 3rd NY to command the 147th NY Regiment from Oswego. He was promoted to Colonel, but a few months later he contracted typhoid fever. He continued to fight, leading his men in the Battle of Chancellorsville in May, 1863. However, the disease got the better of him and he was medically discharged that November.

Butler did recover from his illness and twenty years after the Civil War he joined the Forty-First Separate Company, New York National Guard, as its new commander. In 1898, at age 64, Butler and the Forty-First Separate Company became Company C, in

the 3rd New York Infantry. Butler retired from military service in 1901. During his military career, John G. Butler had gone from being called Johnny to Fighting Jack.

In July, 1860, Butler, along with forty members of Company D, separated from the Grays to establish the Syracuse Zouaves. The group splintered over a disagreement among members of the Grays concerning the moral fiber of the young men in the group. Butler and a majority of the group believed that the men should avoid all contact with the local saloons and bordellos. Butler became the group's commander with the rank of captain.

The Syracuse Journal reported at the time that Butler provided a good example to the men. "Captain Butler ... in every discipline has shown himself the model for his young comrades to copy. Courteous, magnanimous, and kind, he has attracted his associates to him by the strongest bonds of friendship and respect."

On April 12, 1861, Ft. Sumter was fired upon by Confederate batteries along the coast of South Carolina. Two days later Major Robert Anderson surrendered the fort to the South Carolinians. On the 13th, a meeting of the Syracuse Zouaves was called, and Captain Butler telegraphed US Senator Monroe offering the services of the Syracuse Zouaves when the President issued his call for volunteers.

Butler received a telegram on the 14th from Colonel Frederick Townsend, commander of the 3rd New York Regiment . . . Butler replied to Townsend that his company was ready to join the 3rd New York.

Three cheers went up for John Butler and three more for the company. The Zouaves then marched to the Globe Hotel where they were presented with a US flag. The flag contained 34 stars, measured 9 ft. long and 6 ft. wide, and was made from silk. The male boarders at the hotel paid for the material and the women boarders created the flag. Charles Foot presented the flag to Butler and the Zouaves with these words:

Captain Butler of the Syracuse Zouaves: The ladies and gentlemen of the Globe Hotel, with whom you have been long and happily associated, have devolved upon me the pleasing duty of presenting to you, and through you to the company you have the honor to command, this American ensign. As the flag of our beloved country, we know your devoted attachment to it; but you will agree with me when I say, that if anything were wanting to render this banner especially dear, it is in the fact, that those with whom you have been so intimately connected, present it as a token of their esteem and regard for yourself and your brave companions, and in the more pleasing recollection that it has been wrought by the hands of the fair ladies of the Globe Hotel. You are about entering upon a struggle which may decide whether this glorious flag shall continue to waive as the ensign of a great and free people, or be stricken down never to rise again as the symbol of our nation's greatness. Take it, and remember that wherever it leads, our prayers will follow you; and if--which God in his mercy prevent--any of you shall fall in its defense, be assured that we will bathe their bodies with our grateful tears, and lay them to rest within its ample folds as their appropriate winding sheet.

Butler was obviously struck by the emotion of the event but managed a few words in reply:

Speaking many years after the war, John Butler commented on the Battle of Big Bethel,

Mrs. A. Judd Northrup describes the departure of Butler's Zouaves from Syracuse, as follows:

"I recall the scene as I witnessed it, of the departure of Capt. Butler and his company of brave Zouaves, on a pleasant morning in the early spring of 1861.

"The first N. Y. Central station was yet standing. It covered the tracks and filled in the space between Warren and Salina streets. This structure was a dark grey, either from paint or age, with arched openings at either end.

"The train had come in from the west, and its engine stood snorting just beyond the eastern opening. Good byes had been said—the soldiers of the company were seated in the train—but on the rear platform were Captain Butler and other officers. I stood on the northwest corner of Salina street when the train began to pull out and the picture is still vivid to me, as that group of brave men were for a moment framed in the arch of the old station house.

"Captain Butler, in the strength of his young manhood, stood with bared head. His clear-cut features and yellow, curling hair shone with distinctness against the background of the car, while he held in his hand the staff of a large flag which had just been presented to him. The train started, the wind caught the folds of the flag, which fluttered above him and the other brave boys standing with him, and they were gone. It is only like a flash light picture in my memory but as such is distinct and speaks for what it meant, for them and our country."

15 April 1861 - Captain Johnny Butler of Syracuse volunteers his Zouaves for three months' service, the first group from Central New York to respond to Lincoln's call for 75,000 troops. The unit leaves from the Syracuse train station on 21 April. Jenney's Artillery Battery also leaves in the middle of April.

Butler's Zouaves.

This troop already existed prior to the outbreak of the war and once Lincoln's first proclamation was issued it did not require much effort to bring the company within some days to its full strength of 77 men. The same were mustered-in at Albany and incorporated as Company D in the 3rd New York Volunteers. They were mustered into the service of the United States on 14 May 1861 in Fortress Monroe [Virginia]. In this company, under Butler's command, were the following Germans of Syracuse: Jacob Sax, Johann Fesenmeier, Andreas Fesenmeier, Joseph Heisle, Johann Brehm, Joseph Mühlbeier, Peter Mertens, and Eddie Pfohl. The

company took part in the first battle of the war, at Big Bethel, on 9 June 1861, in which Peter Mertens was wounded. Jacob Sax was wounded at the battle of Drury's Bluff. Joseph Mühlbeier later served in the 22nd Cavalry Regiment and was wounded while there.

http://books.google.com/books?id=IRoPAAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA59&lpg=PA59&dq=%22john+germond+butler%22&source=web&ots=tEykWHUlc&sig=6mWHGTpw5ucUiuU_2OXCzOWloPU&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=1&ct=result page 59.

JOHN GERMOND BUTLER. Syracuse, N. Y.

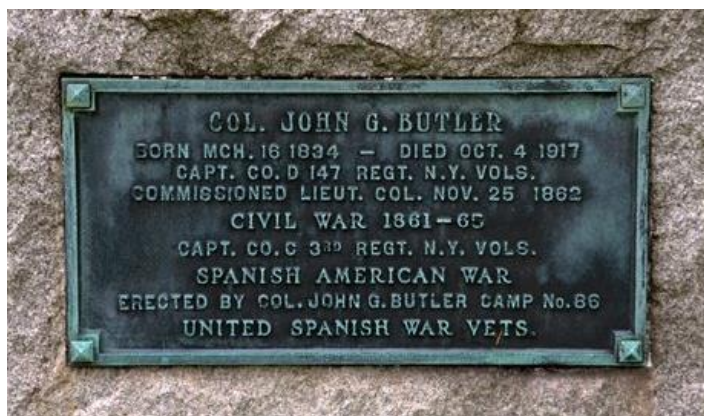
Gen. No. 131. N. Y. No. 116. Accountant. Born March 16, 1834. Son of Todd Butler and Jeanette Mott; grandson of John Butler and Hannah Todd; great-grandson of Eli Butler and Rachel Stocking; great-grandson of Benjamin Butler and Thankful Sage; great-grandson of Joseph Butler and Mary Goodrich; great-grandson of Deacon RICHARD BUTLER (a Founder of Harford, CT) and Elizabeth Bigelow (1632).

Re: Joseph Butler: <http://www.gencircles.com/users/paulmh1/239/data/494>

Re: Benjamin Butler: <http://www.gencircles.com/users/paulmh1/239/data/533>

Re: Capt. Eli Butler: <http://www.gencircles.com/users/paulmh1/239/data/963>

Re: John Butler: <http://www.gencircles.com/users/paulmh1/239/data/2433>



Past and present of Syracuse and Onondaga county, New York: from ..., Volume 2, by William Martin Beauchamp, page 699.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=98kpAQAAAMAJ&pg=PA699&lpg=PA699&dq=%22John+Germond+Butler%22&source=bl&ots=-51WPE6Pt6&sig=JW346jV2yfy5inP-dTyazUCZp0&hl=en&sa=X&ei=HdUeVbS4JInGsAXXioDIDw&ved=0CCkQ6AEwBA#v=onepage&q=%22John%20Germond%20Butler%22&f=false>

Colonel John Germond Butler, cashier for the Syracuse water works and prominently known in military as well as business and social circles, is one of the native sons of the Empire state, his birth having occurred in Utica on the 16th of March, 1834. He is descended from Deacon Richard Butler, who came to America in the Brewster with the Hooker company in 1632 and was a prominent man in the colonies. He was one of the founders of Hartford, Connecticut, and often represented his county in the general court. The Colonel's great grandfather was an officer in the war of the Revolution. His father, Ammi Todd Butler, was a dry-goods merchant of Syracuse for many years, removing with his family to this city when his son John was but four years of age. The mother, who bore the maiden name of Susan Jeannette Mott, was of Quaker parentage.

Reared under the parental roof in Syracuse, Colonel Butler pursued his education in Hoyt's private school and entered business life as a clerk in the Syracuse City Bank, of which his father was a director. He afterward was connected with the Crouse Bank for a period and later entered the Rome Exchange Bank, at Rome, New York, as teller. From that position he went to New York city as cashier of the American-European Banking & Export Company, in which capacity he continued for several years, returning thence to Syracuse as teller of the Merchants Bank.

Colonel Butler has always been interested in military affairs and noting the threatening attitude of the south in 1861, he organized a military company called the Butler Zouaves and offered their services to the Union before the war was declared. This company was accepted by the government and became a part of the Third New York Infantry, which was ordered to Big Bethel. The company numbered seventy men and Mr. Butler was commissioned captain by the governor of the state, being with one exception, the oldest captain in the state of New York who answered the first call of President Lincoln for seventy five thousand men for the war of the Rebellion. He was later promoted to lieutenant colonel and subsequently made colonel of the One Hundred and Forty seventh New York Infantry in recognition of faithful and meritorious service. He contracted typhoid fever in the Dismal Swamp but though he lost his health he kept his courage and determination and led his regiment in the battle of Chancellorsville. His illness increased and he was sent north to Washington and thence home, being discharged for disability.

After regaining his health Colonel Butler became a resident of Annapolis, Maryland, in 1872, a representative of Mr. Bareda, a millionaire promoter. In 1882 he went to old Mexico and spent three years at Tepic in the state of Jalisco, in charge of mining property. Upon the expiration of that period he returned to Syracuse and became secretary and treasurer of the Syracuse Waterworks Company, acting in that capacity until the plant was sold to the city, after which Colonel Butler continued as cashier in the employ of the city and is still filling the position. His interest in military affairs has never waned and for fourteen years he was captain of the Forty-first Separate Company of the National Guard of New York. At the outbreak of the Spanish-American war he

was sent to Camp Black, of Long Island, with his company and later to Camp Alger, near Washington, DC. From that point troops were sent to Thoroughfare Gap and to Camp Mead, Pennsylvania, but like thousands of others, were disappointed in the hope of reaching the field of military action, and at the close of the war Mr. Butler resigned his captaincy.

Colonel Butler was married in June, 1890, to Mrs. Mabel Gilmore, of Baltimore, Maryland, and they have one son, Jack, thirteen years of age, who is the life and light of the household. For a half century Mr. Butler has been a member of **Central City Lodge**, F&A M, and is past commander of Root Post, G. A. R. He also belongs to the Spanish War Veterans, the Onondaga Historical Society and the Citizens' Club. He was a member of the Founders and Patriots Society but resigned owing to inability to attend its meetings. His political views endorse the principles of the republican party, which was the defense of the Union in the dark days of the Civil war and has always been the party of reform, progress and advancement. His religious faith is that of the Episcopal church. His life has been varied in its activities and he is still a factor in the business world, displaying the enterprise and diligence of many a man of younger years. He long figured in the financial circles of the city and has a very wide acquaintance here, numbering among his friends many who have known him from boyhood a fact which is incontrovertible proof of a life worthy the esteem and confidence of his fellowmen.

BUTLER, JOHN G.—Age, 27 years. Enrolled, April 19, 1861 [3rd NY Inf. Vols.], at Albany; mustered in as captain, Co. D, May 14, 1861, to serve two years; resigned, September .21, 1862; commissioned captain, July 4, 1861, with rank from April 21, 1861, original.

BUTLER, JOHN G.—Age, 29 years. Enrolled [147th NY Inf. Vols.], September 13, 1862, at New York city, to serve three years ;e mustered in as lieutenant-colonel, November 25, 1862; as colonel, February 5, 1863; discharged for disability, November 5, 1863. Commissioned lieutenant-colonel, September 15, 1862, with rank from September 13, 1862, original; colonel, February 24, 1863, with rank from February 4, 1863, vice A. S. Warner resigned.

Butler John G(ermond). (Col.) 147th Inf. Vols. Central City 305

Chase, Jackson H., (1Lt & QM) 3rd NY Inf. Vols., Masters, 5; Temple, 14

Bro. Chase was a 33° Mason and author of, as Grand Lecturer, Text Book of Cryptic Masonry – A Manual of Instructions in the Degrees of Royal Select Master, Select Master and Super-Excellent Master. 1870. 94 pages. This text may be read at: http://books.google.com/books?id=2v5JAAAAIAAJ&dq=%22jackson+h.+chase%22&source=gbs_navlinks_s

In 1874 he also authored The Royal Arch Companion: A Manual of Royal Arch Masonry. 197 pages.

Official exposition record and history of Masonry in the state of New York, page 129.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=ZE8uAAAAIAAJ&pg=PA147&pg=PA147&dq=%22harry+p.+knowles%22+%22masonic+home%22&source=bl&ots=SGN0IKf6Q&sig=NV7VWpbOl2kSURUQzm1PFuDPH9M&hl=en&sa=X&ei=jkXfUOnAF8bC0QHCwoG4DA&ved=0CEkQ6AEwBq#v=onepage&q=%22harry%20p.%20knowles%22%20%22masonic%20home%22&f=false>

An interesting incident of the war was related to the Grand Lodge, in 1862, by Dr. John J. Crane, then Deputy Grand Master. **Jackson H. Chase**, a past Master of Temple Lodge, Albany, who was Quartermaster of the Third Regiment, New York Volunteers, had found that among the deserted buildings in the village of Hampton, Virginia, there was a Masonic Hall open to depredation. He reported the discovery to the commander, Major-General Butler, who was also a Mason. An inspection was made and the furniture, regalia, warrants (one of them dated 1787), jewels, tools, minutes and other properties were found intact. They belonged to St. Tammany Lodge, No. 5. The commander ordered the material to be placed in custody within the Union lines until it could be restored to its rightful owners. Dr. Crane, on being advised of this action, suggested that the properties should be forwarded, under a flag of truce, to Grand Secretary John Dove, of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, as the rightful custodian, in the absence of the officers of St. Tammany Lodge. His suggestion was carried out.

CHASE, JACKSON H.—Age, — years. Enrolled [3rd NY Inf. Vols.], May 8; 1861, at Albany; mustered in as regimental quartermaster, May 14, 1861, to serve two years; resigned, December 31, 1862; commissioned first lieutenant and quartermaster, July 4, 1861, with rank from May 10, 1861, original.

Chase	Jackson H.	(1Lt & QM) 3rd NY Inf. Vols.	Palmyra	248
			Temple	14
Chase	Jackson S. [H.]	(1Lt & QM) 3rd NY Inf. Vols.	Masters	5
			Temple	14

Fort McHenry, Md., November 25th, 1861.
Hon. John S. Berry

M.W. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of F. And A. M. of the State of Maryland.

M. W. Sir and Brother:

The 3rd Regiment, New York Volunteers — to which I am attached — encamped in June last at Camp Hamilton, VA., some two miles from Fortress Monroe, and about one mile from the village of Hampton.

The village had been deserted by its inhabitants, a short time previous to our arrival, and in such haste as to leave libraries, furniture, &c., exposed to the pillage and plunder of the hordes of negroes who congregated there immediately on the departure of the citizens. Much valuable property had been taken and destroyed by them.

Learning that there was a Masonic Hall in the place, and fearing for its safety, I reported the fact to Major General Butler, and obtained from him an order to take 'a sufficient force, proceed to Hampton, and take possession of such property belonging to the Masonic Order, as was thought proper, and report to him'.

In accordance with this order, Col. S. M. Alford, commanding the 3rd regt., provided a detachment commanded by Capt. John E. Mulford, W. M. Mystic Lodge, No. 131, Capt. John G. Butler, Central City Lodge, No. 315 [305], Syracuse, NY, and Lieutenant William E. Blake, S. W., Excelsior Lodge No. 195, N. Y. Accompanied the detachment.

We proceeded to Hampton, and with the officers referred to, visited the Hall of St. Tammany Lodge, No. 5. Nearly all the lodge furniture was found, including the records and warrants, (one warrant bears date 1787). The Jewels had been removed probably by some member of the lodge.

The property thus found, I have retained in my possession, hoping that a favorable opportunity might present itself to forward it directly to Richmond. But not having had such an opportunity, I take great pleasure in transferring the effects to you for safe keeping, subject to the order of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. Since taking this property, the hall together with the entire village was destroyed by fire; and my associates with myself congratulate ourselves that we were the humble instruments in rescuing the records and Warrants from that conflagration.

When this property shall be returned to our Brethren in Virginia, please convey to them our fraternal regards, and say that although we come in defense of our just rights — as we honestly believe — still we come not to wage war upon an order expressly founded to inculcate the exercise of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

With Great Respect,
I remain fraternally,

J. H. Chase

Lt. and R. Quartermaster, 3d N. Y. Vols., and P. M. Temple Lodge, No. 14, Albany, N. Y."

https://www.google.com/books/edition/Masonic_Voice_Review/67waAQAAIAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22St+Tammany+Lodge+No+5%22&pg=PA268&printsec=frontcover page 268

"M. W. SIR AND BROTHER:—At the last Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, held in Richmond on the 12th of December last, in my report to the Grand Lodge as D. D. G. Master of this District, I stated that the Records, Warrants and furniture of St. Tammany's Lodge, No. 5, located in Hampton, within my jurisdiction, had been removed by some brethren belonging to the Federal army, and deposited in a Lodge in Baltimore for safe keeping. I was ordered by the Grand Master to communicate with the proper Masonic authorities in Baltimore, in relation to the matter. All communications with Baltimore, at that time, being prohibited by the military authorities, I was unable to do so until sometime in May of this year, since which time I have seen the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, in which I perceive the furniture, &c., was deposited with the Grand Lodge of your State, by Past Master, Lieut. Chase, of the 3rd Regiment of New York Volunteers, subject to the orders of the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

As the Grand Lodge of Virginia will meet again in Richmond on the 2nd Monday in December next, I desire to incorporate in my report to the Grand Lodge, the further facts in relation to the subject. I, therefore, Most Worshipful Sir, request that the furniture, Warrant and Records, be forwarded by Adams' Express Co., to me, at the earliest convenience, as the proper custodian of such articles, by the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

On behalf of the Masonic Fraternity of this State, and especially the members of St. Tammany's Lodge, No. 5, let me thank you, M. W. Sir, and Lieut. Chase, for the care and preservation of these articles. A circumstance which beautifully exemplifies the principles of our noble Order, amidst the fierce and sanguinary warfare now raging.

I will communicate to the Grand Lodge of Virginia, the noble action of yourself and the brethren who rescued the articles from pillage and destruction.

I am, Sir, yours Fraternally,

JAMES B. CAMPBELL,

D. D. G. Master, District No. 1.

It is hardly necessary for us to add that the articles were promptly returned to the rightful owners. So much for Masonry and its influence in war.

Chase, Jackson, H., (1Lt & QM0 3rd NY Inf. Vols., Palmyra, 248 & Temple, 14

Jackson H. Chase was a member, and past Master, of Temple Lodge No. 14, Albany, NY.

Proceedings, Supreme Council, A.A.S.R., 1875.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=wFMAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA185&lpg=PA185&dq=%22jackson+h.+chase%22+%22scottish+rite%22&source=bl&ots=0Tlaq43PVQ&sig=z0k3vjV6f0qZdruZxZCi1wMloE4&hl=en&sa=X&ei=US5kVJinIKLdsASbooHAAQ&ved=0CBQQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22jackson%20h.%20chase%22%20%22scottish%20rite%22&f=false>

JACKSON H. CHASE, 33°.

It is with more than ordinary sorrow that we announce the death of Ill.'. Jackson H. Chase, 33°, Grand Lecturer of the Grand Chapter, R. A. M., of the State of New York; which melancholy event took place on the evening of Saturday, 14th of August.

Our late friend and Companion was born at Palmyra, Wayne Co., NY, where he received a liberal education, and, after having studied law as a profession, was admitted to practice; but being offered a position under the State government, he removed to Albany, which place he made his home, until the breaking out of the late civil war, when he entered into the service of his country as Captain in the **Third NY Regiment**, and was subsequently promoted to the position of Quarter-master, discharging his duties to the entire satisfaction of his superior officers.

His early Masonic connections were as follows: He was initiated, passed, and raised in **Palmyra Lodge, No. 248**; advanced and exalted in Palmyra Eagle Chapter, No. 79, and created and dubbed a Knight Templar in Zenobia Commandery No 41, all located at Palmyra. When he located at Albany, he affiliated with **Temple Lodge, No. 14**, of which he became Master; with Capitol City Chapter, R. A. M., at that city, of which he was a P. H. Priest, and, without dimiting from his mother Commandery, at Palmyra, he was elected a member of Temple Commandery, No. 2, Albany. It was not before years elapsed, that it was discovered he owed allegiance to two Commanderies. The option being given him, which ho would belong to, he chose the Body in which he was created, and died a member of the same In Cryptic Masonry, he received his degrees in DeWitt Clinton Council, R. and S. M., Albany, and became its Thrice Illustrious G. M.

Shortly after the war closed, he was appointed Grand Lecturer of the Grand Chapter of the State, and in 1868, published a R. A. Monitor, entitled "Royal Arch Companion," which has been adopted by the Grand Chapter as a true exponent of Capitular Masonry.

In the summer of 1871 he received permission from the M. Illustrious G. M of the Grand Council R. and S. Masons of the State of New York, to proceed to London, England, and confer the Cryptic degrees, and establish Bodies of the same in the mother land. This he accomplished, though the legality of his operations was questioned at the next Annual Assembly of the Grand Council.

In the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite he was received and acknowledged as an Illustrious Inspector General of the 33°, and an honorary member of the Supreme Council, Northern Jurisdiction of the U. S. The Grand Chapter of R. A. M., of Nova Scotia, honored him by making him their Representative near the Grand Chapter of New York.

Since his return from England, our deceased friend was more or less an invalid, though nothing serious was expected. Believing that a short ocean cruise would be beneficial, he embarked (for the second trip) on Pilot-boat 7, leaving port on Saturday morning. He was found dead in his berth towards evening, when the vessel was headed for Staten Island, where his remains were landed on Sunday, under charge of M. E. Comp. John S. Dickerman, Gr. Treasurer, who was telegraphed at his residence at Albany. That much-loved Companion came down, took charge of the remains, and accompanied by the widow, conveyed the same to Palmyra, where they were interred on Tuesday, August 17, with all the honors of Masonry.

He was a gentleman in the truest sense of the word. Always genial and courteous, he won friends wherever he was known, and thousands of the fraternity throughout this State, and elsewhere, will deeply mourn the sudden departure of one so worthy and well qualified, and deeply loved.

Dr. John J. Crane, Holland Lodge No. 8, DDGM & Grand Master, NY Grand Lodge 1862.

http://www.siamcostumes.com/cutters_guides/pdf/officiallexpositi00newy.pdf

An interesting incident of the war was related to the Grand Lodge, in 1862, by **Dr. John J. Crane**, then Deputy Grand Master. **Jackson H. Chase**, a past Master of Temple Lodge, Albany, who was Quartermaster of the Third Regiment, New York Volunteers, had found that among the deserted buildings in the village of Hampton, Virginia, there was a Masonic Hall open to depredation. He reported the discovery to the commander, Major-General Butler, who was also a Mason. An inspection was made and the furniture, regalia, warrants (one of them dated 1787), jewels, tools, minutes and other properties were found intact. They belonged to St. Tammany Lodge, No. 5. The commander ordered the material to be placed in custody within the Union lines until it could be restored to its rightful owners. **Dr. Crane**, on being advised of this action, suggested that the properties should be forwarded, under a flag of truce, to **Grand Secretary John Dove, of the Grand Lodge of Virginia [see below for bio]**, as the rightful custodian, in the absence of the officers of St. Tammany Lodge. His suggestion was carried out.



Ref. "A Standard History of Freemasonry in the State of New York" by Peter Ross, Lewis Publishing Co., 1899. Volume I, page 501.

< Engraving from the 1919 Grand Lodge Proceedings

Dr. John J. Crane was born at Middleton, CT, in 1820, the son of Rev. John R. Crane and Harriet Burnet. He graduated at Princeton, completing his studies in New York, where he entered upon his profession as a physician and slowly built up an extensive and lucrative practice.

In 1873 he married the daughter of Eli Whitney*, the inventor of the cotton gin, and her wealth added to his own enabled him to retire into private life. [Note: this does not appear to bear up to further genealogical research. Dr. Crane appears to have married Caroline Whitney, daughter of Stephen Whitney, as per further material noted below. Stephen was most likely related in some way to Eli, but to what degree is not known at this time. Those wishing to explore this further may consult an extensive genealogical database at:

<http://www.whitneygen.org/archives/extracts/pierce/p254-259.htm#P1836> – glh].

His wife died and he married a second time [again, Dr. Crane married first (1849) to Jane B. Young – his second married was to Caroline Whitney (1874), as her second husband – see further information on this below - glh]. 'That union' [?] also added to his wealth, and his later years were spent mainly in travel and at his country seat near New Haven, CT, where he died 4 Mar 1890. During his later years Crane took little direct interest in the craft, but for a long time before he was elected Deputy Grand Master, in 1861, he was one of the most active brethren in the Metropolitan district. In 1851 he **was initiated in Holland Lodge [No. 8]** and, according to the records of that Lodge, was elected the same year Junior Warden and became its Master in 1852, and was re-

elected in 1853 and 1854 and again in 1858 and 1859. His services to Holland Lodge, tendered and performed at a very critical period in its history, were of the most valuable description, and it was well said by Joseph N. Balestier in his "Historical Sketches of Holland Lodge," that "if Van den Broek was the chief builder of our temple, Crane was its chief restorer."

The tide of battle which rolled over so large a portion of the country during the year of Crane's Grand Mastership and the consequent excitement throughout the nation, prevented any great or important business being enacted, as might have been expected under so gifted a leader. But the energies of the country were directed toward the prosecution of the war and Masonry felt the drain which the conflict was making upon the resources of the land. Progress was certainly made in the craft, but it was slow, for many of its most enthusiastic devotees were away in the front fighting for the defense of the principles of their heart and the government of their choice, and every mail brought news of some one having fallen, some light gone out, some home plunged into mourning.

* Children of Eli Whitney and Henrietta Edwards (as you may see, there is no 'Caroline' among Eli's four children):

<http://www.whitneygen.org/archives/extracts/pierce/p254-259.htm#P1836>

- i. FRANCIS EDWARDS, b. 23 Nov 1817; m. 1 Dec 1842, Charles L. CHAPLAIN. She d. 7 May 1849. He was b. 17 Oct 1816; d. 7 Mar 1892.
- ii. ELIZABETH FAY, b. ----; d. ----.
- iii. ELI, b. Nov. 24, 1820; m. Sarah P. DALLIBIE.
- iv. SUSAN EDWARDS, b. Jan 1821; d. Sep 1823.

1880 Census, Hamden, New Haven, Connecticut; Household of Dr. John J. Crane:

John J. CRANE	Self	M	Male	W	62	CT	Doctor	CT	CT
Caroline CRANE	Wife	M	Female	W	58	NY	Keeping House	CT	NY (d/o Stephen Whitney)
Mary A. MCGUFFEY	Other	S	Female	W	50	SCO	House Keeper	SCO	SCO
Mary YOUNG	Other	S	Female	W	25	NY	Lady'S Maid	NY	NY
Annie KENNEDY	Other	S	Female	W	30	IRE	Waitress	IRE	IRE
Mary LAUGHLIN	Other	S	Female	W	25	SCO	Chamber Maid	SCO	SCO
Kate GALLAGHAN	Other	S	Female	W	23	IRE	Kitchen Maid	IRE	IRE
James MURPHY	Other	M	Male	W	60	IRE	Coachman	IRE	IRE
Duncan FORSYTH	Other	S	Male	W	24	SCO	Groom	SCO	SCO
William COPPY	Other	S	Male	W	17	ENG	Page	ENG	ENG
William COLTEC	Other	S	Male	W	40	IRE	Florist	IRE	IRE

NEW-HAVEN, Conn., April 24.—Mrs. Caroline Whitney Crane, widow of Dr. John J. Crane of New-York, was married this afternoon to Nathan A. Baldwin of Milford. The ceremony was performed at Ivy Nook, the bride's residence, by the Rev. Henry P. Nichols of Trinity Church. Mrs. Baldwin is the daughter of the late Stephen Whitney of New-York. She has been married twice previously. Her late husband, Dr. Crane, was for many years a prominent practitioner in New-York. He died in this city about a year ago, bequeathing the greater portion of his large fortune to his wife. Mr. Baldwin is a widower. He has acquired a fortune in manufacturing and has long been one of the leading men of Milford.

Caroline (widow of Nathan A. Baldwin) died 16 Nov 1905 at New Haven, CT (NY Times, 18 Nov 1905)

April 25, 1891 - Copyright © The New York Times

<http://www.whitneygen.org/families/henryw/ctwhi005.html>

Stephen⁵ WHITNEY (*Henry*⁴, *Josiah*³, *John*², *Henry*¹); b. 14 Sep 1776 Derby, New Haven Co., Connecticut; m. Harriet Suydam 4 Aug 1803 Newtown, Long Island, New York; d. 16 Feb 1860 New York City, NY, at age 83.

Harriet SUYDAM was born on 1 Sep 1782 Hallett's Cove, Long Island, New York. She died on 12 May 1860 New York City, New York, at age 77. She was also known as Harriet Snyder.

Children of Stephen⁵ Whitney and Harriet Suydam all b. New York City, New York, were as follows:

785. i. Samuel Suydam⁶ WHITNEY; b. 26 Nov 1804; d. 21 Dec 1858 Bowling Green, New York Co., New York, at age 54; unmarried. He was also known as Samuel Snyder WHITNEY.

786. ii. Emeline WHITNEY; b. 7 Jun 1806; m. John Dore 25 Jun 1828 New York City, New York.

787. iii. John Currie WHITNEY; b. 5 Jun 1808; d. 28 Dec 1808 New York City, New York.

788. iv. Mary WHITNEY; b. 5 Apr 1810; m. Hon. Jonas Phillips Phoenix 28 Oct 1829 New York City, New York; d. 5 Apr 1876 New York City, New York, at age 66.

789. v. Henry WHITNEY; b. 23 Aug 1812; m. Hannah Eugenia Lawrence 27 Jan 1835 New York City, New York; as his 1st wife; m. Maria Lucy Fitch 25 Jul 1850 Norwich, New London Co., Connecticut; as his 2nd wife, and her 1st husband; d. 21 Mar 1856 New Haven, New Haven Co., Connecticut, at age 43.

790. vi. Stephen WHITNEY; b. 11 Oct 1814; d. 21 Nov 1858 New York City, New York, at age 44; of consumption, unmarried.

791. vii. William WHITNEY; b. 6 Jun 1816; m. Mary Stuart McVicker 4 Nov 1843 New York City, New York; d. 12 Jun 1862 New York City, New York, at age 46.

792. viii. Edward WHITNEY; b. 29 Nov 1818; d. 7 Apr 1851 Flushing, Long Island, New York, at age 32; unmarried.

793. ix. **Caroline WHITNEY**; b. 11 Jun 1823;

m1. Ferdinand Suydam 3 Nov 1841 New York City, NY; as her 1st husband. They were first cousins;

m2. **Dr. John Jacob Crane** 29 Oct 1874 New Haven, New Haven Co., CT; as her 2nd husband.

m3. Nathan A. Baldwin 24 Apr 1891. Caroline died 16 Nov 1905 aged 82.

http://wiki.whitneygen.org/wrg/index.php/Archive:The_Whitney_Family_of_Connecticut_page_344

Caroline Whitney, b. at 25 Pearl St., NY, 11 Jun 1823; married, 3 Nov 1841, at her father's residence, 7 Bowling Green, NY, her cousin, Ferdinand Suydam, born in NY, 14 Feb 1816, son of Ferdinand Suydam and Eliza, dau. of Anthony Lisenard Underhill. He died at their country-seat, "Ivy Nook", near New Haven, CT, 25 Jun 1872, and was buried in the Whitney chapel, Greenwood Cemetery. He was, for several years, a merchant, succeeding his father in the firm of Suydam, Sage, and Co. She was married (2d), 29 Oct 1874, at Ivy Nook, by Rev. Edwin Harwood, D. D., to **John Jacob Crane**,³ a physician, of New York, son of Rev. Dr. John R. and Harriet (Burnet) Crane, of Middletown, CT. They resided, in June 1877, at Ivy Nook.

³ By his first wife, Jane Young, Dr. John J. Crane had:

i. Robert Remsen Crane, born in Sep 1849.

ii. Mary Graham Crane, born in Jan 1860.

For further ancestry of Caroline Whitney and notes, see <http://www.whitneygen.org/families/henryw/ctwhi001.html#id1>

"Proceedings of the Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of . . . AASR," 1889; Appendix. 1890. pages 96-100

<http://books.google.com/books?id=YHpLAAAAMAAJ&pg=RA2-PA96&dq=%22Horace+S.+Taylor%22&lr=#PPA1,M1>

ILL.' Bro. John J. Crane was born in Middletown, CT, about seventy years ago and died at his suburban residence, "Ivy Nook," near New Haven, on 4 Mar 1890. He was a graduate, with distinguished honors, of Princeton College, NJ, and subsequently studied and practiced medicine in New York City. His ability was of the first order, and in a few years he was regarded as one of the foremost and able physicians of the metropolis.

The demise of Dr. Crane created little sensation among the Fraternity, inasmuch as he was a Mason of the past generation and simply known to this one as having been Grand Master of Masons of New York during the year 1862. Nevertheless, his memory will

be gratefully treasured by the members of Holland Lodge, the Mother of Grand Masters, as it were, whence were graduated De Witt Clinton, Wm. H. Milnor, Horace S. Taylor and other Masonic dignitaries. Dr. Crane was therein initiated in 1851, immediately after consummation of the Union of the Willard and St. John's Grand Lodges, at a period when, demoralized by the preceding troubles, the Holland Lodge was sparse in membership, and he energetically set about its revivification. Constituted in 1757 to work in the Dutch language, the second master of Holland, the erudite Rene Jean Vanderbrock, was regarded as its veritable founder, as he rallied to its banner the most prominent citizens of their day. Among his successors in its administration were John Jacob Astor, Thomas Longworth, Elias Hicks, Samuel Jones and other Masons of renown. Dr. Crane, elected Master in 1852, served in the chair six annual terms, and under his sway Holland succeeded in regaining its shaken prestige.

Illustrious Brother John J. Crane, M. D. >
New York, Grand Administrator General. 1874
The Ancient and Primitive Rite of Memphis

http://www.regulargrandlodgevirginia.com/files/HISTORY_A_PR.pdf

He attained distinction in the higher walks of Masonry and achieved in 1863, the Thirty third and last Degree of the Scottish Rite, in company with the late Most Worshipful Robert D. Holmes, also a Past Grand Master of Masons in this State; this high grade was conferred by the late Edmund B. Hays, 33°..., Sovereign Grand Commander, at a Special Session of the Supreme Council, holden at the corner of Grand and Centre streets, in the City of New York. BROTHER CRANE was a gentleman of commanding presence, gracious manners and generous disposition. His memory will be ever green in the hearts of hosts of the surviving fraternity, more especially within the borders of the Empire State; of him the poetic thought applies that he maintained—
Through all his tract of years
The white flower of a blameless life."



John Dove, Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of Virginia

https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/dvb/bio.php?b=Dove_John

John Dove (2 September 1792–16 November 1876), Masonic leader, was born in Richmond and was the son of James Dove, a Scottish immigrant, and Julia Lee Dove. After his father died in 1798, his mother remarried but died in March 1807. Dove remained under the care of his stepfather David Holloway and worked as a clerk at a local pharmacy. He decided to become a physician and received a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in April 1814. Dove returned to Richmond and on 28 November of that year married Ann Eliza Ege. They had five daughters and three sons.

Dove enjoyed a thriving medical practice and became a well-respected member of Richmond's medical community. In December 1820 he helped found the Medical Society of Virginia and served on the committee that drafted the organization's constitution and bylaws. Dove was the first president of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Richmond in 1852. He was also a member of a city board of health created to combat a potential cholera outbreak in 1832, a member of the Common Council during the 1840s, and longtime physician for the city jail. Dove paid taxes on five enslaved laborers over age twelve in 1835 and in that year chaired public meetings to protect the interests of slave owners with resolutions that demanded that postmasters prevent the distribution of materials encouraging slave insubordination, that called for the creation of a vigilance committee to prevent abolitionist activities in Richmond and Henrico County, and that asserted southerners' exclusive right to determine the propriety of slavery. He also served on the board of trustees for the city's Lancasterian school and acted as the board's secretary until it became part of the nascent public school system in 1871.

Active in Virginia Freemasonry for more than sixty years, Dove became a nationally recognized leader of the fraternity. In December 1813 he was initiated into Richmond's Saint John's Lodge No. 36. Later he joined Randolph Lodge No. 19, where he served three nonconsecutive terms as worshipful master. Dove held office as grand secretary of the Virginia Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for fifty-eight years (1818–1876), grand secretary of the Grand Lodge of Virginia for forty-one years (1835–1876), and grand recorder of the Virginia Grand Commandery of the Knights Templar for thirty-one years (1845–1876). He also represented Virginia at two national Masonic conventions in 1842 and 1843. Dove was elected president of the latter meeting, which had been called in an effort to promote uniformity among Masons throughout the country. At the Universal Masonic Congress held in France in 1855, the American delegation nominated Dove (who had not attended) as the American representative on a proposed five-member Permanent Commission, intended to encourage international cooperation and standards for the order. He played an important role in the cornerstone-laying and dedication ceremonies for the equestrian statue of George Washington in Richmond's Capitol Square in 1850 and 1858.

In September 1846 Dove completed the *Masonic Textbook* (1847) to help standardize Masonic rituals and which gained a reading among Masons nationwide. Subsequent editions appeared in 1854 and in 1866 (with the title *Virginia Text-Book*). He also wrote the *Virginia Text Book of Royal Arch Masonry* (1853) and *A History of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia, Its Origin, Progress, and Mode of Development, in Two Lectures* (1854). In 1874 he edited the annual proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Virginia held between 1778 and 1822, a volume that also included as a preface a history of the fraternal order in the state from 1733 to 1778. Often viewed as the Father of Freemasonry in Virginia, Dove is credited with contributing more to the fraternity during his lifetime than any other person and with preserving numerous Masonic documents that might otherwise have been lost. In 1850 Dove Lodge No. 51, in Richmond, was named for him, and in 1872 the sculptor Edward Virginius Valentine, a Freemason, honored

Dove's long service by presenting a bust of him to the lodge. John Dove Chapter No. 21, Royal Arch Masons, constituted in 1869 in Winchester, also bears his name.

John Dove died on 16 November 1876 at his son-in-law's residence in Richmond. Two days later large crowds gathered to watch an impressive Masonic funeral cortege proceed to Saint John's Episcopal Church, where Dove was buried near his wife, who had died on 12 October 1865. Shortly after his death, the Grand Lodge of Virginia erected a monument to him in Hollywood Cemetery.

Sources Consulted:

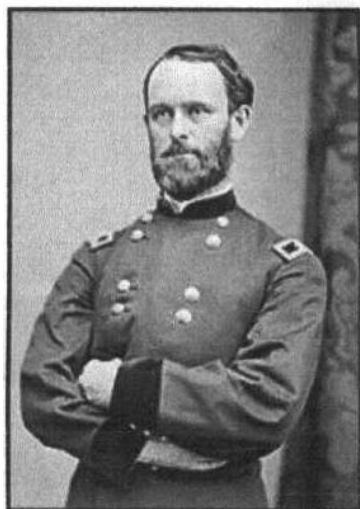
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Written for the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* by Ami Pflugrad-Jackisch.

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Mulford, John Elmer, (Lt. Col.) 3rd NY Inf. Vols, Myrtle Lodge No. 131



<http://lindleyreshohistoricalsociety.blogspot.com/2009/11/general-john-e-mulford.html>

John Elmer Mulford, b. 26 Feb 1929, Lawrenceville, PA; d. 18 Oct 1908, Montour Falls, NY; m. 25 Jan 1854 Frances Hastings Goodwin; bur. Montour Falls Cemetery.

As the Town Historian, I am always curious about the families of our earliest settlers. As a result, I sometimes uncover little known facts about these people and their descendants. Such is the case of General John E. Mulford who was the grandson of Dr. Ezekiel and his wife Nancy (Lindsley) Mulford and the Gt. Grandson of Colonel Eleazer Lindsley (founder of Lindley.)

Recently, the Leader had a small advertisement stating that the home of General Mulford was for sale in the Watkins area. A call to the real estate agent-(Ed Atwell) resulted in his sending photos of the house and the question-"did I know anyone who might be interested in buying the home."

My question was "Who was General Mulford?" A little genealogical research and googling revealed an interesting story.

According to Uri Mulford-(another descendant) who wrote a Mulford genealogy "*Colonial Ancestors and Descendants*," General Mulford was the son of Castilla (commonly known as the Major) and Sabrina Sheppard. He had charge of the exchange of prisoners during the Civil War and was confidential representative of

President Lincoln in secret matters taken up with the Confederate administration. His home was in Montour Falls. He organized and was President of the company that built the Elmira and Watkins trolley line and was manager until his death. He was also. President of Cook Academy."

Looking further - I found I had the General's obituary which had been donated to the Town files by Bob Deneen, the great grandson of Uri Mulford. This confirmed the involvement of General Mulford in the exchange of prisoners in the Civil War-along with some other interesting facts. The obituary names his father as Jonathon.

For those interested in the Civil War- apparently this gentleman played a very important role in prisoner exchange. The obituary states that General Grant asked President Lincoln to appoint someone to organize and pursue efforts to exchange prisoners. This person was to be General Mulford after being interviewed by Lincoln and Grant. The obituary goes on to say that when he tried to meet with General Lee as Major Mulford, he was kept waiting for a week and was finally granted an audience only after sending the message that he would stay until he was received. His duties caused him to make many trips back and forth through the battle lines to visit prisons and keep a full account of all exchanges of prisoners. He reported to Secretary of War Stanton. The



article says he gained considerable information on his trips to the prisons. He was promoted to rank of General by Lincoln in 1864 for his services after having served in the various lower ranks of the army. He remained in the Virginia area until 1867, when all prisoner exchanges had been completed. 125 commissioned officers and a large body of regular troops were exchanged through his efforts.

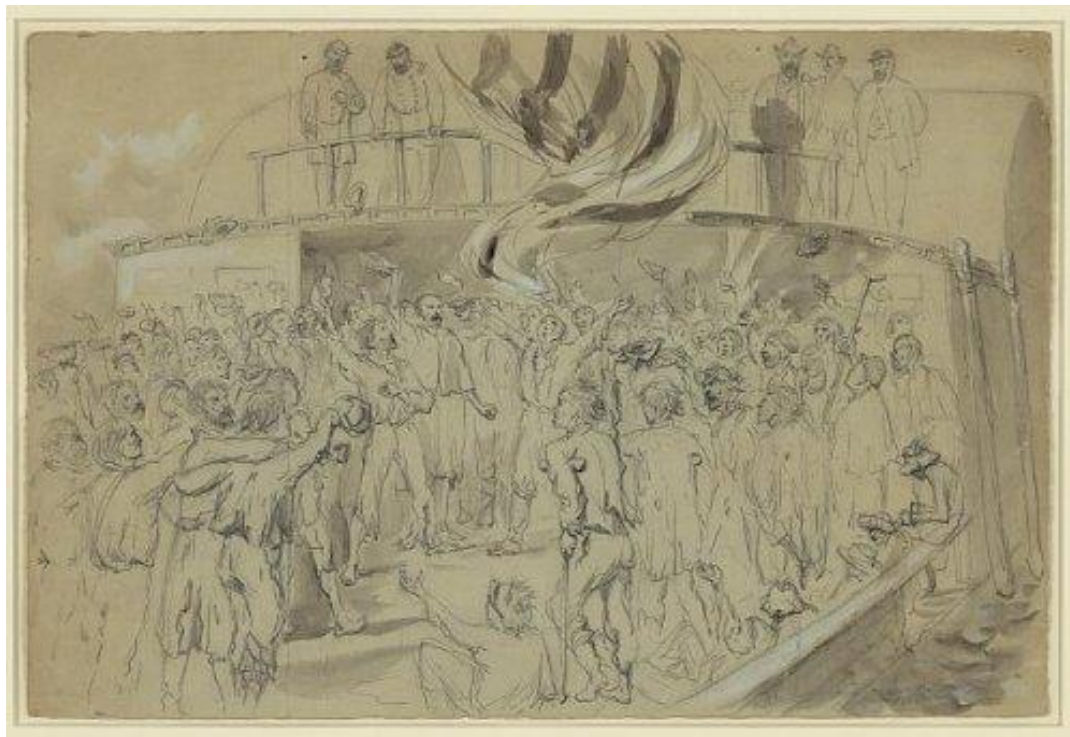
As Captain Mulford, John raised the first company of enlistment at Havana (Montour Falls) in April 1861. The 100 man Regiment left Havana in May 1861 for Albany, New York where they joined the **3rd Regiment of New York Volunteers**, the first Regiment organized in New York State. They were the first troops ordered to Fortress Monroe.



As a youth, the General started as a clerk working in the lumbering industry and manufacturing industries. In 1877, he became President an iron works. An obituary found on the Internet from the **New York Times** states "he was President and Director of the Prentiss Vice Company, and of the Lewis Tool Company, Vice president and Director of the Elmira and Seneca Lake Railway Company and a director of the General Pneumatic Tool Company."

The General was born in Lawrenceville, PA, on February 26, 1829 and died at his home in Montour Falls, NY, October 18, 1908. The obituary states "The General and his wife Francis (Goodwin) Mulford spent the greater portion of their 54 years of marriage in their pleasant home in Montour Falls." "It is a chosen spot which the General never tired of endeavoring to beautify and its spacious grounds bear evidence of this, in their floral beauty of today". The Mulfords had 1 son and 2 grandchildren when he died. The General must have been held in high esteem as businesses closed, the flag flew at half mast and the railroad cars were draped in mourning the day of his funeral.

MULFORD, JOHN E. —Age, — years. Enrolled [3rd NY Inf. Vols.], April 25, 1861, at Albany; mustered in as captain, Co. K, May 14, 1861, to serve two years; as major, June 10, 1863; as lieutenant-colonel, December 4, 1864; as colonel, April 9, 1865; discharged, to date June 30, 1866; commissioned captain, July 4, 1861, with rank from April 25, 1861, original; major, June 10, 1863, with rank from May 23, 1863, vice Floyd, promoted; lieutenant colonel, August 22, 1864, with rank from June 14, 1864, vice Floyd, discharged; colonel, February 27, 1865, with rank from December 20, 1864, vice Edson, declined.



Exchanged (Union) Prisoners on board the liza Hancox [sic] (Colonel Mulford) Despatch boat--Cheering the Stars & Stripes

<http://www.pddoc.com/photohistory/v7/065.htm>

As assistant agent of exchange, Major Mulford occupied a most difficult position. For a time Colonel Robert Ould refused to deal with General Butler, when the latter was the Federal agent of exchange, on the ground that he had been proclaimed an outlaw by President Davis, and instead addressed all of his communications to **Major Mulford**.

After General Grant stopped all exchanges, April 17, 1864, both General Butler and Major Mulford were bombarded with hysterical letters of appeal, abuse, and criticism. A few special exchanges were arranged after this time, and Major Mulford was ordered to Savannah to receive the thirteen thousand Federal sick and wounded delivered without full equivalent by Colonel Ould in the latter part of 1864. On July 4th of that year Major Mulford was advanced to brevet brigadier-general of volunteers for special service and highly meritorious conduct. He entered the war as captain in the Third New York Infantry May 14, 1861, and was promoted to major June 10, 1863, to lieutenant-colonel 8 Dec 1864, and to colonel April 9, 1865. He was honorably mustered out June 30, 1866.



The Active Federal Exchange Agent, Brigadier-General John Elmer Mulford, U.S.A. (to the right)

Current Masters and Secretaries of Lodges of Brothers mentioned above.

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Silentia 360 chartered 13 Jun 1823;
forfeit 9 Aug 1837 to become No. 2, St. John's GL;
York 367 chartered 13 Jan 1824;
forfeit 9 Aug 1837 to become No. 3, St. John's GL;
York 3 chartered 27 Sep 1837, St. John's GL;
Worth U.D. under dispensation, St. John's GL, ca 1850;
United States 26 chartered, St. John's GL, ca 1850;
27 Dec 1850 Silentia 2 revived as Silentia 198 at Union of GLNY;
York 3 revived as York 197 at Union of GL NY;
Excelsior 17 revived as Excelsior 197 at Union of GL NY, 27 Dec 1850;
United States 26 revived as United States 207 at Union of GL NY;
Worth U. D. revived as Worth 210 at Union of GL NY;
Eureka 243 chartered; 26 Dec 1851;
Excelsior 195, York 197, Silentia 199, United States 207 and Polar Star 24 consolidated to form Peerless 195, 27 Oct 1967;
Eureka 243 consolidated with Cyrus 208 to form Cyrus Eureka 208, 2 May 1972;
Cyrus Eureka 208 consolidated with Eastern Star 227 to form True Light 208, 8 May 1974;
True Light 208 merged with and became Peerless 195, 10 Aug 1983;
Peerless 195 consolidated with Franklin 216 to form Franklin Lodge No. 195, 11 Jul 2002

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Bro. Tom Forrest, Historian
Saint Tammany Lodge No. 5, Chartered 26 Feb 1759

