



# LINCOLN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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CIVIL WAR MUSEUM ■ RESEARCH CENTER

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## LINCOLN SHRINE PLANS TO REOPEN SAFELY

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lincoln Memorial Shrine closed on March 17, 2020. Plans to reopen in the summer were sadly postponed indefinitely, but Shrine staff have worked diligently to identify strategies to open the museum to the public while following health and safety regulations set by the California Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The multi-stage approach considers issues of sanitation, capacity control, and the overall health of visitors and staff. Here's what you can expect:

*Maintaining a healthy environment.* Visitors and staff who are exhibiting signs of illness will be asked to remain at home to avoid possible transmittal of the Coronavirus. Everyone will be required to wear face coverings and sanitize their hands when entering the building. Children two years and younger are exempt from this requirement.

*Social distancing.* New guideposts indicating the recommended visitation pattern of the museum will be found throughout the building and social distancing markers will be in place to remind visitors to keep an appropriate distance from others. A maximum of 24 individuals will be allowed to access the building at one time, ensuring a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone.

*New hours.* Financial reductions necessitated by the months-long pandemic have resulted in the elimination of the Shrine's hours of operations on Sunday. For the foreseeable future, the museum will be open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays, 1-5pm. Guided tours and public programs will be temporarily suspended until revised guidelines allow gatherings to resume.

"The long closure has been difficult for all of us, and we look forward to reopening the museum and research center to the public," said Shrine Associate Archivist Maria Carrillo. "Fortunately, the new procedures will allow visitors to enjoy the museum with little inconvenience. We will all welcome a return to some semblance of normalcy," she concluded.

Please visit [www.lincolnshrine.org](http://www.lincolnshrine.org) for updates about the Shrine's reopening date. Until then, catch the twice-monthly webinar series on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month (see "Bringing History to You at Home," page 7).

If you have any questions about the Lincoln Shrine, please feel free to contact the Heritage Room at (909) 798-7632 or [heritage@akspl.org](mailto:heritage@akspl.org). We look forward to seeing you soon!

# LINCOLN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

*A publication of the  
Lincoln Memorial Shrine*

Erected in 1932 by Robert Watchorn in  
memory of Emory Ewart Watchorn



## LINCOLN MEMORIAL SHRINE

CIVIL WAR MUSEUM ■ RESEARCH CENTER

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The LMA Newsletter is published quarterly.  
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The Lincoln Memorial Shrine, located in  
Smiley Park south of A.K. Smiley Public Library,  
is open to the public, free of charge.

Hours of Operation: Tuesday - Saturday, 1 pm - 5 pm  
For more information, visit [www.lincolnshrine.org](http://www.lincolnshrine.org)

### Mission Statement:

**The Lincoln Memorial Shrine strives to be a sustainable community resource that provides a diverse and growing audience an opportunity to better understand today by learning about the past from expanded collections, exhibits, and programs.**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE WATCHORN LINCOLN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

Established in 1932 in the midst of the crisis of the Great Depression, the Lincoln Memorial Shrine is dedicated to educating visitors, students, and scholars alike on the life and work of Abraham Lincoln and the U.S. Civil War era. Today we find ourselves in a period of political, economic, and social strife that is exposing and exacerbating persistent inequities in American society. The tragic death of George Floyd (in the midst of a global pandemic with all of its dislocations) has become a catalyst for change that could help us all with—as Lincoln charged in his 1863 “Gettysburg Address”—the “unfinished work . . . and great task remaining before us” of true and lasting equality.

Here at the Lincoln Memorial Shrine, we remain dedicated to the work of exposing past injustices, listening to “the better angels of our nature,” and lighting the way to a more just and equitable present and future.



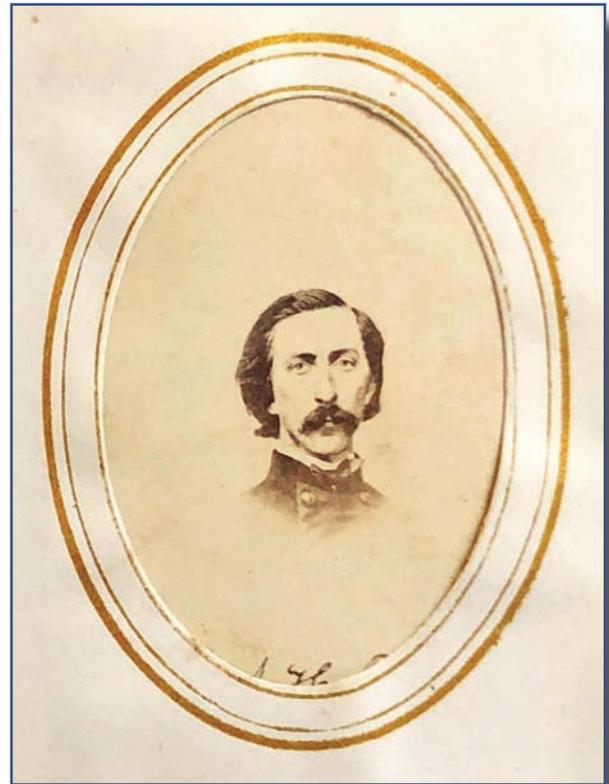
# THE MEN OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CONNECTICUT INFANTRY

In June, Associate Archivist Maria Carrillo presented “From the Shrine’s Collections: Colonel Chapin and the 21<sup>st</sup> Connecticut Infantry,” a webinar focusing on the stories unearthed from a Civil War-era photo album that was donated to the Lincoln Shrine a few years ago. The album was compiled by the Packer family and includes many family photographs, in addition to 33 cartes-de-visite of men in military uniforms. While these men had disparate surnames, they are all linked by their service in the 21<sup>st</sup> Connecticut Infantry Regiment.

The regiment was mustered into service in August, 1862 and took part in the Battle of Fredericksburg, Siege of Suffolk, Battle of Drewry’s Bluff, Battle of Cold Harbor, Siege of Petersburg, and the assault on Fort Harrison, and were among the first regiments to enter Richmond after it was abandoned by the rebels. It was mustered out of service on June 16, 1865. Of the 18 identified men featured in the album, 8 sustained injuries in battle, four were lost, and one was awarded a Medal of Honor. Each individual story provided insight into the war and its effects on families. Here are the stories of a few of those men.

## **Unfulfilled Promise**

The regiment was organized under Colonel Arthur H. Dutton. Dutton was a graduate of West Point’s class of 1861 with future Civil War notables Hugh “Kill-Cavalry” Kilpatrick, George A. Custer, Patrick O’Rourke, and Alonzo Cushing. His first appointment was as Captain in the Corps of Engineers under General Joseph K. Mansfield before being promoted to Colonel and charged with the command of the 21<sup>st</sup> Connecticut.



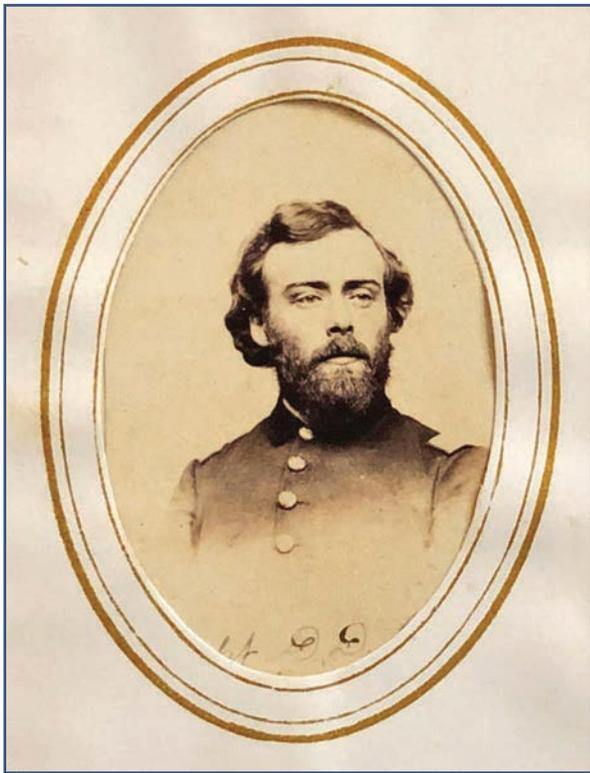
*Arthur H. Dutton*

Dutton was held in high esteem by everyone he worked with and was described as “bold and chivalrous, with a nice sense of honor, a judgement quick and decisive, an unwavering zeal in his chosen profession, he was in every respect a through soldier.” He was also ambitious. When remembering him, a friend relayed a story about the moment Dutton first tried on a uniform dress coat with the insignia of his rank as Colonel. The friend remarked “Those silver eagles look well,” to which Dutton replied “Yes, but a Brigadier’s star would look better.”

He married Maria M. Sands in Washington, D.C. on June 6, 1863; they had one son. Dutton was fatally injured on May 26, 1864 while on a reconnaissance mission near Bermuda Hundred, Virginia. He was shot through the face, shattering his jaw, and was transported to a U.S. military hospital at Fortress Monroe. He died on June 5<sup>th</sup> after suffering a hemorrhage while being transferred to a hospital in Baltimore and was posthumously promoted to Brigadier General. Tragically, his funeral was held at the same church where he was married exactly one year earlier. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery and also has a memorial at In Memoriam Cemetery in Wallingford, CT.

### **A Family Affair**

For many men, enlisting was a family affair, as was the case with Daniel Delos Brown. Brown was working in a bell shop in Chatham, Connecticut when the war began. He mustered in as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in Company H, 21<sup>st</sup> Connecticut Infantry in September, 1862. His father, the Reverend



*Daniel D. Brown*

Thomas G. Brown, enlisted in the regiment as a Chaplain at the age of 63. He was wounded by a shell while praying over a dying soldier at the Battle of Drewry's Bluff on May 16, 1864, earning him the moniker "The Fighting Chaplain". In addition to his father, Brown's two brothers also served in the military during the war.

On June 3, 1864, Brown and his company were assigned to escort Confederate General Fitzhugh Lee to Fortress Monroe as a prisoner of war. He was promoted to Captain of Company I two days later. His brother-in-law Frederick W.H. Buell of Company H died in service in early January, 1865. Brown was honorably discharged with the regiment.

On September 2, 1862, Brown married Anna E. Veazey, the daughter of his employer in Chatham. After the war, Brown partnered with his father-in-law Warren Veazey to manage a bell manufacturing company for a time and later worked in mercantile and as a machinist. He joined the Joseph K. Mansfield Post, No. 53 of the Grand Army of the Republic in Middletown and the Navy Club of Connecticut. Brown was instrumental in the publication of the regimental history for the 21<sup>st</sup> Connecticut in 1900.

He served as County Commissioner of Middlesex County and Postmaster of East Hampton, a post he was reappointed to by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906. Brown died on January 30, 1907, possibly as a result of a stroke, and is buried at Lakeview Cemetery in East Hampton, CT.

### **Responsibilities at Home**

Men who were married with children carried a heavier burden than those without family responsibilities. Cyrus W. Cook married Sarah Foote in Colchester, Connecticut in 1851 and the couple lived on a farm with their three young children at the start of the Civil War. Cook enlisted as a Sergeant in Company H of the 21<sup>st</sup> Connecticut on August 12, 1862. The following year, he was transferred to Company C and promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant.

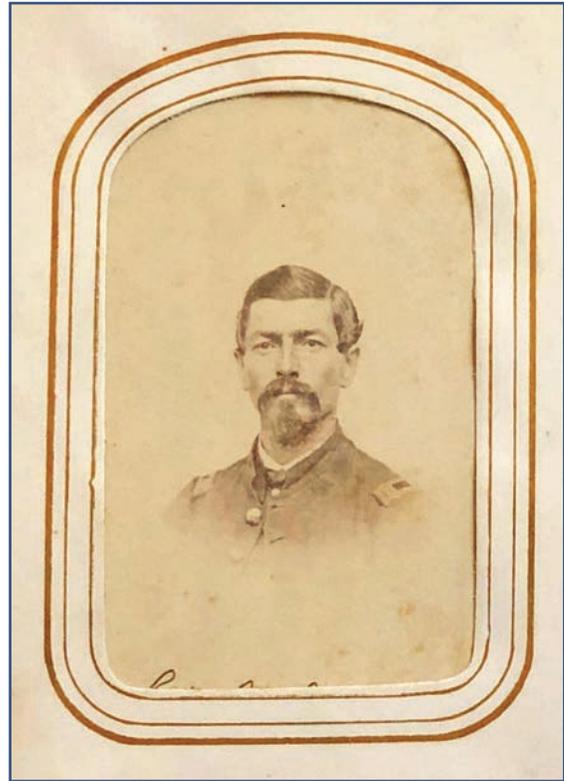
In the spring of 1864, Cook requested permission to resign from his post in a letter to the regiment's commander General Benjamin "Beast" Butler, citing the wellbeing of his family. The correspondence was detailed in the *Crawford County Forum* of Bucyrus, Ohio on May 13: "The fact that his farm was going to ruin for want of help, his wife was worn out with care and threatened with serious illness, and his children were almost destitute... The "Beast," in his reply, insulted all parties, refused to accept the resignation, intimated that Cook lied, and treated the matter of an ill wife and destitute children with flippancy and disrespect..." Cook remained in the military and was promoted once again to Captain of Company I in November, 1864. He mustered out with the regiment.

Cook returned to his family farm in Colchester in the postwar period. Sadly, he died of tuberculosis in February, 1870, a disease that likely claimed his daughter in November, his wife the following year, and his son in 1875. The family is buried in Linwood Cemetery in Colchester.

### **An Unfair Dismissal**

Some men were unfairly judged during their time in the military. James H. Latham was a farm laborer when he enlisted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Connecticut Infantry in May, 1861, serving for three months alongside his younger brother William. When Connecticut Governor William E. Buckingham called for more volunteers in the summer of 1862, the brothers enlisted once again and James was commissioned as Captain of Company C of the 21<sup>st</sup> Connecticut. He married Sarah E. Sisson just prior to joining the new regiment in September and suffered a terrible tragedy when she died just two months later.

Latham served with the regiment throughout the war. In May, 1865, he was approved for leave from a transport in Fortress Monroe only to return twelve hours later to find the transport gone. Latham immediately reported at a camp where the regiment's sick were convalescing and took command. He rejoined the regiment when it returned to the area, but received a court martial



*Cyrus W. Cook*

for his absence on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Sadly, he was dismissed from the Army on June 14<sup>th</sup>, two days before the regiment mustered out.

In the postwar years, Latham married Anna Burdick and had four children. He worked in the maritime industry as a ship carpenter and fisherman in Connecticut. He died on October 1, 1895 and was buried in Noank Valley Cemetery in Connecticut.

In December, 1899, Connecticut State Senator Joseph R. Hawley, himself a veteran of the Civil War, introduced a bill to remove charges against Connecticut soldiers who served during the war, including James H. Latham. The bill passed in May, 1900, revoking Latham's dismissal and granting him a posthumous honorable discharge.

### **A Medal of Honor Recipient**

William Stone Hubbell was a student at Yale College (today's Yale University) in the years leading up to the war. He enlisted in the 25<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Infantry in late August, 1862 and was quickly promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant of Company H, 21<sup>st</sup>

Connecticut Infantry. Hubbell was promoted once again in February, 1864, attaining the rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. He was wounded twice during the war. The first was during the Battle of Drewry's Bluff on May 16, 1864 and the second was at Chaffin's Farm, Virginia on September 30<sup>th</sup> of that year. During the assault on Fort Harrison on September 29<sup>th</sup>, he led a group of soldiers to safety and captured a large number of rebels at Chaffin's Farm. He was promoted to Captain in January, 1865 and mustered out with the regiment in June.

Hubbell spent the postwar years as a Clergyman throughout New England. He married in 1866 and he and his wife Caroline had four children. Hubbell was awarded the Medal of Honor on June 13, 1894 for his actions at Chaffin's Farm. He died in Plymouth, Massachusetts on August 28, 1930 and was buried in Indian Hill Cemetery, Middletown, Connecticut.

### **A Secret Identity**

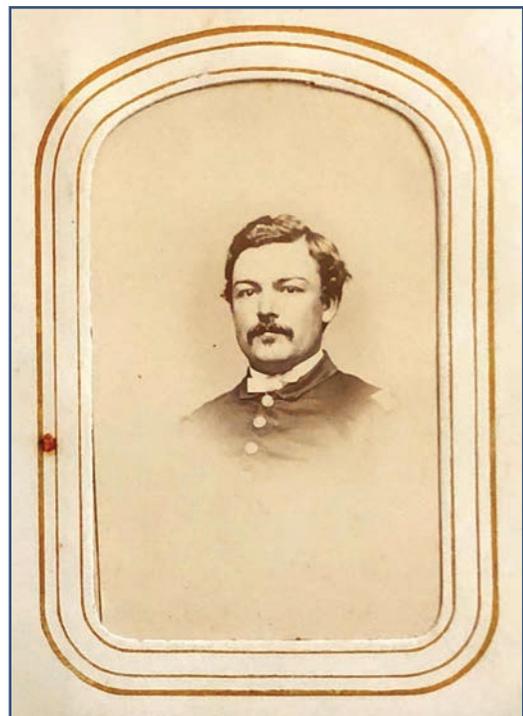
E. Perry Packer was a 22-year-old clerk in North Stonington, Connecticut when he enlisted as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in August, 1862. He was mustered in to Company G of the 21<sup>st</sup> Connecticut the following month and was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in June, 1863. He sustained an injury at Chapin's Bluff, Virginia during the week long struggle in and around Fort Harrison in late September of 1864. He received a promotion to Captain two weeks later and mustered out with the regiment.

After leaving the military, Packer returned to Connecticut and married Mary Ellen Morgan in 1865. Their daughter Mary was born in 1871. He was active in veterans' groups and political organizations, including serving as President of the Grant Club, formed to bolster Ulysses S. Grant's chances of winning the Presidential election in 1868; Post Commander of the Arthur H. Dutton Post, No. 28, Grand Army of the Republic; delegate to multiple Republican state conventions; and was nominated for Connecticut state comptroller in 1874. His affiliation with public organizations earned him a great reputation, which was beneficial

for his retail business in South Coventry. It was common for Packer to be referred to as Major or Colonel, despite not having attained those ranks.

Packer's life shifted dramatically in 1875 when his business failed and he was forced to declare bankruptcy. With debts totaling approximately \$35,000 and his creditors refusing a settlement offer, Packer vanished, leaving his wife and family to deal with the fallout. In his absence, local newspapers detailed the extent of his alleged crimes, *"His operations in [Hartford]...proved to be of the most personal friendship, and even used his Masonic associations to deliberately cheat those who confided in him as a safe business man. The facts disclosed by investigation within the past few months reveal a systematic course of deception and an intent to defraud."*

While his whereabouts remained a mystery in Connecticut, E. Perry Packer moved across the country to Santa Monica, California and became Colonel E.K. Chapin. The choice of "Chapin" as a family name was likely an homage to the Battle of Chapin's Bluff, where he was wounded during the war. The newly coined "Colonel Chapin" found



*E. Perry Packer, aka E.K. Chapin*



*Los Angeles Herald, July 13, 1880*

assistance from friend and fellow veteran of the 21st Connecticut, William C. Bassett who moved to California in the late 1860s and

owned a store in Santa Monica when Chapin arrived. Chapin's wife and daughter joined him within a few years and took on the new surreptitious surname.

Colonel Chapin embarked on a successful career as a merchant in Santa Monica and became founding city treasurer when the city incorporated in 1886. He became one of the most well-respected men in the city and was active in political and veterans' organizations, including the Republican Mass Meeting in Los Angeles where he served as a Vice President of the group along with California luminaries like Pio Pico, Isaias W. Hellman, and William Wolfskill. When his wife was forced to declare her business bankrupt in December, 1890, Colonel Chapin was not affected and opened a new business of his own the following month.

Colonel E.K. Chapin died on July 7, 1891 following a long illness. In a tribute, the *Los Angeles Evening Express* described him as "one of the most beloved, one of the most sincere of friends, a progressive citizen, one whose sympathy and aid was never asked in vain, a noble husband, father, [and] friend."

His wife Mary Ellen and their daughter Mary Chapin remained in Santa Monica following the Colonel's death. Mary Ellen passed away in 1913. Mary married Allan M. Jamison on November 15, 1899 and the pair had a daughter also named Mary. The younger Mary wed Charles M. Brown, Jr. of Redlands in 1924 and had two daughters. The family donated the album and other family photographs to the Lincoln Shrine in 2015.

## BRINGING HISTORY TO YOU AT HOME

In an effort to keep in touch with the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, A.K. Smiley Public Library's Special Collections team started the Resilient Redlands webinar series in April. Focusing on the history of Redlands, the Civil War, and World War II, the series was the ideal way to share history and discuss treasured Special Collections items with the Library and Shrine's community of supporters.

Archivist Nathan Gonzales focused on local history with an introduction to the history of Redlands, an exploration of how railroads shaped the community, the Redlands Home Movie Preservation Project, and a look at citrus label art of the Redlands District. Associate Archivist Maria Carrillo highlighted the Shrine's collections with presentations on Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, the U.S. Sanitary Commission, the 21<sup>st</sup> Connecticut Infantry, and Ulysses S. Grant's first great victories at Forts Henry and Donelson. Director Don McCue honored the anniversaries of the end of WWII and D-Day in his look at those momentous events that shaped the history of the world.

The series elicited positive messages from virtual attendees who appreciated a break from the monotony of remaining at home during the statewide closure and were appreciated by staff who were excited about sharing these stories with patrons.

Webinars will continue to take place on the second and fourth Saturday of each month and can be accessed on Facebook Live or by registering on Zoom. Past webinars are available to watch on the Special Collections YouTube channel and Facebook page. For more information, visit the events pages at [www.akspl.org](http://www.akspl.org) or [www.lincolnshrine.org](http://www.lincolnshrine.org).



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