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June 3, 2015

Civil War Medicine & Surgery

Rebecca Sharp

Archives Specialist Rebecca Sharp will discuss *The Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion, 1861–1865*. This published source contains information about Civil War medical and surgical procedures as well as case studies.
Rebecca Sharp is an Archives Specialist in the National Archives Reference Section, Textual Records Division, in Washington, DC. She specializes in Federal records of genealogical interest as well as Civilian Records. She graduated with departmental honors in History from McDaniel College (established as Western Maryland College).
Medicine on the Civil War Battlefield

Rebecca Sharp
National Archives and Records Administration
Mathew Brady Photograph – *In the trenches before Petersburg, Va.*
Ailments & Diseases

- army itch
- asthma
- bronchitis
- cardiac disease
- conjunctivitis
- constipation
- consumption
- diarrhea
- diphtheria
- dysentery
- malaria
- measles

- parasites
- pleurisy
- pneumonia
- scarlet fever
- scurvy
- smallpox
- tetanus
- tonsillitis
- typhoid fever
- typhus fever
- venereal disease
- yellow fever
Injuries

- abdominal wounds
- accidental
- aneurisms
- bayonet wounds
- chest wounds
- contusions
- facial wounds
- fractures
- frostbite
- gunshot wounds
- head wounds
- injuries of the lower extremities
- joint injuries
- neck injuries
- paralysis

- puncture wounds
- sabre wounds
- spinal injuries
- sprains
- struck by lightning
- sunstroke
- wounds of the heart
- wounds caused by large projectiles

Mathew Brady photograph – Artillery Park
Surgical Procedures

- amputations
- ball extractions
- blood-letting
- ligations
- plastic operations
- removal of foreign bodies (buttons, clothing, wire)
- tracheotomy
- trephining
Medical Supplies

- alcohol
- ammonia salt
- calomel
- cathartics
- dover’s powder
- laudanum
- iodide of potassium
- morphia
- milk punch
- opium
- quinine
Mathew Brady Photograph – Wounded soldiers under trees, Marye’s Heights, Fredericksburg. After the battle of Spotsylvania
Mathew Brady Photograph – Ambulance of 6th Corps
Mathew Brady Photograph – Quarters of the United States Sanitary Commission
FIG. 473.—An army wagon fitted up as an ambulance wagon. [After Langer.]
Fig. 476.—Longitudinal section of a passenger car fitted up as a hospital car. [After Evans.]
Fig. 502.—U. S. Army Hospital Steamer D. A. January.
hurricane deck (Fig. 503), the roof of the boat, was the texas, on top of that the pilot-house. The staterooms were taken out and the whole cabin deck converted into one spacious ward (Fig. 504). Long windows were placed on all sides of this ward, attached by strong butts along the centre of the ward. About the centre of this deck, on one side, was a nurses' dining-room, a bath-room, and water-closet, and on the other a special diet kitchen, bath and wash-room, and water-closet. Away aft there was on one side a drug-shop and steward's room, on the opposite side a linen-room, in the centre an operating-room. Drinking-water throughout the ward was drawn from fountains placed at convenient distances. The bath-rooms were supplied with water from a large tank on the hurricane deck, filled with water by steam-power. The drinking-water arrangement was a refrigerator on a large scale. Pipes ran from the tank on the hurricane deck into two large ice-chests in the hold of the boat, one on each side. In these chests were large worms through which the water
Mathew Brady Photograph – U.S. Military R.R., City Point, Va. Field Hospital
HARPERSFORD HOSPITAL, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Scale 1:200: 1, Administration building; 2, 3, Wards; 4, Dining-room; 5, Kitchen; 6, Knapsack room; 7, Ice-house; 8, Dead-house; 9, Guard-house; 10, Laundry; 11, Launderesses' quarters; 12, Engine-room; 13, Quarters for female nurses; 14, Brick building used as bakery and commissary store-house; 15, Brick stable; the loft used as store-house; 16, Store-house; 17, Barn; 18, Hospital tents; 19, Old barracks; 20, Sutler; 21, Coal; 22, Covered pathway. Sinks in movable boxes placed on the flanks of the triangle.
SEDGWICK HOSPITAL, GREENVILLE, Ia.—Plans of ward, ventilation and heating: 1, 1, 1, Nurses' rooms; 2, Water-closets; and 3, Bath-rooms, at the free end of the ward. The double-lined circle indicates the position of the rain-water tank.
Chimborazo Hospital, (Confederate) Richmond, Va. May 1865 – Library of Congress
Amputation being performed in a hospital tent, Gettysburg—Records of the National Park Service (RG 79)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name, Military Description, and Age</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Operations, Operators, Result</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Name, Military Description, and Age</th>
<th>Operations, Operators, Result</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Comer, C., Capt., H, 5th South Carolina</td>
<td>Aug. 16</td>
<td>Furloughed September 23, 1864</td>
<td>July 10</td>
<td>Chaffin, F., Pvt., H, 7th North Carolina</td>
<td>Right, Furloughed September 10, 1864</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Criddle, J., Pvt., C, 49th Georgia, age 22</td>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Right, Died October 31, 1864</td>
<td>July 13</td>
<td>Cobb, J., Pvt., G, 9th Virginia, age 22</td>
<td>Right, Died July 26, 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Dodge, F., Pvt., C, 20th Louisiana</td>
<td>June 2</td>
<td>Left, flap. Discharged July 17, 1864</td>
<td>July 17</td>
<td>Conway, J., Pvt., F, 11th Infantry, age 22</td>
<td>Right, Died May 6, 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Edmundson, J. C., Pvt., K, 12th Georgia, age 22</td>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>Right. Furloughed November 8, 1864</td>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>Davis, J., D., Corp., D, 8th Virginia</td>
<td>Right, Died August 18, 1863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Eanes, W. S., Lieut., D, 45th Georgia</td>
<td>July 9</td>
<td>Right. Furloughed October 9, 1864</td>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>Gage, O., Pvt., D, 19th Mississippi</td>
<td>Left, Re-amputation upper third, Aug. 11, 1864, bone cut off. DIED Aug. 18, 1864, exhaustion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Fender, C., Pvt., 3rd Alabama</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Left. Furloughed September 18, 1864</td>
<td>July 23</td>
<td>Hall, J. H., Pvt., I, 43rd North Carolina</td>
<td>Right, Died August 6, 1863</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Foster, F., Pvt., I, 57th Virginia, age 21</td>
<td>July 12</td>
<td>Left. Furloughed December 6, 1864</td>
<td>July 26</td>
<td>Jones, J. C., Pvt., F, 12th New York</td>
<td>Right, Died July 26, 1864</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Hearne, B. L., Pvt., H, 6th Georgia</td>
<td>Sept. 29</td>
<td>Right. Furloughed December 6, 1864</td>
<td>July 26</td>
<td>Milligan, J. P., Pvt., D, 45th North Carolina</td>
<td>Right, Died August 12, 1863</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Ingraham, L., Pvt., D, 43d Mississippi</td>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>Right. Discharged March 5, 1864</td>
<td>July 30</td>
<td>Shepard, W. R., Pvt., E, 45th Georgia, age 20</td>
<td>Left, Died July 23, 1864</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Passmore, W., Pvt., F, 50th Kentucky Cav, age 41</td>
<td>June 29</td>
<td>Right; cise. Prison April 28, 1865</td>
<td>July 30</td>
<td>Stetson, O. D., Pvt., D, 45th Georgia</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Pate, J., Pvt., D, 31st Georgia</td>
<td>June 26</td>
<td>Furloughed August 23, 1864</td>
<td>July 30</td>
<td>Thomas, H. L., Pvt., F, 56th Penn, age 18</td>
<td>Right, Died August 23, 1864</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Peeler, J. H., Pvt., I, 7th Tennessee, age 21</td>
<td>Oct. 7</td>
<td>Right. Discharged July 17, 1864</td>
<td>July 30</td>
<td>Webber, J. P., Pvt., I, 8th Virginia</td>
<td>Right, Died August 30, 1864</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Stout, T., Pvt., C, 6th Louisiana</td>
<td>July 5</td>
<td>Right.</td>
<td>July 31</td>
<td>Winter, W., Pvt., H, 13th South Carolina, age 19</td>
<td>Right, Died September 14, 1864</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>J. H., Pvt., A, 30th North Carolina, age 30</td>
<td>May 27</td>
<td>Right.</td>
<td>July 31</td>
<td>Wray, D., Pvt., I, 5th Mississippi</td>
<td>Right, Died September 14, 1864</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Watrous, J. B., Pvt., Cobb's Georgia Cavalry</td>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Left. Furloughed November 19, 1864</td>
<td>July 31</td>
<td>Daniels, W., Pvt., K, 6th Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Right, Died September 14, 1864</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>Williamson, A., Seaman, St. Savanah, age 55</td>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>Left. Furloughed September 17, 1864</td>
<td>July 31</td>
<td>Faust, J. W., Pvt., G, 24th Ohio, age 54</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>Bybee, A. F., Pvt., E, 23d North Carolina</td>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>Right.</td>
<td>Jul 31</td>
<td>Philpott, C., Colored servant, age 25</td>
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### Massachusetts Volunteers

#### Fifteenth Regiment Infantry, M. V. — (Three Years.) — Continued.

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<tr>
<th>Name and Rank</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Residence or Place credited to</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Date of Enlistment</th>
<th>Date of Discharge</th>
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<td>A. P. Temple</td>
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<td>Northbridge</td>
<td>July 23, 1861</td>
<td>July 23, 1864, expiration of service</td>
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</table>

- Avery N. Hathaway, p.; b. unknown; res. cr. Windsor; m. i. Oct. 18, '61; 28; s.; farmer; sergt. '03; wd. hip; side Gett.; d. July 24, '63.
- Patrick C. Lanning, p.; b. Ireland; 26; s.; moulder; sergt.; wd. arm Ant.; dis. March 12, '63.
- George W. Lewis, b. Plainfield, Ct.; 30; m.; laborer; pris. B. B.; m. o. Aug. 6, '64.
- William H. Palmer, sergt.; 30; m.; shoemaker; pris. B. B.; d. May 6, '64.
- Rufus F. Raymond, b. Dudley; 25; s.; shoemaker; dis. Aug. 6, '64.

- Whitman W. Bowsworth, corp.; b. Woodstock, Ct.; 22; s.; painter; pris. B. B.; m. o. Aug. 6, '64.
- Joseph Holland, corp.; b. Cambridge, res. cr. Thompson, Ct.; 21; s.; laborer; m. i. Oct. 21, '61; d. Nov. 21, '62.
- Albert H. Snow, p.; b. Tolland, Ct.; m. i. March 7, '62; 16; s.; farmer; wd. head Ant.; k. Gett.

Privates:

- Marcus M. Aldrich, b. unknown; m. i. Aug. 8, '61; 29; s.; dis. Dec. 14, '62.
- Henry L. Amidon, b. Cumberland, R.I.; 19; s.; operative; k. Ant.
- Isaac G. Bacheleder, b. Eaton, N.H.; res. Denmark, M.; cr. Georgetown; m. i. April 15, '64; 35; m.; farmer; tr. Co. E, 20th, as ab. sick; m. o. as ab. sick.
- Oscar Baley, b. unknown; res. cr. Millbury; m. i. Dec. 2, '61; 27; m.; bootmaker; dis. Oct. 8, '62.
Carded Medical Files
B. 15 Mass.

E. O. Bemis
Admitted May 27, 1864.

To U.S. A. Gen'l Hosp.,
Chester, Pa.

From C. A. Campbell

Diagnosis,
Gun S. M. right hypogastric region.

Missile congenit al bullet

W'd at Wilderness, May 6, 1864.
Treat'n: Simple dressing.

Ret'd to duty Dec. 3, 1864.
Trans'd to I. C. 18.

Trans'd to Nov. 4, 1864.

Furloughed Sept. 21, 1864.

Deserted 18.

Disch'd from service 18.

Died Nov. 23, 1864.

Re-adm'd from furlo' or des'n Oct. 3, 1864.

Remarks:

Age 24.

Pa. Reg. No. 520; Hos. No. 598; Page

(208-78) Ramsey
Compiled Military Service Records
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital Number:</th>
<th>3433</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Eben C. Bennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nativity</td>
<td>American, Pittsfield, Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Single</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence</td>
<td>Pittsfield, Hampshire, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Office</td>
<td>43 Washington, Alldridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Eben Bennis, Brother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rank Corp.</td>
<td>Co. 1, Regiment 15, 2nd Me. Inf.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Admitted</td>
<td>12th, 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Gall. C. Alldridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis</td>
<td>G. I. W. of Abdomen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature</td>
<td>Campbell G. H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note</td>
<td>On what occasion wounded: Wilderness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Wounded</td>
<td>May 3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature of wound</td>
<td>Sniper Bullet</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES
CERTIFICATE
OF DISABILITY
FOR DISCHARGE.

Ensign Edson L. Dennis, of Company L,
35th Regiment, 20th Mass., 5th Regiment of the United States
Infantry, was enlisted by Capt. Hanks
of the Regiment of Virginia
on the 20th day of February, 1863, to serve three years; he was born in Middlefield, in the State of Massachusetts, is 23
years of age, 5 feet 10 inches high, dark complexion, gray eyes, dark hair, and by occupation when enlisted a farmer. During the last two
months said soldier has been unfit for duty

STATION: Campbell U.S. Hospital, N.C.
DATE: July 16, 1865

I certify that I have carefully examined the said
Ensign Edson L. Dennis, of Company L, 35th Regiment, and find his unfitness of performing the duties of a
soldier because of: 1. Fracture of upper end of
bone of right arm, causing disability on 5/20 half

Discharged this 16th day of July, 1865, at Campbell
U.S. Hospital, N.C.

The Soldier entitled to be addressed at
Newburyport, Mass.

*See Note 2 on the back of this.

[Duplicate]
Department of the Interior,
BUREAU OF PENSIONS,
Mar. 30, 1826

Nature of Claim . . .

No. . . . B287
Soldier: Edw. I. Birds.

It is desired in this case that the examination be made with special reference to:

(a) Loss of left arm, right eye, left temporal bone, left side of face, and left side of

The history of this case is given in part 1 of the surgical volume (page 132) of Mrs. A. History of The Civil War of Rebellion, where she was on general

an accident that was removed from the substance of the left hemisphere of the brain. 3 days after the wound was received. In 1887, claimant stated that, had he not had an accident

Thos. S. Brown
Medical Examiner

Pension Records
He is quite deaf on the wounded side and his eye is affected, we have to do his reading for him. At the age of 21 he gave himself over to his country and in those terrible days received wounds that should have prevented him from any hard labor and armed at the age of fifty-six he walks and appears like a man of eighty. The veterans that served by our country through all that. They say I should accept your kindest care for they will soon be gone.

Mrs. E. J. Dennis

Suffield Cour

Dec 30 1876

Mr. D. J. Murphy, Dear sir,

As you wished for a statement from the attendant of Edeon D. Dennis, I will state that I am his attendant.

My daughter is with me and assists some but if I am not able to care for him he would have to have a male attendant. You wish to know what any duties are I have to assist him when he takes his bath as he cannot use the left hand but very little, as the paralysis has
STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS,
County of Middlesex

City or Town of Cambridge

We, Lewis E. Bryant, a permanent resident of Cambridge, City of Middlesex, and State of Massachusetts, and Walter E. Harring, a permanent resident of Cambridge, City of Middlesex, and State aforesaid, being severally and duly sworn, do make oath and depose,
each for himself, with the exceptions which are hereinafter noted, as follows:

1. That I am a graduate of a legally chartered school or college; that I have been in the actual practice of my profession in this Commonwealth as a physician for at least three years since my said graduation, and for the three years next preceding my making this oath; and that I am duly registered in compliance with the provisions of chapter four hundred and fifty-eight of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-four and acts in addition thereof and amendment thereto, and continue to be so registered.

2. That within five days prior to my signing this certificate, namely, on the third day of April 1900, the subscriber, personally examined with care and diligence, and as a result of such examination found, and hereby certify that Dr. Bryant, a resident of Cambridge, in the State of Massachusetts, is insane and a proper person for care and treatment in some hospital, asylum or other institution for the insane, as an insane person under the provisions of the statute.

3. That I have formed the above opinion upon the subjoined facts, viz.: —

a. Facts indicating insanity, personally observed by me, as follows: —

The patient said [Here state what was said to each examiner separately, unless it was said to both.]
that he was thirty years old; that he did not know the present year.
4. That he was fifty years old; that he has not been able to read since he
was paralysed; that he cannot understand what he tries to read and
5. That he uses the word 'that' as "a thing," still going on; that once in
a while he sees sleep in the room. The foregoing is in wrote, Dr. Bryant,
great anxiety about an imaginary disease of the seminal organs.
thinks some operation should be performed.
Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Office of the Secretary,

Boston, December 10, 1901.

I hereby certify That the DEATH of Edson D. Remis, of Suffield, born, aged 60 years, who died at North Brookfield, on the 9th day of November, in the year 1900, appears of record in this office by duly attested return of the clerk of the Town of North Brookfield for that year.

WITNESS the SEAL of the COMMONWEALTH hereunto affixed at the date first above written.

Wm. M. Olin
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH.
QUESTIONS
Thank you for attending!

Today’s video recording and materials will remain available at www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records