

# OLD TOWN MUSEUM

353 Main Street, Old Town, Maine 04468  
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 375  
(207) 827-7256  
email: oldtownmuseum@gmail.com

*Established 1976*

APRIL 2023

*The Old Town Museum is a volunteer effort dedicated to preserving Old Town's history.*

## *A Tale of Two Americus*

**Board Member William Osborne**

In June of 1847 Charles and Julia Moore purchased a modest home on Stillwater Ave. in Old Town. According to the deed at the Penobscot Registry of Deeds, the home was located on the easterly side of Stillwater Ave., most likely in the area very close to the intersection with Main Street. The U.S. Census of 1860 shows a total of nine people living at the home; Charles, age 56, his wife Julia, age 56, their son Richard, age 25, his wife Laura, age 19, their son Americus, age 19, daughter Clara, age 12, Charles's brothers, Edwin, age 40, Sumner, age 29, and Julia's mother, Mary Davis, age 74.

The Census lists Charles, Edwin, and Sumner as being "millwrights". It describes Richard as a "millman", and states that Americus, "works in mills". It is most likely that they were all employed at one of the many lumber or shingle mills located on Ounegan Falls, a very short distance from their home.

Charles V. Moore's health had been declining for some time and he passed away on December 24, 1860. Richard and his wife Laura moved out of the Moore home to a nearby residence. This left Americus to fend for his mom, sister and Grandmother. In an effort to make money to assist his mother, Americus decided to join the Union Army and enlisted on April 30, 1861, in Bangor.

He joined the Maine Infantry, 2nd regiment, Company K, often referred to as "Old Town" Company. The Second Regiment left Bangor on May 18, 1861, under the command of Colonel Charles D. Jameson, another Old Town native. The company proceeded to Willette Point, Long Island, New York where they were formally mustered in for a two-year term.

Sometime in or around 1840 Elizabeth Moore gave birth to a son, Americus V. Moore in New Hanover, North Carolina. The U.S. Census of 1850 shows Elizabeth and Americus still living in New Hanover. There is no mention of his father in the record. The U.S. Census of 1860 shows Americus living with the Williams family in Colvins Creek, a section of New Hanover County. There is no reference for his mother Elizabeth. Americus is listed as a "farmer". Americus joined the Confederate Army on February 25, 1862, and was formally mustered into the 51st North Carolina Infantry, A Roster on April 19, 1862.

The State of Maine furnished 70,107 men for service in the Civil War. In terms of losses, the Civil War was by far the deadliest for Maine soldiers and sailors than any other war. Maine lost over 8,000 soldiers in the Civil War, 2,156 in WWII, 242 in the Korean Conflict, and 341 in Vietnam.



## The Battle of First Bull Run, July 21, 1861

When Americus Vespucci Moore of Old Town was mustered in, he volunteered for service in the signal corps. The primary job of the Corps was to carry both the regimental flag and national flag into battle and protect them from being captured. Author James Robertson offers a very detailed description of the importance and danger of being a flag bearer during battle in his book, The Untold Civil War, National Geographic Society. Referring to Stephen Crame's 1895 work, The Red Badge of Courage, he states that, "The regimental and national flags were the most visible signs of patriotism. They signaled the devotion of men to their unit, state, country, and cause. The most consistent record of heroism during the war came from the men who bore the flag. It was the symbol around which soldiers rallied in the heat of battle. To keep the flag flying was their all-consuming objective. Enemy soldiers delivered their deadliest fire at those holding aloft the colors. Capturing a

battle flag was one of the war's outstanding feats. Losing one's banner to the enemy was a shame second only to cowardice in action. Troops took to heart a saying often repeated: 'The post of danger is the post of honor.' No shortage of volunteers existed for the dangerous duties of color-bearers or color guard—typically a unit of a dozen men or fewer who shielded the flag and took it up one after another when bearers fell in battle. Few honors were greater than being selected to lead an attack with the flag in hand." At Gettysburg, the 26th North Carolina reportedly lost 14 men who bore a single flag in battle, one after another.

The 51st Regiment North Carolina Infantry fought in several battles during its service in the war, Goldsboro, Drewry's Bluff, Cold Harbor, Petersburg and Bentonville. However, Americus V. Moore of New Hanover did not fight in any of

(Continued next page)



## *A Tale of Two Americus*

these battles. Americus was discharged from service on April 20, 1862, only two months after his enlistment. No record of why his service was so short could be found. Perhaps it was for medical reasons or some form of hardship. Americus returned to New Hanover where he married, had four children and lived out his days as a farmer. He died at age 40 in 1881.

The fate of our Americus turned out quite differently. The 2nd Regiment Maine Infantry was the first regiment from Maine to leave for action in the war. Throughout its existence the regiment fought in many historic battles until it was mustered out on June 9, 1863.

The first battle the 2nd Maine fought in was the battle of First Manassas, or Bull Run as it is better known. Bull Run was a small brook that ran through the area where the battle took place. While enroute to Manassas from Washington, DC., the regiment was presented with a new battle flag at Centerville. The banner was a gift from the Ladies of San Francisco, Ca., one of whom was a native of Maine. The banner was very large and heavy as it was made of India silk. It was said to have cost \$1200. Col. Jameson accepted the banner on July 20th. That same afternoon the regiment left Centerville and headed for Manassas. They arrived at Bull Run at two in the morning, July 21, 1861. They had been marching all night in extremely high temperatures. At 10:00AM the 2nd Maine was ordered to move to the front. The battle raged throughout the day with the 2nd Maine being commended for their bravery. As for Americus, his story is told by Messrs. Whitman and True in their history book, "Maine in the War". It reads:

Capt. Jones of Company C, which was the color company, fell in the first charge, mortally wounded. He was taken prisoner and died during the month, at Richmond, Virginia. Lieut. Skinner of his company was captured while he was endeavoring to rescue him from the enemy. William J. Dean of Company A, color sergeant, was

mortally wounded at the same fire as Capt. Jones, while carrying the new and beautiful flag presented to the regiment but the day before from the ladies of San Francisco. He was placed on a stretcher and fell into the enemy's hands but died the same day. Chaplain Mines wrote that he saw him after he was wounded. He was carried off tenderly and laid on the grass close by a little brook. A shot had broken his arm and cut through his throat, so that he breathed through the wound. Lieut.-Col. Roberts had told him meantime the fate of the flag. He beckoned to the chaplain, who knelt and put his ear close to the sufferer's mouth. He whispered, "It's safe!" "What", said the Chaplain, "the flag?" He nodded his head, smiled, and closed his eyes. He never spoke again. The flag, stained with his blood, was seized as he fell by Corporal Americus V. Moore of Old Town, a member of Company K, another of the color guard, who was almost instantly shot dead, and the flag was left on ground which the rebels immediately occupied. All shouted at once, "We must have that flag." Up the hill Col. Jameson led the regiment. The rebels almost had their hands on the standard, when our men rushed to the rescue, and it was recovered without being polluted by rebel hands."

And so, the war ended for Americus on July 21, 1861. The Union Army lost the battle of First Manassas and was ordered to retreat at 4PM that day. Losses that day were: Union Army- 624 soldiers killed in action, 950 wounded, 1200 captured. The Confederate Army- 400 soldiers killed in action, 1600 wounded, of which 225 died of their wounds. The 2nd Maine Infantry suffered 47 soldiers killed or wounded and over 100 missing in action or taken prisoner. The company roster for Company K, Old Town Company lists 32 soldiers from Old Town and Stillwater, as well as many from surrounding towns.

Another Old Town native, William H. Hanson, 19, was also killed in action on July 21, 1861, at Bull Run. He is buried at Forest Hill Cemetery with his grandparents. Americus V. Moore is buried with his parents at Lawndale Cemetery.

# FREE GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

The Barbara Csavinszky Genealogy Center  
at the Old Town Museum

Second Wednesday of June, July and August

Workshop times: 1 to 3 p.m. or 6 to 8 p.m.

Designed for beginners, but helpful for those who have some experience, the workshop will introduce you to genealogy and assist you in building your family tree. Sample worksheets to begin recording your information will be provided along with discussion of ways to make your research fun and successful.

The workshop hours will be the second Wednesday of the month from 6 to 8 in the evening or from 1 to 3 in the afternoon.

**ATTENDANCE WILL BE LIMITED AND PRE-REGISTRATION IS PREFERRED.**

**FIRST WORKSHOP: Wednesday, June 14, led by Mary Gibouleau  
Introduction and Build Your Tree**

**SECOND WORKSHOP Wednesday, July 12  
Resources, Family Search and Ancestry**

**THIRD WORKSHOP Wednesday August 9  
Publication and storage of research**

**For more information or to pre-register  
Please contact Mary Gibouleau or the Old Town Museum**

**Mary Gibouleau, 827-2435**

**The Old Town Museum email: [oldtownmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:oldtownmuseum@gmail.com)**

## MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eisso Atzema  
Joe Ayotte  
Barbara Connors  
Pamela Dorr  
Robert Dorr  
Philip Dunn,  
Carol May,  
Cassandra Pool,  
Bill Osborne  
Carolyn Smith  
Robert Stanley  
Tiffany Tibbits  
David Wight

Name: _____	<b>OLD TOWN MUSEUM</b> <i>Established 1976</i>
Address: _____	
City: _____	P.O. Box 375 353 Main Street Old Town, Maine 04468
State and Zip: _____	Individual \$30      Senior \$20 Family \$50      Life \$400 Group or Business \$175      Donation: \$ _____
Phone Number: _____	
E-mail: _____	

Membership entitles you to voting rights at the Annual Meeting.  
The Old Town Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization.  
**PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL FOR FUTURE NOTICES FROM THE OLD TOWN MUSEUM**