

Color Sergeant Lewis Bishop
 Company C, 154th New York Infantry
 1st Brigade, 2nd Division, 11th Corps

Three different sources tell of another young color bearer who had previously made his reputation for bravery at the Battle of Chancellorsville, two months earlier. At Gettysburg this man was shot in the left knee, which shattered the bones therein, and resulted in the amputation of the leg.

The first to see Bishop was a New York State relief agent who was visiting the 11th Corps hospital about the middle of July. He wrote: "I saw in one tent three soldiers of the 154th who were shot one after another while holding the colors of their Regiment. These were Albert Miracle, Lewis Bishop and Rickert [sic], and I think the name of John A Burk should be added." *

On Friday, July 24, Reverend F.J.F. Schantz visiting the late battlefield to distribute supplies to the wounded, stopped off for awhile at the 11th Corps Hospital where he, "was for some time with Lewis Bishop of Pittsburg [sic]. He was the bold soldier who would not give up his flag when one of his legs was shot off. He stuck to his flag until he was wounded in the other leg."

Two days later, Private Emory Sweetland of the 154th, commented in a letter home:

Gettysburg, July 26
 Sunday

My Beloved Wife

Although I can not get a letter from you I have hopes that my letters will reach you, so I keep writing to you. About a week ago our steward went away & now I am acting steward & ward master at the same time. I don't know how long that I shall stay here. Lewis Bishop our color guard is dying to day. He is a noble brave man. He went home before the battle of Chancellorsville & was married to a girl at Olean [NY] The weather is quite warm & the flies verry [sic] thick.

So Bishop died, his courage and intrepidity recorded by an unusually large number of eyewitnesses. He was only twenty-five when he died on July 31. His burial was on Spangler farm, but later, just prior to Lincoln's visit in November, Bishop's body was removed to the new Soldiers' National Cemetery on beautiful Cemetery Hill, where his grave is rarely, if ever, specifically visited today.

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* Report of the General Agent of the State of New York.
 Albany: Comstock & Cassidy, Printers, 1864, p. 46