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Sweetland and Knowles

Pula, James

Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 2:01 PM
To: Frank, Dennis; Mark Dunkelman
Cc: Pula, James
Attachments:  [Knowles.jpg \(402 KB\)](#)

Dear Mark & Dennis,

I thought you might be interested in what I uncovered about the Knowles who appears in the Sweetland photo. I am attaching a photo I found online of a David Knowles who was a hospital steward and had a direct connection to the Eleventh Corps hospital at Gettysburg. A brief bio accompanies the photo at https://www.flickr.com/photos/piedmont_fossil/8392522375. If you look at the hair style, where the part is, the ears, the general facial features, along with the bio that places him on the scene, I would bet this is the Knowles who appears with Sweetland in the photo.

Best wishes,
Jim

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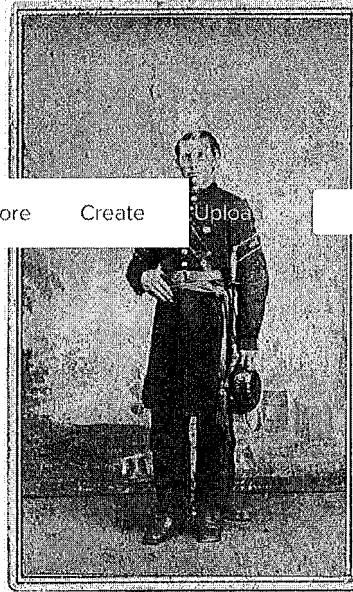
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Mike Fitzpatrick

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Taken sometime in 1863

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Hospital Steward David Watson Knowles (1836 - after 1912)

CDV photo by A. H. Messinger, U.S. General Hospital, Div. 1, Annapolis, Maryland. Circa 1863.

In this photograph, taken while at Annapolis, David Knowles is wearing the dress uniform of the regular United States Army. Enlisted men of the volunteer units wore light blue trousers after December 1861, whereas the men of the Regular Army continued to wear dark blue trousers throughout the duration of the war. The gold-on-green caduceus insignia on the sleeves of his coat signifies Knowles' rank as a hospital steward, as does the wide dark green stripe down his pant leg.

David W. Knowles was a hatter at New Milford, Connecticut. On July 28, 1861 he married Sarah Jane Nichols. Later that year, on December 17, 1861, he enlisted for three years as a private in Co. C, 1st Connecticut Cavalry. He spent part of January 1862 on extra duty digging trenches. On October 13, 1862 he was detailed as hospital steward to the Medical Director, 11th Army Corps, Army of the Potomac. Knowles was discharged on January 23, 1863 at Washington, DC in order to allow him to reenlist as hospital steward for 5 years in the Regular Army. In this capacity he served at 11th Corps Headquarters and at field hospital at Gettysburg. He was then sent to Annapolis, Maryland where he served for a time as chief hospital steward in Division No. 1 Hospital (known as the Naval School Hospital because it was located on the grounds of the Naval Academy while that institution was in Rhode Island for the duration of the war). Later he was sent to Headquarters Middle Dept at Baltimore, Maryland, where he served until being discharged on November 8, 1865 by way of a favor upon his own request. Knowles returned to his home in Connecticut and fathered three children after the war: William, George and Clara. His post war occupation was as a dentist.

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Curt J, The Lady of Shalot, and lknownthln faved this



Curt J PRO 3y
Great CDV and great history, Mike.



Mike Fitzpatrick PRO 3y

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CDV photo by A. H. Messinger, U.S. General Hospital, Div. 1, Annapolis, Maryland. Circa 1863.

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Re: Sweetland and Knowles

Mark Dunkelman

Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 3:26 PM

To: Pula James

Cc: Frank, Dennis

Dear Jim,

Great work! There's no doubt in my mind that David Knowles is the hospital steward pictured with Emory Sweetland during their time together in Gettysburg. I have six of Emory's letters from Gettysburg, and while none of them mention Knowles, one written on December 19, 1863 from Baltimore does. In it Emory described the "packing up & sending off the rest of our hospital stuff [from Gettysburg]. We finally got it sent off and started on the _____ train & arrived at this place about 8 last eve. very tired & hungry. We were ordered to report at the Provo Marshalls There were 8 of us along in charge of Steward Knowles . . . I went to a hotel where the Steward Knowles & wife staid . . . The Steward has been assigned to Anapolis where our paroled prisoners are." Emory continued his letter the next day. "I bid Steward & wife good by today. I feel rather lonely after parting with them. They seem like brother & sister to me. He is going to try & get me detailed with him at Anapolis I shall know about it in a few days." Everything fits to identify Emory's hospital steward companion in the photograph as David Knowles. The affectionate bond between the two men is evident in their pose.

You get two 11th Corps men for the price of one in that picture!

Mark Dunkelman

www.hardtackregiment.com

<http://cattcomemorial.com>