

# ZOUAVE!



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*Journal of Anderson Zouaves Research*



Unidentified Zouave\*

Liljenquist Family Collection of Civil War Photographs  
(Library of Congress)

*\*see Letters to the Editor section below*

## **CAPTAIN GEORGE H. MOESER CO. F.**

by Joe Basso



Like many of the 62<sup>nd</sup>, George Moeser's parents were born overseas and immigrated to the United States. Arriving from Bavaria, Germany, possibly on the ship *Baltimore*, in the 1830s.

Captain Moeser's parents George (b. 1805) and Charlotte (b. 1814) settled in New York City and began their life in their adopted country as a tailor and housewife. No record could be found of any additional children or relatives crossing with them. George H. Moeser was born in

New York City in 1837 and in 1860 married Lena (Helena) Moeser in Manhattan, New York and together they will have three children, George (b. 1862), Elizabeth (b. 1864) and John (b. 1866).

After the firing on Fort Sumter, George H. enlisted with the 62<sup>nd</sup> on April 27, 1861 in New York City and was mustered into Company F on July 3, 1861 at the age of 24. He was commissioned a Captain on October 23, 1861. Captain Moeser fought in the various operations of the Peninsular Campaign and joined the rest of the 62<sup>nd</sup> in the assault on Fredericksburg, Virginia. It was here that the Captain was wounded by a gunshot to the left side of his head and right leg. He was removed from the battlefield and sent to a military hospital near Alexandria, Virginia.

No matter what war or during what time period, military and civilian

bureaucracy will muddy the waters and confuse the facts. While recovering from his wounds in Alexandria, Captain Moeser was reported absent without leave and was dishonorably dismissed from the service under Special Order #53. Later, after clarification of the confusion surrounding his whereabouts was researched and verified, his rank and privileges were returned to him. He was then honorably discharged from the service.

After The Great Rebellion, George, like hundreds of thousands of soldiers from both sides, returned to their homes and tried to reestablish their lives. George returned to New York City and established a home for his family on 194<sup>th</sup> Street, East Village and opened a grocery, and he would continue to operate a grocery until about 1900. The Federal Census of 1900 showed that their son, John, had been unemployed as a house painter for about three months and was now living with them. . At this time the family was living in Manhattan.

On January 24, 1905, George successfully applied for a pension for his services in the War, but no mention was made of the amount. On August 6, 1913 Captain George H. Moeser died at home, with Lena following on November 25, 1916. Both were buried at Saint John's Catholic Cemetery in Queens, New York.



Captain Moeser's gravestone  
(courtesy Joe Basso)

**6 2**

## ASSISTANT SURGEON WILLIAM WALLACE BIDLACK COMPANY S

by Joe Basso



Unlike most of the 62<sup>nd</sup> who enlisted within the state of New York, William Bidlack enlisted on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1861 in Saltersville, New Jersey, which is now part of Bayonne, New Jersey. However, like several members of the 62<sup>d</sup>, he came from a rather prominent family.

His father, Benjamin Aldin Bidlack (b. 1804) was a Freemason , physician, and a representative to Congress from New Jersey. Benjamin's wife, Margaret Matilda Bidlack (b. 1813) provided Benjamin with five children, between 1831 to 1843.

William Wallace Bidlack was born in 1831 and graduated with a degree to practice medicine from the University of Pennsylvania in 1857 where his address was listed as living in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. He was commissioned as an Assistant Surgeon in Company S of the 62<sup>nd</sup> on October 25, 1861. The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies 1861-1865 state that after the Battle of Fair Oaks where Colonel Riker of the 62<sup>nd</sup> was killed, "Assistant Surgeon W.W. Bidlack was detached from the Brigade having been placed in charge of the hospital at the Chickahominy." On September 23, 1865, he was promoted to full Assistant Surgeon. On that same date, he was transferred to Company S of the 58<sup>th</sup> Colored Infantry before being mustered out of service on April 30, 1866.

On March 10, 1867, he married Mary Anna Runyan (b. 1846) at the Church of the Survivor - Episcopal, in Philadelphia. He continued to practice medicine in the area at 3515 Market Street, until he reentered military service sometime in 1871. From May until August, 1872.

Bidlack was “en-route to Cavalry Camp near Tucson, Arizona.” Assistant Surgeon Bidlack joined Company D, First Cavalry, at Fort Lowell, Arizona in compliance with Special War Department Orders #28 and #38 approved in 1872. Fort Lowell averaged 13 officers and 239 enlisted personnel. It was active between 1873 to 1891 providing supplies and manpower during the Apache Wars. Order #28 referred to digging an artesian well across the Military Reservation to provide water for the use by the Cheyenne Nation located in Wyoming near Fort D.A. Russell. Order #38 dealt with the repairs and extending the jetties at the mouth of the Spanish River. On April 25, 1873 he arrived at Fort Yuma, California en-route to San Francisco and was listed as a “civilian” in the company records.

From 1875 to 1880, William and his wife lived with his brother Benjamin whom the San Francisco City Directory has listed as a merchant abiding at 146 Fourth Street, but the Voter Registration in 1882 no longer had Benjamin listed at the above address. Between 1882 and 1892, William and Mary Anna moved back to Philadelphia, where he applied for invalid status on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1892.

No record could be found of any children for this couple. Annie will die on February 06, 1883, and William would follow on August 30, 1898, both were buried at Milford Cemetery, Pike County, Pennsylvania.

**6 2**

## **EXCERPTS FROM THE DIARY OF NELSON P. DOLBECK – OCTOBER**

**1861**

**(Courtesy of Andrew Lausten and Rose  
Lausten-Miller)**

**+**

**Tuesday October 1, 1861**

This was a fine day and we was called ... general inspection. We expected to march, but now I am allowed to remain in camp yet another day.

**Wednesday October 2, 1861**

This was a rainy day, and we was not called out on drill. At guard mounting, a man in Z Company fell upon the ground. He was taken to the hospital, but expired in a few minutes.

**Thursday October 3, 1861**

There is nothing of importance to day.

**Friday October 4, 1861**

The weather is growing warmer. Every thing is quiet in camp.

**Saturday October 5, 1861**

I am on guard today as orders are given to pack knapsacks and be ready to march on a moment's notice. The order to march was misunderstood, for I see tents cleared out, ammo stacked, tents struck, that is that the ground ... be cleaned, and the streets cleaned. I worked very hard today and was taken very ill in the evening.

**Sunday October 6, 1861**

I am worse today. This evening I was taken to the hospital.

**Monday October 7, 1861**

I was discharged from the hospital this morning with an excuse from duty for 24 hours. I feel a little better today. A hail storm at 6pm.

**Tuesday      October      8,      1861**

We had another general inspection today. It was called at 10am, and was not released until 3pm. At these inspections, we must always fall in fully equipped, which is to each soldier, one rifle weighing 8 pounds, bayonet, haversack, and canteen. And as much gunk can be carried in the haversack as we please. In our knapsacks, we must carry two blankets, weight about 11 pounds, one shirt, one pair of drawers, and socks, overcoat rolled up on top; the whole weight about 40 pounds.

**Wednesday    October    9,    1861**

At about 3pm, our regiment was ordered to strike tents and then fall in. We were drawn up in line of battle and after drilling about two hours, we received orders to remain in camp until morning. This news was not very well relished, as our tents were all loaded. But we laid ourselves down upon the ground. At 8:20pm, we was again roused up in order to fall in and march in about fifteen minutes. We commenced our march. It was very dark, and in silence, we cropped along through the mud. At 1:25am, we halted, and laid ourselves down once more to sleep.

**Thursday      October      10,    1861**

On getting up this morning, I find that we have marched (?) and a half miles and we were in Camp Tenly. This is a fine place. There is a fine fort here and it is called "Fort Pennsylvania". It is a fine specimen of earth work. It was rainy today and we was in bad condition, as we had neither food nor shelter. Toward night, we pitched out tents. I was soon comfortably stowed in for the night. My tentmates and myself stole and begged enough for supper.

**Friday        October        11,    1861**

The weather has cleared off and we are west of Washington. We are also in sight of the soldier's house. My tentmates are Henry Ostrier, Harrison Cheeney, Franklin Blanchard, Albert Shamus, and Jacob Dean. We stole, bought, borrowed, and begged the materials and cooked our own breakfast this

morning. It was the best meal I've had since I left home. We had another heavy shower in the night.

**Saturday      October      12,    1861**

Our regiment was now ordered to go across Chain Bridge into Virginia on pickets. After breakfast was called out for inspection. The Colonel told us to be ready for he expected to be called out any moment. He also told us that we was liable to be sent to Georgia for our bad conduct. There has been a great many complaints against the Anderson Zouaves. Everybody stands greatly in fear of them, and they are the roughest crowd I ever saw in my life. At about 6pm, we were ordered to fall in to march and move. The orders were countermanded. We were then informed to be in readiness by early in the morning. At half past nine, we was again ordered to fall in. News came that the Rebs was coming across the Chain Bridge in a large body. After being drawn up in line of battle, each soldier received 100 rounds of cartridges, and continued our march. It was 1am Sunday, October 13 when we came to a halt for the remainder of the night. The night was cold and I did not get much sleep.

**Sunday        October        13,    1861**

This is a fine day and I have been down to the Potomac and Chain Bridge. It appeared that the enemy 05/ have fallen back for I hear of no further shelling to the north. At about 10am, we were ordered back to camp, so we get no fight this time.

**Monday        October        14,    1861**

I am on guard today.

**Tuesday      October      15,    1861**

Nothing but drill today.

**Wednesday    October    16,    1861**

News Call, out on picket today. The whole company was up. Our line extended on about (?) miles.

**Thursday      October      17,    1861**

Back in camp today with a severe headache.

**Friday October 18, 1861**  
Worse today. Hardly able to sit up.

**Saturday October 19, 1861**  
Am no better today. I went to the hospital and Surgeon Simpson said nothing ailed me. He would not give me an excuse which every soldier must have or do duty. So it was a small consolation to me. I happened to be lucky, however, for Captain Hubble did not call on me. He knew that I was unfit for duty.

**Sunday October 20, 1861**  
I began to think of home. I lay all day in my tent, freezing. I have no taste for any food or tobacco. I have got the rheumatiz and dysentery, and a bad cold on my lungs and the whole together works hard on my system.

**Monday October 21, 1861**  
I am no better today.

**Tuesday October 22, 1861**  
No better today. I think I am growing worse, if anything. Time is long to me now.

**Wednesday October 23, 1861**  
Nothing new today.

**Thursday October 24, 1861**  
I think I feel a little better today.

**Friday October 25, 1861**  
I am worse today.

**Saturday October 26, 1861**  
Today the tents were moved nearer to the fort. It was a good plan, for the ground is higher and not so wet and muddy as it was in the old place. I got by the guard this afternoon and went to a farmer to get a few tomatoes. He asked me to take tea with him. I drank a cup of tea and ate two biscuits and butter, after which he gave me my cap full of tomatoes. I thanked the people for their generosity and came back to my tent almost tired out.

**Sunday October 27, 1861**  
This was another very long day to me for I was hardly able to leave my tent.

**Monday October 28, 1861**  
The hospital steward died today. He was a very delicate boy and well-spoken of by the whole regiment. He died with the consumption.

**Tuesday October 29, 1861**  
I heard today that our brigade will soon go into Virginia. I am growing weaker every day. I am not able to walk a hundred rods without resting.

**Wednesday October 30, 1861**  
Another long day. No better.

**Thursday October 31, 1861**  
To day our reg't must answer their names to the muster-out role in order to get their pay. I went to the Surgeons tent and Doctor Bidlack gave me some medicine. He also gave me an excuse and told me to report myself every morning.

*Civil War Diary of Nelson Peter Dolbeck –  
courtesy of Andrew Lausten*

Also see:

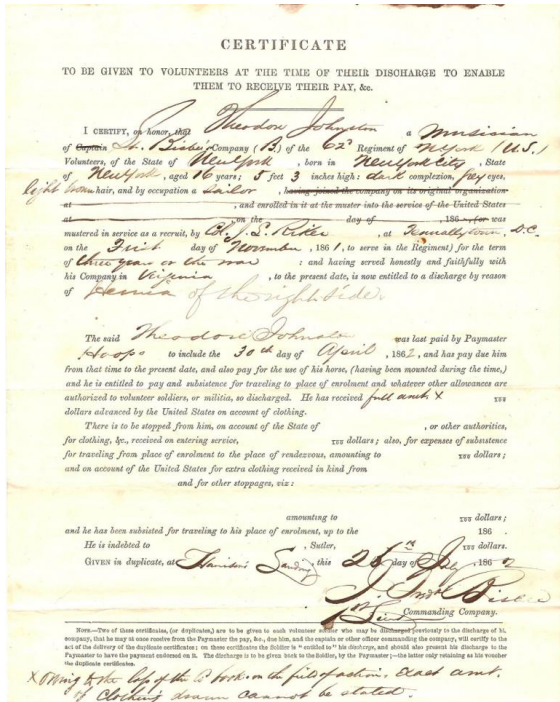
[http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/index.php?title=Diary\\_of\\_Nelson\\_Peter\\_Dolbeck](http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/index.php?title=Diary_of_Nelson_Peter_Dolbeck)

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## NEWS IN BRIEF



### Theodore Johnson's Discharge Papers (Courtesy of the Graham Brissett Collection)



Theodore Johnston (c.1845 - ?) enlisted in the Anderson Zouaves regiment at New York city, at the age of 16 to serve three years. Mustered in as a musician in Co. B, on November 1, 1861. Discharged for disability on July 26, 1862, at Harrison's Landing, Virginia.

See:

[http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/index.php?title=Theodore\\_Johnston](http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/index.php?title=Theodore_Johnston)



AZ Wiki News - A new biography page added for William Peck Allcot which builds on the work of Joe Basso in ZOUAVE!

[http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/index.php?title=William\\_Peck\\_Allcot](http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/index.php?title=William_Peck_Allcot)

AZ Wiki News – A new biography page added for James Diehl

[http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/index.php?title=James\\_Diehl](http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/index.php?title=James_Diehl)

AZ Wiki News – A new biography page added for Edward Fagan. Once again thanks to ZOUAVE! and Joe Basso for the basic info.

[http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/index.php?title=Edward\\_Fagan](http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/index.php?title=Edward_Fagan)



AZ Wiki News - Another bio page, once again, based on the work of Joe Basso and the pages of ZOUAVE!

[http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/index.php?title=Herman\\_Eissenkramer#The\\_Civil\\_War](http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/index.php?title=Herman_Eissenkramer#The_Civil_War)



AZ Wiki News - A new bio page on the AZ Wiki for Cornelius Dixon based on the work of Joe Basso printed in ZOUAVE!

[http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/index.php?title=Cornelius\\_Dixon](http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/index.php?title=Cornelius_Dixon)



AZ Wiki News - The enigmatic George Albert Harrison (a.k.a Albert Harrison Brown) has been brought in from the cold and now has the beginning of a bio page on the Anderson Zouave Wiki.

The history is based on the research done by Charles Luttmann that appeared in ZOUAVE! His diary is also included on the page. It is a great addition to the diaries of Dolbeck's and Wood's.

[http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/index.php?title=Albert\\_Harrison\\_Brown](http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/index.php?title=Albert_Harrison_Brown)

**AZ Wiki News - Well over one hundred newspaper articles related to the Anderson Zouaves and its brigade now on the AZ Wiki.**

[http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/index.php?title=Category%3ANewspaper\\_articles](http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/index.php?title=Category%3ANewspaper_articles)

**6 2**

**Photograph of 62d NY Memorial on the Gettysburg Battlefield courtesy of Bill Lincoln on his recent visit to the US.**



**6 2**

## **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Re: Timothy Kelley**

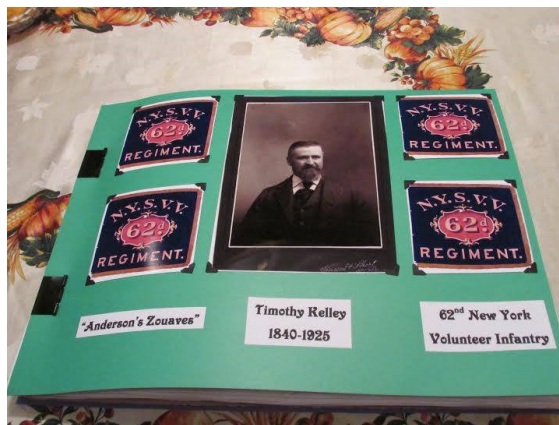
**From: Charles Luttmann**

This is a follow up to the article I wrote and you included in issue number 53 of the Zouave about Timothy Kelley. As you may remember, I found his abandoned headstone in a ravine in Portland, Oregon. This discovery led me on a several year research project on Mr. Kelley that included a visit to the National Archives where I copied all of his service and pension records. I also visited the Plattsburgh, New York area where his family had a farm. With the help of a local historian, we were able to find the old Kelley homestead. It has now returned to a natural state of forest. My research into Timothy Kelley is how I became interested in the 62nd New York Infantry. It has been

a real lesson in history and all because of this chance encounter with a headstone.

Maybe the most rewarding consequence was finding a descendant, a great-great granddaughter, who has an interest in genealogy but knew very little about Timothy. I had a chance to meet her recently and gave her all my research material that I had assembled into a scrapbook. I have attached two photos. I am now researching my own great-great grandfather, Valentine Kirsch, who was a member of the 51st Indiana Infantry. He was involved in battles in the 'West', notably the Battle of Franklin and the Battle of Nashville.

Sincerely,  
Charles Luttmann



**6 2**

**Re: Unidentified Zouave Photograph**

**From: Mark Maritato**

(Edited post from "Anderson Zouaves Research" page on Facebook)



**Mark Maritato** - Hi there, I was doing research on the Library of Congress Website and found this image of an unidentified Zouave in the Liljenquist Family Collection of Civil War Photographs - After examining his Jacket and comparing it with other known images of 62nd New York Zouaves I'm really wondering if this might also be a member of the 62nd New York Anderson's Zouaves. I would love to know the thoughts of the members of this group on this.

**John Tierney** - Looks very similar to line company Anderson Zouaves. White shirt, blue trousers and that odd, home-made looking chevron on the sleeve looks very much like other Anderson Zouave uniforms.

**Mark Maritato** - Hi John, I have to respectfully disagree. I looked at the stripe under magnification in Photoshop and I see only one wide stripe in a lighter color tone than the trousers this could be white or a lighter blue. The tassel of the fez is in fact

the same tone as the trousers (look at its tonal value compared with the pants) it's almost the same. As for the US buckle, I've seen images of many NY units and Zouaves with both styles. I'm still leaning toward this being an Anderson Zouave. Later on when I get home I'll post some close-up detail images... Cheers!

**Mark Maritato** - I have to amend this reply. I looked at it again under Magnification in Photoshop and turns out I totally missed that he does in fact have two stripes down the side of his trousers. I was looking at the lower half of the pants (where it appears to be one wide stripe) rather than the upper part by his right-hand wrist. I know that there is an image of an Anderson Zouave on the Historical Image Bank that shows the trousers and may show a clear image of what the stripe looks like... I still think there is strong evidence to support an AZ here...

**John Tierney** - I agree with you. I think that you have to keep in mind that the initial batch of zouave uniforms were most likely hand made in New York and I expect that there was probably a good amount of variation between those made for the various companies. Square corners, round corners, curved chevrons, straight chevrons, the closeness of the worsted tape to the edge, the seam piping on the shoulders, etc. The important thing would be the colouring of the several elements and unfortunately we don't have that. Without referring to Dolbeck's diary or the other newspaper reports, I reckon we can say that it likely to be an Anderson Zouave. He doesn't wear a waistcoat which I believe was a point made by Dolbeck in his diary regarding the uniform. He is also clearly not a member of several other regiments like the 5th for example, who seem to have had much better made or very different types of zouave uniforms. Really the only sure proof would be to find the name of this recruit.



**Shaun Grenan** - Though, as those stripes on the sides of the trousers, a la 10th NY?

**Shaun Grenan** - Sure looks like a line company member of the AZ...

**Ron Coddington** - I agree that this soldier's uniform resembles the Anderson Zouaves. I can't find anything out of line with what you'd expect to see. Mark, have you seen AZ images with the same backdrop?

**John Tierney** - A fresh viewing of W. H. Caldwell may show two stripes on the trousers. It is a shame we don't have a higher resolution image.



[http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/images/a/ae/W\\_H\\_Caldwell.jpg](http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/images/a/ae/W_H_Caldwell.jpg)

**John Tierney** – Actually... I can see a few issue that may disqualify the uniform. There are two stripes running down the side of the trousers (descriptions of the uniform and one picture we know to be of an Anderson Zouave uniform, only shows one) and the tassel looks like it may not be light blue. It clearly isn't the same colour as the trousers which were supposed to be light blue. The Anderson Zouave uniform was described as... "a dark blue jacket, scarlet facing; light blue pants, blue stripe; scarlet

cap and light blue tassel, with a fatigue cap."

The piping on the shoulder seam also makes me suspect that this may not be an Anderson Zouave, as does the "US" belt buckle. I would have thought that you might find a "SNY" buckle on an early war line company picture.

**James Shockley Sr** - I'm wondering, d'Epanual Zouave's? 53rd NY?



<http://www.angelfire.com/ny/worldmilhistory/bos.html>

**James Shockley Sr** - Would be interested to hear what Joel Craig and Pat Schroeder think on this one. The cuff chevron throws me, but I think I've seen it before.

**Mark Maritato** - Ron I have not seen this backdrop on any other AZ image. Seems like all the anecdotal evidence seems to point to an Anderson Zouave.

**Mark Maritato** - The only thing I can see that's a little different is the roundness of the cut of the bottom of the jacket is a little less rounded but this could just be a variant in the pattern made by the Contractors who supplied the jacket - I've seen different Variants on 14th Brooklyn Jackets throughout the war...

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<http://andersonzouaves.tripod.com/zouave/>

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<http://andersonzouaves.tripod.com>

Anderson Zouaves Wiki  
[http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/index.php?title=Main_Page)

Anderson Zouaves Research on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Anderson-Zouaves-Research/544554128930906>

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NYSVV Co. F) on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/20344272693/>

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