

Civil War Fort Green, Folly Island, SC named for Lt. Col. James Martin Green of Troy NY

"In the fall of 1863, Fort Green was constructed on Little Folly Island, with its guns aimed at Charleston. [...] There is no known record of the Union army dismantling the fort, although they probably did and took their artillery with them. But for the most part, the site was simply abandoned."

Smith, Steven D. "Archeological Investigations on Little Folly Island." 2008. 7-

8. http://scholarcommons.sc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1050&context=anth_facpub

"By the summer of 1865 with the war at an end, Folly's north end was abandoned, the fort and rifle pits filled with used and broken equipment, lying in disarray. Buried later by sand and preserved in pluff mud, these materials were forgotten until exposed by Hurricane Hugo in 1989."

"Our Duty was Quite Arduous': The Union Encampment on Little Folly Island, 1863- 1865"

<http://www.charlestonmuseum.org/our-duty>

<http://blog.charlestonmuseum.org/2013/07/the-folly-north-archaeological-project.html>

Possibly the origin of the name of the no-longer extant fort is well-known, but from cursory searches online it doesn't seem to be given anywhere other than in two *Troy Daily Times* items from 1863.

"By order of Gen. Gilmore, an important battery on Folly Island has been named Fort Green, in honor of the memory of the late Lieut.-Col. James M. Green, of this city."

"Fort Green." *Troy Daily Times*. November 7, 1863: 3 col 5.

James Martin Green: Burial No. X159 Cenotaph

Oakwood Cemetery, Troy, NY http://www.oakwoodcemetery.org/oakwood_civilwar_list.pdf

"The forty-eighth (Brooklyn) regiment came out of the contest almost decimated, and among its officers killed was Lieut. Col. James M. Green, a well-known Trojan, who was last seen alive astride a rebel cannon sabreing the men who were serving it. When I subsequently sent a flag of truce to ask permission to recover his remains, an answer was not vouchsafed, and to this day no friend knows where the young hero sleeps, though a simple little monument points heavenward from Oakwood in commemoration of his pure and virtuous life and his glorious death."

"A Soldier's Story; Wiliam E. Kisselburgh's War Reminiscences." *Troy Daily Times*. Supplement. June 11, 1887.

"Lieutenant-Colonel James M. Green of the Forty-eighth was shot dead after crossing the bastion, as he leaped on the inner parapet. He lay for hours on his back, on the side of the slope near by the writer; when the flash of the guns lit up the scene he could see his face: his long beard, that flowed down to his breast, was burnt by the fires of the battle; he was yet breathing but unconscious at midnight. [...]

"No monument has been erected there; not so much as a sign-board tells the passer by to this day that any event of historic interest occurred upon that spot. Man has been unmindful and ungrateful, but God has remembered those dead heroes. Let it be borne in mind that the dead within that bastion were never decently buried, but the next morning were shovelled over with sand and left there as they fell, heaped together in indiscriminate glory."

Palmer, Abraham John. *The History of the Forty-Eighth Regiment New York State Volunteers in the War for the Union 1861-1865*. Brooklyn, NY: Veteran Association of the Regiment, 1885. 121;125.

To Edwin M. Stanton [1]

[c. July 20, 1863]

Secretary of War---Please see Mr. R. Green of Troy, N.Y.

A. LINCOLN

Annotation

[1] Troy, New York, Times, February 9, 1909. According to the source, Lincoln gave this note to Robert Green of Troy, New York, who sought to recover the remains of Lieutenant Colonel James M. Green, Forty-eighth New York Infantry, killed in the assault on Fort Wagner, South Carolina, July 18, 1863.

Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln. Vol

6. <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/l/lincoln/lincoln6/1:717?rgn=div1;view=fulltext>

“Robert Green, of this city, who was to have started for Port Royal by the steamer Aragon on Saturday, to attempt the recovery of the body of his brother, the late Lieut.-Col. James M. Green, abandoned the trip and returned home on Saturday evening. Capt. Gadsden, of the Arago, convinced him that it would be impossible to recover the body during the Summer season—in consequence of the necessarily strict sanitary laws.”

“The Late Lieut.-Col. Green.” *Troy Daily Times*. August 3, 1863: 3 col 3.

It is interesting to note at a time when so much attention is focused on the life of Abraham Lincoln, because next Friday will be the centenary of his birth, that Miss Georgianna Ring Green, formerly living in Troy and now in Cambridge, is the possessor of Lincoln’s autograph in a short note he wrote in July, 1863. Miss Green also possessed a letter written at the same time by Edwin M. Stanton, who was then Secretary of War, as well as the original order to open fire upon Fort Wagner, July 11, 1863.

These interesting relics recall the death of a gallant officer, Miss Green’s uncle, Lieut. Col. James Martin Green, who was killed at the assault upon Fort Wagner. When the sad news reached Troy Miss Green’s father, the late Robert Green, started at once for Washington to try to obtain possession of the remains. Mr. Green went to the office of the Secretary of War, but there were many in line waiting for an audience, and he saw that he would have to wait so long that he went to the White House to see President Lincoln. When Mr. Green appeared at the door it was opened by a colored servant, who said that the President was not at home but a minute later added: “There he comes up the street.” Mr. Green turned and walked down to meet the President and, after introducing himself to Mr. Lincoln, told his sad errand. President Lincoln then and there wrote a brief note to Secretary of War Stanton, saying: “Secretary of War—Please see Mr. R. Green of Troy, N. Y.,” and signed his name. Mr. Green retraced his steps to the War Office, sent in the note to Secretary Stanton and was admitted at once. The letter now in Miss Green’s possession was written by the Secretary of War at that time to assist Mr. Green in recovering the remains of Lieutenant Colonel Green.

The body was not recovered because of the refusal of the Confederate General Beauregard to give up the body or to allow a search to be made for it, an instance of inhumanity very much to that officer’s discredit. General Gilmore sent in a flag of truce three different times with a request that his men be allowed to search for the remains, but each time the request was refused. Colonel

Shaw of Massachusetts, who was at the head of a negro regiment, was killed at the same time. It was learned that his body and that of Lieutenant Colonel Green were placed in a trench with the dead colored troops under a thin covering of soil. Everything possible was done to get the remains but without avail.

“Lincoln and Stanton Relics.” *Troy Daily Times*. February 9, 1909: 8 col 2.

"Green, Georgianna Ring, Estate of: (Through W. C. Boltwood, Troy, N. Y.) Belt, buckle, and sash owned by Lt. Col. James M. Green, of the 48th New York State Infantry, during the Civil War; photograph of Colonel Green and 2, letters of the same period (154790)."

Report on the Progress and Condition of the United States National Museum. Washington, DC: U.S. Gov't Printing Office, 1941.

Possibly the two donated letters were Lincoln's and Stanton's; it would be interesting to see the items. Images of the sword are online:

“Sword Presented to James M.

Green” http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah_420936

"No other officer was hit though Lieut Col Greens sword scabbard was hit [i.e., Lt. Col. James M. Green, 48th New York Infantry]."

"Robert S. Edwards Papers - July 11, 1863."

http://www.rarebooks.nd.edu/digital/civil_war/papers_personal/edwards/1004-43.shtml (I would guess not the presentation sword)

One picture of Lt. Col. Green:

“James M. Breen

[sic]” <http://nyheritage.nynln.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/nysmm/id/1839/rec/1>

“Lieut. W. E. Kisselburgh, in a letter received yesterday from Folly Island, thus speaks of the late Lieut.-Col. James M. Green:

“The fort named in honor of Lieut.-Col. Green is the largest on this island, and is one of the best-constructed works I ever saw. It is nearly square and mounts six guns—while two more are to be placed outside in towers. It will require three hundred men to garrison it. In naming this fort, Gen. Gilmore has certainly paid special honor to the memory of Col. Green; for, next to Fort Wagner, now Fort Strong, in honor of the General, it is the most noteworthy of any of the works on these islands.

“I have been unable to ascertain anything in relation to the place of burial of Col. Green. I have placed a letter to the rebel authorities in the hands of Gen. Turner, Gen. Gilmore's chief of staff, in reference to the matter, and it will be forwarded on the first flag of truce. But unfortunately the rebels refuse to receive any more flags of truce, and it may be a long while before anything can be learned.”

“Fort Green.” *Troy Daily Times*. November 10, 1863: 3 col 2.