

## **CHAPTER 8**

### **From the First Oswego County Regiment to the Last, the 184<sup>th</sup> NYSV Infantry**

It was not unusual for soldiers to reenlist once their initial terms of service ended. A number of men from the 24<sup>th</sup> NYSV Infantry did so including: Stephen Scriber (Captain, 184<sup>th</sup> NYSV Infantry), Lewis Benedict (184<sup>th</sup> NYSV Infantry), Samuel Beardsley (First New Jersey Infantry), George Wilcox (15<sup>th</sup> NYS Calvary), Richard L. Hill (24<sup>th</sup> NYS Calvary), Gilbert Crocker (24<sup>th</sup> NYS Calvary), and Stephen E. Chandler (24<sup>th</sup> NYS Calvary).<sup>1,29,36</sup> Stephen Chandler was later awarded (in 1898) a Medal of Honor for his bravery rescuing a wounded comrade in April of 1865 at Amelia Springs, Va. Other members of the 24<sup>th</sup> who saw subsequent service were: Duncan Campbell (15<sup>th</sup> Calvary), Marcus Cory (24<sup>th</sup> Calvary), Simeon Howe (9<sup>th</sup> Artillery), William Morse (184<sup>th</sup> Infantry), and Augustus Phillips (184<sup>th</sup> Infantry).<sup>36</sup> Phillips was killed very soon after returning in the Battle of Cedar Creek, Va in September of 1864.<sup>17</sup>

In an account from proceedings dated October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1863 the Mexico Independent (Oswego County) newspaper mentioned S.J. Scriber as the Chairman of the Committee of an Institute of the 2<sup>nd</sup> County District of Oswego County. This apparently was a week long “update” for local teachers which would indicate that Stephen was teaching during this time.<sup>17</sup> A February 23, 1864 account in the Utica Weekly Herald indicated Mr. Stephen Scriber and Miss Delia Scriber (one of his younger sisters) of Hinmansville, NY were appointed to the State Normal School (probably at Oswego).<sup>17</sup> Within approximately a year Stephen J. Scriber began a second term of service in the Civil War and enlisted with the NYS 184<sup>th</sup> Infantry. This regiment (under Colonel Wardwell Robinson) was organized in Oswego, NY and was constituted of about 200 men from neighboring Madison and Cayuga Counties, with the remainder of the unit’s men from

Oswego County.<sup>32,37</sup> It was generally felt that late in 1864 if one more determined effort was made that the rebellion would soon be crushed. The regiment was mustered in during August and September, 1864 for one year. Stephen was appointed Captain of Company K whose men were recruited principally from Schroepfel, Parish, West Monroe, Fenner, and Richland. Oswego County (with the city's \$300 bounty) was able to offer \$700 for one year volunteers plus \$16/month with rations and clothing.<sup>29,34</sup> Lieutenants for the 184<sup>th</sup> were Merritt McCoon, Leonard S. Carter, and later, Jerome Coe.<sup>17,37</sup>

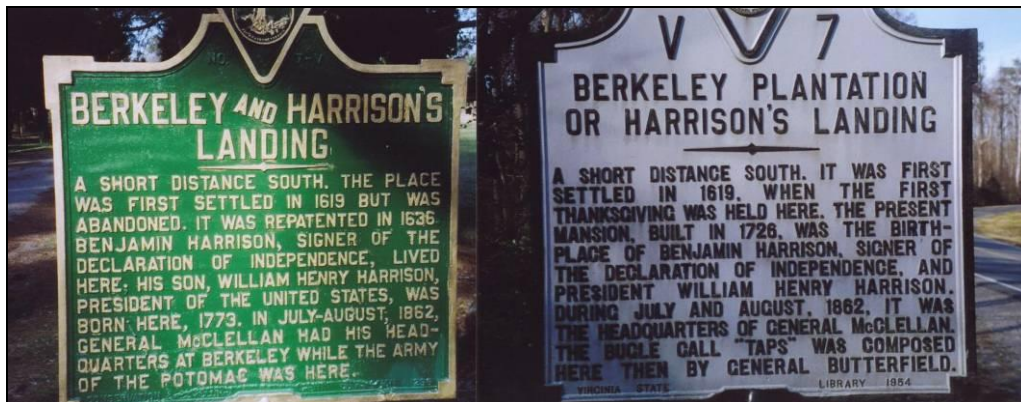
Companies A, B, D, and F of the 184<sup>th</sup> NY Infantry left the State September 12<sup>th</sup> and served in the Army of the Shenandoah under General Phillip Sheridan. They spent time in Winchester and Harpers Ferry, Va while they participated in operations in the Shenandoah Valley. At one point they covered over 100 miles in 3 days as they burned and destroyed property. This was to render the land useless to the Rebels. On October 19<sup>th</sup>, 1864 these companies of the 184<sup>th</sup> were called to the Battle of Cedar Creek. Although ultimately a Union victory, the regiment had 15 men killed and another 40 wounded. After a few more weeks in the valley, these 4 companies were ordered to join the rest of their regiment south of Richmond at City Point and Harrison's Landing, Va. The other companies (including Stephen's K) had left NYS on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1864 and went south to serve at Bermuda Hundred, in the Army of the James (River). The regiment was at Harrison's Landing, Fort Pocohantas from December 1864, and was honorably discharged and mustered out of the Army June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1865 at City Point, Va. The regiment was transported on two steamers to Baltimore and arrived on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The next day they were sent to Elmira and they were subsequently paid off in Syracuse, NY that August.<sup>32,37</sup>



1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Merritt G. McCoon, 184<sup>th</sup> NYSV Infantry<sup>65</sup>



Bermuda Hundred, Va (Looking south toward Petersburg, Va)<sup>22</sup>



Historical Markers from Harrison's Landing, Va,  
Where 184<sup>th</sup> NYSV Infantry was encamped (Photo by R. Eslinger)

Late in the war during January of 1865 Stephen was taken quite ill after a rain and sleet storm while on picket duty near Harrison's Landing, Va. He was confined to his quarters for a couple weeks until later that month when he was apparently granted a leave.<sup>44</sup> He traveled to Elmira where he was married. A February 10, 1865 edition of the Elmira Advertiser mentions the February 8<sup>th</sup> marriage of Capt. SJ Scriber to Nettie Dewitt of Elmira at her father's home. Soon he reported back to Harrison's Landing, Va. and was present on the February 28<sup>th</sup>, 1865 muster roll.<sup>45</sup> Nettie Scriber was listed as William P. Dewitt's adopted daughter in Elmira's June 1865 census records living on Elmira's Franklin Street (1865 Chemung County Census).

Shortly before Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse, Stephen Scriber had sent a letter that was published on 4/11/1865 in the Oswego Commercial Advertiser. Captain Scriber told of the good condition and continued health of the 184<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the NY Volunteers who were still encamped at Harrison's Landing, Va. It was also mentioned that Jerome H. Coe was recommended and received a commission as Lieutenant and was counted as one of the best officers in the regiment. Another account in the same newspaper spoke of Lee's recent surrender on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1865.<sup>17</sup> It was stated that the soldiers were in "first rate fighting order". Ironically, Jerome Coe became a physician after the war and signed affidavits for Stephen's pension claims.<sup>44</sup>



**Berkeley Mansion @ Harrison's Landing**

Used as a hospital during 184<sup>th</sup> NYSV Infantry encampment 1864-65

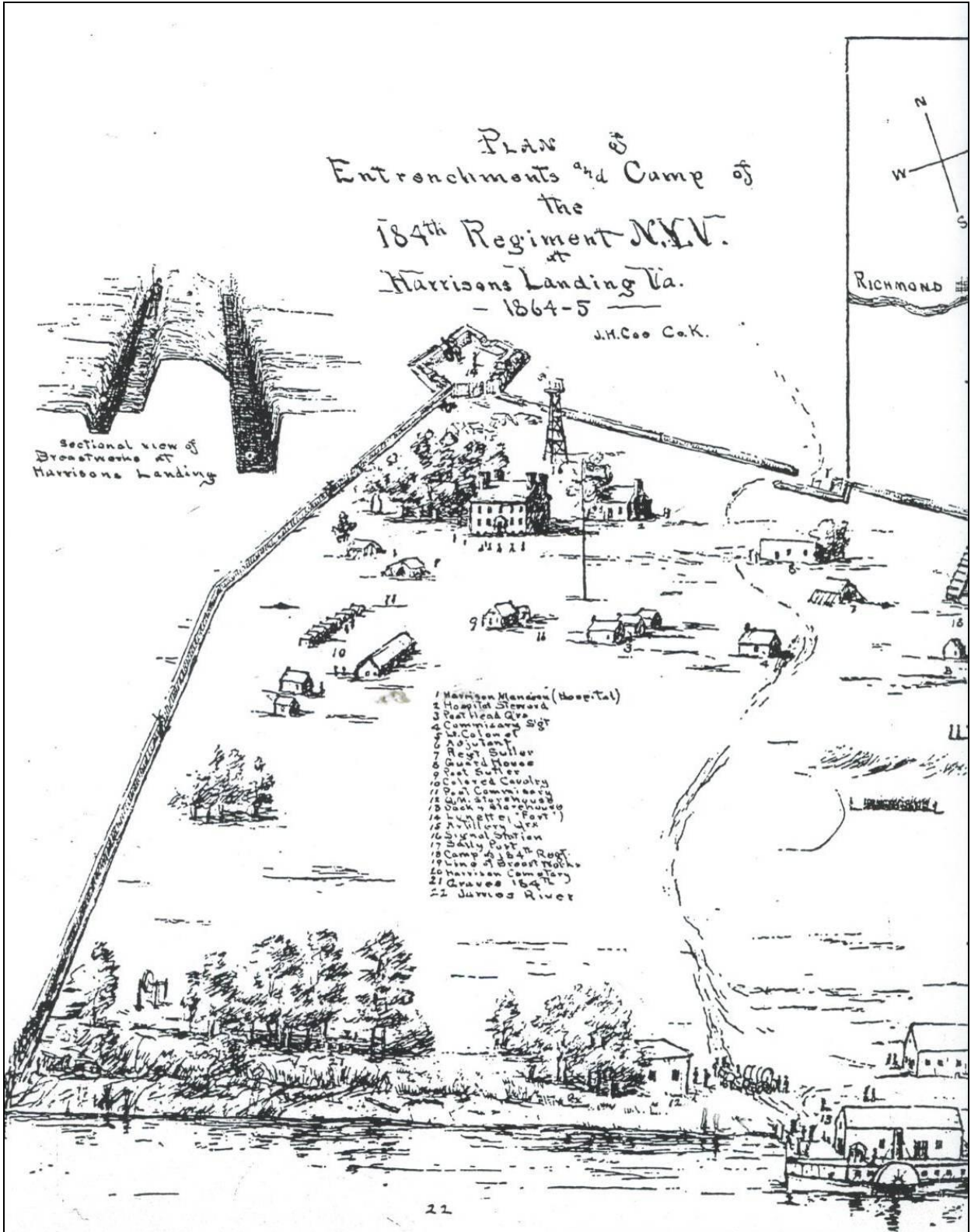


**View of James River and Harrison Graveyard**

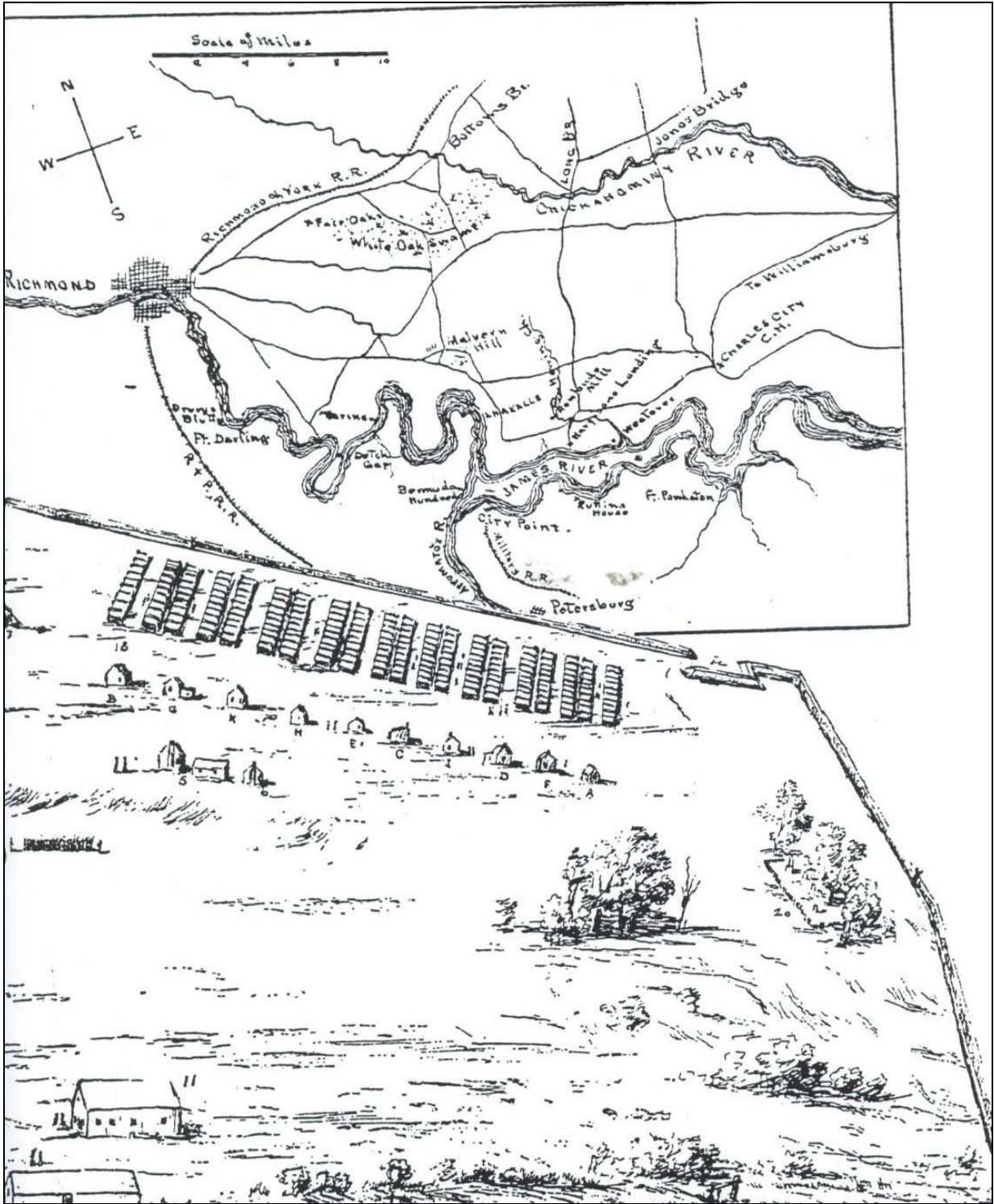
Gravesites noted on previous soldier sketches of 184<sup>th</sup> encampment



**Approximate site of 184<sup>th</sup>'s quarters at Harrison's Landing**  
(As viewed from near graveyard)



Jerome H. Coe Sketch of 184<sup>th</sup> Encampment at Harrison's Landing, VA, Spring 1865

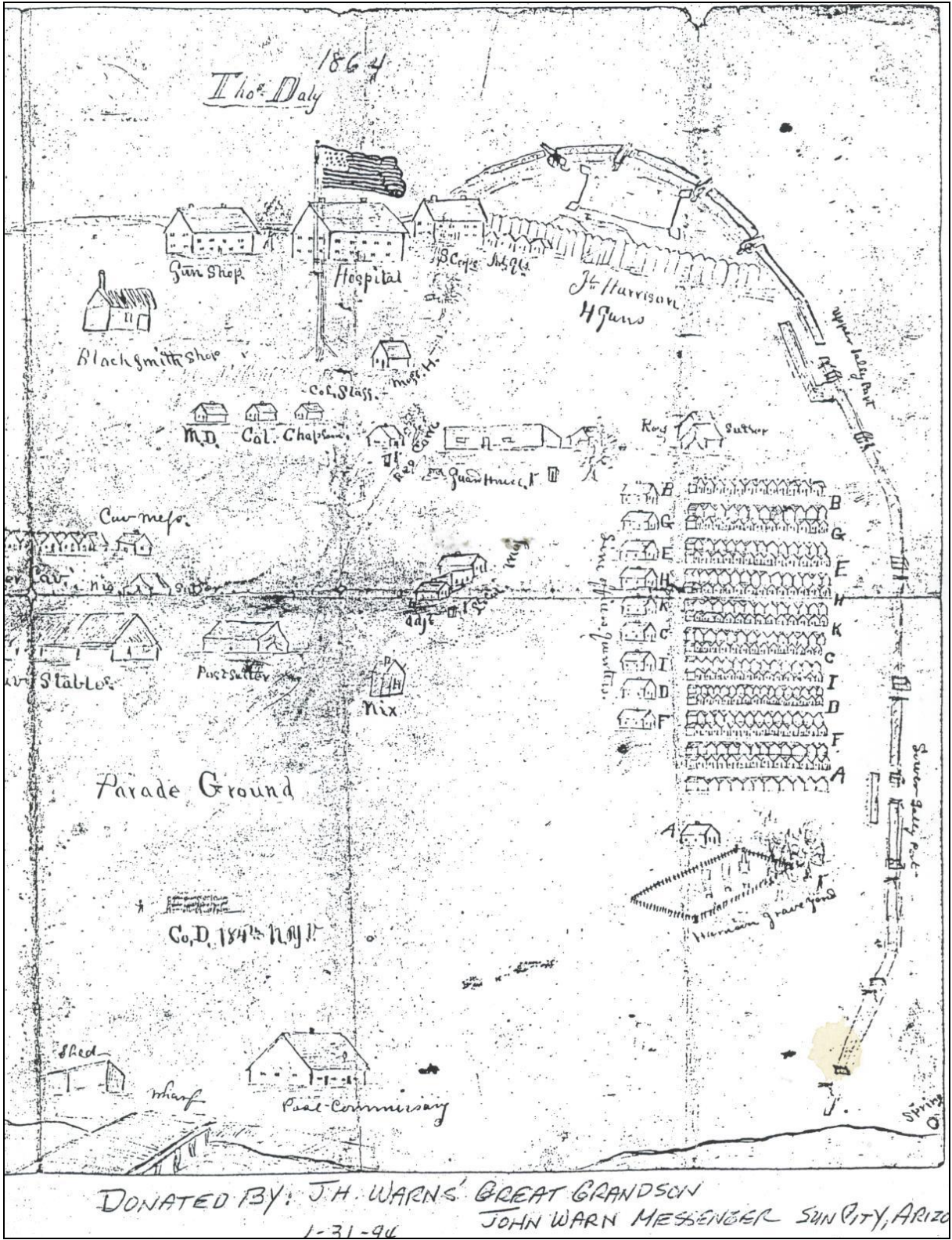


Courtesy of Fulton Historical Society



Second Sketch of 184<sup>th</sup> Encampment at Harrison's Landing, VA (1864)





Courtesy of Town of Schroepel Historical Society

