

THE TOTOKET HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

TRANSCRIPTION OF A CIVIL WAR LETTER OF ALLAN SAWYER

Transcribed

by

Eugene C. MacMullan
(1995)

Digitized

by

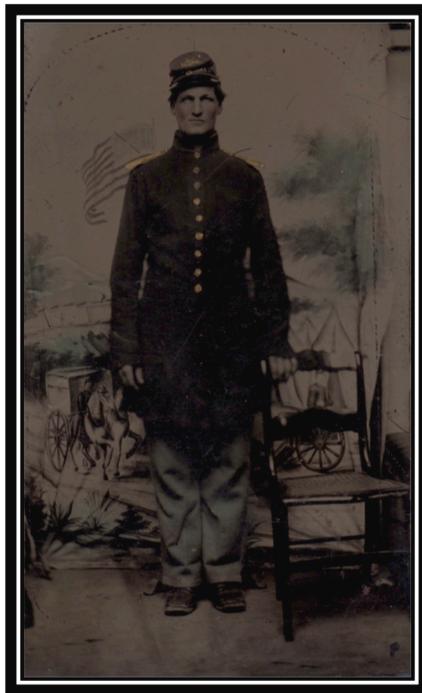
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(2012)

Introduction:

Along with the letter, which was written in pencil, were six tintypes, one of which we believe is of Allan Sawyer in his Civil War uniform. I thought it worthwhile to scan the items and save them as digital photographs. There were five individuals in addition to the tintype of Allan Sawyer. The identity of those individuals is not known. In addition to the six tintypes there were three other paper images, two of women and one of a man, also unidentified.

The tintype of Allan Sawyer is shown on the left below, roughly the original size, brightness and contrast. The original image showed just the barest hint of color so digital techniques were used to enhance the photograph. The result is shown in the photograph on the right. It appears that the original black and white tintype was colorized by hand tinting. Color was ***NOT*** digitally added to the photograph. It is not known when the tintype was produced.

Allan Sawyer is said to have lived in Northford. Searching the 1852, 1858 and 1868 maps of North Branford which show names for all of the homes indicated on the maps did not reveal any Sawyer living in Northford or North Branford.

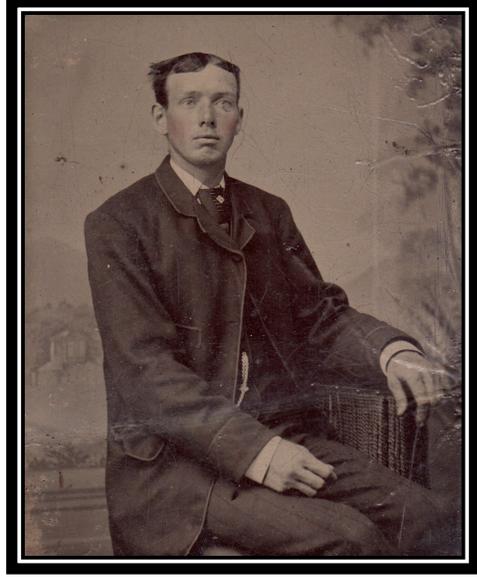


Original



Digitally Enhanced

The other 5 tintypes are shown below:



The Letter

Transcription of the Letter of Allan Sawyer to
his Family
August 23, 1864

Note: The transcription follows the format and spelling of the original as closely as possible. The upper half of the first page is much worn and difficult to read. Dashed lines indicate illegible words.

"Aug 23 1864
Distrabusion camp neer
Alaxandra V Or Washington about half
way between

My dear Frins As I begin to (think?)

I am settled once more for a time

I take the plesure

mediate and warr weI I am weI

will as yet all

.

they are

.....of the boys

that they sent away with me

7 or 8 of us started from new Haven

on Friday nite was carried to

N Y to a plais called Bedlows

Island Thair remained two

Days & two nights Thair I dropt a

line to you Then from thair

We was all sorted out
& put in difrint camps
They put us into a squad
& sent to sitty point in
Ritchman almost whare
our battle was at coal harbor
put out in an opin feald
no shelter nor nothin to
ly down upon & it rained
2 days & 2 nites not much to
eat then took from thare
and inspect to see what
rigments & Corps we belong to
& sorted out purhaps in all that
was in our company that went
from York was
six hundred or more Then
everyone was sent to thair own
rigments Then the 6 Corps was
sent to Alaxandra where we air
now in this Distrabusion Camp
four milds from Alaxandra

Menny of our boys are
heer William Harrington _
has him the rounds with
me Wall I like to travel
and sea the world We brout
from Ritchman four hundred
rebs or johnnies they ware
prisners They are fiting
rapadly(?) in that plais or
neer thare in Peters birg
Our rigment is between
harpers fary & Washington
sumwhare they are not
in the Six corps now
but the 22 corps in difens
of Washington Let me know
if John is alive & all
a bout nature of things
I have not seen or hird
from Arvil yet but
live in hopes I may before
long I have had no pay yet
nor dont expect to be