

FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES

THE MEN WHO SERVED

1861-1964

In over 241 years of our country's history, the United States has been engaged in numerous wars, both at home and overseas. In times of conflict and the years of peace in between, millions of men have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces.

Traditionally, military history has concentrated on the deeds and actions of generals and leaders, rarely shedding light on the everyday activities of military service. The emergence of field photography during the American Civil War put a face on the common soldier's experience for the first time. By the mid-twentieth century, images of men in uniform



William H. Cole (left) and his brother Jacob H. Cole, (right), members of the 57th N. Y. Volunteers. Taken at Alexandria, VA, 1861.
PCHS Collection, 2015.048.00904

were commonplace. Considered as a group, these photographs serve as an important primary record.

This exhibition does not focus on the photographs as a point of historical reference. Instead, these photographs were selected as a representation of the common experience of all soldiers. Their uniforms, equipment, and weapons changed over time, but their fears, triumphs, and trials remained constant.



Members of the 2nd Regiment New Jersey Volunteer Infantry line up for chow. Taken at the Jacksonville Florida encampment, 1898.
PCHS Collection, 2015.048.01193

Military service exposed many men to new places and cultures, created friendships and new employment opportunities.

All of the photographs included in this display were taken from the collection of the Passaic County Historical Society. Some photographs have no associated information and the soldiers, sailors and airmen are unidentified, yet the photographs speak to their experience in a way that requires no context.



The American Field Signal Battalion's telephone switchboard in operation during the battle of St. Mihiel. Taken for Signal Corps USA, 1918. PCHS Collection, 2015.048.01221

Corporal John T. Schmitt, US Marine.
Taken in Flushing Meadows Park,
Queens NY, 1964.

Paterson Evening News Collection, 2012.039.8096



An unidentified Union soldier,
circa 1861.

PCHS Collection, 2015.048.00905



Kenneth Reid of Paterson. He served
as an aviator and was killed in Texas.
Taken by Reid Studio, Broadway,
Paterson, NJ, circa 1917. Kenneth
was the grandson of John Reid, the
photographer.

PCHS Collection, 2015.048.00849



Private William S. Hudson, Jr. of the 9th New York Infantry, (or Hawkins' Zouaves) circa 1861. He would later serve in the 49th New York Infantry as a Captain. Born in Auburn NY, Hudson moved to Haledon after the war, where he lived until his death in 1884.

PCHS Collection, 2015.048.00906



Unidentified airman. Circa 1917.

PCHS Collection, 2015.048.01016

William. D. Plumb on the U.S.S. Constitution or Old Ironside. Photograph dated Aug. 1931.

PCHS Collection, 2015.048.01015



To Mrs Belcher
"HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN."
Wm D Plumb
on Old Ironsides
Aug 1931



A medical officer poses with his wife and daughter, circa 1917.

PCHS Collection, 2015.048.00878



A soldier and his family, circa 1917.

PCHS Collection, 2015.048.00876



Chaplain Webb of the Paterson Guard unit and his family. Photograph taken 1964.

Paterson Evening News Collection, 2012.039.9577





New Jersey National Guardsmen at camp, circa 1898.
PCHS Collection, 2015.048.01150



1st Lieutenant Charles Reynolds (left) and Captain Augustus Van Gieson (right) at camp. They are accompanied by a third man, possibly a valet. Circa 1862.
PCHS Collection, 2015.048.00977



The Fourth Regiment, New Jersey National Guard. Taken at Camp Werts, 1895.
PCHS Collection, 2015.048.01161

William Harvey Preston of Paterson.
William was a member of the Hugh Irish
Camp, Sons of Union Veterans of the
Civil War. Taken by Grotecloss Studio
in Paterson, circa 1890.

PCHS Collection, 2015.048.00908



Military Policeman
Leonard Alatomura, 1964.

Paterson Evening News Collection, 2012.039.8098

A US Marine of the 5th Regiment.
Photograph taken at Reid Studios,
Paterson circa 1917.

PCHS Collection 2015.048.01000





US Marine band,
circa 1880.
PCHS Collection, 1983.15

Members of the
305th Engineering
Regiment Jazz Band.
This regiment was
part of the 80th
Division, 1917.
PCHS Collection, 5384



The George G. Mead
Post, in Passaic.
The drum corps
band (left) and
members of the
Grand Army of the
Republic, veterans
of the Union Army
(right).
PCHS Collection,
2015.048.01167





Soldiers drilling in the field, circa 1898.

PCHS Collection, 2015.048.01198

Edward Czarkowski at Fort Dix, 1941.

PCHS Collection, 2015.048.00992



A unit of African-American infantrymen advancing toward the front in the Argonne, northwest of Verdun France. Taken for Signal Corps USA, circa 1918.

PCHS Collection, 2015.048.01248



Members of the 50th Armored Division, National Guard return to Paterson in 1964.

Paterson Evening News Collection, 2012.039.8265



Three Union officers. The man in the center is Captain Charles Danforth Jr. of Company I, 2nd New Jersey Volunteers. Danforth was killed in 1862 during the Peninsula Campaign and is buried in Cedar Lawn Cemetery.

PCHS Collection, 2015.048.00900



American officers make merry at a captured German canteen at the battle of St. Mihiel, France. Taken for Signal Corps USA, 1918.

PCHS Collection, 2015.048.01233



American gunners, working at top speed during the Battle of St. Mihiel, France. Taken for Signal Corps USA, 1918
PCHS Collection, 2015.048.01233

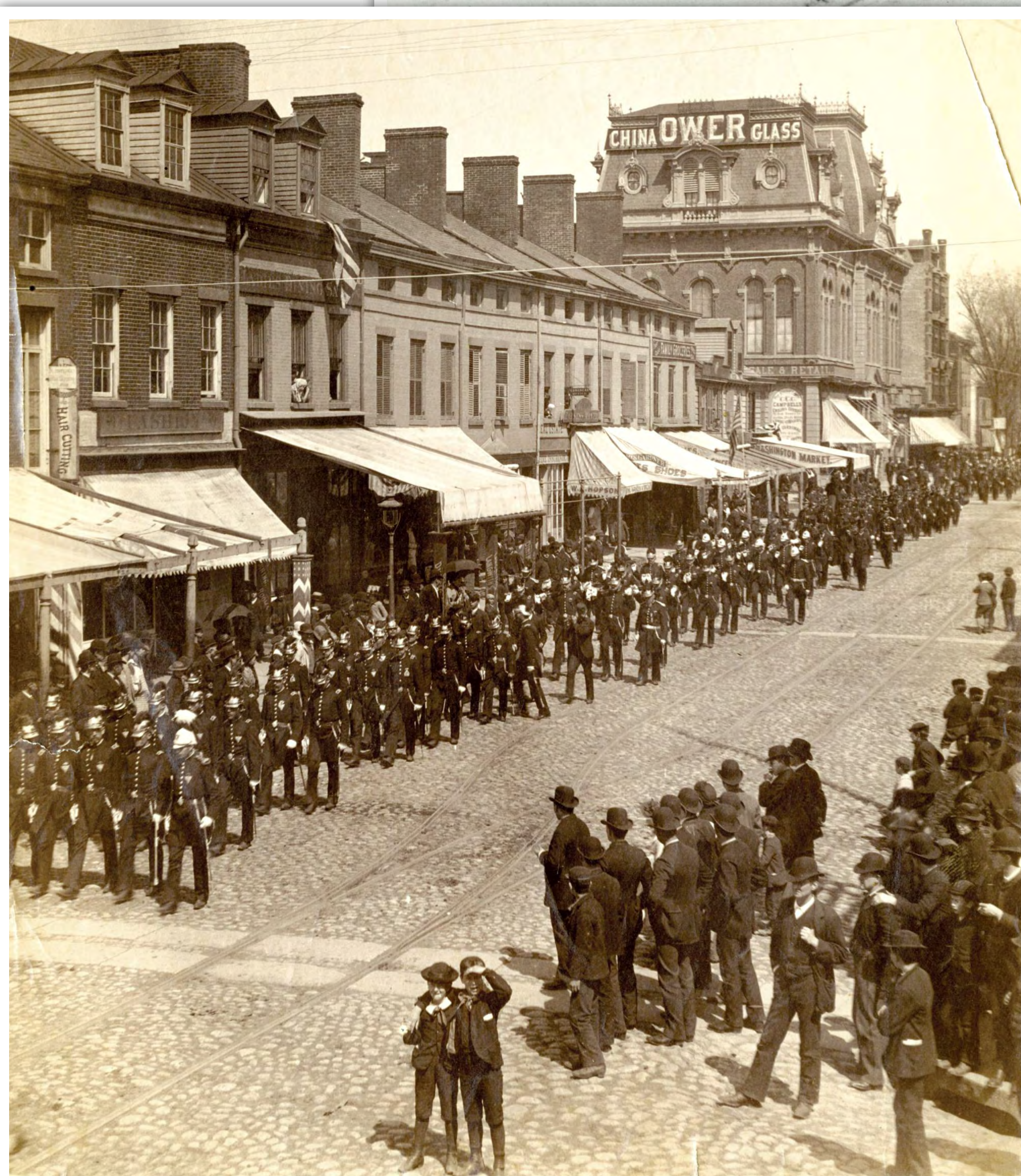
Filming a battlefield during an artillery bombardment in France. Taken for Signal Corps USA, 1918.
PCHS Collection, 2015.048.0125



Joseph Kayal of Noth Haledon trains with the US Marines, 1964.
Paterson Evening News Collection, 2012.039.8064



George Wanton
(1868-1940) on parade
through his hometown in
Paterson, around 1899.
Wanton was awarded the
Congressional Medal of
Honor for rescuing soldiers
under fire at Tayabacoa,
Cuba during the Spanish-
American War.
PCHS Collection, 2015.048.00769



Troops parade down
Main Street in Paterson,
circa 1890.
PCHS Collection, 2015.048.01211

Members of the National
Guard parade down
Paterson's Main Street,
circa 1898.
PCHS Collection, 2015.048.01212





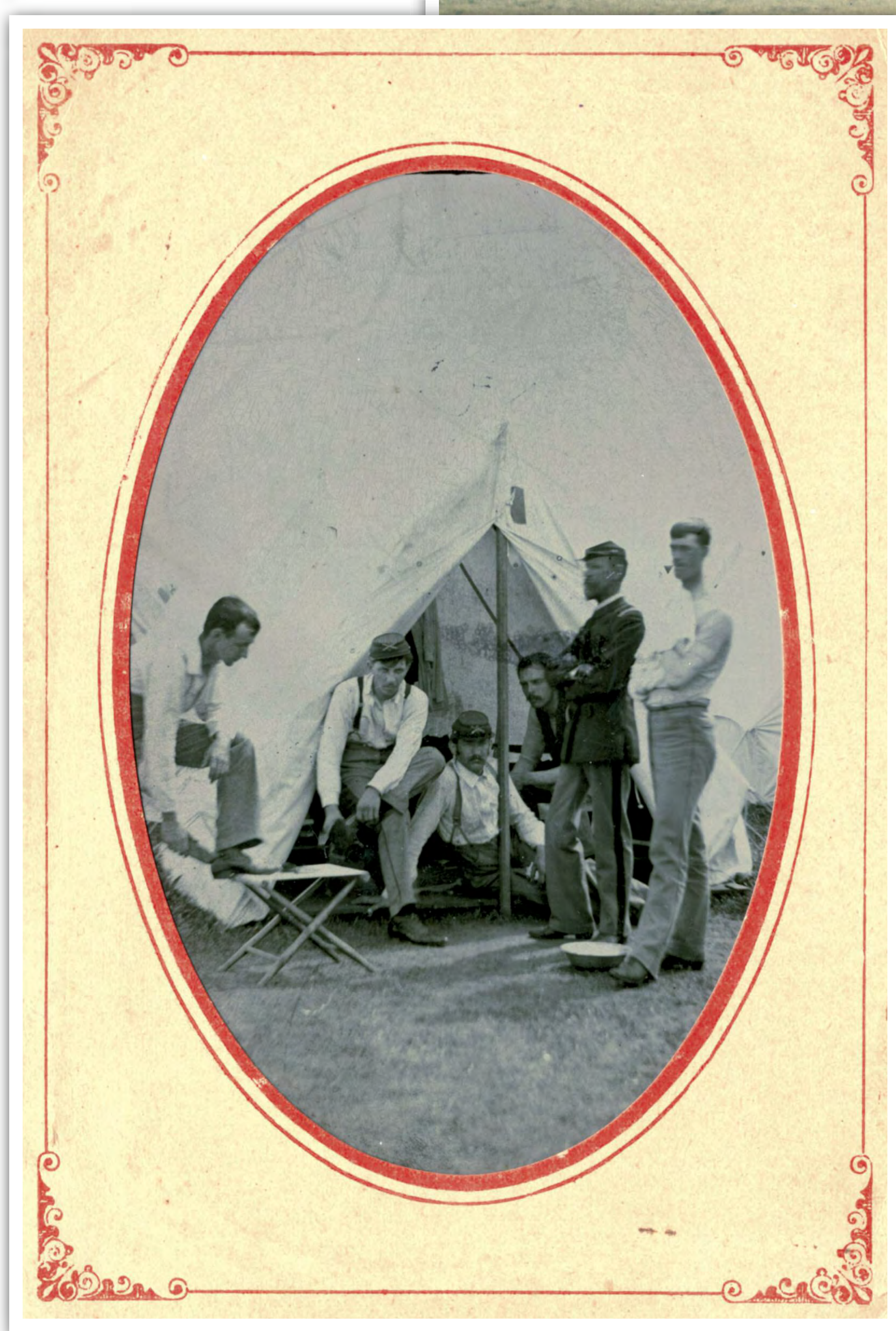
Members of the 2nd Regiment of New Jersey Volunteer Infantry watching a game of cards. Taken at the Jacksonville Florida encampment, 1898.

PCHS Collection, 2015.048.01183



A group of soldiers getting dressed in and around a tent, including Major Augustus Van Gieson, circa 1862

PCHS Collection, 2015.048.01203



Let's Go Jerseyites.
(Left to Right)
S/Sgt. Richard Toomy,
Major Harold Copperman,
Col. Wilfred S. Allen, and
Sgt. John R. Polk inspect an
M49 Personnel Carrier during
rugged Civil Affairs and
Military Government
maneuvers. Photograph
credited to John T. Carpenter,
and taken at Fort Devens,
Massachusetts, 1964.

Paterson Evening News Collection,
2012.039.7523

