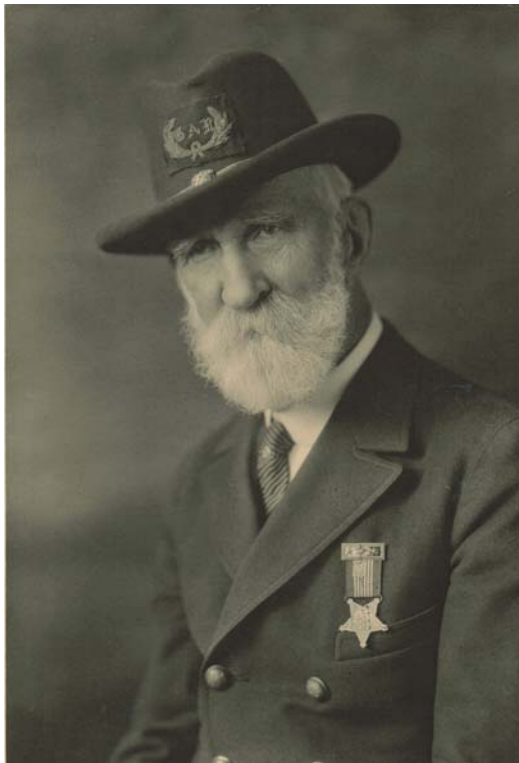


Edwin Hale Lincoln (1848-1938) lived a full life. Born in Westminister, Massachusetts, he moved with his family a few years later to Cape Cod. He died in Pittsfield at the age of 90. In between, he fought in the Civil War, had a family, and created art with a camera.

The Civil War

In 1862, the fourteen year-old Edwin asked his father for permission to join the Massachusetts 5th Volunteer Infantry. With his father's reluctant permission, Edwin joined as a drummer boy and surgeon's helper, serving nine months, mostly in North Carolina.



His diary, filled with interesting observations of skirmishes and daily routine, was published as *Drummer Boy: The Civil War Diary of Edwin Hale Lincoln* (2005). As a veteran, Lincoln proudly served as a member of the veterans' group, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR).

Photography

Lincoln began his photographic career in 1876 in a studio in Brockton, Massachusetts,

before moving to the Berkshires in 1893. He used an 8 x 10 view camera and a lens with no mechanical shutter, requiring the use of a blanket to cover the lens. His prints were created using a process called platinum printing which he used throughout his career. To print the images, paper and glass plate negative were placed together then exposed to sunlight. Patented in 1873, platinum printing was prized for its durability and tonal range.

Lincoln gained an enduring national reputation. The Massachusetts Horticultural Society awarded him the silver medal for *Wild Flowers of New England*. His prints and glass plate negatives are in museum collections throughout the United States.

Pittsfield

After photographing yachts and estates in Newport, Rhode Island, Lincoln received commissions from owners of Berkshire Cottages to document their estates. Falling in love with the area, Lincoln soon considered Pittsfield his true home. With his second wife, Hattie Beulah Kemp, Lincoln had five children. Lincoln was killed in an automobile accident in Pittsfield in 1938 and is buried at the Pittsfield Cemetery.

