



















Elmira prison camp, presumably to garner intelligence from Confederate prisoners. Lafayette Baker was instrumental in prosecuting Major Jonathan Ladd, but we don't know what was meant by "gratify the revenge of Baker."

### Ladd's Appeal to President Johnson

There are several pages of documents relating to the appeal presented by Ladd's lawyer Richard S. Spofford. I present these brief documents dated in sequence in my website on this topic: <http://majorjonathanladd.com> (see "NAWCC Page" top-menu link). These include papers signed by Judge Advocate General Henry Holt, General William Tecumseh Sherman, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, and President Andrew Johnson.

There is no doubt that Ladd profited on the sale of pocket watches, but I strongly believe that his service during the Civil War was "honorable" and outweighs his indiscretion in profiting from the sale of pocket watches. Think of what might have happened if Ladd did not take initiative to commandeer the steamers *Ariel* and *DeSoto* to get the 5th Massachusetts to Washington, DC, in the first days of the Civil War. Would the Confederates have succeeded in kidnapping President Lincoln or capturing Washington, DC, in April 1861? Perhaps, Andrew Johnson had similar reasons for modifying Ladd's record "let the order dismissing Major Ladd, be so modified as to honorably discharge him from the date of dismissal" (Figure 11).

### Major Jonathan Ladd, Paymaster "Story in Time"

Major Jonathan Ladd died in Lowell, MA, on April 9, 1889. Eerily, Ladd's life ended the same day in April that the Civil War ended when Lee surrendered his troops at Appomattox on April 9, 1865. Jonathan Ladd was forgotten until his pocket watch was saved from being melted down by Robert Betty, owner of Alco Scrap Metal in Lowell, MA. Mr. Betty made it possible to learn the historical importance of Major Ladd's pocket watch and his contributions to the Union war effort. Most importantly, Major Jonathan Ladd was a witness at the deathbed of President Lincoln at the official time of death at 7:22 a.m. on April 15, 1865.

Without Ladd's pocket watch as a catalyst for research, we never would have learned about his connection to the Baltimore Riot, Luther Ladd, Mosby's Greenback Raid, the sale of pocket watches at Elmira Prison Camp, or President Johnson's decision to grant him an Honorable Discharge. This article is dedicated to the memory of Robert Betty and the years of research he devoted to Paymaster Major Jonathan Ladd so that we could experience this "Story in Time."

### Notes

1. <http://www.awco.org/seminar2002/american/Wyrt sma20/Wyrt sma20size.htm>
2. The Dr. John K. Lattimer collection of *Lincolniana* - page 73 - Google, this was part of a listing selling Edwin Stanton's pocket watch.
3. For example, Ladd stood next to General Auger, whose men had served alongside Ladd's 2nd Connecticut Volunteer Artillery at the battle of Fort Stevens (formerly Fort Massachusetts) on July 11-12, 1864. This significant battle was fought just a few miles northeast of the Lincoln White House. Theodore Frelinghuysen. *History of the Second Connecticut Volunteer Heavy Artillery* (Winsted Printing Co., 1868), 83.

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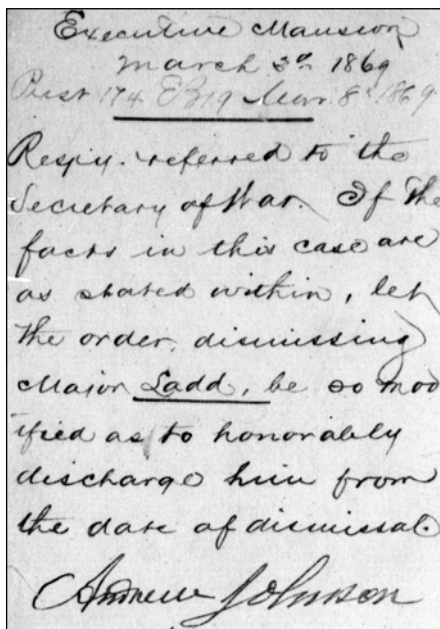


Figure 11.

### About the Author

Paul Mellen began collecting pocket watches in the summer of 2009 when he and his 13-year-old daughter, Maren, purchased a key-wind Waltham pocket watch, S/N 292,155, made in April 1867. Mellen became a member of the NAWCC and immersed himself in research about the Waltham Watch Company. NAWCC members Ron Price, Chris Carey, and Paul Regan have become mentors to Mellen, with patience and generous amounts of their time, and have assisted Mellen in his quest for knowledge about pocket watches. Mellen resides in Duxbury, MA, and may be reached by email at [Paul@majorjonathanladd.com](mailto:Paul@majorjonathanladd.com) See the website <http://majorjonathanladd.com> for more information about this article topic.