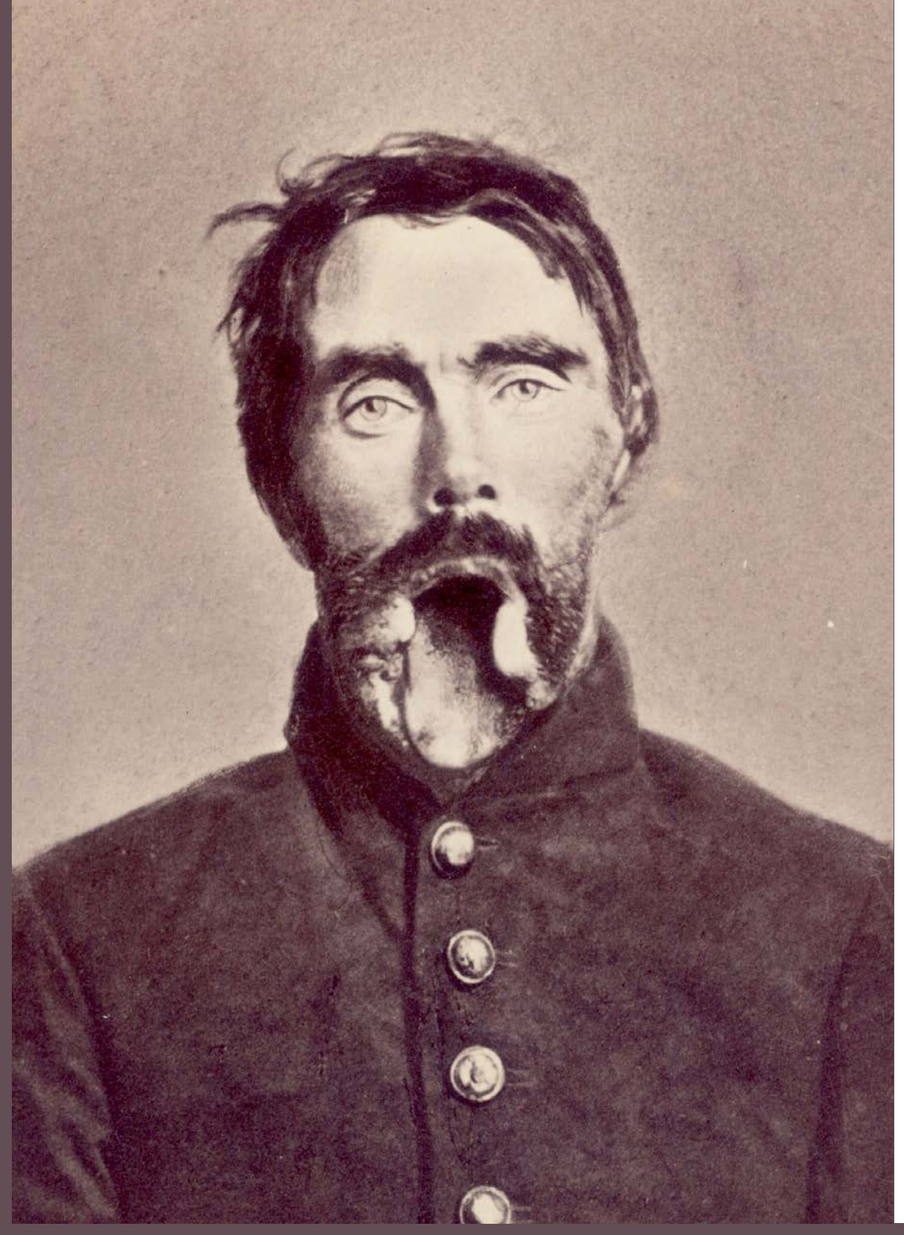
Medical Museum Science Café

2016



A CIVIL WAR MYSTERY UNRAVELED: THE CASE OF PRIVATES WARD AND CODER

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 6-7 PM

MAJ William Hartel, an Army dentist who served three tours in the Middle East, stumbled onto an interesting mystery one day that led him to uncover an incredible story of Civil War-era pension fraud. After examining photographs in the museum's archives and communicating with distant relatives of the soldiers in question, Hartel's findings may reveal a case of Civil War-era identity theft. This amazing story has to be heard to be believed.

IMAGE CAPTION:
Private Roland Ward, Co. E 4th New York Heavy Artillery, was wounded on August 25, 1864 at the Second Battle of Ream's Station. Some of Ward's records state the injury took place at the Second Battle of the Weldon Railroad, also known as the Battle of Globe Tavern, which took place a few days before. SP 186

Private William Coder, Co. F, 106th Pennsylvania Volunteers, reportedly wounded on August 25, 1864 at the Second Battle of Weldon Railroad. CP 1151

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