

Butte County Historical Society

DIGGIN'S



Chico Cemetery Civil War staatue

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Editor's Corner

In this issue we are presenting Keith Johnson's research on the Chico Cemetery's Civil War monument. In most cemeteries in the United States there are sections set aside for the graves of Civil War veterans. Last summer when my daughter-in-law and I walked through a cemetery in Madison, Wisconsin, she pointed out a large section designated for Union veterans and a much smaller area for those who fought for the Confederacy. Most Civil War veterans interred in Chico's Cemetery served from states in the eastern half of the U.S. and moved west after the war ended. At one time Butte County had large Grand Army of the Republic posts whose members were Civil War veterans.

If you have research that you would like to share with Diggin's readers, please contact us at buttehistory@sbcglobal.net or (530) 533-9418. Butte County has a fascinating past, and we strive to preserve it, one story at a time.

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Cover Illustration - 2021 view of Chico's 1910 Civil War statue in the Chico Cemetery.

Chico's Century-Old Civil War Monument

by Keith L Johnson



Figure 1 - Chico Cemetery Civil War monument (ca. 1913) showing a Union infantryman at parade rest.
Photo from Mullins and Company 1913 book, page 41.

Many years ago, while I was President of the Butte County Historical Society, a letter dated July 1, 1994 came to BCHS from Mrs. Ronald (Anne) Shaffer of Salem, Ohio. Included with her letter were copies of pages from a 1913 book¹ that contained a photo of a Civil War statue in the Chico Cemetery (Figure 1). In her letter, Mrs. Shaffer asked for

information on the Chico statue including when it was placed in the Chico Cemetery and by whom, and did it still exist? She also asked if anyone from Chico fought in the Civil War? I telephoned her with quick responses to some of her questions and promised more information. The following pages offer an expansion of my answers to her questions. As it turned out, there was much to learn about Chico's Civil War memorial.



Figure 2 - March 28, 2021 photo of the Union soldier monument in the Chico Cemetery. Note the three long rows of GAR marble gravestones in view behind the monument.

The monument still stands in Section 21 (GAR Block) on the grounds (58 acres) of the Chico Cemetery and towers high above the surrounding gravestones (Figure 2). It is composed of a 6-foot-tall bronze statue of a Union soldier surmounted on a four-sided granite pedestal measuring 9 feet high. It was erected and dedicated in 1910 by members

of Chico's Halleck² Post No. 19 Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and Halleck Post No. 43 Women's Relief Corps (WRC) and, although weathered and vandalized, has withstood the test of time for 112 years!

Chico and the Civil War

For the most part, Chico and Butte County were not greatly affected by the war between the states from 1861 to 1865.³ However, the settlers in the region did tend to favor either the North or the South and friction often arising from this factionalism was vocal and sometimes violent.⁴ While the majority of folks in Chico were sympathetic with the North during the Civil War, few local men volunteered to serve in the Union Army and fewer still actually fought against the Confederacy in the war. From 1861 until the end of the war, most Butte County army volunteers were recruited in Oroville. Recruiting headquarters were frequently set up in saloons because these were recognized as "acceptable social centers for men".⁵

Of the several Union cavalry and infantry volunteer companies formed in part by men from Butte County, only a few of the army units actually saw action against the Rebel enemy and the skirmishes were primarily in Arizona and New Mexico.⁶ The Confederate threat in the Southwest was short-lived, ending in 1862, so the Federal troops garrisoned there spent much of the Civil War dealing with marauding Apache and Navajos. John M. Mullen⁷ was one of the U.S. Army troopers recruited in Oroville. Born in Iowa in 1844, he enlisted in the Union Army in Oroville in 1863 and, as a Private in Company A, 1st California Volunteer Cavalry, he fought against several Native American groups in the Southwest. In 1864 he was a member of Colonel Kit Carson's expeditionary force which destroyed a Kiowa Indian village of over 150 lodges at the battle of Adobe Walls in the Texas Panhandle. Mullen survived the Civil War and died in Chico in 1944.

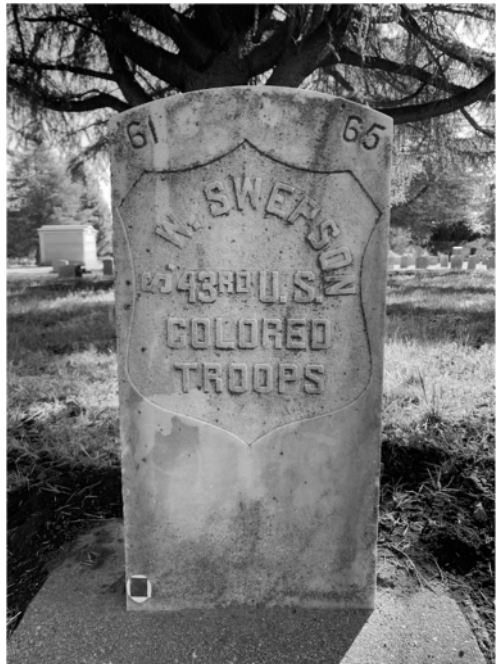
On three sides of the Chico Civil War Monument are the gravestones identifying the burial locations of 100 Union Civil War soldiers plus a few beloved wives, mothers and other close relatives (see Figure 2). The graves marked by marble headstones are arranged in seven long rows I numbered from east to west. Each of the 100 headstones is embossed with the name of the deceased, his company, regiment number, state of origin, infantry, or cavalry (Figure 3). Only 13 of the interred servicemen were members of infantry or cavalry units formed in California. All the soldiers buried here passed away after the end of the

Civil War in 1865. There are gaps along the seven lines of gravestones, but these spots do contain interments of identified soldiers that, for whatever reason, are not marked with headstones.⁸



Figure 3 - Marble gravestone of California Union soldier James R. Root in GAR Block, Row 2 near the Chico Civil War Monument. (left)

Figure 4 - Marble headstone over the grave of a Black soldier, Captain S. W. Swepson. His wife Annie (1851-1911) and son(?) Ira (1881-1900) are buried near him. (below)



The Chico Cemetery holds many more Union troops not found among those in the seven rows of the GAR Block adjacent to the Civil War Monument. One of these is an African American soldier, Captain S. W. (Cato) Swepson (Figure 4), who is interred in the Black area, Block A of Section 21. He was wounded twice at the Battle of Petersburg in 1864 and passed away in Chico on September 4, 1890.⁹

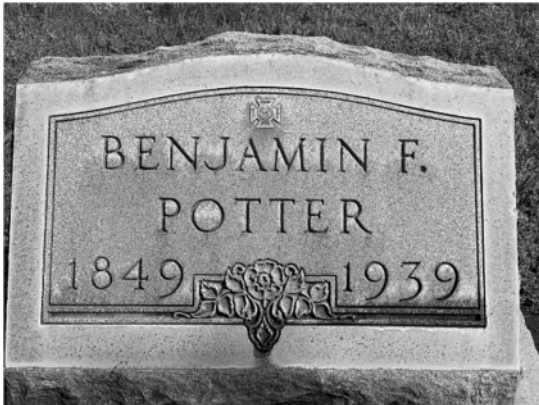
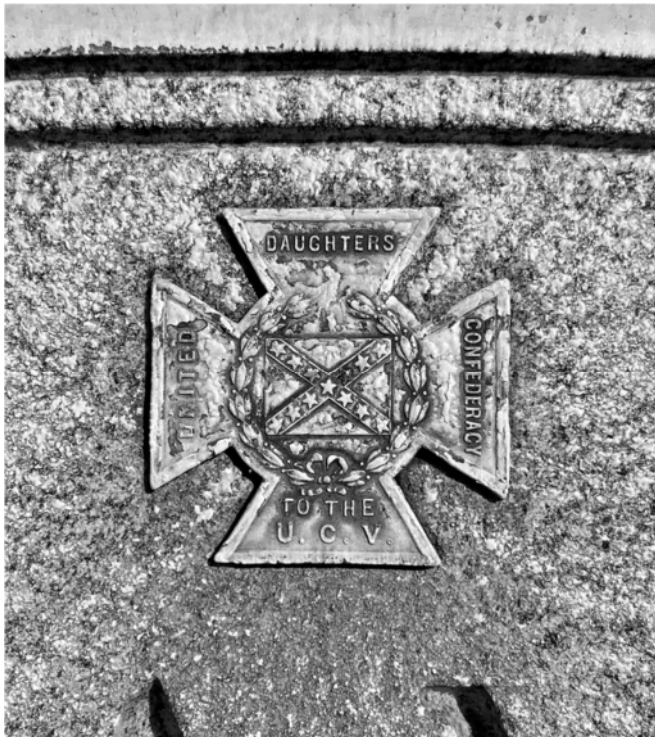


Figure 5 - Polished granite gravestone of Confederate soldier Benjamin Potter. (left)

Figure 6 - Closeup of the small metal cross placed on the headstone of Benjamin F. Potter by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Named the Southern Cross of Honor, this medal is embossed with a laurel wreath enclosing the Confederate battle flag in the center of the cross. The inscription reads "United Daughters Confederacy to the U.C.V. (United Confederate Veterans)". (below)



Confederate soldiers are also buried in the Chico Cemetery. Five scattered Rebel graves have been identified.¹⁰ One of these belongs to Benjamin Franklin Potter (Figure 5) who is buried in Section 1 a few steps from the graves of his two wives and two daughters. His name, birth and death dates are engraved on his polished granite headstone. A 1¼ inch square metal cross placed at the top center of the headstone above his name honors him as a Confederate soldier (Figure 6). Born in Johnson County, Missouri, Benjamin Potter came to Butte County after the war where he worked in the lumber industry between 1875 and 1886 and then became a self-employed farmer.¹¹ It is notable that on Memorial Day, May 30, 2022, the Chico Cemetery placed a white cross topped with an American flag next to his headstone.

Economically, the Civil War had limited impact on the Chico area.¹² The scarcity of cotton during the war saw a number of large landowners, including John Bidwell, expand their sheep herds in order to profit from the substitution of wool for cotton. To raise revenue in support of the Union war effort, the U.S. government imposed income taxes on California's upper income residents and business owners, and the state of California levied stamp taxes on businesses and offered monetary rewards for increasing turpentine production. All these examples, and a few others, did little to disrupt or significantly alter Chico's sustaining lumber, farming, and ranching activities.



Figure 7 - View of the three light gray granite slabs forming the lower section of the pedestal along with the concrete border (step) which abuts the lowest light gray granite slab. The one-foot-long north arrow rests on the bottom slab. Note the fitted parts of the bottom light gray slab. The inscription "1910." was engraved on the front (south) face of the top slab.

Shaping the Pedestal

The statue of Chico's Union soldier, facing south, was placed atop a high pedestal (Figure 2) cut from two kinds of granite, one is very light gray and the other dark gray.¹³ A 3-foot-high stack of three very light gray granite slabs (bottom, middle and top) forms the lower section of the pedestal (Figure 7). The bottom light gray granite slab is divided into four parts fitted together.¹⁴ The center of this slab is hidden from view and thus its composition is unknown. The whole slab measures 8 inches high by 6 feet long on each side. In 2004 a concrete border was poured around this bottom slab to protect it from being accidentally chipped and damaged.¹⁵



Figure 8 - View of the monument and the concrete walkway showing the American and California State flag poles in PVC sleeves. May 30, 2022, Memorial Day celebration.

Perhaps a day or two after the concrete border around the pedestal was poured, a new concrete walkway, 12 feet wide and 18 feet long, was laid leading in from the access road

to the monument and surrounding it. Before the walkway could dry, eight short vertical pieces of PVC pipe were set in the wet concrete to hold flags during special ceremonies (Figure 8).

Unlike the bottom slab, the remaining two slabs of the light gray stack were each made of large, single pieces of granite. The middle and top slabs are unequal in size, and both are smaller than the bottom slab. The south face of the top slab is marked with the inscription “1910.” (Figure 7), the year the monument was dedicated. At 4¼ inches high, these numbers are the largest of all the inscriptions engraved on the pedestal.

Two very large blocks of four-sided dark gray granite, positioned directly above the stack of light gray granite slabs, comprise the remainder of the pedestal (Figure 2). Most surfaces of the two large dark gray pieces have been polished and as a result appear darker than the unpolished portions. Inscriptions appear on one or more sides of the blocks but only on polished surfaces and, like the soldier on top, the front sides of the two dark blocks face south. The lower block of dark granite is about 2 feet high and its width tapers a bit from bottom to top. The square-shaped upper block, placed directly on top of the lower one (Figure 9), is a foot taller than, but not as wide as, the block it sits on.



Figure 9 - Front view (south-facing) of the two dark gray granite blocks. Note the polished and unpolished surfaces, the engraved 5-pointed star symbol, and the embossed “flower” at the top of the upper block.

Incised written statements occur on three sides of the pedestal (Figures 9, 10, and 11). The messages were likely composed by members of Chico's GAR and WRC, while the actual engraving was carried out by William Robbie, the stone mason who created the whole pedestal. All the words and numbers were etched in block capital letters with a few variations in size. The front (south-facing) side of the pedestal (Figure 9, dark gray blocks) has letters and numbers in three different sizes ranging between $\frac{3}{4}$ inch and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches high. All the words on the west and east sides of the upper dark gray piece are 2 inches high (Figures 10 and 11), with one exception. Most unusual is William Robbie's "signature" on the east face (upper block) of his pedestal. Here he employed italic block capital letters. The W and R letters at 1 inch tall are larger than the rest of the capital letters. The polished west and east sides of the lower block are blank as is the whole north face of the pedestal.

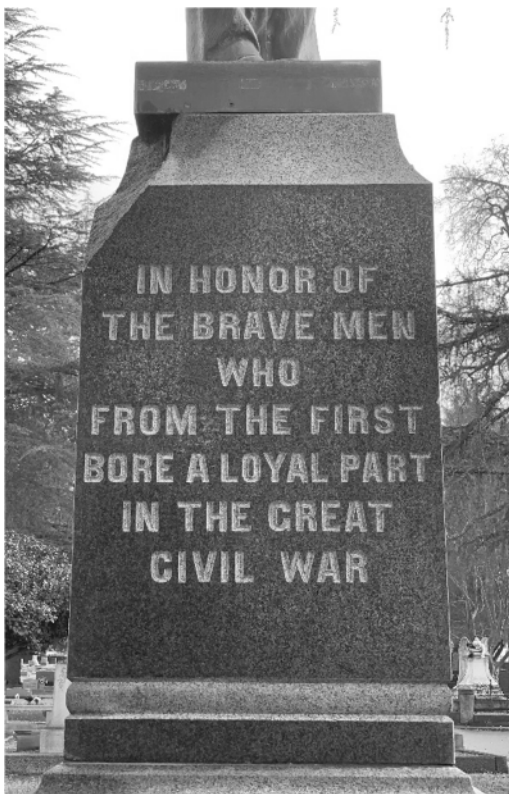


Figure 10 - Engraved statement on the west face of the upper dark gray block of the pedestal. Note the broken corner on the upper left.

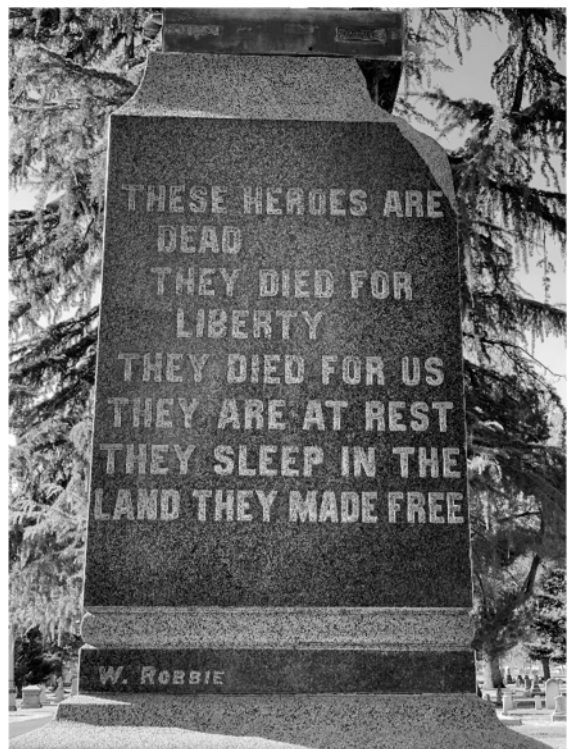


Figure 11- Engraved statements on the east side of the upper dark gray block of the pedestal. Note the broken-off corner on the upper right.

One of William Robbie's last duties before erecting the Civil War Monument in the Chico Cemetery was to insert in the granite pedestal a commemorative bronze tube.¹⁶ Sealed in the tube and preserved for posterity are the names of 53 members of GAR Halleck Post No. 19 and 61 names of WRC members of Halleck Post No. 43. Annie K. Bidwell was one of the WRC names. John Mullen's name was likely included on the GAR list. John M. Mullen, age 99, died in Chico on November 7, 1944 and was buried in Row 7 in the GAR section of the Chico Cemetery just west of the Civil War monument. He was the last surviving member of the GAR in California!¹⁷ The location in the pedestal of the bronze tube containing the 114 names is still a mystery as apparently no records were kept and today there is no indication of the tube's whereabouts anywhere on the visible surface of the monument.

Commemorative capsules of one kind or another are known to be in other monuments around the United States. A recent example is a time capsule installed in the pedestal of a General Robert E. Lee statue in Richmond, Virginia in 1887. The statue was taken down in 2021, but the capsule could not be located. A new one has been inserted.¹⁸



Figure 12 - View ca. 1900 of William Robbie outside his Chico Granite & Marble Works, SE corner of 1st and Main Streets, Chico. *Courtesy Special Collections, Meriam Library, California State University, Chico.*

William Robbie (1849-1929) was an important citizen of Chico back in the early 1900s.¹⁹ Born in Scotland, he came to America as a young man and lived in Chico for 50 years. He was a stonemason by trade and at his Chico Marble & Granite Works shop (Figure 12) he crafted the granite pedestal for Chico's Civil War Monument described above. In addition to his stone cutting business, William Robbie served as Chico's mayor from 1907 to 1919 and held memberships in several community groups including the Elks and Engine Company No. 1 of the Chico Fire Department. He was mayor when the Civil War Monument was dedicated, when the old city hall was built and when roads were constructed through lower Bidwell Park. He married Henrietta Schuster and together they had five children. Suffering from poor health, William Robbie passed away in Chico on November 11, 1929 at the age of 79 years. Fittingly, he is buried in the Chico Cemetery just a long stone's throw away from the Civil War Monument.



Figure 13 - View of the back of the Chico Civil War Bronze soldier showing his bedroll, knapsack, canteen, and US cartridge case.

Stamping the Soldier

Standing atop Robbie's granite pedestal and attached to a 4-inch-high square bronze base is the south facing 6-foot-tall bronze statue of a Union soldier at parade rest (Figure 1).

Made from sheets of bronze, he wears an army uniform including a billed cap. His hands hold a muzzle-loading rifle (musket) and ramrod. At his left hip is a leather or metal (brass) scabbard enclosing an 18 inches long bayonet that extends down to his knee, and a bedroll is on his back. Also on his back (Figure 13) along with the bedroll are a knapsack, canteen, and cartridge case with **US** on its flap. A metal nameplate (Figure 14) affixed to the bronze base of the soldier indicates he

was manufactured by the W. H. Mullins Company of Salem, Ohio. The nameplate is in sharp contrast to Robbie's more obvious "signature" on the granite pedestal below.



Figure 14 - W. H. Mullins Company name plate attached to the east face of the bronze base upon which the Chico Union soldier stands. Plate size, 4 x 1¼ inches.

The city of Salem (population ca.12,000), birthplace of Chico's Civil War statue, is in northeastern Ohio and is equidistant from Cleveland to the northwest and Pittsburgh to the southeast. Salem was founded largely by Quakers in 1806. As early as the 1830s it became a focal point for the Underground Railroad and several homes in the city still retain structural evidence from their service as "stations" along the line. After the Civil War, Salem grew into a factory-centered city as exemplified by the W. H. Mullins Company which exists today under a different name.

William Harold Mullins (Figure 15), founder of the W. H. Mullins Company and major Salem philanthropist,²⁰ was born on January 30, 1856 near Steubenville, Ohio. He attended school near East Palestine where his father, James Mullins, operated the State Line Coal Company. As a young man, William worked in the purchasing department of the Pennsylvania Railroad in Pittsburgh. In 1882 he moved to Salem and, with his cousin Thomas Bakewell, formed the Bakewell & Mullins Company which manufactured stamped metal statues and building ornaments. In 1890 William bought out his cousin and became sole owner of the company soon renaming it the W. H. Mullins Company. His factory, in addition to creating famous statuary (Figure 16), produced an expanding array

of stamped metal products including weathervanes, motorboats, canoes, automobile parts, and military equipment. William H. Mullins benefitted Salem by employing more than 100 residents of the city and vicinity in his factory and also by contributing money and time to various city improvements. He helped fund the construction of a city hospital, donated \$100,000 to build the Salem War Memorial Building, purchased a home for nursing students, gave gifts to every man and woman who left Salem to serve in WWI, and offered continuing support to the Salem Red Cross and Community Chest. In 1886 William Mullins married Rose Heilman and they subsequently expanded their family with the birth of two daughters, Hannah and Rose. At 76 years of age, William H. Mullins died of natural causes in Salem on March 6, 1932. Four days later, **all** Salem factories, shops, and businesses were closed for an afternoon public memorial service in his honor. He was laid to rest in Salem's Grandview Cemetery.



Figure 15 - William Harold Mullins, 1856-1932



Figure 16 - W. H. Mullins employees posing with sculpted models for the Cotton States and International Exposition in Atlanta, Georgia, 1895. Compare the size of the men with that of the statues. *Courtesy Salem Historical Society, Ohio.*

The process²¹ that eventually produced Chico's Civil War soldier began in the 1890s. A sculptor in the employ of W. H. Mullins produced a full-size model of a Union infantryman. Plaster casts were made of the sculptor's model and hard metal dies were reproduced from the plaster forms. The dies were placed in drop presses and the sheet bronze was stamped into shape in plates or sections as wide as 72 inches. Then the stamped bronze sections were riveted together with countersunk and invisible joints forming the completed Civil War infantryman. The soldier's statue of thin sheet bronze was strengthened and supported by an interior frame of copper and bronze bars and tubing.

The W. H. Mullins Company advertised the statue chosen for the Chico Cemetery as catalog No. 4749.²² The model used to produce that soldier was sculpted in the 1890s by German immigrant Alphons Pelzer, who was the first artist employed by the Company. Due to ill health, Pelzer left the Mullins Company in 1899 and returned to his native Germany where he died in 1904.²³ While one or more of the duplicates of soldier statue No. 4749 were signed with Pelzer's initials (AP letters superimposed), the Chico Civil War

statue is unsigned. Although not easily substantiated, it is likely that Chico's statue was made by the same dies that created the original soldier No. 4749.

1910 Dedication

Preparations for the November 1910 unveiling and dedication of the Chico Civil War Monument began months ahead of time by members of Chico's Halleck Post No. 19 Grand Army of the Republic and Halleck Post No. 43 Women's Relief Corps. Fundraising was of primary importance. The *Chico Record* newspaper stated that the statue was valued at \$4000.²⁴ However, the real cost of the bronze statue was probably under \$300, shipping not included. An 1891 Mullins catalogue listed 6-foot soldier statues at \$300 each and inflation did not raise significantly until after 1910.²⁵ Verifiable information on the cost of the granite pedestal is not currently available. The bronze soldier statue arrived in Chico on August 20 and was taken to Robbie's Marble & Granite Works at 1st and Main Streets where the pedestal was being built.²⁶ When all was ready, the monument would be placed at the entrance to "the old soldiers plot" (now Section 21) in the Chico Cemetery. In early October while the veterans groups continued to raise money for the monument, it was decided that Annie K. Bidwell would officiate at the ceremony on a date yet to be determined.²⁷ Preparation of the pedestal was nearing completion and the bronze tube containing the 114 names of Chico's GAR and WRC members was sealed and ready to be inserted in the pedestal. The day of dedication was set for Sunday, November 13 at just after 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

The sun rose in a clear blue sky on November 13, 1910. It was to be a perfect day! That afternoon, before the ceremony at the monument, a celebratory parade was formed in downtown Chico on Broadway between 1st and 2nd Streets. The parade was led by the 2nd Infantry Band followed by the National Guard, local GAR and WRC members, other veterans, city officials, Boy Scouts, and others.²⁸ It marched to the Chico Cemetery and ended at the Civil War Memorial site. In front of a large crowd, the dedication ceremony began when City Trustee C. F. Reynolds, substituting for Mayor William Robbie, presented the monument to the GAR and WRC on behalf of the Chico Cemetery trustees and the city. Members of the Halleck GAR and WRC unveiled the Civil War Monument, and a GAR ritual dedication of the monument was performed. The band played rousing patriotic music. Judge A. J. Buckles of Fairfield delivered the oration because Annie Bidwell was still enroute home from an extensive tour of Europe. The Judge's lengthy

address was followed by other speakers and speeches. At the end of the ceremony, the veterans and their entourage proudly marched back to downtown Chico. It had been a splendid, memorable day - never to be forgotten.

Soldier Statues Then, Now...Tomorrow

Mullins sheet metal Civil War soldier statues are scattered around America. Of those that still exist after more than 100 years, some may be in good condition and others have suffered significantly from age, weather, or vandalism. The three examples discussed below support the probability that none of the statues have survived completely unscathed after so many decades. Comparing the historical injuries of the three statues will reveal the primary cause of the most severe damages likely to endanger the Civil War statues for many years to come.

Today, the sheet metal statue of the Union soldier standing in the Grandview Cemetery in Salem, Ohio, appears to be in good shape (Figure 17). It was the gift of W. H. Mullins and was dedicated on May 30, 1909. Made of sheet copper with antique bronze finish, the soldier of Salem is 6 feet tall (10 ft. high to the top of the flagstaff) and depicts “The Color Bearer” (catalog No. 6977).²⁹ A copper/bronze eagle was perched at the top of the flagstaff. Over many decades the metal rod anchoring the statue to the pedestal had become so weakened from rust that in 1987 a strong wind snapped the soldier off its stand.³⁰ The fall broke the Salem soldier’s ankles and left hand. The parts and statue eventually were rejoined, mounted back on the pedestal, and the monument was rededicated in April 1990. However, the eagle was not back atop the flagstaff. In the fall of 1994, the Salem statue was again hit by high winds from a storm.³¹ This time the soldier was bent but did not fall off the pedestal. He suffered a broken right leg. His left hand was severed, and it did fall off the pedestal along with the U.S. flag and pole. Soon after this accident, the Salem Memorial Patriotic Association had the statue taken down from its pedestal, carefully cleaned, completely repaired, and mounted back on its stand in 1995. Today, after surviving the two major storm tragedies, the Salem soldier looks pretty good (Figure 17). However, on close examination one can still see some damage. The Color Bearer’s left knee appears battered; there is a long vertical scar on his right leg; the flagstaff is wood, not original sheet metal; and the copper/bronze eagle is still missing from the top of the pole. No one knows what happened to the eagle, or its whereabouts. Its loss may always remain a mystery.



Figure 17 - August 4, 2022 view of the Union soldier statue in the Grandview Cemetery, Salem, Ohio.
Courtesy of Keith Mann.

Only two Mullins Civil War soldier statues were placed in California, one in Chico and the other in the city of Ontario near Los Angeles.³² The Ontario statue in Bellevue Memorial Park is made of sheet copper with an antique bronze finish and its form and size are identical to the Union soldier (No. 4749) in Chico. A widow of a Civil War veteran in Ohio donated the Mullins statue to Ontario. It was dedicated in the Bellevue Memorial Park cemetery on Memorial Day 1908 and on that day began its difficult journey for survival.³³ After some deterioration, it was restored and rededicated in May 1953. Vandals attacked it in the 1970s, knocking it off its tall base of rocks several times and successfully shooting at it with air guns. In addition to bullet holes, the soldier suffered from a vertical gash in front of his left ear, the loss of the bayonet attached to his belt, and all of his rifle

except for that portion in his hands (Figure 18). Erected back up on its rocky pedestal, the statue was knocked to the ground again around 1988, and then taken inside a building for repair and safety. Today the soldier statue stands in a glass public display case just inside the Bellevue mausoleum. There are plans to give it a permanent place in an expanded Civil War exhibit elsewhere in the mausoleum.³⁴



Figure 18 - November 5, 2021 view of the soldier statue in a glass exhibit case, Bellevue Memorial Park, Ontario, California. Notice his rifle and the bayonet on his left hip are missing, and there is a bullet hole in his middle finger, left hand. The bill of his cap is bent up and there is a vertical gash on the left side of his face.



Figure 19 - Bullet mark on the Chico soldier's right cheek, broken fingers on his right hand, and his rifle is missing.



Figure 20 - Bullet marks on the Chico soldier's upper left arm, coat collar and lower jaw. Note the live male Western Bluebird³⁵ protecting the soldier's back!

Photo by Chris Johnson, June 25, 2022.

The Chico Civil War monument has not suffered from wild winds but, like the Ontario statue, has endured considerable vandal violence. Evidence to date indicates bullets have hit the monument at least sixteen times: the statue's right (1) and left (6) legs, lower coat (6), both sides of the face (2) (Figure 19), and left arm (1) (Figure 20), and one nicked the front of the granite pedestal. All the bullets that struck the statue dented it but few, if any, penetrated the sheet metal. The toe end of the soldier's left shoe/foot (Figure 21) has been broken off as has the distal end of the bayonet on his left hip. It appears that the missing parts were snapped off by vandals wielding a stick or club of some kind. At some unknown time in the past, the infantryman's rifle was stolen (see Figures 2 and 19). Thieves sawed the rifle off just below the statue's hands.³⁶ The Chico Cemetery has replaced the missing musket with a real wooden one (Figure 22) that is placed with the soldier only for very special occasions and always on Memorial Day each year. The fingers on the soldier's

right hand are broken but still partially attached to his hand (Figure 19). This damage likely occurred while the vandals were sawing the rifle from his grasp.



Figure 21 - View of the Chico soldier's broken left shoe/foot. Before it was broken off, the shoe extended a few inches beyond the edge of the bronze base on which the soldier stands. Note the yellow jacket wasp about to enter the statue from the damaged open end of the shoe. *Photo by Chris Johnson, August 18, 2022.*

In addition to the human attacks, weather in the form of moisture has negatively impacted our Chico Civil War monument. Chunks of granite have broken off the very top of the pedestal on the northeast and northwest corners (Figures 10 and 11). This easily visible damage resulted when moisture seeping into the monument caused the metal rods or pipes that attach the soldier to the pedestal to rust. The damp, rusting metal expanded over time exerting more and more pressure on their granitic matrix until corner pieces of the pedestal broke off.³⁷ It is anticipated that water damage as just described will continue over many years to threaten the existence of the Chico soldier. To partially mitigate this threat until major repairs to the monument become a reality, ground watering should be adjusted and

monitored by cemetery workers such that weekly water from sprinklers does not hit the pedestal or the soldier.



Figure 22 - May 30, 2022 view of Chico's Civil War statue holding the cemetery's wooden rifle that replaces the original bronze musket. Notice the wood rifle is a bit too short so it has been raised by a small piece of wood at the butt end.

After careful review of the injuries suffered by the three soldier statues, it is likely that the most severe damage to a Mullins soldier in the future will begin, not from bullet wounds, etc., but with the metal soldier's fall from its pedestal! Weather or vandal violence will be a factor in this unfortunate event.

Although all the Mullins statues of Civil War soldiers still standing have endured harm in the past, and will do so in the future, it is gratifying that their presence today continues to honor those who fought for freedom in the United States of America!

In Memory of
Anne Shaffer

1936 – 2006

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Notes

¹ *The Blue and the Gray: Statues in Stamped Copper and Bronze*. W.H. Mullins Company. Cleveland, Ohio: Caxton, 1913. Thanks to Joy Cable of the Salem Historical Society, Ohio for providing a complete copy of this book.

² General Henry Wagner Halleck (1815-1872) was general-in-chief of the Union Armies during the Civil War, was replaced by U. S. Grant in 1864, and appointed Lincoln's chief of staff. See *Civil War High Commands* by John Eicher, David Eicher, and John Simon. Stanford University Press, 2002: 984 (index) and *Personal Memoirs* by Ulysses S. Grant. Random House, 1998:691 (index).

³ For an expanded discussion see Joseph Wynne, *The Impact of the Civil War Upon Butte County*. MA thesis, Chico State College, 1967.

⁴ Michele Shover, *California Standoff: Miners, Indians, and Farmers at War, 1850-1865*. Chico, Stansbury Publishing, 2017:135-172.

⁵ Joseph Wynne, "Butte County Contributions to the California Volunteers," Butte County Historical Society *Diggin's*, 28(1):8 (1984).

⁶ For a brief history of one Civil War infantry company that included some recruits from Butte County see Fred Pinnegar, "Captain Calloway's Marysville Company in the Civil War," *Diggin's*, 28(1):12-23 (1984).

⁷ *Chico Enterprise*, November 7, 1944, p.1, col. 6, 7. See also Alvin Lynn, *Kit Carson and the First Battle of Adobe Walls: A Tale of Two Journeys*. Lubbock, Texas, Texas Tech, 2014.

⁸ Clark Masters, personal communication, March 26, 2022.

⁹ Michele Shover, *Blacks in Chico, 1860-1935: Climbing the Slippery Slope*. Association for Northern California Records and Research, Chico, California (1991): 6, 7. Another Black Union veteran, Private Moses Collins (Company A, 68th U.S. Colored Infantry) is buried in the GAR Block, Row 6, near the Civil War Monument, but his grave lacks a headstone; he died August 30, 1901 <http://www OrovilleVeterans MemorialPark.org/contributors/chicocemcw.htm>.

¹⁰ Clark Masters, personal communication, March 26, 2022.

- ¹¹ Benjamin Potter interment card, Chico Cemetery, April 29, 2022.
- ¹² Joseph Wynne, *Impact of the Civil War*, pp. 5-14 and C. L. Hill, *Experiments in the Production of Heptane by the Tapping of Jeffrey Pine in California*. California Forest Experiment Station (no date): p.3, 4 (report on file BCHS Archives).
- ¹³ Andrew Brownfield, personal communication, October 29, 2021. Ted and Andrew Brownfield own Chico Granite and Marble Works on Mangrove Av. in Chico. The Brownfields from Red Bluff bought out the previous owners, the William Robbie family.
- ¹⁴ Why the bottom slab was cut into 4 pieces is not known. Ted Brownfield (personal communication, May 19, 2022) suggested that the reason might be because, uncut, the slab was too heavy and/or too large to be installed in one piece.
- ¹⁵ Ben Reed, personal communication, May 9, 2022 and Clark Masters, personal communication, May 30, 2022.
- ¹⁶ *Chico Record*, October 11, 1910, p. 6, col. 3.
- ¹⁷ See obituary *Chico Enterprise*, November 7, 1944, p.1, col. 6, 7.
- ¹⁸ *Los Angeles Times*, September 12, 2021, p. A15.
- ¹⁹ *Chico Record*, November 13, 1929, p. 1. Adriana Farley, personal communication, October 19, 2021.
- ²⁰ *The Salem News*, March 7, 1932, p. 1, col. 6, 7, 8 and Dale E. Shaffer, *Salem: A Quaker City History*. Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, South Carolina (2002): 101-105. Marriage: Joy Cable, personal communication, July 11, 2022.
- ²¹ W. H. Mullins, *Architectural Sheet Metal Work and Statuary*. The Werner Company, Akron, Ohio (1896): 10. See also Dick Wooten, "His Gods and Heroes Were Everywhere", *Salem News Yesteryears*, 1(42): 1 (March 23, 1992).
- ²² For a catalog photo of soldier statue No. 4749 see *The Blue and the Gray: Statues in Stamped Copper and Bronze*. W. H. Mullins Company. Claxton Co., Cleveland, Ohio, 1913: 56. Note Pelzer's initials on the bronze base under the left foot of the soldier.
- ²³ Joy Cable, personal communication, August 25, 2021.
- ²⁴ *Chico Record*, August 21, 1910, p. 5, col. 2.
- ²⁵ Joy Cable, personal communication, August 28, 2021.

- ²⁶ *Chico Record*, August 21, 1910, p. 5, col. 2.
- ²⁷ *Chico Record*, October 11, 1910, p. 6, col. 3.
- ²⁸ *Chico Record*, November 15, 1910, p. 4, col. 3.
- ²⁹ See photos in *The Blue and the Gray* (1913) pp. 53, 62.
- ³⁰ Don Shilling, *The Vindicator* newspaper, April 9, 1990.
- ³¹ Larry Shields, *Salem News*, August 31, 1995.
- ³² Joy Cable, personal communication, May 4, 2022 from the Anne Shaffer file, Salem Historical Society, Salem, Ohio. A photo of the Ontario statue is in *The Blue and The Gray* (1913) p. 9.
- ³³ Label from Civil War soldier exhibit case, Bellevue Memorial Park, Ontario, California, November 5, 2021.
- ³⁴ Joe Blackstock, *Inland Valley Daily Bulletin*, May 13, 2019.
- ³⁵ Identified by Karen D. Johnson, personal communication, August 20, 2022.
- ³⁶ Clark Masters, personal communication, July 22, 2021, stated that two employees who had worked at the Chico Cemetery for over 30 years reported that vandals sawed the rifle off the stature and stole it.
- ³⁷ Clark Masters, personal communication, July 22, 2021, from statements by two long-time Chico Cemetery workers.

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