



GROUPING OF ITEMS - COLONEL FRANCIS WASHBURN

The grouping includes four items: A photograph of a group of officers, an ultra-rare wool blanket, a tourist's guidebook and spurs worn by Washburn when he was mortally wounded.

The albumen photograph is an original and one-of-a-kind albumen, 7½" X 9" and depicts a group of officers from the 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry. Taken at Vienna, Virginia with original frame and identification notes in Washburn's own hand on reverse. The spurs are brass and non-regulation. Worn by Washburn on the day he was mortally wounded, one rowel was struck by Confederate fire. The blanket, an original wool blanket bears his initials as cross stitched into the fabric. The fourth item, a small book, is titled "Morrison's Stranger's Guide and Etiquette to Washington City". It is a guide book for use by visitors to Washington D.C. and includes maps and building layouts for all of the major attractions in the city.

Washburn enlisted as an officer with the 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry as a shavetail aristocrat from Boston society. However, he was to prove himself to be a capable leader who learned readily in the field. Opportunity arose in 1864 and he received a Lt. Colonel's commission with the new regiment, the 4th Massachusetts Cavalry.

On April 6, 1865 he led a company of troopers in a furious but ill fated charge against Confederate forces substantially greater in number, at High Bridge, a long railroad trestle near Appomattox Court House. During the hand to hand fighting, he was shot from his horse and then sabered. Eleven of the thirteen officers in his command were killed or captured. Colonel Washburn was found on the field the following day, dying from his wounds. The next day, Robert E. Lee surrendered his forces and in effect, the Civil War was over. Included in the grouping are his spurs, a traveler's book, and blanket.

