

Included in the sale is a CDV image of Corporal David Alva Barnett, standing resolutely in his uniform as a member of Company B, 99th Pennsylvania. We are highlighting this photo as, fortunately, we know quite a bit about the short life of David. David was born January 12, 1841, in Lancaster County, Pa, the first of two boys born to John and Catherine Barnett. In 1852, when David was 11, his father John died after the family relocated to Peach Bottom Township in York County, Pa. The widow Catherine now had two boys, ages 11 and 9, to take care of, and at some point, David began working as a laborer to help support his family. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, David answered President Lincoln's call to raise an army and at the age of 20, he enlisted for a 3-year term of service on July 26th, 1861. Traveling to Philadelphia to join his regiment, he moved with his comrades to Washington, DC where they were assigned to the 3rd Army Corps in the Army of the Potomac. David would experience the monotony of garrison life in Washington in early 1862 and the horrors of combat beginning in the summer of 1862 at the Battles of Groveton, 2nd Bull Run, Chantilly and Fredericksburg. In 1863, David survived the Battle of Chancellorsville and that summer when Lee's Confederate Army moved north to Pennsylvania, David followed. Promoted to Corporal, he took a moment to have this photo taken, to either send home to his mom and little brother, or possibly to give to a friend or sweetheart. On July 2nd, 1863, at the Battle of Gettysburg, David and the other men of his Regiment cried out "This is Pennsylvania, and our home!" as they launched a successful bayonet charge in the Devil's Den. In this charge the 99th lost almost 33% of their men, 110 in all. Fortunately, David was not among those killed, wounded or captured. Following Gettysburg, both armies moved back to Virginia and the Fall of 1863 would find the Army of the Potomac and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia maneuvering and engaging in constant skirmishing in an effort to find a strategic advantage. It was during one of these engagements on November 7th, 1863 that David's luck ran out. Having been promoted to Sergeant, David was with his men as the 99th Pennsylvania and the rest of the 3rd Corps launched a successful assault on a detachment of Confederates at Kelly's Ford, capturing almost 400 prisoners. The 99th suffered 6 wounded and unfortunately David was one of them. The wound was serious, a rifle round had slammed into his left knee, destroying it. A tourniquet was applied and with the assistance of his friends he began the long and torturous journey from the battlefield to the Douglas Hospital in Washington, DC. The journey took 2 days, and we know this and much more of his subsequent care courtesy of a write up done by his attending physician which was then printed in "The Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion" by the US Army Surgeon General's Office. Noted as "Case 472" Barnett arrived at the hospital weak and anemic and told the surgeon that he bled considerably after getting shot. The surgeon looked at his lower left leg, which had now swollen and turned purple and noted there wasn't any circulation. The decision was made to amputate the lower third of the thigh to try to save his young life, which was done promptly. However, infection, the as yet unknown and understood killer of thousands of wounded soldiers, set in and David's condition deteriorated. By November 23rd his condition had worsened, he developed a cough and his pulse grew more rapid. David's last battle had begun. With the doctor and hospital attendants at his side, David Alva Barnett, not quite 23 years old, at 8 a.m. on November 26th, 1863 breathed his last. It was noted that his final breath was more of a sigh. Ironically, his death occurred on November 26th, the day President Abraham Lincoln set aside as our first National Day of Thanksgiving. David's remains were sent home and buried next to his dad in the Salem United Methodist Church Cemetery in Peach Bottom Township, York County where he would be eventually joined by his mom who never remarried and passed away in 1888 at the age of

70. David's story and a copy of this photo are also featured in Philip Katcher's book, "Lincoln's Unsung Heroes".

For an opportunity to bid on David's photo and many other wonderful Civil War items, please check out our website at Hessauctiongroup.com. In this auction, there are many other identified photos waiting for the right person to come along and unlock the stories of these heroes from past generations.



Lot 42