



Killed in Action at Antietam September 17, 1862



In October 2008, a battlefield burial was brought to the attention of Antietam National Battlefield personnel. It was determined that groundhogs had disturbed an unmarked soldier's grave on the historic David R. Miller farm.



A park visitor discovered several bone fragments and a piece of leather at the mouth of a groundhog burrow.



Seven coat buttons -- 3 New York State Excelsior and 4 US general service -- were excavated along with 2 New York State cuff buttons. The cuff buttons indicate this was a New York state-issued coat or jacket. The US buttons are replacements for those NY buttons lost during hard campaigning.

Recent groundhog activity, combined with 146 years of agriculture, severely disturbed his gravesite and skeletal remains.



Fragments from 24 different bones out of 206 in the adult human body were found. These fragments came mainly from the skull, legs, and feet.



In December 2008, NPS Archeologists and Park Staff conducted the archeological excavations to recover the burial.



Based on an analysis of the cranial bones, teeth, and right femur, this soldier was between 17 and 19 when he was killed in action.



A Union waist belt plate was uncovered, with leather from the belt still adhering to the back.

The remains of the young New York soldier were returned to his home state. He was reburied on the anniversary of the battle, September 17, 2009, at Saratoga National Cemetery, with full military honors.

