



On The Eve of Bristoe

An Immersion Event Hosted by the Southern Guard Living History Association

September 24-25, 2005



42nd New York **VOLUNTEER INFANTRY** **The Tammany Regiment**

3rd Brigade, Webb's 2nd Division, 2nd Army Corps, Army of the Potomac
Commanding Officer: Colonel James E. Mallon - Killed at Bristoe Station - October 14, 1863.

Introduction

Following the great bloodletting at Gettysburg in July 1863, the two opposing armies occupied quiet camps and countless picket posts in central Virginia, neither side making any attempt to bring on further hostilities. The fighting that did occur was relegated to desultory cavalry actions. This all changed in October 1863.

This fall the rolling hills of the Piedmont will lend itself as a back drop for the Southern Guard Living History Association's Fall Picket post. The event will be 36 hours of first person starting with a ration and ammo issue and continuing with a 5 mile march, all night pickets and pure Civil War soldier life.

42nd New York **VOLUNTEER INFANTRY** **The Tammany Regiment**

There are countless stories about color bearers. At Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862, the 42nd New York Volunteers (nicknamed the Tammany Regiment because of the political hall where it was recruited) were leveled by a devastating volley within ten yards of that field's famous stone wall. With most of the men blown off their feet and dazed survivors running back to shelter, Color Sergeant Michael Cuddy pulled himself up on his flagstaff. Shot through with several bullets, he jerked his banner high into the air, swept it in the Southern faces, and joined the rest of his dead guard. The following year, at Second Fredericksburg, 65th NYV Colonel Alexander Shaler grabbed a national color and used it to spur his charging column into the rebel works on Marye's Heights.

The 42nd New York Infantry was organized through the efforts of the Tammany Society and the Union Defense Committee of New York City. All ten companies of the regiment were recruited from the New York City area, gathered at Great Neck, Long Island and mustered into service in June of 1861.

Since the unit was organized by the Tammany Society, and that a large percentage of the unit were members of the Tammany organization, the 42nd New York Infantry also became known as the Tammany Regiment. Another nickname of the unit was the Jackson Guards.

Ordered to Washington D.C. the Tammany Regiment, 1019 men strong, left New York City on July 18, 1861. Throughout its 3 year enlistment, the 42nd New York fought in nearly 50 battles, included among them Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and the Wilderness Campaign. Their largest casualties occurred at Antietam.

42nd New York

Record of Service

Affair, Mason's Island, Maryland	Sept. 6, 1861
Operations on the Upper Potomac, Virginia	Oct. 21-24, 1861
Engagement, Ball's Bluff, Leesburg, Harrison's Island and Conrad's Ferry, Virginia	Oct. 21, 1861
Advance on Winchester, Virginia	March 13-15, 1862
Siege, Yorktown, Virginia	April 5 - May 4, 1862
Battle, Seven Pines (Fair Oaks), Virginia	May 31 - June 1, 1862
Skirmish, Tunstall's Station, Virginia	June 14, 1862
Seven Days Battle, Virginia	June 25 - July 1, 1862
Battle, Peach Orchard (Allen's Farm, near Fair Oaks Station), Virginia	June 29, 1862
Battle, Savage Station, Virginia	June 29, 1862
Engagement, White Oak, Swamp, Virginia	June 30, 1862
Battle, Glendale (Nelson's Farm), Frazier Farm, Charles City Cross Roads, New Market Cross Roads, and Willis Church, Virginia	June 30, 1862
Battle, Malvern Hill, Crew's Farm (Poindexter's Farm), Virginia	July 1, 1862
Maryland Campaign	Sept. 6 - 22, 1862
<u>Battle, Antietam, Sharpsburg, Maryland</u> The 42 nd New York was on the left flank and fought in Sedgwick's Division, which was flanked in the West Woods. This was the highest casualty count of the war for the 42 nd .	Sept. 16 - 17, 1862
Reconnaissance to Charles Town, W. Virginia	Oct. 16 - 17, 1862
Operations, Loudon, Faquier, Rappahannock Counties, Virginia	Oct. 26 - Nov. 10, 1862
<u>Battle, Fredericksburg, Virginia</u> Involved in the assault on Marye's Heights.	Dec. 12 - 15, 1862
<u>Burnside's "Mud March", Virginia</u>	Jan. 20 - 24, 1863
Chancellorsville Campaign	April 27 - May 6, 1863
Battle, Marye's Heights, Fredericksburg, Virginia	May 3, 1863

Battle, Salem Heights, Salem Church, Virginia	May 3 - 4, 1863
Battle, Bank's Ford, Virginia	May 4, 1863
Gettysburg Campaign	June 11 - July 24, 1863
<u>Battle of Gettysburg</u>	
One of the regiments that helped the 69th Pennsylvania repulse Pickett's men was the 42nd New York. The 42nd was more than half-Irish. Their monument stands near The High Water Mark, not far from the 69th Pennsylvania's harp-adorned granite obelisk.	July 1 - 3, 1863
Pursuit, Near Manassas Gap, Virginia	July 5 - 24, 1863
Advance - Rapidan, Virginia	Sept. 13 - 17, 1863
Bristoe Campaign, Virginia	Oct. 9 - 22, 1863

42nd New York Casualties

<u>Losses</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Killed and mortally wounded	11	141	152
Died of disease, accidents, etc.	1	68	69
Died in Confederate prisons	...	35	35
Totals	12	244	256

Note - Wounded includes mortally wounded; Missing includes the captured

Total Enrollment 1,210; killed 152, percentage, 12.6

<u>Battles</u>	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>	<u>Total</u>
Ball's Bluff, Virginia	7	6	120	133
Siege of Yorktown, Virginia	1	...	...	1
Fair Oaks, Virginia	....	1	...	1
Tunstall's Station, Virginia	...	...	9	9
Glendale, Virginia	5	24	27	56

Malvern Hill, Virginia	1	...	...	1
Antietam, Virginia	35	127	19	181
Fredericksburg, Virginia	...	19	3	22
Fredericksburg, Virginia (1863)	...	9	...	9
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania	15	55	4	74
Bristoe Station, Virginia	4	14	10	28

Bristoe Campaign

October 9-22, 1863

The **Bristoe Campaign** was a series of battles fought in Virginia during October and November, 1863, in the American Civil War. Maj. Gen. George G. Meade, commanding the Army of the Potomac, unsuccessfully attempted to defeat Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Of all the campaigns undertaken by the Army of the Potomac, this is certainly the most obscure.

Background

After the [Battle of Gettysburg](#) in July, Robert E. Lee retreated back across the [Potomac River](#) to Virginia and concentrated behind the [Rapidan River](#) in [Orange County](#). Meade was widely criticized for failing to pursue aggressively and defeat Lee's army. He planned new offensives in Virginia that fall to correct this.

Early in September, Lee dispatched two divisions of [James Longstreet's](#) Corps to reinforce the Confederate army in [Georgia](#). Meade knew that Lee had been weakened by the departure of Longstreet and wanted to take advantage. He advanced his army to the [Rappahannock River](#) in August, and on [September 13](#) he pushed strong columns forward to confront Lee along the Rapidan, occupying [Culpeper, Virginia](#). Meade planned to use his numerical superiority in a broad turning movement, similar to the one planned by [Joseph Hooker](#) in the [Battle of Chancellorsville](#) that spring. However, on [September 24](#) the [Union](#) had to deplete its forces as well, sending the [XI](#) and [XII Corps](#) to [Chattanooga, Tennessee](#), following the Union defeat at the [Battle of Chickamauga](#).

Lee learned of the departing Union corps and, early in October, he began an offensive sweep around Cedar Mountain with his remaining two corps, attempting to turn Meade's right flank. Meade, despite having superior numbers, ordered the Army of the Potomac to withdraw along the line of the Orange & Alexandria Railroad.

First Battle of Auburn

Description: After the retreat from Gettysburg, the Confederate army concentrated behind Rapidan River in Orange County. The Federals advanced to Rappahannock River in August, and in mid- September they pushed strong columns forward to confront Lee along the Rapidan. Early September, Lee dispatched two divisions of Longstreet's Corps to reinforce the Confederate army in Georgia; the Federals followed suite, sending the XI and XII Corps to Tennessee by railroad in late September after the Battle of Chickamauga (September 18-20). Early October, Lee began an offensive sweep around Meade's right flank with his remaining two corps, forcing the Federals to withdraw along the line of the Orange & Alexandria Railroad. On October 13, Stuart, with Fitzhugh Lee and Lomax's brigades, skirmished with the rearguard of the Union III Corps near Auburn.

Finding himself cut off by retreating Federal columns, Stuart secreted his troopers in a wooded ravine until the unsuspecting Federals moved on.

Other Names: Catlett's Station, St. Stephen's Church

Location: Fauquier County

Campaign: Bristoe Campaign (October–November 1863)

Date(s): October 13, 1863

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. William. H. French [US]; Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart [CS]

Forces Engaged: Brigades

Estimated Casualties: 50 total

[Second Battle of Auburn](#)

Description: As the Federal army withdrew towards Manassas Junction, Owens and Smyth's Union brigades (Warren's II Corps) fought a rearguard action against Stuart's cavalry and infantry of Harry Hays's division near Auburn. Stuart's cavalry boldly bluffed Warren's infantry and escaped disaster. The II Corps pushed on to Catlett Station on the Orange & Alexandria Railroad.

Other Names: Coffee Hill

Location: Fauquier County

Campaign: Bristoe Campaign (October–November 1863)

Date(s): October 14, 1863

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. G.K. Warren [US]; Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart [CS]

Forces Engaged: Brigades

Estimated Casualties: 113 total

Result(s): Inconclusive

[Bristoe Station](#)

Description: US Major General George Gordon Meade, believing that CS General Robert E. Lee would attack the Union army at Centreville, issued orders on October 13 instructing his corps commanders to mass there the next day. Lee, however, had no intention of engaging Meade's army at Centreville. He planned to intercept it sooner, preferably along the Orange & Alexandria Railroad. Bristoe Station was on the railroad.

Early on October 14, Meade's I and VI corps, followed by the III and V corps, crossed Broad Run north of Bristoe, heading toward Manassas. Marching from Catlett's Station along the south side of the railroad, the rear of the Federal infantry—US Major General Gouverneur K. Warren's II Corps—arrived at Bristoe early in the afternoon. Lee ordered CS Lieutenant General Richard S. Ewell's Second Corps and CS Lieutenant General Ambrose Powell Hill's Third Corps to march to Bristoe via Greenwich on October 14. At Greenwich the Confederates encountered Union army stragglers. Ewell knew the countryside and decided to go cross-country and by back roads to Bristoe while Hill's troops followed the road.

Hill rode ahead, and from a high point he sighted troops of the V Corps crossing Broad Run. He ordered CS Major General Henry Heth to form a battle line anchored on Greenwich Road. North Carolinians commanded by CS Brigadier General John R. Cooke and CS Brigadier General William W. Kirkland deployed on the right and left of the road, with CS Brigadier General Henry H. Walker's Virginia Brigade behind Kirkland's Brigade. Before they were in place, the impatient Hill sent his troops forward and directed CS Major William T. Poague's artillery to fire into the Union troops.

Hill erred, and launched a tragedy. He focused on the Union troops near Broad Run and failed to see Warren's corps as it came up, its columns screened by the railroad cut to his right. He also neglected to note that Ewell's corps was too far away to reinforce him.

When Union skirmishers spotted the Confederates' advance toward Broad Run, they crossed to the north side of the tracks and shielded Warren's men as they hastened into position behind the two- to ten-foot-high railroad embankment. Warren ordered the concealed troops commanded by US Colonel Francis E. Heath, US Colonel James Mallon, and US Brigadier General Joshua T. Owen to hold their fire. Artillery under US Captain William Arnold and US Captain Robert Bruce Ricketts unlimbered on ridges behind them. Lieutenant T. F. Brown's artillery, positioned on a hill across Broad Run, later joined Arnold and Ricketts.

As the Confederates closed on Broad Run at 2:00 P.M., troop movements and musket fire behind the railroad drew their attention. Cooke's and Kirkland's brigades shifted to the right to face the attack. Then the hidden Union soldiers rose and fired directly into the charging Confederate soldiers. Despite the odds, the Confederates breached Mallon's line and mortally wounded Mallon. Point-blank Union fire and an artillery enfilade severely wounded Cooke and Kirkland and forced the Confederates to retreat in disarray.

Other Names: None

Location: Prince William County

Campaign: Bristoe Campaign (October-November 1863)

Date(s): October 14, 1863

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. G.K. Warren [US]; Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill [CS]

Forces Engaged: Corps

Estimated Casualties: 1,980 total

Result(s): Union victory

Buckland Mills

Description: CS General Lee followed the retreating Federals as far as Bull Run. Unable to sustain his army in that forward position, Lee withdrew from the plains of Manassas, shielded by CS General Stuart's cavalry. While Stuart covered the army at Buckland, he awaited the arrival of CS Major General Fitzhugh Lee's Division from Auburn. On October 19 US Brigadier General H. Judson Kilpatrick's cavalry, pursuing Stuart along the Warrenton Turnpike, crossed Broad Run to skirmish with the Confederates. Stuart fell back toward Warrenton and lured Kilpatrick into pursuit, knowing that Fitzhugh Lee was maneuvering around Kilpatrick's division to attack him from the rear.

US Brigadier General George A. Custer's brigade was guarding the ford at Broad Run when Lee attacked. The Union troopers halted the Confederate advance after heavy fighting. Meanwhile Stuart, in command of both Lee's cavalry and CS Major General Wade Hampton's Division, wheeled them around and charged the Union cavalry. (Hampton was recovering from the severe wound he had received at Gettysburg.) The Federals feared the enemy to their rear, and they broke, chased by Stuart for five miles in what became known to the victors as

the "Buckland Races." Custer's brigade, still covering the ford, finally halted the pursuit and protected the Union cavalry while it crossed the stream. Stuart retired from Buckland the next day to join Lee's army behind the Rappahannock River.

Other Names: Buckland Races, Chestnut Hill

Location: Fauquier County

Campaign: Bristoe Campaign (October–November 1863)

Date(s): October 19, 1863

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. J. Kilpatrick [US]; Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart [CS]

Forces Engaged: Divisions

Estimated Casualties: 230 total

Result(s): Confederate victory



Private Eric Tipton

A BIOGRAPHY

Where I Was Born:

I was born August 17, 1830 in Springfield, Ohio.

Family:

I moved to New York when I was sixteen. My parents still live in Ohio. My Father is a land speculator. My mother Pamela works as a seamstress. They both grew up in New York. My brother Ryan was born in 1832 and is an artist/writer.

My Father's side of the family is mostly located in Kentucky. My cousin Private George Tipton enlisted with the 2nd Kentucky Cavalry and was captured in March 1863. He re-enlisted with the 7th Kentucky Cavalry upon his release and fought with them until the end of the war. My other cousin Private Elijah Hull fights with the 40th Regiment Ohio Infantry Company "C".

My Mother's side of the family lived in Springfield, Ohio. Their name is Chamberlain. My Grandfather and Grandmother have passed away. My Great Grandparents (Jensen) came over from Norway and that is where I got the name Eric. My middle name – Arthur comes from my Grandfather on my Mother's side.

Education:

I finished the 12th Grade in Dayton, Ohio.

Marriage:

I met my wife Alexandra Avenarius Sasha, a Russian immigrant in 1858. I was married July 17, 1859 to Sasha. We were married at my parent's home in Ohio.

My Wife Alexandra:

Alexandra was born on May 3, 1838 in Moscow. She came to the United States in 1857. She works for the Dancy family in New York as their governess teaching the children Lauren, Megan and Abigail. She is paid \$2.00 per week.

Career:

I work in a tavern. I make \$2.00 per week plus room and board.

Home

My wife and I live in one of the rooms above the tavern in the Five Points area of Lower Manhattan.

Mustered in:

I Mustered into U.S. Service June 22, 1861 at Great Neck, Long Island. Three years.

Why Did I Decide to Fight?

My Father was in the military and fought in the Mexican War. He volunteered and served as a Lieutenant. I was too young at the time to volunteer. I was only sixteen and wanted to go to college.

I believe that slavery is wrong. I also am a patriot and I think we should preserve the Union. I admire the South for it's stance on the rights of states within the Union, but I feel that the foundation of their argument is rooted in slavery and this in itself is morally wrong. My family is much divided on this issue because of my roots in Kentucky.

Money

- What cost \$**100** in 1850 would cost \$**2045.01** in 2001.
- Also, if you were to buy exactly the same products in 2001 and 1850, they would cost you \$**100** and \$**4.89** respectively.
- Prices today are **20.45 times the amount back then.**

New York, New York

New York County

New York City Population in 1860 was 813,669

Tammany Hall was the name given to the [Democratic Party political machine](#) that dominated [New York City](#) politics from the mayoral victory of [Fernando Wood](#) in [1854](#) through the election of [Fiorello LaGuardia](#) in [1934](#). The eighty-year period between those two elections marks the time in which Tammany was the city's driving political force, but its origins actually date to the late [18th century](#) and its fall from power was not truly complete until the early [1960s](#).

The Tammany Society of [New York City](#) was founded in [1786](#) as a patriotic fraternal organization whose primary activities were social, with an initial movement within the society to improve the image of [Native Americans](#). The name "Tammany" is that of a [Native American](#) leader of the [Lenape](#). By [1798](#), however, the Society's activities had grown increasingly politicized and eventually Tammany emerged as the central proponent of anti-[Federalist Jeffersonian](#) policies in the city of New York. [Aaron Burr](#) organized the Tammany society as his political machine for the [election of 1800](#). Throughout the early [19th century](#) Tammany continued to deepen its association with the [Democratic Party](#), emerging as the controlling interest in New York City elections after [Andrew Jackson's presidential victory in 1828](#). Throughout the [1830s](#) and [1840s](#) the

Society expanded its political control even further by earning the loyalty of the city's ever-expanding immigrant community, a task that was accomplished by helping newly-arrived foreigners obtain jobs, a place to live, and even citizenship so that they could vote for Tammany candidates in city and state elections. The mass immigrant constituency primarily functioned as an expendable base of political capital.

Recognizing that [Irish](#) immigrants were inundating the city at an unprecedented rate, Tammany Hall introduced themselves to the Irish in a very profound manner for several reasons. Considering that the Irish could speak English and possessed a relatively good working knowledge of [republican](#) government, they were immediately identified as a potential gold-mine of political clout. However, the most advantageous aspect of the Irish as Tammany's major constituency was the fact that the Irish possessed little to no skills that translated into actual employment opportunities. Consequently, Tammany offered a great deal in terms of political [graft](#) and spoils to the Irish in exchange for their votes. This pattern of "logrolling" one's political conscience in exchange for employment gain would become a common theme for Tammany Hall for years to follow.



Orange, and Anthony streets were renamed to Baxter, and Worth streets after military leaders in the US-Mexican War. Worth Street was also later widened, and extended to Chatham Square in 1868 (extension not shown on the map). Cross Street was renamed Park Street in the mid 1800s, and renamed Mosco Street in 1982.

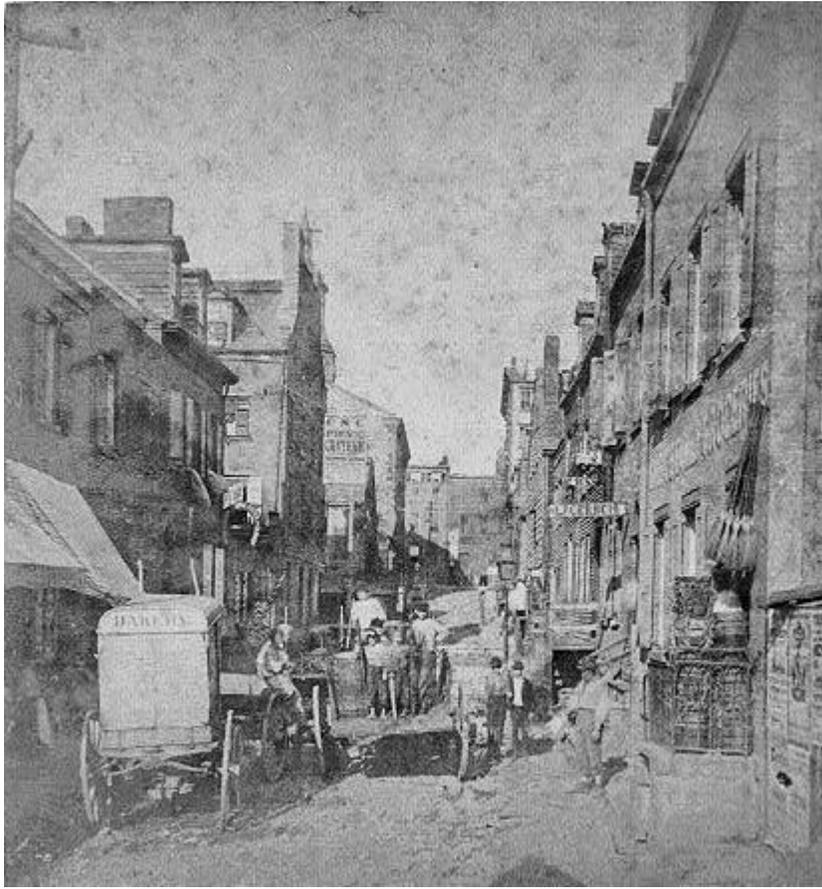
Map of the Five Points in the 1800s

* The Five Points intersection.

- 1) The Old Brewery. It was torn down in 1852, and replaced by the Five Points Mission in 1853. The triangle across the street is Paradise Square.
- 2) St. Philips African Episcopal Church, destroyed in the riots of 1834.
- 3) African Society for Mutual Relief.
- 4) 65 Mott St, location of the first NYC tenement in 1827.
- 5) Chatham Square. Used as a huge [open air market](#) up until 1820.
- 6) The Tombs prison, erected 1838.
- 7) Five Points House of Industry, built 1856.
- 8) The Bowery Theatre.
- 9) Cow Bay.
- 10) Mulberry Bend. It was considered one of the worst slums in NYC. The entire block was demolished in 1896 and turned into a park.
- 11) Bottle Alley, and 12) Bandit's Roost were two of the many alleyways inside the Mulberry Bend.
- 13) [The Tea Water Pump](#) was a natural spring fed well that supplied much of Manhattan with water up until the end of the 18th century. NYC would be without a reliable water supply until 1842 with the opening of the Croton Aqueduct.

Gangs of New York

BY HERBERT ASBURY



Robert Dennis Collection of Stereoscopic Views, The New York Public Library

THE GANGS OF NEW YORK, written by Herbert Asbury, was used as the basis for the movie **GANGS OF NEW YORK**, a gangster film directed by Martin Scorsese and starring Daniel Day-Lewis and Leonardo DiCaprio. Filmed in Rome, *Gangs* covers a period of New York City's history, from the 1840's through to the bloody Draft Riots of 1863, at a time when graft and corruption permeated every level of government including the police department.

The movie's main plot revolves around revenge and the feuding between the gangs controlling the Bowery and the Five Points area of lower Manhattan and culminates with the Civil War draft riots. The two major political parties, Tammany Hall (Democratic based) and the Native Americans (Know-Nothing Party), used gangs as enforcers for the plundering of public funds and to gain control of the city. The movie is a fictional drama loosely based on actual historical events and figures.

The depictions in the movie showing the discrimination against the Irish immigrants, the draft riots and the backdrop of New York City circa 1860's were fairly representative of real events. The script writers rearranged history in order to present as many interesting characters and events as is possible within a two hour and 40 minute time frame. The characters in the movie were either fictional, such as Jenny Everdeane (Cameron Diaz), Amsterdam Vallon (Leo DiCaprio) and Priest Vallon (Liam Neeson), or fictionalized versions of real people. The feel and flavor of New York City during the middle 1800's was captured by the movie through the use of excellent cinematography and the creation of a movie set based on actual photographs of the real Five Points.

Four of the main characters: William "Bill the Butcher" Cutting (Daniel Day-Lewis), Boss Tweed (Jim Broadbent), Happy Jack (John C. Reilly), and Monk McGinn (Brendan Gleeson) were based on actual people but they existed in different time frames. William Cutting was based on William Poole "Bill the Butcher", a real butcher with a shop in Washington Market, who lived in New York City from 1832 until his murder in 1855 by

Lew Baker. The real William did not have a glass eye with an eagle on it and did not directly kill anyone although he may have maimed a few men. He resided in a nice little brownstone on Christopher Street (outside of the Five Points) and for a brief period, owned his own saloon, on the corner of Howard and Broadway. For more information on William's background, click on [William Poole's background \(Bill The Butcher\)](#).

The character of Happy Jack was based on Happy Jack Mulraney, a volatile and murderous member of the Gophers, who had a permanent grin on his face due to partial paralysis of the facial muscles. Happy Jack was very sensitive about his deformity and murdered a saloon owner, Paddy the Priest, for making a casual remark about his one-sided grin. The Gophers existed around the late 1890's and early 1900's and were contemporaries of Monk Eastman and Paul Kelly (Paolo Vaccarelli). The Gopher's territory was in the part of Manhattan known as Hell's Kitchen and covered the area from 7th to 11th avenues and from 14th to 42nd streets. Owney Madden, an emigrant from Liverpool, England, was once a Gopher commander of the faction known as the Tenth Street Gang. Owney would go on to become co-owner of the Cotton Club in Harlem and one of New York City's kingpins of bootlegged liquor during Prohibition.

Monk McGinn (Brendan Gleeson) was based on Monk Eastman (Edward Osterman), a Jewish gangster, who was born around 1873 in Brooklyn and died in New York City in 1920, murdered by a corrupt Prohibition enforcement agent (not by Bill the Butcher). Monk had his own gang, called the Eastmans, of more than twelve hundred warriors. For more information on Monk, click on [Monk Eastman](#).

Boss Tweed, played by Jim Broadbent, is the only character in the movie who comes closest to portraying an actual historical figure within the movie's time frame. William "Boss" Tweed was born in 1823 in New York City's lower east side and was a brawler and school dropout. He became foreman of the Big Six Fire Engine Company (not the Black Joke Fire Engine Company) and used fire fighting as a means to get into politics. He was first elected to the Board of Aldermen, and then to Congress. He rose through the political ranks and over time gained control of Tammany Hall's political machine and was able to control all of the Democratic New York state and city nominations from 1860 to 1870. Although Tweed and his crooked compadres, the infamous "Tweed Ring", were corrupt and plundered public funds, some of the projects, such as improved water supplies and sewage disposal, benefited New Yorkers. William Tweed's graft, brought to the public's attention by the cartoonist Thomas Nast, eventually caused his downfall and he died in jail in 1878.

The source for some of the slang used in the movie came from George Matsell's "The Secret Language of Crime: The Rogue's Lexicon", 1859. Here are translations for some of the terms used: Ballum rancum: A ball where all the dancers are thieves or prostitutes; Crusher: policeman; Lay: a criminal occupation; and Mort: a woman. For more 1800's "gangsta slang", click on the fictional vignette [Bill the Butcher](#). The main source used by the movie in replicating the accent and speech patterns of the nineteenth century came from a recording made in 1892 by the now deceased poet, Walt Whitman. The result is a sort of Brooklyn "cabby" accent.

BACKGROUND ON FIVE POINTS: The most wretched of New York City's slums in the 1800's was an area called Five Points, named for the five points created by the intersection of Anthony (now Worth), Orange (now Baxter), and Cross (now Park) Streets. The area formed a "truncated triangle about one mile square" and was "bounded by Canal Street, the Bowery, Chatham" (now Park Row), "Pearl, and Centre Streets."¹ Paradise Square, a small triangular park, was located between Anthony (now Worth) and Cross (now Park) Streets and converged into Orange Street (now Baxter). These slums no longer exist, having been replaced by city, state, and federal courthouses and the area known as Chinatown.

The origins of Five Points began around 1802 with a landfill that covered a foul pit of chemical and animal waste. In the 1700's lower Manhattan contained a large lake filled with an abundance of fish and surrounded by wild marsh lands teeming with birds and other wildlife. The lake became known as the Collect Pond and was very popular with fishermen and local residents who would picnic along the shores in the summer and skate on the ice in winter. It was a lovely place until the tanneries, breweries, and slaughterhouses moved in and caused massive pollution and contamination of the lake's water. In 1802 the city's Street Commissioner recommended that the Collect be drained and filled in due to the stench and health problems caused by the pollution.

The Collect landfill was completed by around 1812 and by 1813, the streets were laid out and the land speculators moved in, building two and one-half story wooden structures. Many were occupied by artisans and

tradesmen who combined their home and business into one dwelling. Coulter's Brewery, one of the original industries, remained after the Collect was filled and continued to brew beer until 1837 when it was converted into a tenement, called the Old Brewery. Industries such as glue factories and turpentine distilleries joined Coulter's on the newly created landfill.

Five Points was considered a poor but respectable part of lower Manhattan until around 1820. The decay into a slum was helped by several events: a shift from handcrafted goods to mass production of goods, a huge influx of poor immigrants, and landowners subdividing buildings without regard for safety or sanitation. Factories mass produced goods such as clothes, shoes and other items at a cheaper cost, undercutting the individual tradesmen. The apprenticeship system which provided room, board, and steady work for children learning the trades disappeared. Children of working-class families who normally would be kept busy learning a supervised trade were left free to wander the streets. Many of the artisans and tradesmen moved out of the area and were replaced by Irish and German immigrants. As the population of Five Points swelled with new immigrants, landowners or their agents found it very profitable to subdivide and add on to their wooden structures. The buildings were carved into tiny apartments, many were the size of a small bedroom and windowless. The bottom floor of each building frequently housed a saloon, groggery (combination of groceries and cheap liquor), or brothel. The buildings were referred to as 'tenant houses' or tenements and were crammed with immigrants, returning a hefty profit to the landlords or sublandlords.

Unfortunately, the instability of the landfill under the tenements caused the buildings to partially sink and become prematurely old. Basements (many inhabited by immigrants) and streets frequently flooded when it rained, creating a damp, decaying, and unhealthy atmosphere. Most of the streets were not connected to sewers and people used basement or outdoor privies which were rarely cleaned and constantly overflowed, filling backyards with human excrement which in turn flowed to the streets, and joined up with the tons of horse manure and leftover industrial waste. These filthy conditions plus contaminated water contributed to the high death rate in Five Points. According to the AICP (Association for Improving the Conditions of the Poor), based on data from the years 1850 to 1860, seventy percent of the children under the age of two died each year. Pulmonary diseases, poor nutrition, cholera, and typhus epidemics took a heavy toll. Many infants died from drinking foul milk which was extracted from diseased cows by unscrupulous profit seeking dairy owners. Once the diseased cows died, they were doctored up and sold for meat.

Into the morass of Five Points, the poor immigrants arrived, many without any resources or means of employment. Irish immigrants, from the worst of the potato famine, arrived in New York City dressed in rags, malnourished and in poor health and took the cheapest quarters available. Families usually settled in decrepit tenements such as the Old Brewery, Jacob's Ladder, Gates of Hell, Cow Bay, and Mulberry Bend where they were lucky to have a single room for themselves. The single men and women frequently settled into boardinghouses or lodging rooms which ranged from indescribably filthy cellar rooms, where as many as twenty people slept on straw in one room, to modest, but clean establishments with beds.

Boarding house runners, friendly men speaking with the same accent as the new arrivals, would board the boats after they docked, and welcome the more affluent looking immigrant with offers to lodge at a particular establishment. Once the new lodger settled in, he was charged exorbitant rates and if he could not pay, his luggage was confiscated. In many instances, it was a case of the older immigrant cheating the newer arrival.

Life was very difficult for many families and just surviving from day to day often required that all members of the family bring in money, by whatever means. Resorting to crime or prostitution was at times the only way to exist. Children earned money by working on the streets as bootblacks, as street sweepers clearing the intersections of muck in exchange for tips from pedestrians, and as "little merchants" hawking goods such as matches, newspapers, produce, and sometimes themselves. Alcoholism was rampant and frequently the children's earnings paid for filling the "growler", a pail used to fetch beer from the local groggery or saloon. Left to fend for themselves, many children roamed the streets, joined up with gangs, and were destined to become prostitutes or felons.

The miserable conditions of Five Points became known to the outside world and reformers such as Lewis N. Pease, Rev. Samuel Halliday, the Methodist missionary ladies, and Jacob Riis, with his empathetic style of

journalistic photography, worked diligently to improve life for the slum's inhabitants. Five Points' notorious reputation became so well known that notables such as Davey Crockett, Abraham Lincoln, and Charles Dickens paid the slums a visit. Lincoln was quite moved by the plight of Five Point's children and applauded Lewis Pease and his House of Industry's efforts to house, clothe, feed, and educate them.

The celebrated Davey Crockett and literary figures such as Charles Dickens, Herman Melville, and Walt Whitman toured the saloons, groggeries, brothels, dance halls, and gambling halls in order to witness first hand the depravity of Five Points. The raucous theater and wild dance halls of the Bowery became the popular place to go "slumming" and to see how the other half lives. Dickens ventured deep into the depths of Five Points with two police escorts and wrote about his experience in *American Notes*.

"This is the place; these narrow ways diverging to the right and left, and reeking everywhere with dirt and filth. Such lives as are led here, bear the same fruit here as elsewhere. The coarse and bloated faces at the doors have counterparts at home and all the world over. Debauchery has made the very houses prematurely old. See how the rotten beams are tumbling down, and how the patched and broken windows seem to scowl dimly, like eyes that have been hurt in drunken frays."...."Where dogs would howl to lie men and women and boys slink off to sleep, forcing the dislodged rats to move away in quest of better lodgings. Here, too, are lanes and alleys paved with mud knee-deep; underground chambers where they dance and game." Dicken sums up Five Points with the remark: "all that is loathsome, drooping, and decayed is here." Although Dickens was very critical of Five Points, he did enjoy a visit to Almacks, later referred to as Pete Williams' place, a black American dance hall. Dickens was intrigued by the dance skills of William Henry Lane who combined the shuffle with an Irish jig. This style was called a break-down and became the forerunner of modern tap dancing.

Walt Whitman, the poet, identified with the "rowdies" of Manhattan and was particularly entranced with the Bowery Boy culture and their style of dress and slang. The Bowery was the center of entertainment for the single men of the working-class and they came from all parts of New York City, not just the Five Points. Bill the Butcher was a former Bowery Boy. After work, the butchers, firemen, and other working-class men would don their fancy duds consisting of stovepipe hat topping well-oiled locks, red shirt, black flared trousers, silk vest and cravat, and high-heeled calfskin boots, and head for the Bowery's theaters, dance halls and brothels. Without family responsibilities, the "B'hoys" had enough money to spend on entertainment. Most of the Bowery boys were native born and were very patriotic and loved adventure. Many of them belonged to gangs such as the American Guards or the Bowery Boys' gang. However, A working-class male might adopt the Bowery style but not belong to a particular gang.

Many factors contributed to an increase in the number of gangs in New York City during the 1800's, especially the Five Points area. The major factors were: the huge number of immigrants with different nationalities; the resentment of native born Americans towards the newcomers; poor living conditions; young single immigrants seeking identity and protection in a sometimes hostile environment; and the patronage system of rewarding favors with jobs. The setting was ripe for the proliferation of gangs and corrupt politicians. The grocery speak-easies or groggeries provided meeting places for the gangs. Many of the saloons, gambling houses, places of prostitution, and dance houses were owned by political leaders who utilized the "special" talents of the gangs. The lines between gangs and political parties were very blurred. Both the Whigs and the Democrats used gangs to bring in the votes and to cause disruption within the opposing parties.

William Poole, Bill The Butcher, was a Whig and later became a member of the Native American or Know-Nothing party (anti-catholic and anti-immigrant). Bill was cheftain of his own Washington Street gang and on election day, Bill and his thugs would be stationed at the polling place in order to commandeer votes for the Whigs. Their methods were violent and they frequently used "repeaters", people who voted more than once. While Bill was "soliciting" votes for his party, Morrissey and his thugs were convincing voters, especially the Irish immigrants, to vote for the Democratic party (Tammany Hall) candidate. Both sides were violent at the polling place and frequently battled with each other. The gangs were repaid by the political parties or governmental authorities with offers of choice jobs, money or by allowing the gangsters to run their vices without harassment from the police.

The gangs were mainly territorial, ethnic based and centered around two areas of the Five Points: the heart of the Five Points and the Bowery. The gangs with headquarters in the heart of Five Points were the Forty

Thieves, Kerryonians, Shirt Tails, Plug Uglies, Roach Guards and Dead Rabbits and were Irish. Some of the gangs identified themselves with special clothes or colors. The Roach Guards wore blue striped pantaloons, the Plug Uglies sported enormous plug hats, and the Dead Rabbits wore red stripes. The gangs sometimes fought each other and sometimes banded together to fight with the Bowery Boys or the American Guards (native born).

The Irish gangs centered in the Bowery were the True Blue Americans (wearing black frock coats and stovepipe hats), O'Connell Guards, and Atlantic Guards. The Bowery Boys and American Guards had headquarters in the Bowery and in general were allied with the Whigs or Native American party. The Irish gangs tended to support the Democratic party (Tammany Hall)

The Five Points

BY GREGORY CHRISTIANO

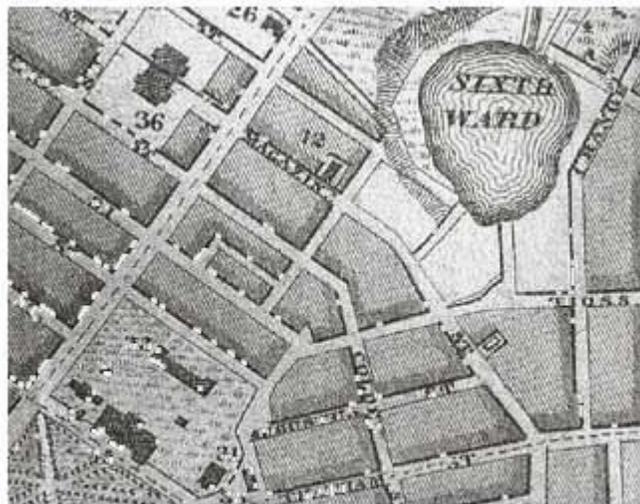
A Brief Commentary:

The name Five Points evokes images of poverty, rampant crime, decadence and despair. That's true. The Five Points was a lurid geographical cancer filled with dilapidated and unlivable tenement houses, gang extortion, corrupt politicians, houses of ill-repute and drunkenness and gambling. This was a place where all manner of crime flourished, the residents terrorized and squalor prevailed. This is the setting over many decades through the nineteenth century.

The district was known as the Sixth Ward bounded, south, by Reade Street; west, by West Street; north by Canal Street; east by Broadway. The Five Points so named in the 1830's from the convergence of the intersection of five streets: Mulberry, Anthony (now Worth St.), Cross (now Park), Orange (now Baxter), and Little Water Street (no longer exists). This neighborhood was built over the Collect Pond and its adjacent swampland north of City Hall and the Courthouse, between Broadway and the Bowery. The scene is set.

Certain areas of Manhattan are not suitable to build tall structures because there is no bedrock underground. This was the case in the Canal Street area. If you look at the skyline from either west or east, you'll notice how the tall buildings are clustered together whereas the skyline dips to smaller structures where there is no bedrock to support them. This is the reason.

When the landfill started to decay in the 1820's the wood frame houses began to tilt over and sink. It became infested with mosquitoes and disease; the decent residents moved out, those who remained became impoverished and victims of slum lords, gangs and ruthless politicians looking for easy votes. Personal safety was compromised and a person was in constant threat of being robbed or worse. Beginning with the "Old Brewery" – a building that was converted to an apartment house, the floors were partitioned into small flats, rented to the poor and seedy characters. Each room had whole families, cooking, eating, and sleeping in this one room. It was a ghastly sight with squalid living conditions. The same situation prevailed throughout the district – the lower floors usually for drinking, dancing, gambling, and riotous behavior. Many people were robbed, beaten or shanghaied. In the cellars (they



The Five Points neighborhood was built on top of old Collect Pond and the surrounding swampland. City Hall is at lower left. [Large version in context \(195K\)](#).

were called “cellar dwellers”) were the “oyster saloons,” which were kept open all night luring fresh, unsuspecting victims. This neighborhood was a dangerous place to live in and visit.

The many dancehalls brought together the Irish and African-Americans who had a large population in the area. A combination of the Irish jig or reel and the African-American shuffle, created a new dance form – Tap Dancing. This became a popular trend and forever



was ingrained in American culture. As to stuffing the ballot boxes and stealing elections, this neighborhood became expert and notorious. After the Civil War, in particular, the Five Points (Sixth Ward) district had a reputation for casting more ballots than eligible voters!

Over the decades the neighborhood changed. It was extremely bad in the 1830’s and ‘40’s until Protestant religious sects made inroads to clean up the area in the 1850’s. By 1860 Five Points was a little less violent, but still a slum. Abraham Lincoln visited the area in 1860 and reluctantly gave a speech to some school children. He as well as Charles Dickens, who visited the area in 1842, were appalled at the abject poverty and terrible living conditions. Conditions improved only to crumble again in the 1880’s with the influx of Italian and

Chinese immigrants. By 1897 the area houses had been demolished and the district took on a whole new look.

The New York City Draft Riots of 1863

An Excerpt From:

IN THE SHADOW OF SLAVERY

African Americans in New York City, 1626-1863

by Leslie M. Harris

In September of 1862, President Abraham Lincoln announced the Emancipation Proclamation, which would take effect January 1, 1863, and free slaves in those states or regions still in rebellion against the Union. If any southern state returned to the Union between September and January, whites in that state theoretically would not lose ownership of their slaves. Despite its limits, free blacks, slaves, and abolitionists across the country hailed it as one of the most important actions on behalf of freedom in the nation's history. The Emancipation Proclamation brought formal recognition that the war was being fought, at least in part, on behalf of black freedom and equality.

The enactment of the Emancipation Proclamation in January 1863 capped two years of increasing support for emancipation in New York City. Although Republicans attempted to keep abolitionists from taking a leading role in New York's antislavery politics during the early years of the war, by 1862 abolitionist speakers drew huge audiences, black and white, in the city. Increasing support for the abolitionists and for emancipation led to anxiety among New York's white proslavery supporters of the Democratic Party, particularly the Irish. From the time of Lincoln's election in 1860, the Democratic Party had warned New York's Irish and German residents to prepare for the emancipation of slaves and the resultant labor competition when southern blacks would supposedly flee north. To these New Yorkers, the Emancipation Proclamation was confirmation of their worst fears. In March 1863, fuel was added to the fire in the form of a stricter federal draft law. All male citizens between twenty and thirty-five and all unmarried men between thirty-five and forty-five years of age were subject to military duty. The federal government entered all eligible men into a lottery. Those who could afford to hire a substitute or pay the government three hundred dollars might avoid enlistment. Blacks, who were not considered citizens, were exempt from the draft.

In the month preceding the July 1863 lottery, in a pattern similar to the 1834 anti-abolition riots, antiwar

newspaper editors published inflammatory attacks on the draft law aimed at inciting the white working class. They criticized the federal government's intrusion into local affairs on behalf of the "nigger war." Democratic Party leaders raised the specter of a New York deluged with southern blacks in the aftermath of the Emancipation Proclamation. White workers compared their value unfavorably to that of southern slaves, stating that "[we] are sold for \$300 [the price of exemption from war service] whilst they pay \$1000 for negroes." In the midst of war-time economic distress, they believed that their political leverage and economic status was rapidly declining as blacks appeared to be gaining power. On Saturday, July 11, 1863, the first lottery of the conscription law was held. For twenty-four hours the city remained quiet. On Monday, July 13, 1863, between 6 and 7 A.M., the five days of mayhem and bloodshed that would be known as the Civil War Draft Riots began.

The rioters' targets initially included only military and governmental buildings, symbols of the unfairness of the draft. Mobs attacked only those individuals who interfered with their actions. But by afternoon of the first day, some of the rioters had turned to attacks on black people, and on things symbolic of black political, economic, and social power. Rioters attacked a black fruit vendor and a nine-year-old boy at the corner of Broadway and Chambers Street before moving to the Colored Orphan Asylum on Fifth Avenue between Forty-Third and Forty-Fourth Streets. By the spring of 1863, the managers had built a home large enough to house over two hundred children. Financially stable and well-stocked with food, clothing, and other provisions, the four-story orphanage at its location on Fifth Avenue and Forty-Second Street was an imposing symbol of white charity toward blacks and black upward mobility. At 4 P.M. on July 13, "the children numbering 233, were quietly seated in their school rooms, playing in the nursery, or reclining on a sick bed in the Hospital when an infuriated mob, consisting of several thousand men, women and children, armed with clubs, brick bats etc. advanced upon the Institution." The crowd took as much of the bedding, clothing, food, and other transportable articles as they could and set fire to the building. John Decker, chief engineer of the fire department, was on hand, but firefighters were unable to save the building. The destruction took twenty minutes.

In the meantime, the superintendent and matron of the asylum assembled the children and led them out to Forty-Fourth Street. Miraculously, the mob refrained from assaulting the children. But when an Irish observer of the scene called out, "If there is a man among you, with a heart within him come and help these poor children," the mob "laid hold of him, and appeared ready to tear him to pieces." The children made their way to the Thirty-Fifth Street Police Station, where they remained for three days and nights before moving to the almshouse on Blackwell's Island—ironically, the very place from which the orphanage's founders had hoped to keep black children when they built the asylum almost thirty years earlier.

The Irish man who castigated the mob for not helping the black children was not the only white person punished by rioters for seeming overly sympathetic to blacks. Throughout the week of riots, mobs harassed and sometimes killed blacks and their supporters and destroyed their property. Rioters burned the home of Abby Hopper Gibbons, prison reformer and daughter of abolitionist Isaac Hopper. They also attacked white "amalgamationists," such as Ann Derrickson and Ann Martin, two women who were married to black men; and Mary Burke, a white prostitute who catered to black men. Near the docks, tensions that had been brewing since the mid-1850s between white longshoremen and black workers boiled over. As recently as March of 1863, white employers had hired blacks as longshoremen, with whom Irish men refused to work. An Irish mob then attacked two hundred blacks who were working on the docks, while other rioters went into the streets in search of "all the negro porters, cartmen and laborers . . . they could find." They were routed by the police. But in July 1863, white longshoremen took advantage of the chaos of the Draft Riots to attempt to remove all evidence of a black and interracial social life from area near the docks. White dockworkers attacked and destroyed brothels, dance halls, boarding houses,



Rioters tortured black men, women, and children.
© Collection of the New-York Historical Society

and tenements that catered to blacks; mobs stripped the clothing off the white owners of these businesses.

Black men and black women were attacked, but the rioters singled out the men for special violence. On the waterfront, they hanged William Jones and then burned his body. White dock workers also beat and nearly drowned Charles Jackson, and they beat Jeremiah Robinson to death and threw his body in the river. Rioters also made a sport of mutilating the black men's bodies, sometimes sexually. A group of white men and boys mortally attacked black sailor William Williams—jumping on his chest, plunging a knife into him, smashing his body with stones—while a crowd of men, women, and children watched. None intervened, and when the mob was done with Williams, they cheered, pledging "vengeance on every nigger in New York." A white laborer, George Glass, roused black coachman Abraham Franklin from his apartment and dragged him through the streets. A crowd gathered and hanged Franklin from a lamppost as they cheered for Jefferson Davis, the Confederate president. After the mob pulled Franklin's body from the lamppost, a sixteen-year-old Irish man, Patrick Butler, dragged the body through the streets by its genitals. Black men who tried to defend themselves fared no better. The crowds were pitiless. After James Costello shot at and fled from a white attacker, six white men beat, stomped, kicked, and stoned him before hanging him from a lamppost.



Rioters subjected black men to the most brutal violence: torture, hanging, and burning. © Collection of the New-York Historical Society

With these actions white workers enacted their desires to eradicate the working-class black male presence from the city. The Longshoreman's Association, a white labor union, patrolled the piers during the riots, insisting that "the colored people must and shall be driven to other parts of industry." But "other parts of industry," such as cartmen and hack drivers, not to mention skilled artisans, also sought to exclude black workers. The riots gave all these workers license to physically remove blacks not only from worksites, but also from neighborhoods and leisure spaces. The rioters' actions also indicate the degree to which the sensational journalists and reformers of the 1840s and 1850s had achieved their goals of convincing whites, and particularly the Irish, that interracial socializing and marriage were evil and degrading practices. The riots unequivocally divided white workers from blacks. The act of rioting may itself have released guilt and shame over former interracial pleasures. Finally, and most simply, white workers asserted their superiority over blacks through the riots. The Civil War and the rise of the Republican Party and Lincoln to power indicated to New York's largely Democratic white workers a reversal of power in the nation; black labor competition indicated a reversal of fortunes in New York City itself. White workers sought to remedy their upside-down world through mob violence.

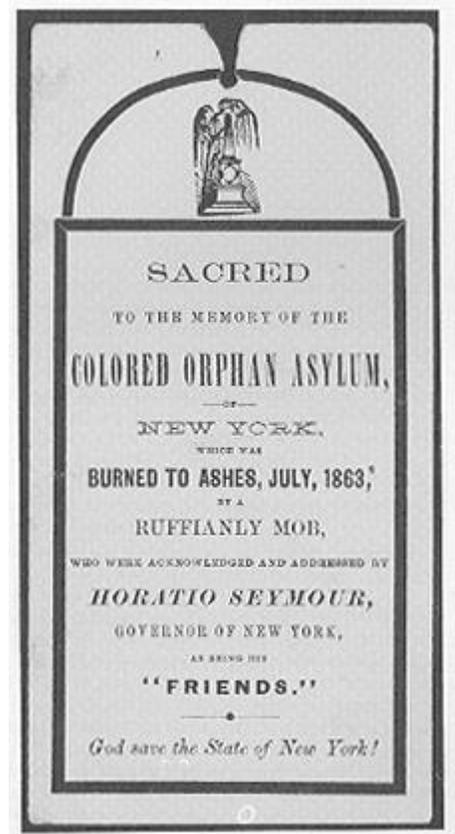
Ironically, the most well known center of black and interracial social life, the Five Points, was relatively quiet during the riots. Mobs neither attacked the brothels there nor killed black people within its borders. There were also instances of interracial cooperation. When a mob threatened black drugstore owner Philip White in his store at the corner of Gold and Frankfurt Street, his Irish neighbors drove the mob away, for he had often extended them credit. And when rioters invaded Hart's Alley and became trapped at its dead end, the black and white residents of the alley together leaned out of their windows and poured hot starch on them, driving them from the neighborhood. But such incidents were few compared to the widespread hatred of blacks expressed during and after the riots.

In all, rioters lynched eleven black men over the five days of mayhem. The riots forced hundreds of blacks out of the city. As Iver Bernstein states, "For months after the riots the public life of the city became a more noticeably white domain." During the riots, landlords drove blacks from their residences, fearing the destruction of their property. After the riots, when the Colored Orphan Asylum attempted to rebuild on the site of its old building, neighboring property owners asked them to leave. The orphanage relocated to 51st Street for four years before moving into a new residence at 143rd Street between Amsterdam and Broadway, in the midst of what would become New York's predominantly black neighborhood in the twentieth century, Harlem. But in 1867, the area was barely settled and far removed from the center of New York City. Black families also fled the city altogether. Albro Lyons, keeper of the Colored Sailors' Home, was able to protect the boardinghouse on the first day of the riots, but soon fled to the neighborhood police station to seek an escort from the city for his wife and family. An officer accompanied the Lyons family to the Sailors' Home, where they gathered up what belongings they could carry before boarding the Roosevelt Street ferry, which took them to Williamsburg in Brooklyn. "From the moment they put foot on the boat, that was the last time they ever resided in New York City, leaving it forever." Other blacks fled to New Jersey and beyond. By 1865, the black population had plummeted to just under ten thousand, its lowest since 1820.

Those blacks who remained in the city found a somewhat chastened elite eager to help New York's black residents recover in the aftermath of the riots. The seven-month-old Union League Club (which had as one of its main tenets black uplift) and the Committee of Merchants for the Relief of Colored People spearheaded relief efforts to blacks, providing forty thousand dollars to almost twenty-five hundred riot victims and finding new jobs and homes for blacks. Just under a year later, Republican elites and New York City blacks publicly celebrated their renewed alliance. In December of 1863, the secretary of war gave the Union League Club permission to raise a black regiment. The Union League Club decided to march the regiment of over one thousand black men through the streets of New York to the Hudson River, where the ship that would take them south waited. On March 5, 1864, before a crowd of one hundred thousand black and white New Yorkers, the black regiment processed, making "a fine appearance in their blue uniform, white gloves and white leggings." They were preceded by the police superintendent, one hundred policemen, the Union League Club itself, "colored friends of the recruits," and a band. In a powerful display, the parade publicly linked blacks with the leaders of the new order being ushered in by the Civil War.

But the event could not completely erase the racial concerns that had been part of the draft riots, if indeed its organizers sought to. One account said of the soldiers, "a majority of them are black; indeed there are but few mulattoes among them," an attempt to downplay the obvious fears of racial mixing that white workers displayed before and during the riots, fears which many white elites may have shared. Observers also used the event to contrast the loyalty of blacks to the Union and their good behavior with the recent rioting as well as the general culture of white workers: "The 20th is emphatically an African regiment, and to its credit be it spoken, not one of its members disobeyed orders, no one broke ranks to greet enthusiastic friends, no one used intoxicating drinks to excess, no one manifested the least inclination to leave the service, and their marching was very creditable." The New York elite presented the black troops as symbols of the new orderly working class they desired: sober, solemn, obedient, and dedicated to the Union cause. But such simple symbolism obscured the complex divisions of status, class, outlook and aspiration that had been part of New York's free black community from its inception.

As the Union Army marched south, it brought with it black and white abolitionists (many affiliated with the American Missionary Association, others independent of organized efforts) who sought to reform southern blacks during and after the war. These largely middle-class activists carried ideas of racial uplift first



Card memorializing the Colored Orphan Asylum. © Collection of the New-York Historical Society

promulgated in the northeast, from creating manual labor schools to moral reform to enhancing wage labor. They encountered newly free blacks eager for educational and economic betterment, but just as certainly shaping their own definitions of independence and equality. During the Civil War and Reconstruction years, black and white people from urban and rural areas in the north and south were challenged to create new opportunities for the freed people. But New York City had never unified to overcome the problems of racism and fully embrace black freedom; neither would the nation.



Aerial map of the "Five Points", 1879.

Drawn by Will L. Taylor, this interesting map offers a bird's-eye view of the entire island of Manhattan with many landmarks, elevated railroads, and trolley lines drawn in to aid the tourist.

note: Due to space restrictions, I've only included the Chinatown area here, the rest of the map, you can view [here](#) at the Library of Congress.

On this section, you may be able to identify a number of landmarks (Tombs Prison, House of Industry, Bowery Theater, Transfiguration Church, Chinese Delmonico's on "Bell St") plus a large number of "rear tenements" (around the Mulberry Bend.)



The frontispiece from "Sunshine and Shadow", a book depicting the two halves of New York City; one wealthy and orderly, the other poor and rowdy. By Matthew Hale Smith, publ 1869.

The top illustration depicts Alexander T. Stewart's (retailing giant) mansion on Fifth Avenue built in 1869, the bottom illustration of the Old Brewery tenement house at the Five Points.



The Five Points Mission which later replaced the Old Brewery in 1853.

Larger image located at external website



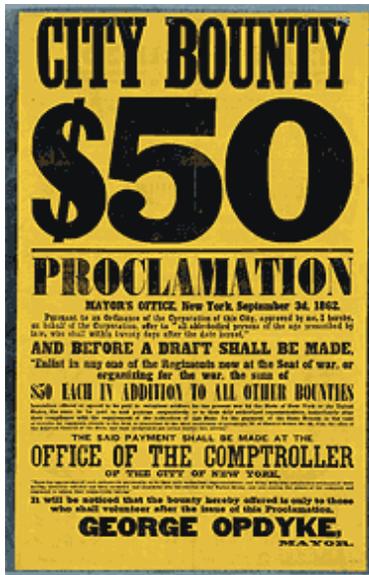
The "Tombs", Halls of Justice. By John Poppel. (NYPL MMPCO)

The Tombs was modelled after an Egyptian masoleum the architect had visited recently on a trip to Egypt. The design was supposed to be strike fear into potential criminals.



The Five Points House of Industry was another charity setup in the 1850's for children. It replaced a tenement far worse than the Old Brewery located across the street. The House of Industry was built in 1856.

Illustration by S. Reynolds, and found in the book "New York and its Institutions, 1609-1871: A Library of Information, pertaining to the great metropolis, past and present" by Rev. J.F. Richmond, publ. 1872.



September 3, 1862, the Civil War. Experiencing fewer and fewer enrollees there is talk of a draft looming. New York City begins offering an extra \$50 in bounty for all volunteers who enlist before a Federal draft is implemented. (source: NYHS)

Despite the extra incentives, the government begins the draft next year. Spurred by what many perceive as economic injustice (those who could not pay their way out of the army vs. those who could) and partially egged on by racism (whites refusing to fight for what they perceive as a black cause) a draft riot ensues; the worst ever in the history of New York.



Homes of the Rioters. Sketch by an unknown artist known only as "JHW". (source: NYHS)

A caption that went with this sketch read, "On the 13th of July not a single thief was left in the Five Points.- Capt. John Jourden, 6th ward Metropolitan Police."

Apparently that meant all the criminals were out looting.

A detailed precinct-by-precinct police account of the unrest is detailed in "[The Draft Riots of New York](#), July 1863. The Metropolitan Police: Their Services During Riot Week." by David M. Barnes, 1863.



Five Points circa 1880s (*source: NYPL*)

The same corner, but in a photograph taken several years later as part of a stereoview by GW Pach.

...and after the Civil War, along with the institution of anti-immigration legislation, better economic opportunities, the codification of NYC housing law (and other events such as the extension of Worth Street into Chatham Square) the Five Points gradually faded away into memory and legend.



....except for a few holdouts—wooden Five Points tenements, 1890—with theater and musical ads pasted on a wall (lower right) near a store possibly on Worth St.

T.H. McAllister, Manufacturing Opticians glass lantern