

# Naval Illustrators

Side-wheel steamer *Escort* (in which Major General John G. Foster and troop reinforcements ran the rebel batteries on the Pamlico River at Little Washington, North Carolina), at the wharf, Winton, North Carolina. *Escort* was purchased by the Quartermaster Department on June 18, 1863, at New York City. Photographic reproduction of watercolor sketch by Herbert Eugene Valentine. Record Group 165, Herbert Eugene Valentine's Sketches of Civil War Scenes, 1923-1923. National Archives (Identifier 533210).



## Herbert E. Valentine: Soldier-Illustrator

By Gary McQuarrie

**HERBERT EUGENE VALENTINE (1841-1917)** enlisted October 5, 1861 and mustered in as a Private in Company F, 23rd Massachusetts Volunteers Regiment (Whipple's Jewels, referring to its leader, Recruiting Officer Captain George M. Whipple), to be attached to General Burnside's Brigade; he served until the regiment's term of service ended, October 15, 1864, mustering out on November 13, 1864, at Lynnfield, Massachusetts. Valentine was a fine writer, keeping a remarkable set of records of the 23rd regiment and Company F. He also was an excellent illustrator, drawing many pencil, pen-and-ink, and watercolor sketches of his army service, but also of a number of wartime vessels, particularly the War Department's armed troop transport steamers used in the Burnside Expedition (also known as gunboats, for their multi-purpose service of carrying troops, covering the landings, and assisting in an attack).

Valentine was born in South Danvers (now Peabody), Massachusetts on January 18, 1841, the son of a schoolmaster father. He attended the

Signed carte de visite photograph of young Herbert Eugene Valentine. From: Herbert E. Valentine Civil War Diary. Courtesy of Special Collections & Archives, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

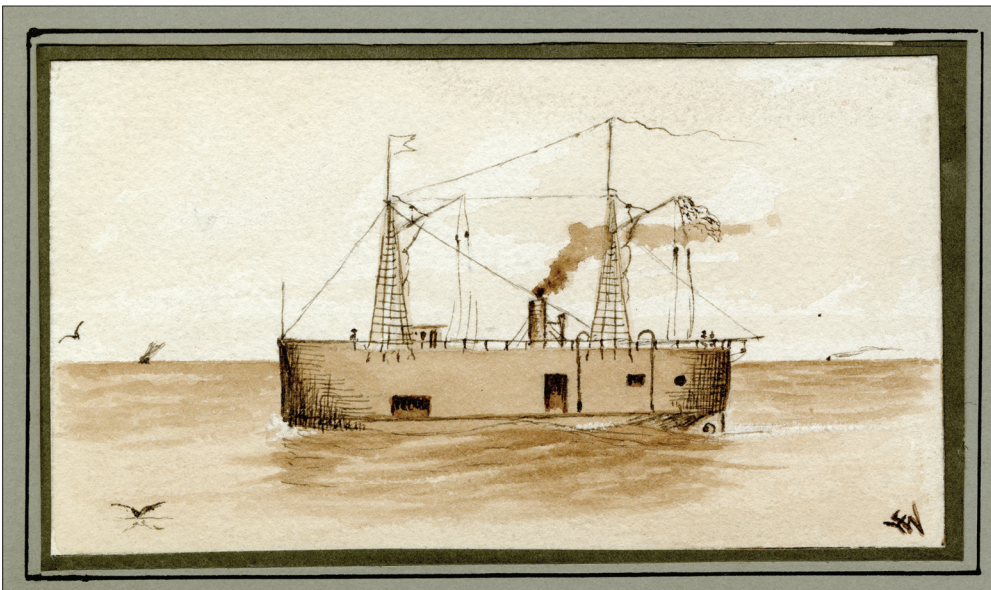






### ***Vidette***

Armed US troop transport screw steamer (or gunboat) *Vidette* (formerly the *Reliance*; carried Companies A, C, and F of the 24th Massachusetts Infantry in the Burnside Expedition), drawn by Herbert E. Valentine. *Vidette* was purchased by the Quartermaster Department on October 19, 1864, at New York City. *Vidette* was armed with three guns: one 30-pounder Parrott rifled gun, one 12-pounder howitzer, and one 12-pounder mountain howitzer. MOLLUS-Massachusetts Civil War Photographs Collection, Volume 131, p 6744. U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.



### ***Huzzar***

Armed US troop transport screw steamer (or gunboat) *Huzzar* (also known as *Hussar*; formerly the Davis—carried left wing of the 23rd Massachusetts Infantry in the Burnside Expedition), drawn by Herbert E. Valentine. *Huzzar* was purchased by the Quartermaster Department by order of General Burnside on October 8, 1861, at New York City. *Huzzar* was armed with four guns: two 30-pounder Parrott rifled guns and two 6-pounder Wiard rifled guns. MOLLUS-Massachusetts Civil War Photographs Collection, Volume 131, p 6744. U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.



### ***Pioneer***

Armed US troop transport screw steamer (or gunboat) *Pioneer* (formerly the *Joseph Sherman*; carried detachment 51st New York in the Burnside Expedition), drawn by Herbert E. Valentine. *Pioneer* was purchased by the Quartermaster Department by order of General Burnside on October 15, 1861, at New York City. *Pioneer* was armed with four guns: one 30-pounder Parrott rifled gun, one 12-pounder Wiard rifled gun, one 12-pounder boat howitzer, and one 12-pounder mountain howitzer. MOLLUS-Massachusetts Civil War Photographs Collection, Volume 131, p 6743. U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.



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Browne School in Salem and graduated from the English High School as a member of its 26th class. Following graduation, Valentine entered the employ of D.W. Bowdoin, a photographer, until his enlistment in the Union army.

After initial formation and training, Valentine's Company F traveled to Annapolis, Maryland, where Burnside was gathering troops. While at Annapolis, he was detailed as commissary of the US armed troop transport *Vidette* from December 23, 1861 to May 25, 1862. In early January 1862, Valentine and the company's right wing boarded the fitted-out schooner *Highlander* for transport to Roanoke Island, reaching Hampton Roads, Virginia, and from there accompanied Burnside's Expedition and took part in the capture of Roanoke Island and the battle at Newbern, North Carolina.

Because of Valentine's abilities as a writer and bookkeeper, he was often attached to clerical duties at army headquarters. He was assigned as clerk to regimental headquarters from May 25, 1862 to July 20, 1862. From December 1862 to March 1863, Company F

participated in what became known as the 'Goldsboro Expedition.' On January 2, 1863, Valentine was assigned to the Assistant Adjutant-General at the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, 18th Army Corps headquarters, General Charles A. Heckman commanding. During early 1863, Company F was transported to Port Royal, South Carolina and vicinity; by spring, they returned to Newbern and then Winton, North Carolina. By October, they returned to Newport News, Virginia, and vicinity operations. By June 21, 1864, Valentine was assigned to First Division headquarters and on August 20 to headquarters of the 18th Army Corps. During 1864, he saw service at Portsmouth, Virginia (April), the Battle of Cold Harbor (May-June), the Petersburg Campaign (June-September), and Newbern, North Carolina (September), finally returning to Lynnfield, Massachusetts to muster out (October). During his term of service, Valentine kept diaries, recording his experiences and making many sketches and even maps.

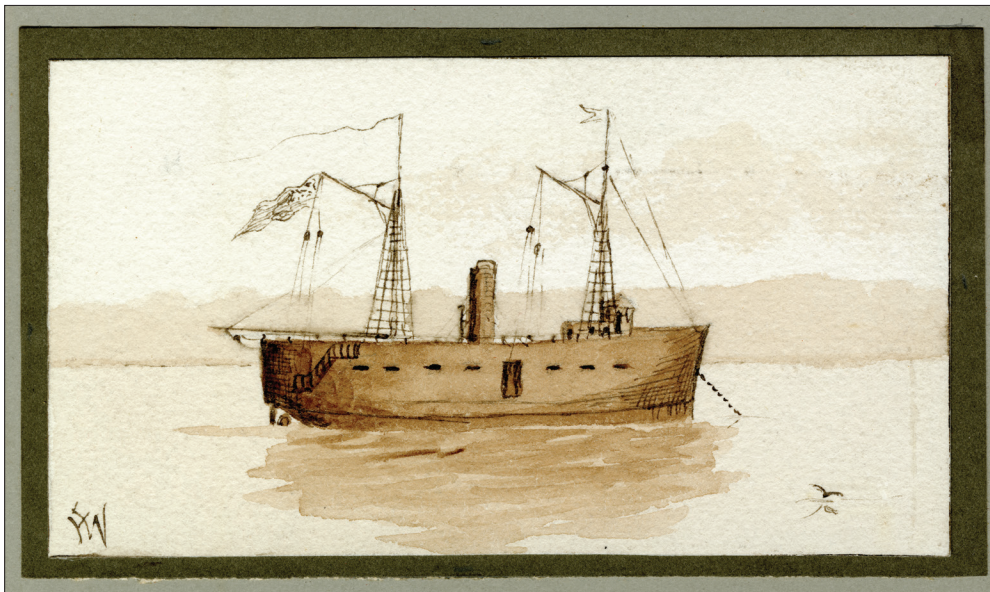
While Valentine produced hundreds of pencil sketches, pen-and-ink drawings, and watercolor sketches, these



## **Highlander**

Army troop and supply transport armed schooner *Highlander* (formerly the *Clairmont*) of the Burnside Expedition (carried right wing of the 23rd Massachusetts Volunteers), drawn by Herbert E. Valentine. *Highlander* was purchased by the Quartermaster Department by order of General Burnside on November 1, 1861, at New York. Object 5148. Courtesy of Special Collections & Archives, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

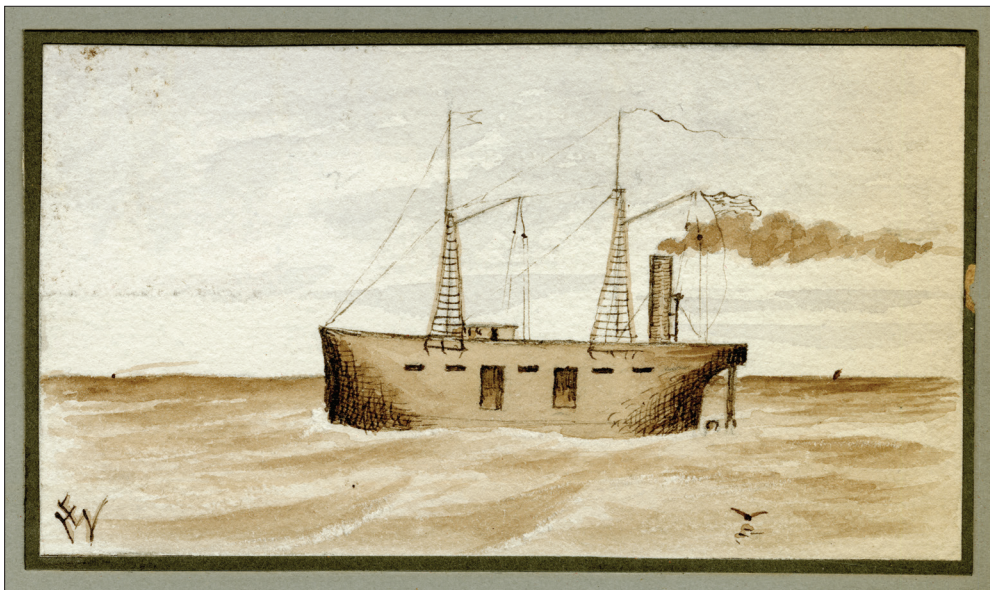




### **Lancer**

Armed US troop transport screw steamer (or gunboat) *Lancer* (formerly the *Duchess*; carried detachment 51st New York in the Burnside Expedition), drawn by Herbert E. Valentine. *Lancer* was purchased by the Quartermaster Department on October 8, 1861, at New York City. *Lancer* was armed with four guns: one 30-pounder Parrott rifled gun, one 12-pounder Wiard rifled gun, one 12-pounder boat howitzer, and one 12-pounder mountain howitzer.

MOLLUS-Massachusetts Civil War Photographs Collection, Volume 131, p 6743. U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.



### **Sentinel**

Armed US troop transport screw steamer (or gunboat) *Sentinel* (formerly the *Mayo*; carried detachment 11th Connecticut in the Burnside Expedition), drawn by Herbert E. Valentine. *Sentinel* was purchased by the Quartermaster Department on October 11, 1861, at New York City. *Sentinel* was armed with four guns: one 30-pounder Parrott rifled gun, one 12-pounder Wiard rifled gun, one 12-pounder boat howitzer, and one 12-pounder mountain howitzer.

MOLLUS-Massachusetts Civil War Photographs Collection, Volume 131, p 6743. U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.



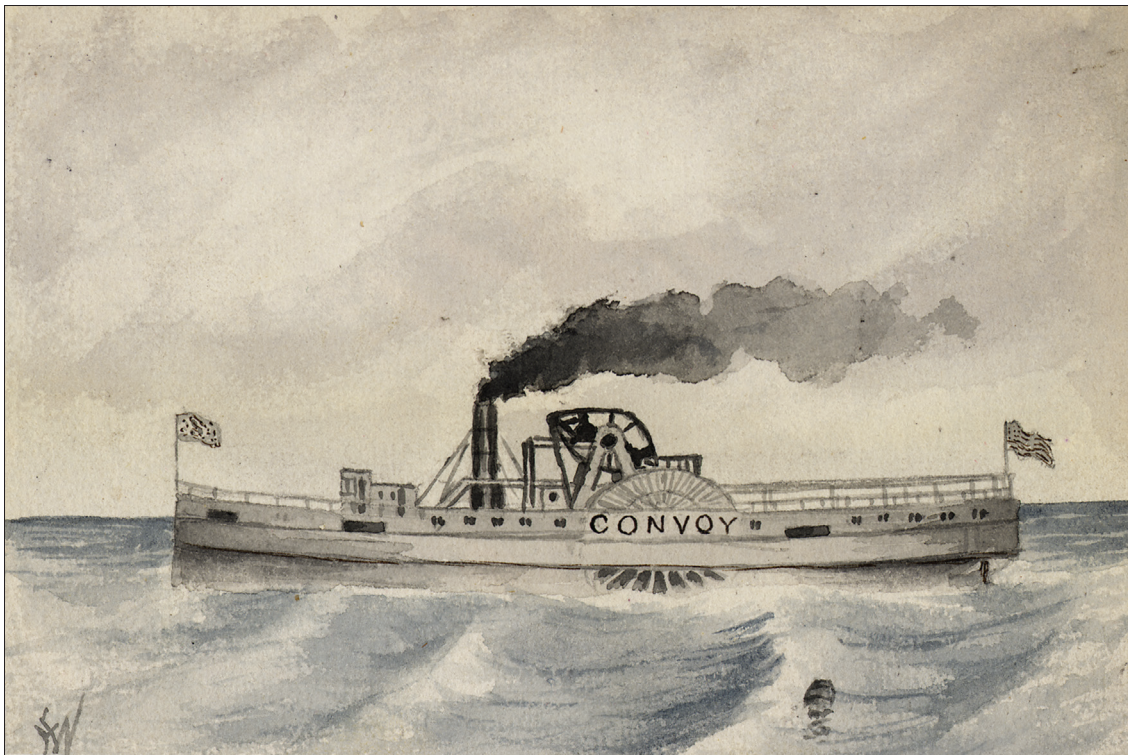
### **Ranger**

Armed US troop transport screw steamer (or gunboat) *Ranger* (formerly the *Samuel S. Holly*; carried detachment 27th Massachusetts in the Burnside Expedition), drawn by Herbert E. Valentine. *Ranger* was purchased by the Quartermaster Department on October 23, 1861, at New York City. *Ranger* was armed with seven guns: two 30-pounder Parrott rifled guns, four 12-pounder Wiard rifled guns, and one 12-pounder mountain howitzer.

MOLLUS-Massachusetts Civil War Photographs Collection, Volume 131, p 6743. U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.



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## **Convoy**

Side-wheel steamer *Convoy* carried mail from Hilton Head to St. Helena, South Carolina. Photographic reproduction of watercolor sketch by Herbert Eugene Valentine. Record Group 165, Herbert Eugene Valentine's Sketches of Civil War Scenes, 1923-1923. National Archives (Identifier 533209).



## **Champion**

Side-wheel steamer *Champion* carried mail between Fortress Monroe and Newport News, Virginia. Photographic reproduction of watercolor sketch by Herbert Eugene Valentine. Record Group 165, Herbert Eugene Valentine's Sketches of Civil War Scenes, 1923-1923. National Archives (Identifier 533211).





The advance of the Gunboats up the river to New Berne, N. Carolina. Passing the Barricade. Photographic reproduction of watercolor sketch by Herbert Eugene Valentine. Record Group 165, Herbert Eugene Valentine's Sketches of Civil War Scenes, 1923-1923. National Archives (Identifier 533208).

largely reflected army scenes (not shown). Most Civil War illustrations were made by so-called 'Special Artists' of the illustrated newspapers of the era. Relatively few wartime illustrations were made by other individuals, including soldiers and sailors, so Valentine would have to be considered a minor contributor to the on-scene artwork of the conflict. Other than army scenes, his illustrations primarily reflected his travel on army troop transport ships and his locations near rivers and several ports in Virginia and the Carolinas. However, his illustrations of some mail ships and many of the armed troop transports involved in the Burnside Expedition are relatively unique, as none of these vessels appear to have been photographed.

In 1896, in Boston, Valentine wrote and published a book detailing the history of Company F, 23rd Massachusetts Volunteers Regiment that also included seven of his wartime illustrations. A collection of his papers from

1862-1892 is held in the Southern Historical Collection (#4397) in The Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; this collection includes a diary containing 184 pencil and watercolor sketches, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and maps, all contained in two manuscript volumes (<https://finding-aids.lib.unc.edu/04397/>). In July 2011, a scrapbook of drawings, photographs, and lists of the activities and members of the 18th Army corps, Department of North Carolina, compiled for General Charles A. Heckman in 1892 by Valentine were also added to this collection. The Z. Smith Reynolds Library Special Collections & Archives at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, also holds a Civil War diary notebook of Valentine's that includes 15 watercolor illustrations (<https://wakespace.lib.wfu.edu/handle/10339/50>). The Phillips Library at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts also holds scrapbooks, diaries, sketches,

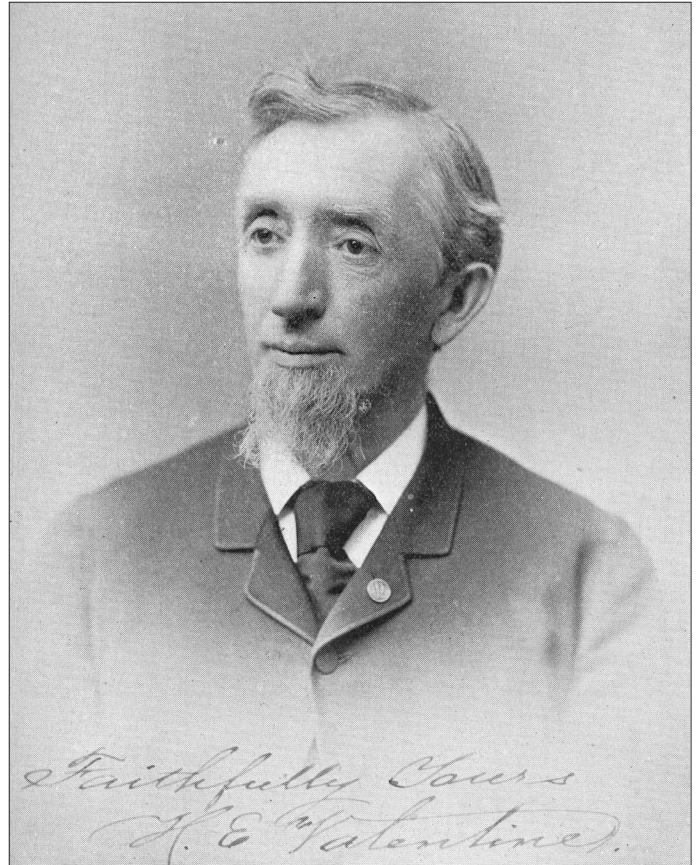


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correspondence, photographs, and other materials of Valentine (<http://phillipslibrarycollections.pem.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15928coll1/id/905>). The National Archives holds 26 of Valentine's watercolor sketches that are digitized and available for viewing online (Record Group 165, Herbert Eugene Valentine's sketches of Civil War Scenes, 1923-1923) (<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/533197>).

After his Civil War service ended, Valentine was employed as a bookkeeper at a firm in Boston and worked there until his death; at the time of his death, he was trustee of a large estate of one of the firm's partners. In 1872, Valentine moved to West Somerville where he resided for about 45 years. He was considered to be strictly honest in whatever endeavor he undertook. He also was noted to be fine singer, and during the war was a member of the regiment's glee club. His obituary noted that the files of the *Salem Register* were full of letters written home by him and later in life he contributed many interesting articles for the *Salem Evening News* over the byline of "Guidon." He attended his last reunion of Company F in Salem about two weeks before his death.

Valentine was married and had a son and a daughter. He died at his home on June 15, 1917, after a brief illness; he suffered 'an attack of acute indigestion' after returning from work, did not rally, and passed away as noted and from heart failure. Valentine was buried two days later in Greenlawn Cemetery, Salem, Massachusetts. Though they receive less attention than those of many other wartime artists, Valentine's illustrations and artwork remain recognized for their realistic portrayals that captured army scenes involving his 23rd Massachusetts Volunteers and Company F and many of the armed troop transport vessels of the Burnside Expedition.



Herbert Eugene Valentine, circa 1890s. From: Herbert E. Valentine. *Story of Co. F, 23d Massachusetts Volunteers in the War for the Union 1861-1865* (Boston, MA: W.B. Clarke & Company, 1896), p 14.

## Sources

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Herbert E. Valentine. *Story of Co. F, 23d Massachusetts Volunteers in the War for the Union 1861-1865* (Boston, MA: W.B. Clarke & Company, 1896).

"H.E. Valentine Died Suddenly: Noted Civil War Veteran and Writer Succumbs to Acute Indigestion," *Salem Evening News* (Salem, MA), June 19, 1917, p 2, col 3.



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