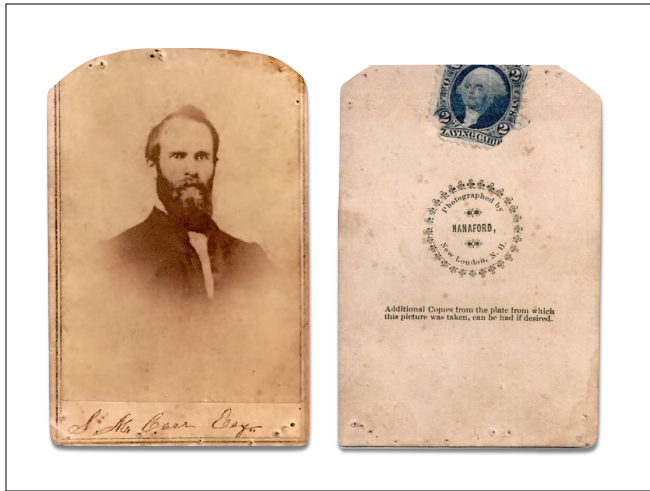


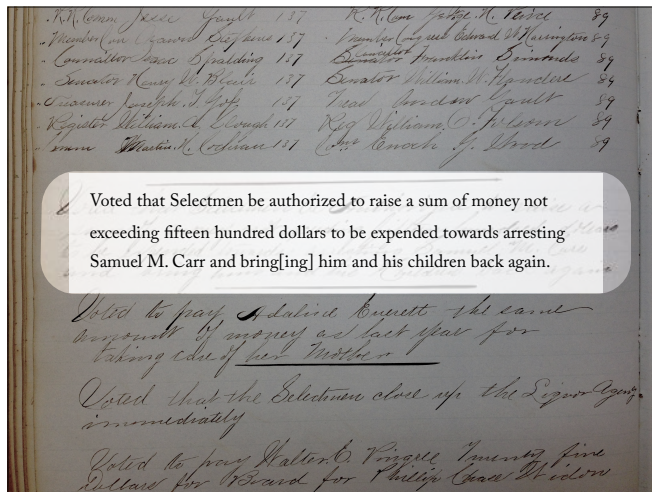


This portrait of “S. M. Carr Esq.” was taken at the Hanaford studio on Main Street. We can see that it was once trimmed at the top to fit into an album, but it was later removed and tacked to a wall or perhaps inside a traveling trunk. (And we might wonder why...) It is undated, but the tax stamp indicates that it was taken sometime between June 30, 1864 and August 1, 1866, when the tax was enacted and repealed, respectively. Furthermore, the blue 2-cent stamp also indicates that the photo cost less than 25 cents.

Photography was a booming business during the war, and the income raised by the Revenue Act of 1862 helped offset military expenses. The signature at the bottom of the card is written in Carr’s hand. Probably this photo was taken in mid-1865 after Samuel Carr had sold his inherited farm, and just as he was entering the hotel and livery business. At 30 years old, he looks respectable, well groomed and clothed. With dark hair, a fair complexion, and brown eyes, he stood just under 6-feet tall.

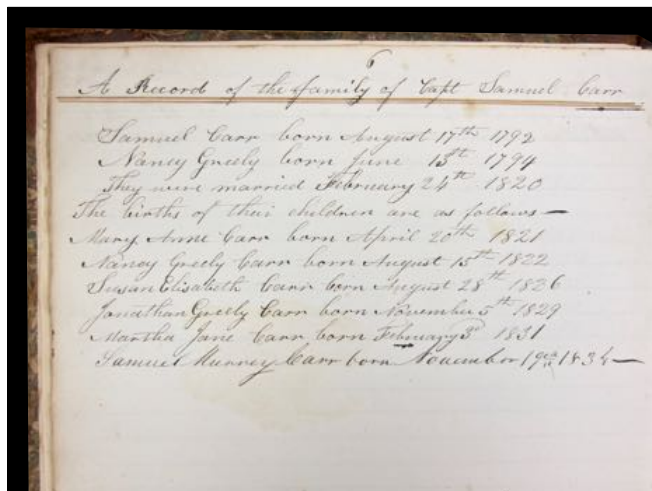


His daughter and first child, Lizzie Carr, was born in 1859. She would have been about five years old here. This photo has also been trimmed and repeatedly tacked, top and bottom, just like the other. The caption on the card is also written in Samuel Carr’s hand, so perhaps they had visited the studio together.

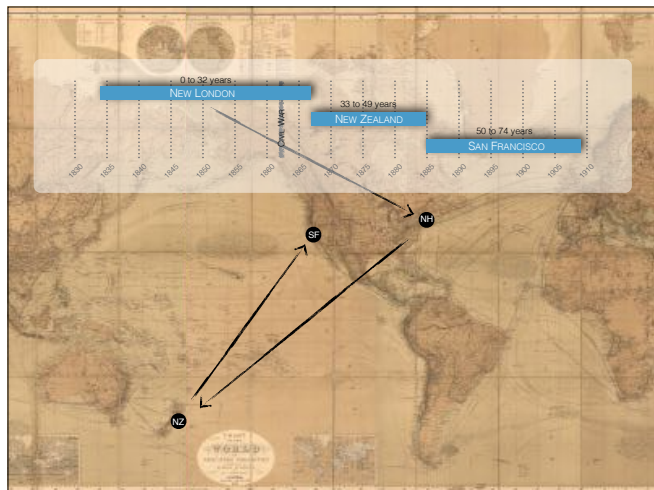


Now we skip ahead just two years... Town clerk's records for March 1867 shows that unusual authorization [click]: ["to raise a sum of money not exceeding \\$1,500 to be expended towards arresting Samuel M. Carr and bringing him and his children back again."](#)

What happened in the interim?



Born in 1834, Samuel Murray Carr was the youngest of six children; he had just one brother. His parents were Samuel Carr, born in Springfield, and Nancy Greeley, the daughter of New London settler Jonathan Greeley.



The younger Carr was known as “Sam” growing up in New London. [click] At age 32 he moved to New Zealand, where he remained until age 50, when he returned to the U.S., where he remained until his death in 1909. [click] This review of his life tonight is divided into these three acts, so rest assured that there are built-in breakpoints if we need them.

[World Map, 1863]

New London
1834 – 1866

For they be not bad deeds that make a bad man,
but he is already a bad man that doth bad deeds.

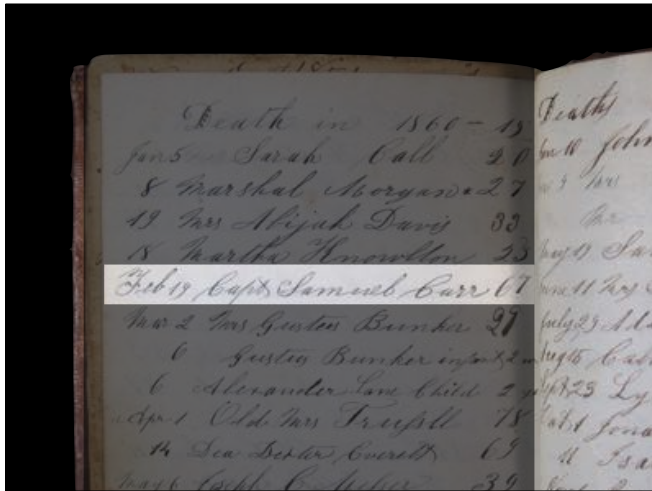
—John Bunyan, *The Life and Death of Mr. Badman* (1680)



The Carr homestead was built by Jonathan Greeley in 1820 as a wedding present for his son, James Greeley. James died soon afterwards and his father moved into the house. In 1848, Jonathan Greeley deeded the homestead to his daughter, Nancy Carr. For some reason, his son-in-law, the elder Samuel Carr, was not named in the deed, but that didn't prevent the property from falling into his financial control.



Samuel Murray Carr would have been in the Colby Hill School district and attended the one-room school building (1805?) at the Four Corners. In 1854 he entered what was then called the New London Literary and Scientific Institution. There he met Eunice Keller of Machiasport, Maine.



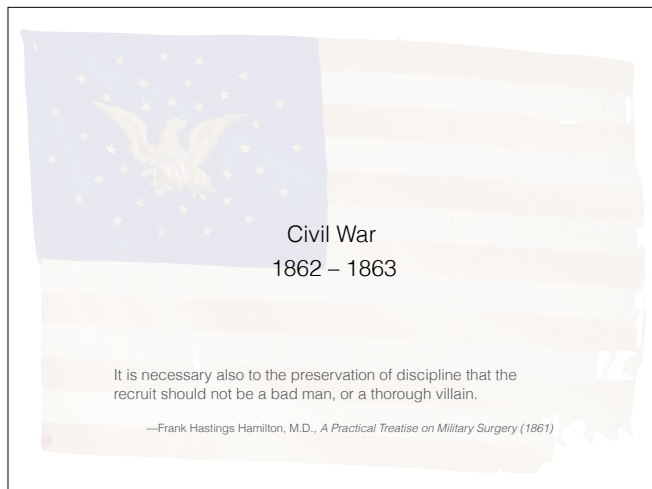
The elder Capt. Samuel Carr died on February 19, 1860, at the age of 67.



He was buried at the Old Main Street Cemetery, where now both parents lie along with a sister, Mary, who had died back in 1846 at the age of 25. Jonathan Carr was paid \$10 to carve the lettering on the monument, barely legible today.

Debit		Credit	
1. Balance	100.00	1. Balance	100.00
2. Cash	50.00	2. Cash	50.00
3. Cash	25.00	3. Cash	25.00
4. Cash	12.50	4. Cash	12.50
5. Cash	6.25	5. Cash	6.25
6. Cash	3.12	6. Cash	3.12
7. Cash	1.56	7. Cash	1.56
8. Cash	0.78	8. Cash	0.78
9. Cash	0.39	9. Cash	0.39
10. Cash	0.19	10. Cash	0.19
11. Cash	0.09	11. Cash	0.09
12. Cash	0.05	12. Cash	0.05
13. Cash	0.02	13. Cash	0.02
14. Cash	0.01	14. Cash	0.01
15. Cash	0.00	15. Cash	0.00
16. Cash	0.00	16. Cash	0.00
17. Cash	0.00	17. Cash	0.00
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26. Cash	0.00	26. Cash	0.00
27. Cash	0.00	27. Cash	0.00
28. Cash	0.00	28. Cash	0.00
29. Cash	0.00	29. Cash	0.00
30. Cash	0.00	30. Cash	0.00
31. Cash	0.00	31. Cash	0.00
32. Cash	0.00	32. Cash	0.00
33. Cash	0.00	33. Cash	0.00
34. Cash	0.00	34. Cash	0.00
35. Cash	0.00	35. Cash	0.00
36. Cash	0.00	36. Cash	0.00
37. Cash	0.00	37. Cash	0.00
38. Cash	0.00	38. Cash	0.00
39. Cash	0.00	39. Cash	0.00
40. Cash	0.00	40. Cash	0.00
41. Cash	0.00	41. Cash	0.00
42. Cash	0.00	42. Cash	0.00
43. Cash	0.00	43. Cash	0.00
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45. Cash	0.00	45. Cash	0.00
46. Cash	0.00	46. Cash	0.00
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67. Cash	0.00	67. Cash	0.00
68. Cash	0.00	68. Cash	0.00
69. Cash	0.00	69. Cash	0.00
70. Cash	0.00	70. Cash	0.00
71. Cash	0.00	71. Cash	0.00
72. Cash	0.00	72. Cash	0.00
73. Cash	0.00	73. Cash	0.00
74. Cash	0.00	74. Cash	0.00
75. Cash	0.00	75. Cash	0.00
76. Cash	0.00	76. Cash	0.00
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81. Cash	0.00	81. Cash	0.00
82. Cash	0.00	82. Cash	0.00
83. Cash	0.00	83. Cash	0.00
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89. Cash	0.00	89. Cash	0.00
90. Cash	0.00	90. Cash	0.00
91. Cash	0.00	91. Cash	0.00
92. Cash	0.00	92. Cash	0.00
93. Cash	0.00	93. Cash	0.00
94. Cash	0.00	94. Cash	0.00
95. Cash	0.00	95. Cash	0.00
96. Cash	0.00	96. Cash	0.00
97. Cash	0.00	97. Cash	0.00
98. Cash	0.00	98. Cash	0.00
99. Cash	0.00	99. Cash	0.00
100. Cash	0.00	100. Cash	0.00

Itemization of household furnishings on the left, notes etc. on the right. Even having already given most of his real estate away, the elder Carr's estate was still valued at \$6,687.10 — mostly held in banks, bonds, and notes. Sam Carr was appointed administrator of his father's estate, charged with collecting and disbursing his father's assets.

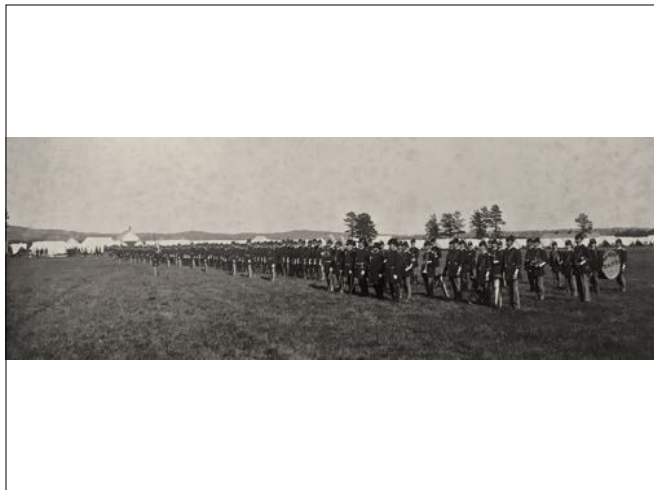




Colors of the McCutchin's Guards militia company, a unit of the New Hampshire National Guard. Samuel Carr had taken command of the Guards after its former commanders had joined the Union Army in 1861. With the call for even more troops in 1862, most of the remaining men answered and the Guards disbanded until after the war, when they re-formed as the Messer Rifles militia.

Name	Rank	Age	Residence	Company	Month
Samuel M. Carr	Captain	27	New London	"	"
Austin H. Master	1st Lieut	26	"	"	"
Herano Little	2nd Lieut	32	"	"	"
Freeman Danborn	Sergeant	34	Springfield	"	"
Charles Woodward	Sergeant	24	Springfield	"	"
William A. Mason	"	27	"	"	"
Samuel H. McAlister	"	17	"	"	"
Samuel B. Philbrick	"	31	"	"	"
and others	Private	21	"	"	"
	"	24	"	"	"
	"	32	"	"	"
	"	20	"	"	"
	"	24	"	"	"
	"	23	"	"	"

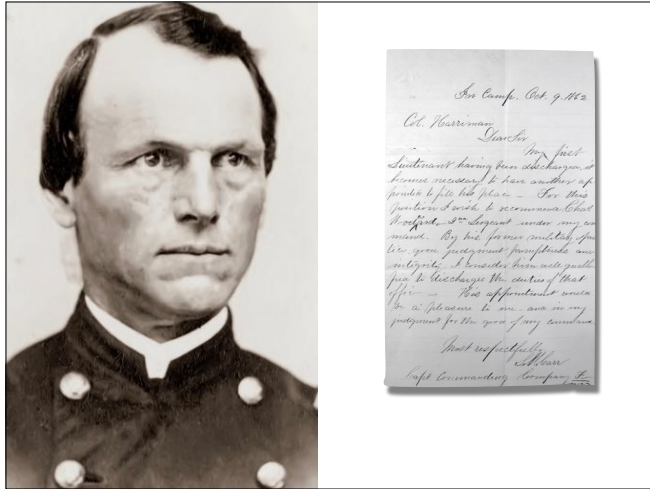
The muster roll for Company "F" of the 11th NHV included 38 of the 42 names from New London who volunteered for service in August 1862; most others were from Springfield and Sutton. Samuel M. Carr, captain, age 27, tops the list as company commander, by virtue of his militia service. As these men soon discovered, militia training did not prepare them for the trials of serving in the army.



The 11th NHV mustered at Concord in late August. In camp at Concord, NH, where marching and counter-marching were practiced.



When they weren't on parade, the recruits visited with friends and relatives.



Under the command of Col. Walter Harriman from Warner, the 11th NHV broke camp in Concord on the morning of September 11, 1862, and began a rail journey south through Nashua, Worcester, by boat from Stonington to Jersey City where they first received arms and ammunition, then to Philadelphia where they boarded “cattle cars” to Baltimore, and finally Washington DC. They arrived on September 14th and spent the next few weeks training on the outskirts of the city. During this time President Lincoln issued his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation to the widespread (but not universal) approval of the NH troops.

When they were ordered south, Lt. Col. Cogswell noted that “[The people on this route we found to be pretty loyal as a whole, but very ignorant. At one place the women wanted to know where the regiment was from, and when told, one said, ‘Whar is that ar place?’ and the boys said, ‘New Hampshire is an island in the Atlantic ocean.’](#)”

[click] At right is a letter from Carr to Harriman requesting the promotion of Charles Woodward (a carpenter from Sutton) to first lieutenant — a position vacated by an early discharge. He made a wise choice, because Woodward proved a valuable soldier and able commander, who soon replaced Carr himself. [Harriman failed in an 1863 run for NH governor, but he did later serve two terms, beginning in 1867, precisely when Carr gained notoriety...]



Using 11th NHV stationary, this letter of Benjamin F. Sargent was sent to his sister Mary Pingree. The letter was begun at Camp Harriman in Concord, NH, on September 5th, but postmarked from Washington D.C. on the 18th. Ben Sargent served in Co. “F” under Captain Carr, but he never once mentioned his commanding officer in correspondence with his sister.



His cousin Ransom Sargent, called “Ran” for short, wrote home almost daily to his new wife, and he occasionally mentioned Sam Carr.

Ransom Sargent was not in the infantry; he was a member of the regiment’s band and assigned to Co. F, so he not only had more time to write, but his point of view may differ from that of the regular soldier. By his own admission he did not get on well with the other members of the company. He was also a neighbor of Carr, had grown up with him, served under his command in the militia. In short, he probably knew Carr as well as anyone.



As Ransom Sargent wrote home: “a dirtier looking hole I have not seen. The capitol is not finished and probably will not be this great many years. Washington’s Monument is not finished.”

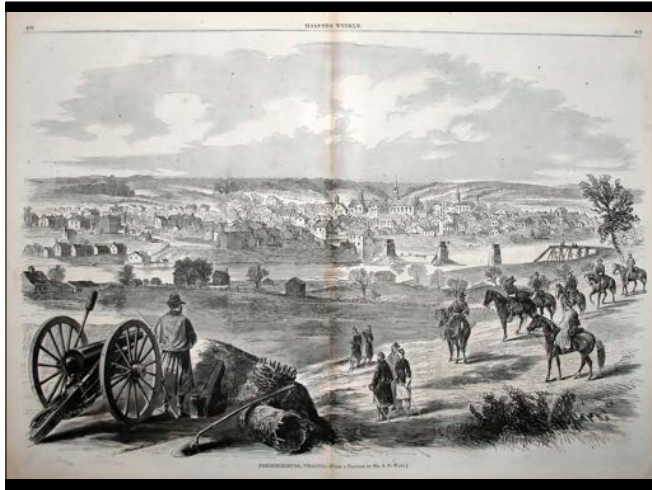


[Encampment at Washington, D. C., in 1862.] But he also said: “I wish you could see the camps at night when they are all lighted up, it is the grandest sight I ever saw.” And included this almost ominous message: “Capt. Carr hasn’t any thing at all to do with me, but he uses me tip top and I calculate to [do the same] to him. If I get any thing good I always give him a part, and that happens pretty often here where you have to steal for a living. The boys in our company have killed several pigs and cattle...”

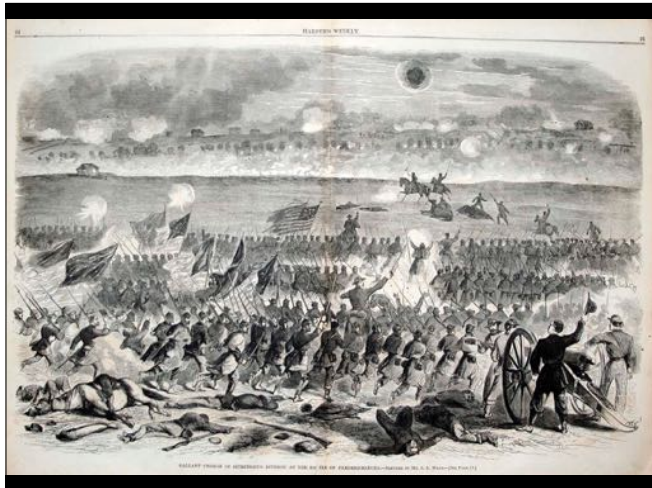
The logistics of equipping, clothing, and feeding all these new volunteers fell to both the Federal government and the states from which they were raised. Often uniforms, tents, and blankets were late to arrive. A shadow army of black-market sutlers traveled with the troops offering food, souvenirs, and other items at steep prices. John C. Williams of the 14th Vermont Regiment wrote in his diary: “Three soldiers were taken severely sick yesterday, supposed to have been poisoned by peddlers who are hanging about our camp. Several have been arrested and, if found guilty of such a devilish purpose, will be shot.” More likely, it was a simple case of spoiled meat, but these fresh troops were on edge, far from home, and waiting for orders as rumors swirled through the encampments.



The 11th NHV finally got orders to advance into Virginia. Ransom Sargent, camped near Fredericksburg on Nov 20, wrote: “I had my boots stolen the night before last and the drum armor both the same night. I was lucky enough to get a pair of the Captain’s [Carr], and I guess he will sell them. // The rebels still hold the city [Fredericksburg, VA] but I don’t imagine there will be much of a battle. I borrowed a spyglass this morning and took a look at the country on the opposite side of the river. I could see four batteries and quite a large cavalry force, so I presume they will make some resistance, and if they do the city will be shelled and burned.”



Stillness before the bombardment. And waiting for pontoon bridges... Capt. George Pingree, also 11th NHV, related this anecdote of a battle of the bands: [One evening while I was on picket duty on the Rappahannock before the battle of Fredericksburg, a rebel band came down to the river and played "Dixie." A brigade band on our side responded with "John Brown's Body." The rebel band retaliated with the "Bonny Blue Flag," and our band came at them with the "Star Spangled Banner." So they played back and forth at each other until late in the evening. Suddenly all music ceased, and silence reigned; when all at once a musician on our side played splendidly on a key bugle "Home, Sweet Home." As the sweet sounds rose and fell on the evening air, and were wafted down the Falmouth Heights and over the Rappahannock, all listened intently, and I don't believe there was a dry eye in all those assembled thousands. For a moment or two after the bugle ceased a dead silence reigned, broken then by a wild, exultant cheer from both armies. The musicians had their night.](#)



The day, however, was ruled by the soldiers. Here we see futile Union charge against a fortified enemy on rising ground. This was the assignment for the untested 11th NHV. This was Marye's Heights, with its intervening sunken road and stone wall. The Park Service describes the battlefield site this way: [During the first Battle of Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862, the wall protected Southern soldiers fortunate to stand behind it. Behind the wall, only around 300 Confederate soldiers were shot... in front of the wall, approximately 8,000 Union soldiers were hit.](#)



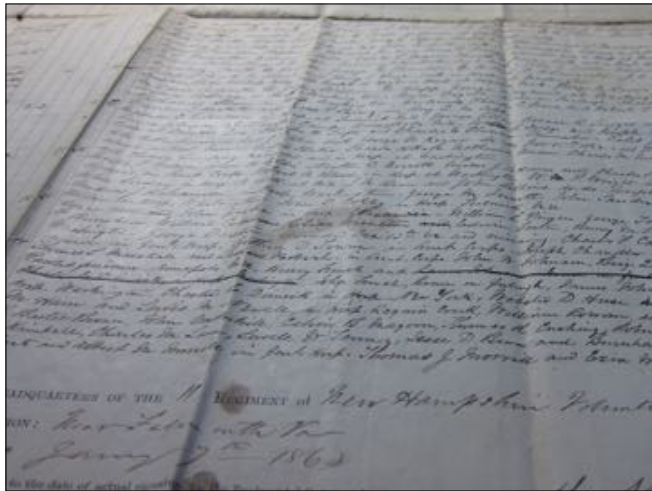
Some of the wounded were able to be evacuated to makeshift surgeries at the rear, with the anxious reserve troops, watching and waiting to be called forward. Here injured limbs were swiftly amputated, piled up, and incinerated. This is where the musicians often served during battles, in a hellish world of their own.



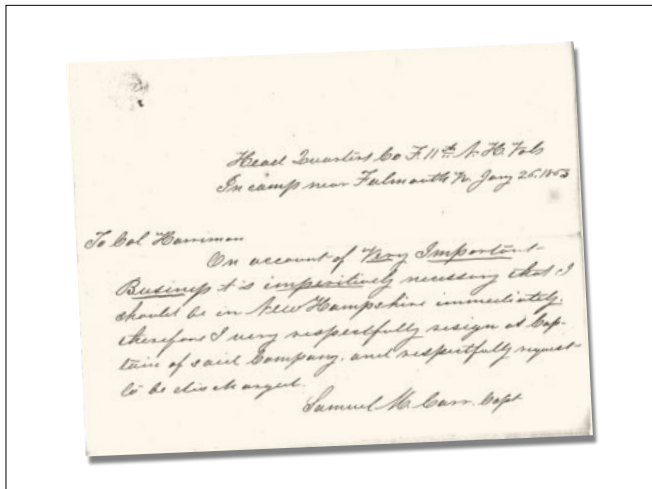
Within a battle line extending for five miles, the New Hampshire volunteers were arrayed at the foot of Marye's Heights, [click] and suffered terrible casualties during their first battle. After the battle, the 11th NHV was assigned to cover the troops retreating back over the river, and it eventually withdrew on Col. Harriman's own orders. One of the last to leave, Harriman was later criticized, "swift-boated" in his gubernatorial campaign, for leaving the scene too early, almost two days after the battle.

Letters sent back to New London bore a common message: 'whatever you may read to the contrary, the battle of Fredericksburg was not a Union victory!' Word soon reached the Vermont troops back in DC, and it prompted this diary entry: "[We have just received the full particulars of the bloody engagement at Fredericksburg by the army under Burnside. I hope it is not so bad as it is represented. Somebody is greatly responsible for the sacrifice of so many lives. I hope that the man will soon arise who is capable of leading our armies to victory.](#)"

Now what about Capt. Carr? Here the official record is sketchy. The regimental history indicates that Lt. Woodward was in command of Company "F" but says nothing about Carr. While on this occasion the musicians had been ensconced in the cellar of a house, Ransom Sargent wrote two days later that: "[Capt. Carr proved to be a real coward and if it hadn't been for Lieut. Woodward, Co. F would have had no commander at all. Just as soon as the Capt. left his company, Charlie \[Woodward\] drew his sword and rallied his men on to almost certain death. Now Maria, you will not tell of this because I would not have it known that I wrote home any such stuff for anything...](#)"



After Fredericksburg... This is a list of 11th NHV men in hospital or otherwise unavailable for service as of January 7, 1863. Having sat out the battle, Carr could no longer command his company. On January 1, Ransom Sargent wrote: "I think you will see Sam at home before two months for he hasn't commanded the Co. since the battle and pretends to be sick but looks as well as you ever saw him. All the boys think he is going to play sick a while and then resign and he will get an honorable discharge. He is a laughing stock for the whole Co. Oh, I do wish I could come home with him... // It may be that I am mistaken [sic] about Sam. Don't say anything about that either."



After languishing for over a month, Carr got his discharge. His letter of resignation dated January 26th offers little explanation: "On account of VERY IMPORTANT BUSINESS it is IMPERATIVELY necessary that I should be in New Hampshire immediately. Therefore I very respectfully resign as Captain of said Company, and respectfully request to be discharged. — Samuel M. Carr, Capt." Carr must have felt some trepidation on his return to New London. On February 14, Ransom Sargent wrote: "I don't see why Sam Carr should want to lie so ... as far as his going into the fight. I positively know he didn't. If you can believe every man in the Co. (for I have talked with nearly every one) and they all told the same story that he wasn't seen after the firing commenced, and I am just as certain that Lieut. Woodward and Little commanded the Co."

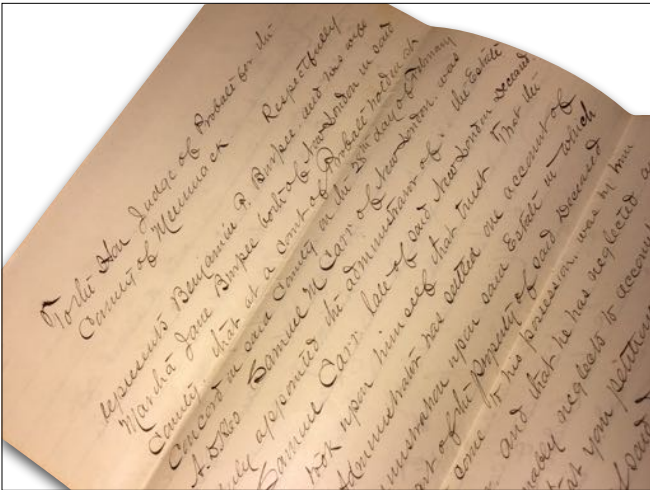
A San Francisco Chronicle article, written after interviewing Eunice Carr in 1877, said: "His record during his connection with the army was of doubtful character, but [the] rumors against his name died away after his return."

A decade later, the same newspaper printed a largely inaccurate version which said that "At the end of the war he returned to New London a changed man. He was no longer the quiet citizen, but had developed a fondness for fast living."

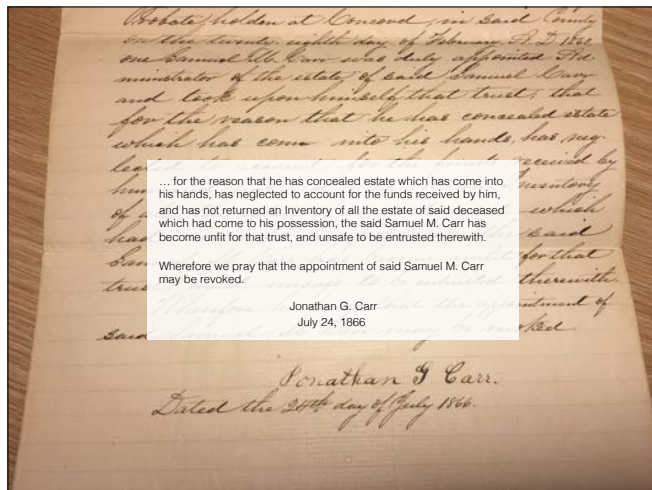
DATE	TRANSACTION	AMOUNT
Feb. 27, 1865	Sale: Carr-Greeley homestead	\$ 4,200
July 6, 1865	Sale: 1/2 share of Greeley farm (110 acres)	\$ 1,200
July 6, 1865	Purchase: hotel property (8 acres)	\$ (2,000)
Feb. 17, 1866	Sale: pasture (16 acres)	\$ 1,000
April 2, 1866	Sale: Greeley land (29 acres)	\$ 250
April 2, 1866	Sale: 1/2 share of meadowland	\$ 50
April 3, 1866	Sale: pasture on Bunker Hill (45 acres)	\$ 450
July 5, 1866	Mortgage: hotel property (8 acres)	\$ (1,200)
Sep. 24, 1866	Sale: hotel property (8 acres)	\$ 3,500
Net proceeds...		\$ 7,450

Eunice Carr countersigned all the other deeds, including the mortgage and subsequent sale of the hotel. They were planning to move west.

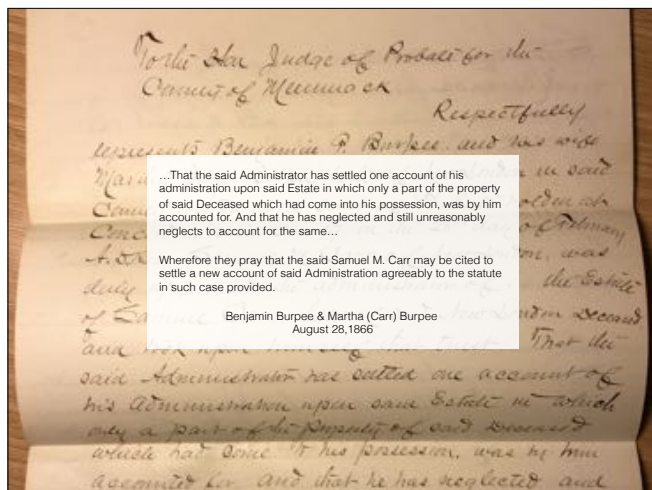
Later Eunice alleged that Carr had disappeared with \$8,000, which seems plausible given the sums shown here. (He also took all her clothes, which seemed to anger her equally. But we're getting ahead of ourselves...)



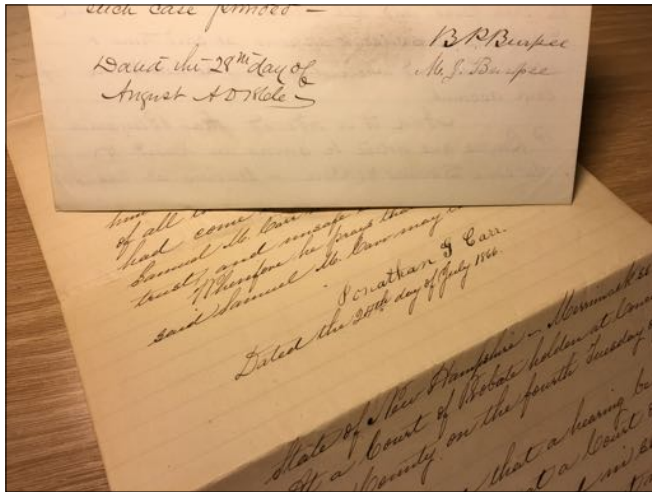
During the summer of 1866, while still running the hotel but looking for an exit, trouble was brewing...



At the end of July, 1866, right after Sam had mortgaged the hotel to his brother-in-law, merchant John Marshall Hayes, Carr's brother, Jonathan, filed suit, alleging that Sam had mismanaged the settlement of their father's estate. We don't know Jonathan's motives in filing the suit because the estate had been settled years before. Sam Carr ignored the summons to appear in probate court the following month.



At the end of August, another of Sam Carr's sisters, Martha Burpee, filed a similar complaint, though she does not demand his removal as administrator—only a new settlement. The probate court judge combined the two cases and scheduled a hearing for September, which was continued to October, and continued to November, and then... nothing more in the file.



The second complaint was dated August 28, 1866. Eunice Carr would swear months later (before Anthony Burpee, Justice of the Peace) that she had found her husband having adulterous relations with Mary Jane Burpee on that August day.

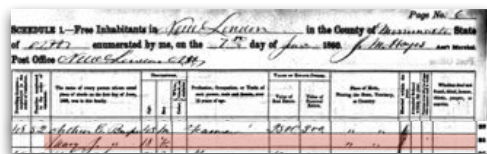
We know a little about Mary Jane. On May 15, 1858, she related her christian experience to examiners and was admitted to New London's Baptist church. But the record-keeper could not recall her last name and inserted a long dash instead. Her full name does appear immediately after that of Mrs. Eunice Carr on the church membership list, so the two were probably linked as far back as 1858. Later newspaper articles state that Mary Jane had been brought to New London as domestic help for Eunice. (Like Eunice, she had an interest in music and was an accomplished soprano soloist in church-related programs.)

PERSONS		SEX		AGE		COLOR		RELATION		MARRIAGE		SCHOOL		REMARKS	
NAME	SEX	AGE	COLOR	RELATION	MARRIAGE	SCHOOL	REMARKS	NAME	SEX	AGE	COLOR	RELATION	MARRIAGE	SCHOOL	REMARKS
James Flanders	M	37	W	Head											
Lucinda Corliss	F	37	W	Wife											
James Flanders	M	15	W	Son											
John Flanders	M	12	W	Son											
Elizabeth Flanders	F	10	W	Daughter											
Lucinda Corliss	F	7	W	Daughter											
James Flanders	M	4	W	Son											

This 1850 Federal census record from Warren, NH, offers a glimpse into Mary Jane's childhood.

Mary J. Flanders, as she's listed, was then 7 years old. She was one of six children, ages 4 to 15, and they lived with their father, James Flanders, 37, who was born in Vermont. There is no adult woman in the household. NH death records include an entry for Lucinda Corliss of Bristol, NH, who had married a James Flanders of St. Albans, VT, in 1831. She died in 1849—in the year before the census. Given his modest wealth, with real estate valued at just \$250, we can imagine that James Flanders would have a hard time raising six children alone.

In fact, he may have offloaded them as soon as possible. The 1860 census data show Mary Jane Burpee (17) in New London and her older brother Sanford (19) living with the Davis family in Lebanon. The 1870 census shows her younger brother Oscar (24) living with the Clay family in Wilmot. All were performing unskilled labor.



Her impoverished background and broken family might well explain why a not-quite 18-year-old Mary Jane Flanders would consent to marry a 46-year-old bachelor farmer named Arthur Elbridge Burpee. She must have wanted more... maybe his relative wealth (10x her father's), a home and farm to call her own. Maybe, too, she just wanted a new identity.

So Mary Jane Burpee was still married on that August day in 1866. On December 5th, Arthur Burpee divorced Mary Jane without stating a cause. Decades later, Mary Jane said that she couldn't recall where she was divorced, but she insisted that she and Carr had never been intimate "in the old days." True or false, Samuel Carr was ready to leave New London—with his money, his three children, and Mary Jane.



Carr had told Eunice that the family was moving to California. And based on Eunice's account, they packed up their belongings and took the train [from Potter Place?] to New York City, where they planned to visit with her brother, George Keller, a sea captain, before embarking on the trip.

After they arrived in New York, however, Carr sent Eunice back to Boston on some contrived errand. Mary Jane had secretly traveled with the family to New York, or she had been summoned by a telegraph from Carr (there are two conflicting versions). After Eunice had left for Boston, Carr met Mary Jane, informing her that Eunice had died very suddenly, but he had no time to explain. As implausible as it sounds, that was Mary Jane's version. (It's worth recalling that their history goes way back to when she was 16 and Carr was her employer. That subservient relationship never transformed into any else. According to Mary Jane, she was always a "white slave.")



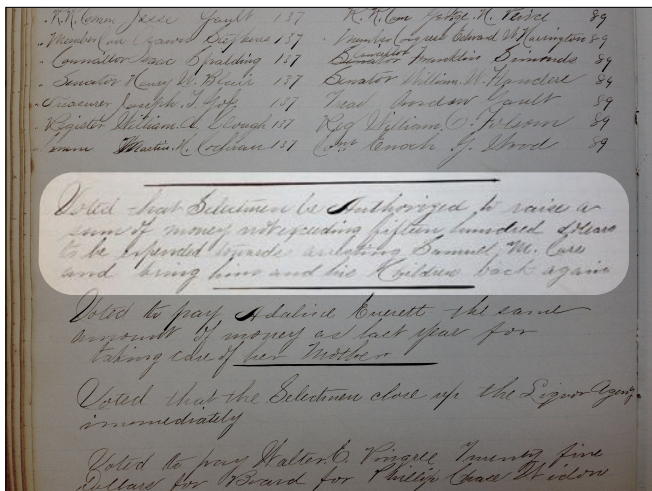
This is an 1866 birds-eye view of Manhattan, with the East River to the right and the Hudson River to the left. [click] On the (probably next) morning of February 11, 1867, Carr took Mary Jane and the children to the steamer *Henry Chauncey*, which was docked at its usual spot on Pier 42, lying at the foot of Canal Street. Carr left them all there under guard until shortly before noon, when he rejoined them and the ship paddled out of New York harbor bound for the Isthmus of Panama.



By the time Eunice returned to New York, her husband and children were gone. As promised, Carr *had* visited her brother—but only briefly. He must have accounted for Eunice's absence. Maybe he said she was minding the children; he probably did not say that she had died. Her distraught appearance hours later would have indicated otherwise.



We're told within the next few days, Eunice hired the J. S. Hunt & Co. detective agency of Boston to pursue Samuel Carr and recover her children. They may have advised Eunice to take additional legal steps, because on February 26th she obtained a warrant for Carr's arrest on charges of adultery, sworn before Anthony Burpee, Justice of the Peace in New London. Armed with this warrant, the detectives said that they would seek help in extraditing Carr using their contacts in the U. S. State Department.



Back in New London, townspeople were sympathetic to Eunice's plight and authorized the Selectmen to raise money for Carr's return. (So far, I have found no record that the money was ever raised or expended.)



Eunice Carr then turned up the heat by alleging that her husband had also twice tried to poison her. First in December, 1866, when she fell quite ill and had to be seen by a physician [Dr. Whipple?]. Second in February, on the train to New York, by giving her a poisoned orange, which had made her vomit.

She sent a liquid sample to her detectives, who performed a chemical analysis. Unfortunately, she had saved the liquid but couldn't produce the original bottle. She said that she had broken it — while (for some reason) burying it in the cellar [of the hotel?]. The chemist reported that she had sent a solution containing enough strychnine to kill 20 people, but since the detectives had no physical evidence linking the poison to Carr, the allegation produced no new charges.

[Poisons were readily available at that time. Strychnine was used to control rodents, but it was also available for use as a muscle stimulant. In fact, one company advertised chocolate-covered strychnine pills for those needing a little jolt. In higher doses, of course, it would cause fatal constriction of the muscles.]

This is a difficult allegation to judge. It seems pretty far-fetched. Maybe he had tried poisoning her in December—it certainly would have simplified Carr's exit plans. And maybe Eunice did discover and break the bottle, destroying valuable evidence against her husband. And maybe she had gotten sick on the train, but if she had ingested strychnine, she would have had a different physical reaction.

New Zealand
1867 – 1885

So now, with some relief, we can leave all that nasty business behind us as we enter Act II. With each nautical mile, Carr too must have breathed easier.

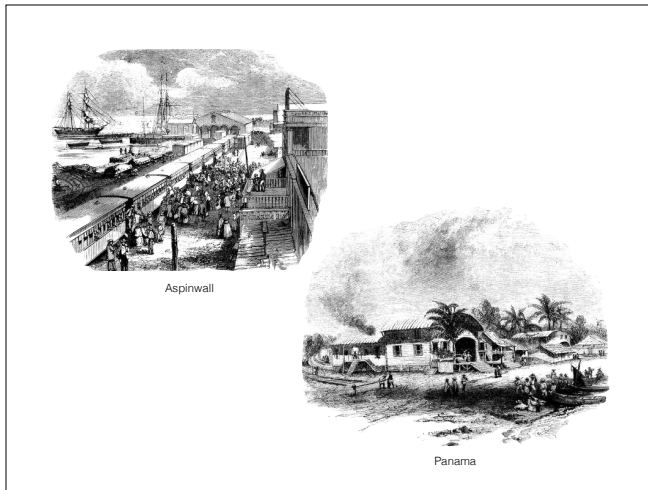


New York Times, October 4, 1865: The new side-wheel steamer Henry Chaunc[e]y, Capt. GRAY, arrived at her dock yesterday morning at 1 o'clock, having been out on a trial trip along the Eastern Coast as far as Portsmouth, N.H. She left here on last Thursday afternoon, and carried out only a few of the directors of the company. The trip was pleasant in every respect, and the vessel proved herself all that might be expected of her. She will be put on the line between this port and Aspinwall. She is one of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's new fleet. [NYT - October 4, 1865; image from Huntington Digital Library] Travel time to San Francisco from New York was about 40 days via Panama.

2,657 tons, length 319.4ft x beam 43ft, wooden hull, side paddle wheels, two masts. Accommodation for 250-1st cabin, 250-2nd cabin and 300-steerage passengers. Entered the New York - Aspinwall service on 1st Nov.1865 and remained on this route until 1869.



The Panama Railroad opened for passenger service in 1855 — not only cutting the travel time from four days to a half-day, but also minimizing exposure to mosquito-borne illness. The train ran on a fixed schedule, but special trains were added to run immediately upon the arrival of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. passengers from New York.



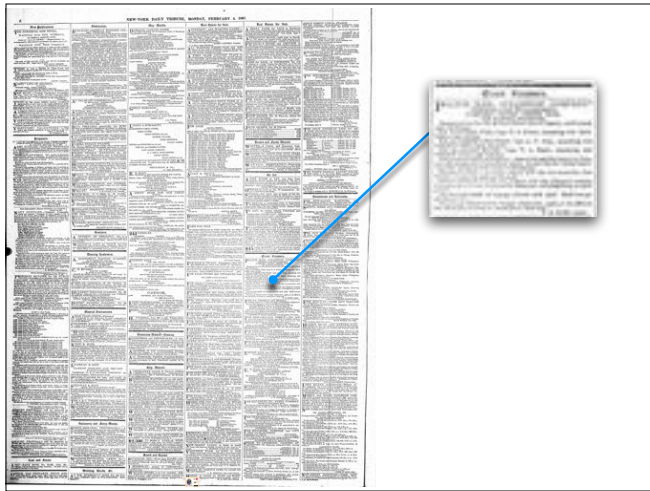
Having left on February 11th, Carr must have arrived in Aspinall sometime between the 15th and 18th. He boarded the train for Panama, where his connection, Royal Mail steamer *Mataura* wasn't scheduled to leave until the 24th. But a rough Atlantic crossing and a quarantine in Jamaica delayed the Royal Mail shipment from England, so the *Mataura* had to wait another three days for its cargo of 164 mailbags bound for New Zealand (150) and Australia (14). Capt. Bird finally steamed out of Panama's harbor at 10:30 PM on the night of the 27th.

Samuel Carr must have kept a low profile during those lay-days. Whether he knew that J. S. Hunt's detectives had tried to intercept him at Aspinwall, we don't know, but he must have considered the possibility. At that time, Eunice was certain that Carr was heading for California, so maybe the detectives didn't check the other lines...

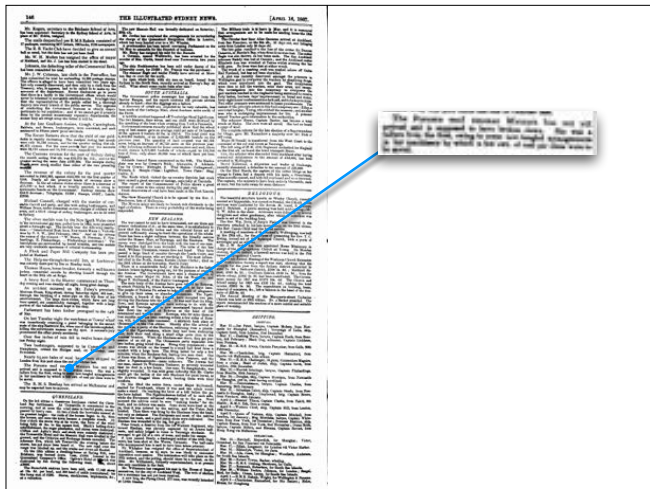
The *Mataura* was a new ship, homeward bound on its maiden voyage. Built to carry 160 passengers, on this passage she carried only ten adults and ten children (3 of them Carr's, 7 belonging to the Wakeford family bound for Sydney). [Given the low yield, it may be no wonder that after just 2-1/2 years, the New Zealand and Australia Royal Mail Co. suspended operations at the end of 1868.]



Only after Eunice herself had traveled to San Francisco, where Carr had been sighted at a theater, did she learn instead that he gone to New Zealand. At that point, inexplicably, she decided not to pursue him or her children.



Exactly when Carr decided on New Zealand is unclear, but making the travel arrangements was simply a matter of opening the right newspaper and finding an advertisement for the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. It had served the California market quite profitably since the Gold Rush — but it also announced a new connection with the Royal Mail Steamship Co. for Australia/New Zealand.

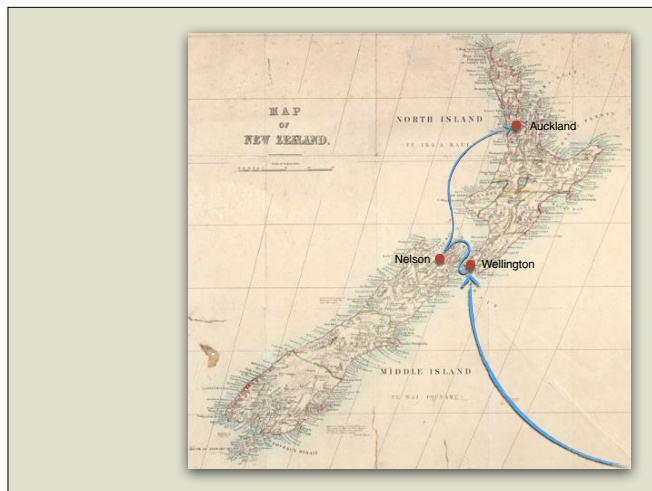


If the delay in Panama made Carr anxious, the voyage across the Pacific may not have provided much relief. Nearly two weeks after its expected arrival in Sydney, there was still no word from the *Mataura*. Given all the engine troubles the new ship had experienced during her delivery from England to Australia, people thought that she had broken down “owing to some new-fangled arrangements in her machinery by which a few hundredweight of coal per diem were to be saved.”



When at last the *Mataura* did arrive in Wellington at 11:30 AM on April 11, the purser gave the story to reporters. It seems that the company's coal shipment never arrived in Panama, so the *Mataura* was loaded with inferior coal, burning more rapidly than the usual 30 tons per day. Alarmed at the depletion, Captain Bird ordered the engines stopped and sails unfurled. Then on March 25th a gale rose up, carrying away one of the ship's lifeboats. For the next six days the wind was unfavorable. With the remaining fuel judged sufficient, on April 4th the boilers were re-started so that the ship could safely navigate under steam into Wellington on the 11th. The ship carried both mail and news. The news from America was by then two months old; it had accompanied Carr all the way from New York. Carr's flight was longer and probably more expensive than expected; he paid at least \$800 for the trip, but he still had plenty of cash.

He wasn't quite finished covering his tracks.



The first order of business was to establish a new identity — for him, for Mary Jane Burpee, and for his children. They had been traveling under the name “Carter,” but Carr managed to leave the alias aboard. When the *Mataura* reached its final destination in Sydney, Australia, a Mr. and Mrs. Carter (no children) were listed among the debarking passengers.

[click] On the evening of his arrival in Wellington, Carr boarded the south-bound steamer *Taranaki* for Nelson [click], where at 4:30 PM the following day he caught the north-bound steamer *Airedale* for Auckland [click]. This time he traveled under the name “Curtain” — which he seems to have appropriated from another couple who just gotten off the same vessel in Nelson. So Carr became Henry Wade Curtain, later spelled Kurtain. His children also received new names: daughter Lizzie Florence Carr (8) became Edna Kurtain, son Frederick Elmer Carr (6) became Herbert Kurtain, and youngest child Frank Weston Carr (4) became Edward Kurtain. [Unfortunately for Carr and his anonymity, the name “Kurtain” appears to have been unique, making the family relatively easy to trace in the newspapers.]

Carr also staged a wedding ceremony for the benefit of his children. He said that his appointment as a Justice of the Peace (in NH?) allowed him to perform marriages, including his own. He had Mary Jane read some verses from the Bible, and he then pronounced the happy couple “married.” They remained in that condition for the rest of their time in New Zealand.

Map of New Zealand (1859). Records and newspaper articles indicate that Samuel Carr (alias Henry



Probably broke, he moved to the southland.



Where Carr was hired to manage Springdale Farm. In November, 1877, his daughter, Edner (formerly Lizzie), married the son of a neighboring farmer named George Robinson Elder. [click] Lizzie chose to remain there as Edner Elder for the rest of her life. [And the property remains in the family?]



What prompted Carr's next move is unclear. He did get into a very public flap over an election to the local highway commission—he lost the election but threatened to sue and was declared the winner. That was just one typical example of his innate ability to create havoc, sometimes getting his way in the process.

Poverty Bay Herald

JANUARY 14, 1884

H. W. KURTAIN
HAS Opened a General Store, Gladstone Road, near the wharf, with a selection of most
 CHOICE TEAS,
 GROCERIES,
 DRAPERY,
 PAINTS, CLOTHING,
 OILS,
 IRONMONGERY,
 BOOTS, SADDLERY, TENTS,
 YAKPAULDS, CORDIALS,
 PATENT MACHINES,
 FOWL FEED,
 MAIZE, whole and crushed. &c.

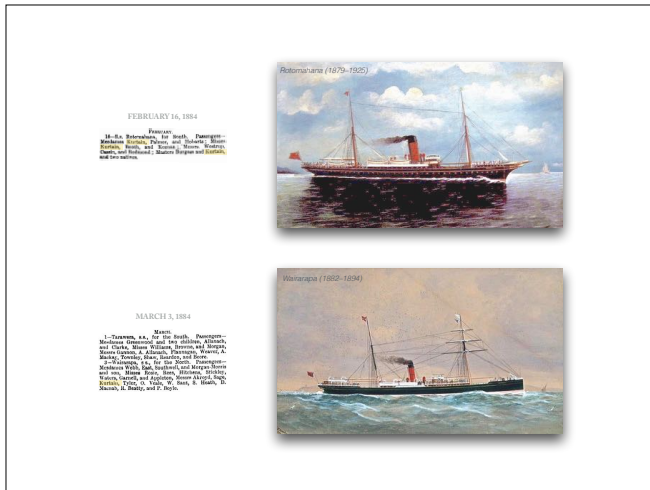
FEBRUARY 18, 1884

TO LET.
A STORE in Gladstone Road, with
 nearly twelve acres' lease thereto; with
 or without stock.
 Apply to
H. W. KURTAIN,
 Corner of Russell Street.

FEBRUARY 28, 1884

Auction.
BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEES.
GRAHAM, PITT & BENNETT
 Have received instructions to sell on the
 premises on WEDNESDAY, the 28th day
 of March, 1884, at 12 o'clock noon—
**ALL THE GOODS, STOCKS, IN VARIOUS
 TRADE FIXTURES, AND CATTLE,**
 &c., now being upon these premises,
 more or less of Gladstone Road and
 Russell Street, being in the sole
 possession of HARRY WILSON REYNOLDS,
 Grocer.
 Together with the **GOODWILL** of the
 business of HARRY WILSON REYNOLDS,
 Grocer.
 Also some
 All the unexpired Balance of a Term of
 Lease of 12 years, bearing nearly the
 whole of the term to run, of Part
 Section 303 and Part of Section 304,
 containing, containing 10
 containing 24 Acres, more or
 less, and being in the possession of
 HARRY WILSON REYNOLDS.
 Full particulars may be obtained on applica-
 tion to the Auctioneer, or Messrs Graham,
 Pitt, & Bennett, Solicitors for the Mortgagees.
 at

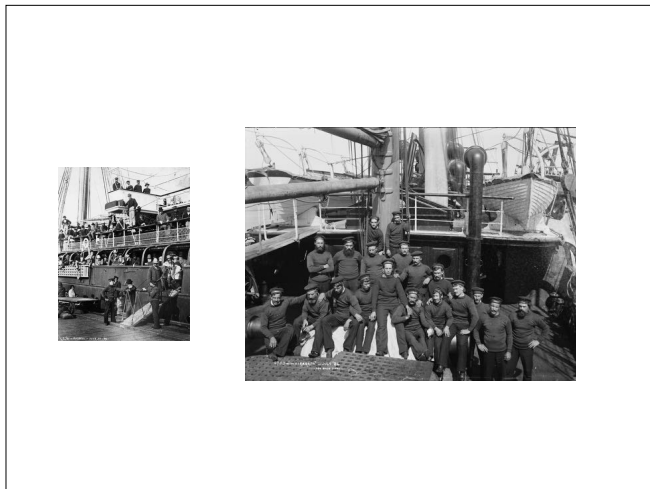
Carr's final, short-lived venture was as a storekeeper back north in the Poverty Bay area. He assumed a 12-year lease on a corner store but after just one month, he gave up. Mary Jane, with an unidentified boy and girl, had taken a steamer to the south just a few days before he advertised a lease on the business. Then his creditors stepped in and auctioned off the store, goodwill, and inventory on February 28, 1884.



After Mary Jane had gone south, Carr went north.

On March 3, he took a north-bound steamer—probably to Tahiti or Samoa, from which he could easily reach San Francisco.

[Wairarapa — built 1882; on 10/29/1894, at 12:08 AM, steamship hit rocks off Great Barrier Island and sank with 134 lives lost.]



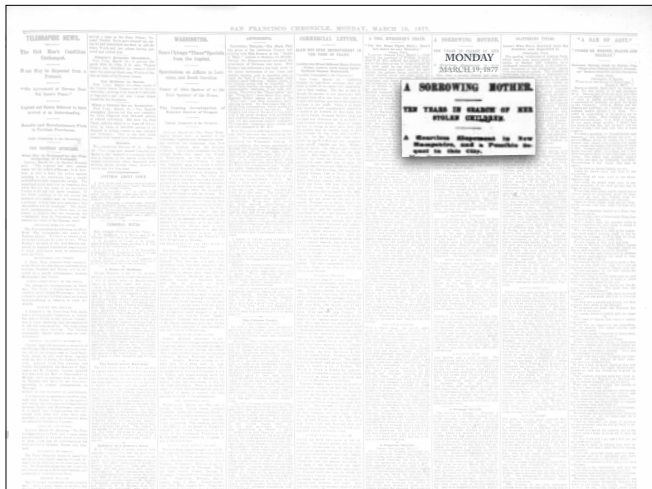
These photographs were taken aboard the steamer *Wairarapa* in June/July 1884, just four months after Carr had left New Zealand on this same ship. These crewmen probably saw Carr, traveling alone and without a plan.



Since it had no effect on Carr in New Zealand, I've saved this item for last even though it took place many years earlier.

On her final trip to San Francisco in 1877, Eunice Carr stopped by the Imperial Gallery on Market Street to have her portrait taken. She had failed to find her children but wanted them to remember her. On the back of this photograph, she wrote an identifying label for posterity: it reads “your mother.” And the image found its way to Lizzie in New Zealand. We don't know how or when. Nor do we know how she interpreted it. (Lizzie seems to have accepted her fate and her new identity. As far as she was concerned, Mary Jane, who had been with her since birth, was her mother, if not her actual birth-mother.)

Carrying all of her evidence, Eunice also stopped at the office of the *San Francisco Chronicle*. She told reporters her story in one last effort to publicize Carr's theft of her children—and, in a sense, the theft of her own life thereafter. She left the newspaper with her collection of documents, photographs of Sam Carr and the children, a photograph of the hotel in New London, NH, a warrant for Carr's arrest. She also left 29 letters from the J. S. Hunt detective agency of Boston, Massachusetts. Unwittingly, she had set a trap for Samuel Carr that would outlast her, but it would ensnare him, exacting a measure of revenge and ensuring that he had to keep running.



The *Chronicle* published Eunice's story on March 19, 1877, about nine months before Lizzie's marriage. From the article we learn that Eunice has been searching for her children in the western United States because she thought that Carr had returned. She followed false leads. She dispatched her nephew, Weston White, from San Francisco to Hastings, Nebraska, and he was never heard from again. The article suggested that Weston White had been murdered, by Carr. The phantom Carr had also been seen running illegal card games in Texas and elsewhere. For ten years Eunice had waited, but it would be another eight years before Carr ever returned to his native country.

San Francisco
1885 – 1909

So we begin Act III with Carr aboard an unnamed steamer heading into San Francisco Bay.



We actually know nothing of Carr's arrival in San Francisco, but this 1878 view shows the city and port with its busy maritime traffic. This is the city Carr would have seen for the first time in 1884—and it's the city that has not existed since that early morning earthquake of April 18, 1906.

Carr would have passed by the Presidio, captured from Mexico in 1848.



He also would have noticed a towering monument... Not a monument, but the Selby Shot Tower (1864). Here lead shot was manufactured by pouring molten lead through a copper sieve at the top of the tower. As the lead drops fell through the air for 10 or more stories, they cooled into round balls suitable for gunshot. The brick landmark was easily toppled by the earthquake.





Carr probably would have landed here at the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. wharf.



At some point he took up residence on 9th Street near Mission Bay.



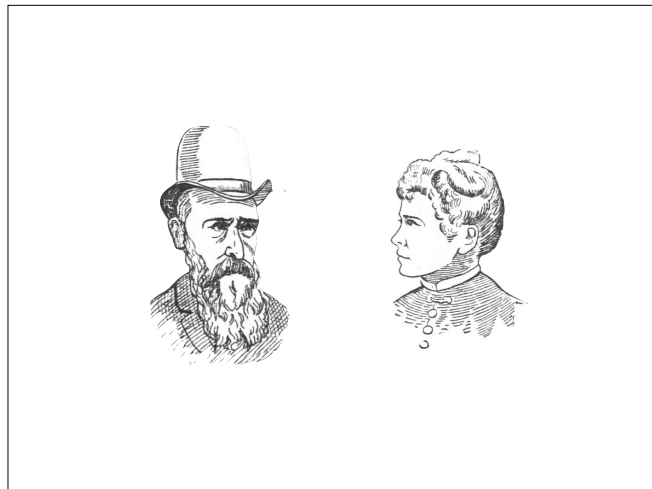
He wasn't far from the massive City Hall complex, with its government buildings and courtrooms under construction for 27 years.



And at the city's outskirts was a large building of which he took no notice, the Magdalen Asylum.



He needed a job. The sewing machine business had been good and they were offered everywhere. For just \$22 you could buy one with a one-year subscription to the *Weekly Chronicle*; for an extra \$4 you could get the machine and the daily edition of the paper. Mr. R. H. Yates was the Singer Co's agent in San Francisco, and he hired Samuel Carr as a salesman.



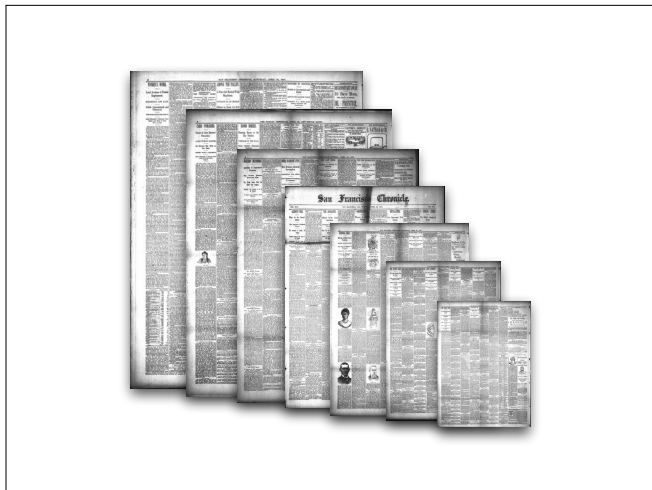
Carr was earning some money, had a place to live, and soon began writing to Mary Jane, begging her to join him in San Francisco. She described it this way: “His letters kept coming. He wrote pitifully of his loneliness in his old age, assured me that he had determined to live a new life and was at last able to support me. Like a fool, I again believed him, and at the solicitation of his children, who began to pity him, [I] was induced to come here. He promised to marry me properly and make amends for the past.”

She arrived in San Francisco on July 12, 1885. She had also brought Alice and Freddy Burrows with her, children she adopted after their widower father, whom Mary Jane had been nursing, died. She married Carr on the day after her arrival, July 13th. Or so she thought. Later she would be dismayed to learn that the marriage license had been issued to “Henry M. Carr” and “Mary J. Curtin.” That disclosure came after she learned that Carr had just \$60 in savings and earned only \$6 per week. Once again, she felt compelled to support him and the children.

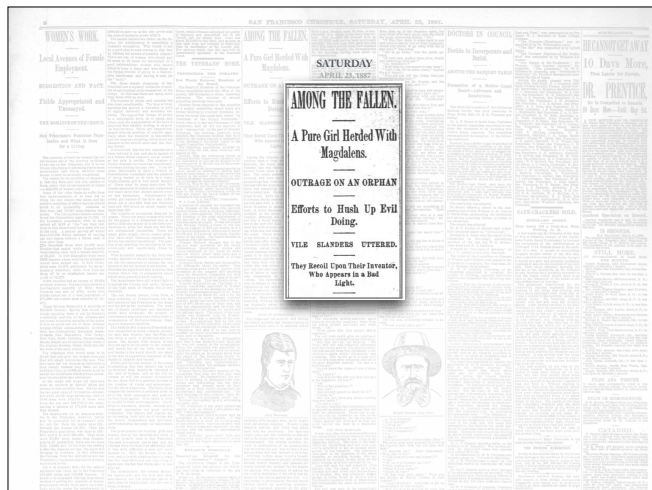
She took a series of private nursing jobs, leaving the two children in Carr's care. At some point, she grew uneasy. She decided that Alice, then 16, might be better off living and working at a home for wayward girls than staying in the Carr household. Samuel Carr was reportedly upset by Alice's refusal to marry his son, Frank, and his behavior grew erratic if not abusive. (Alice's older sister, Mary, had wedded Carr's other son back in New Zealand, perhaps after some coercion, so Carr probably thought that this was also a good plan.)



Registration book for the Magdalen Asylum, founded by the Sisters of Mercy in the 1860s as a home for orphans and wayward girls. Four months after the name Alice Burrows was entered in this book on January 22, 1887, Carr's notoriety exploded in full view of the whole city.



For the better part of a week, the *San Francisco Chronicle* ran the story, blending some facts with more fictions and unfounded allegations. Once they realized that the Carr involved with the Alice Burrows case was the same Carr whose wife had deposited a trove of damning evidence a decade earlier, they held nothing back. On day five, they coined the term “Bad Man Carr” revising his status from “Old Man Carr” used on day three. The week unfolded in the paper this way...

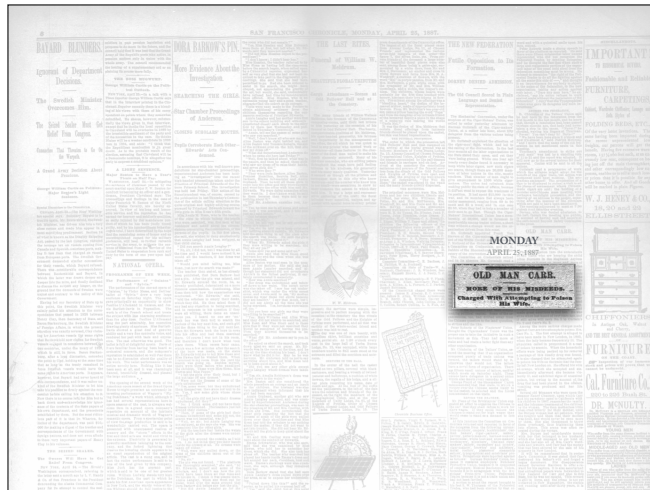


Alice Burrows had made a few friends in the neighborhood. When she disappeared, people starting asking questions—and got unsatisfactory responses from the Carrs. When at last they learned she had been sent to the Magdalen Asylum, her friends were horrified: she was not the sort of girl that belonged there. They appealed to the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, which found a local artist who was willing to sue for custody.

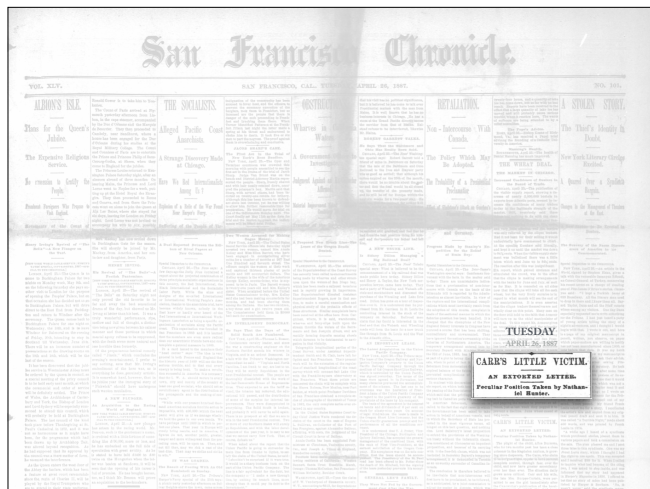
A trial was held at the City Hall complex. The Carrs attended, and the paper reported that Carr was “[noted for his petulant disposition at all times and upon the slightest provocation.](#)” He also wore his hair and beard “[like a Chicago anarchist.](#)” Mrs. Mary Jane Carr reportedly had “[a vivacious disposition and aggressive temper.](#)” [check quote] But she was “[by no means bad looking.](#)”



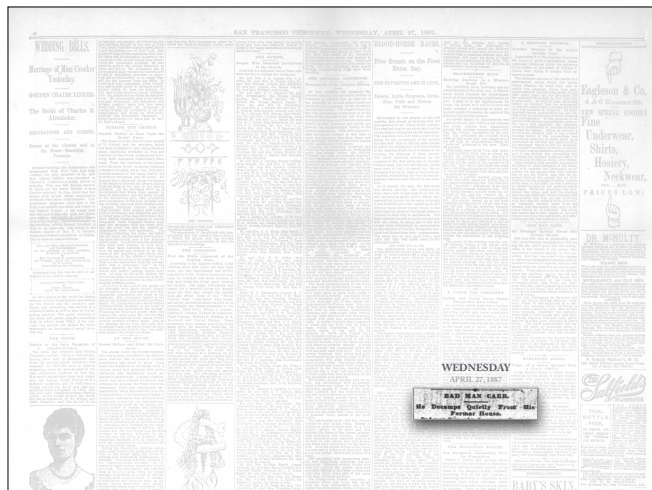
On the second day, reporters staked out Carr’s neighborhood, so the couple took the ferry to Oakland instead of returning to their house. The day’s installment recounted all of the past allegations against Carr and then some. But it gets so many details wrong that it’s hard to know what to believe. Among those details, it says that Carr had served as mayor of New London, that his children were all born at the New London Hotel, that his father had died in 1868, that Carr forged his father’s will, that Carr traveled to SF before going to NZ, and so on. It was as though the reporter could only vaguely recall the details of the 1877 article, written with Eunice’s participation. No matter.



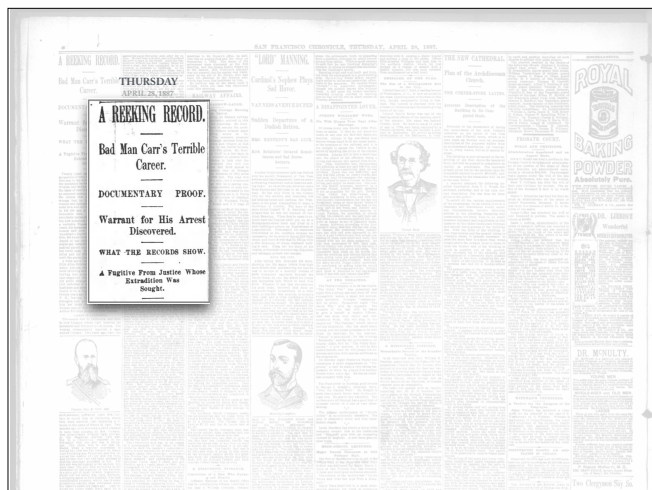
On the third day, the paper had discovered that Burpee was a married name, and it said that Mary Jane might not have been divorced when she fled with Carr. It repeated the poisoning charges. It said that Gov. Harrison [sic] had offered a reward for Carr's capture and that extradition papers had been sent to San Francisco and New Zealand. (A search of Gov. Harriman's papers and the Executive Council minutes shows no mention of Samuel Carr.)



On the fourth day... The paper focused on a letter, drafted by Carr, and signed by Alice, stating that she was living at the Asylum under her own volition. The article rightly noted that her signature was coerced by Carr and should be dismissed.



On the fifth day we learn that Carr had moved out of the house near 9th Street and had been fired by the Singer Sewing Machine Company. Mary Jane said that he was gone for good but would not reveal his whereabouts to reporters.



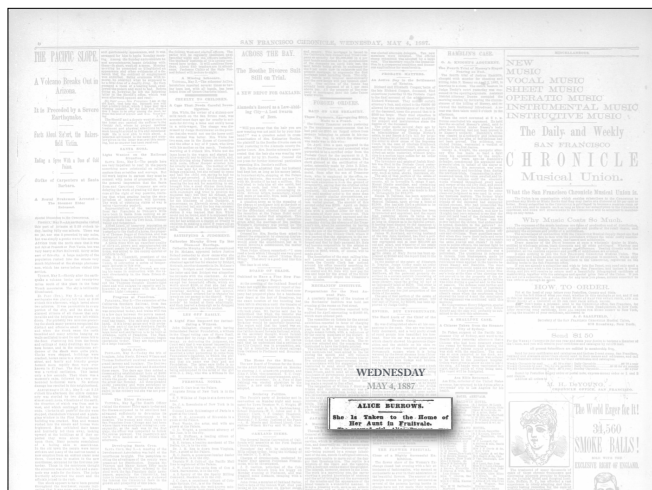
On the sixth day, the paper helpfully reprints selected documents left to them by Eunice Carr. Corrected for some obvious typographical errors, these reprints are the only semi-documentary evidence against Carr. (I assume they are authentic, but, as a historian, I would be more comfortable if copies of even a single one could be found in the town or state archives.)



At this point Carr enjoyed a reprieve, from April 28 until May 3, when another article appeared. This one carried testimony from the trial, and also the good news that an aunt (by marriage) of Alice Burrows had been found in Fruitvale, and she was eager to adopt Alice. For any readers who somehow missed the earlier coverage, they were also provided a recap, and a long statement from Mary Jane Carr, who cast herself as the unwitting victim of the devious Bad Man Carr.

The paper was triumphant: “[Old Man Carr, the wrecker of homes and fugitive from justice, has been foiled in his vengeful scheme.](#)” It went on to say that “[the whole miserable story... is one that has few equals and has rarely been surpassed in interest.](#)” The story had sold a lot of newspapers. Carr, they added, had fled the country and wasn't expected to return. He may have gone to British Columbia, but he did not stay away for long.

In her interview, Mary Jane insisted that she “had had enough” and would initiate divorce proceedings the next day. Having shaved off his beard, Carr returned a few weeks later to contest the divorce filing and managed to delay the inevitable for well over a year. The divorce was finalized on November 24, 1888.

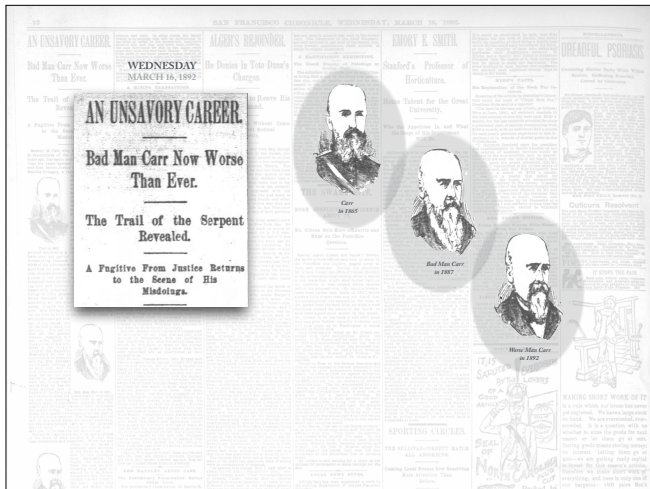


Finally, a brief follow-up the next day focused solely on Alice Burrows' new home.



We don't know what became of Alice Burrows, but just last night I received an email from one of Carr's relatives in New Zealand. [click] He had found this undated photograph of Alice as an adult. It was taken at a studio in San Francisco, where he believes she lived out her life.

So, getting back to the narrative, the newspaper assault regarding Alice Burrows ended for Carr in May 1887, but once again his life was upended. He formed a new scheme, and once again managed to draw some unwanted attention. In 1892, the *Chronicle* published another article...



And this time they declared in bold headline print: “Bad Man Carr Now Worse Than Ever.”

Carr had joined the Grand Army of the Republic, or G.A.R., which was a national organization of Union army veterans. The local organizations are called “posts.”

At a reception of the G.A.R.'s Lincoln Post, covering one section of San Francisco, Carr met Mrs. Matilda Dehagen, a widowed dressmaker. She wanted to expand her business, and he offered to advance her \$200. Soon, the paper says, “[he was allowed to occupy a room in her house ‘for a few days,’ but he remained there for 13 months without paying rent and constantly persecuted Mrs. Dehagen with proposals of marriage, repeatedly trying to force presents and money on her.](#)” When at last he had been spurned, he sued her—not only for the amount of his note and interest, which she had tried to repay earlier, but he also sued her for the value of the gifts he had tendered during his courtship!

The article then recited the litany of Carr's misdeeds, along with the usual inaccuracies, and then concluded with this imagery: “[It is not known just when he reappeared on this coast, but he is so well known as a man of notorious reputation that it is almost incredible that the serpent whose tail has been so completely laid bare should have had the bravado to show his head here again.](#)”

That caused quite a stir in G.A.R. circles, but in 1894 he still managed to get elected as adjutant of another G.A.R. post [Liberty Post] in the Bay Area. In 1895 the *Chronicle* reported that Samuel M. Carr



Not much is known of Carr's final years. In 1900, he applied for and was granted a veterans pension. In 1905, he was appointed to Oakland's 4th of July Planning Committee. Still married, he died in 1909 at age 74 and was buried in the G.A.R. section of Mountain View cemetery in Oakland. It all seems a little anti-climactic for the notorious Bad Man Carr.



Here is a scene from *The Bad Man* (MGM, 1941). The original play was written by Porter Emerson Browne in 1921. Silent movie (1923), talking movie (1930s).

In this scene the Mexican bandit Pancho Lopez (Wallace Beery) recognizes Gil Jones (Ronald Reagan) as the man who once saved his life, and Jones's own life is spared. The whole thing is melodramatic, but it presents a different Bad Man than we saw in John Bunyan's allegorical Mr. Badman. This Bad Man commits terrible crimes, surely, but it's to some purpose, which is not always evident.

For Samuel Carr, the facts are about as clear as we can hope to make them. What's missing is any sense of his motivation. We want to believe in mitigating circumstances. But perhaps there were none.

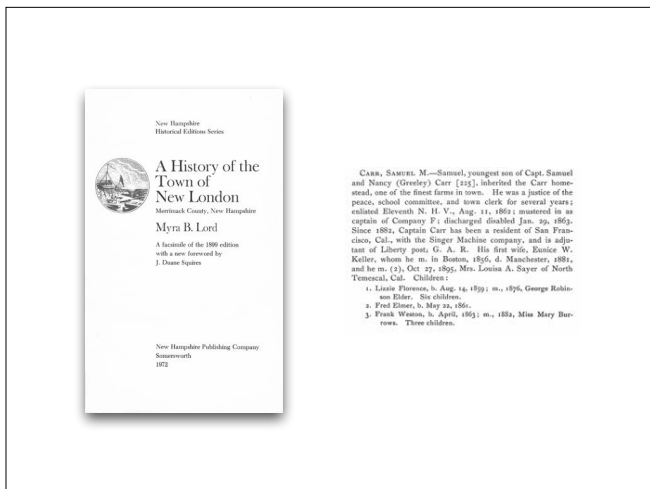
In 1887 Mary Jane Flanders said: "[But although I knew the despicable, dishonest, shifting, worthless creature he was, I never knew that Carr was suspected of murder, attempted poisoning, desertion and the long catalog of crimes laid to his door. My eyes are opened now. I have wasted my life, sacrificed it for him and his children, and wish I had died years ago and been spared this disgrace.](#)" She was done with Carr, but her concern had always been for the children, now grown.

She said, "[I loved his children and was a mother to them, as they will tell you.](#)"



If you were a child of a child of a child of Samuel Murray Carr, what would you want to know?

In the files at the Archives, we recently ran across two letters from a Carr relation in New Zealand. She had written to Peg Moreland about twenty years ago—wondering if it was true that the town of New London had once voted funds to arrest her ancestor. Yes, it was true.



In 1860, the year the elder Samuel Carr died, the Carr family owned over 200 acres of New London's best farmland. They had other investments worth thousands of dollars. They were among the town's wealthiest residents, respected and active in town affairs. By 1870, there were no Carrs living in New London, and the scandalous story of Bad Man Carr was erased from the town's collective memory. His entry in Myra Lord's *History of New London* (1899) sounds quite respectable... It was prepared by the one sibling who had never turned against him. According to Myra Lord, "[Mrs. Hayes now res. with her son in Manchester, and is occasionally a welcome visitor in the well-loved home of her girlhood and early womanhood. It is due to her active interest that such full records of the Greeley, Carr, and Hayes families were secured for this volume.](#)"