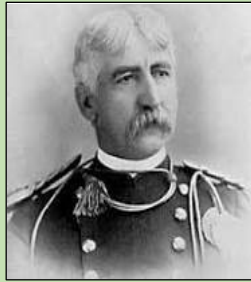


## CIVIL WAR VETERAN EUGENE B. BEAUMONT

WHEN?  
1861-1865

WHERE? EASTERN U.S.



VOCABULARY  
aide-de-camp  
cavalry  
infantry  
artillery

During the 1850s and 1860s, the United States tumbled toward the edge of division. Compromises over states' rights and slavery had been made to keep the peace but that was lost in 1861 when troops from South Carolina fired their cannon on Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor. The North under the guidance of President Abraham Lincoln and the South under the leadership of Jefferson Davis began to call for volunteers as each side prepared for war.

Many men from our area volunteered to fight. Twenty-seven different regiments recruited from the county but only one, the 143<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania was made up almost entirely of men from our area (with the exceptions of two companies H and K). Although other articles will address some of those men, Beaumont was not part of the 143<sup>rd</sup>.

Eugene Beauharnais Beaumont (1837-1916) rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army serving until 1892. Born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, he was the son of Wilkes-Barre Congressman Andrew Beaumont. Shortly after he graduated from U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1861, he married Margaret Rutter his childhood sweetheart.



His first assignment was as second lieutenant in the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry unit where he trained soldiers in Washington, D.C. Soon appointed as aide-de-camp to General Ambrose Burnside, he fought in the First Battle of Bull Run. By September of 1862 he served with General Sedgewick during the Wilderness Campaign. Typhoid fever forced him to take time to recuperate until August of 1862 when he was appointed to join General-in-Chief of the Union Army Henry Halleck.

His request to rejoin fighting in the field was granted and in May 1863 he rejoined General Sedgewick. In November 1863 he was cited for "gallant and meritorious service" in the battle of Rappahannock Station in Virginia. Under Sedgewick's command, Beaumont fought in numerous battles including Gettysburg, Rappahannock Station, and Spotsylvania where General Sedgewick was killed (Cutrer 2014). By October 1864 he was serving in the 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry unit of the Army of the Mississippi under General Wilson when he led a charge on the enemy's position, scattered their troops, and captured the cannon. In Selma, Alabama, he again charged the enemy at the head of his regiment helping to win the day. For his actions, he received the Congressional Medal of Honor (Citizen's Voice 2009). Beaumont was so highly regarded that when President Jefferson Davis was captured, he was placed in Beaumont's care (Cutrer 2014).



After the war he continued to train cavalry soldiers in tactics. He was later assigned to western army posts where he served during the Indian Wars. Retiring in 1892, he returned to Wilkes-Barre. He is buried in Hollenback cemetery in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

#### ONLINE RESOURCES

[Eugene Beaumont](#)

[Texas Historical Association Thomas W. Cutrer](#)

#### PRINT RESOURCES

Keating, Joseph. *A Report With Honor*. "n.p." 2006.