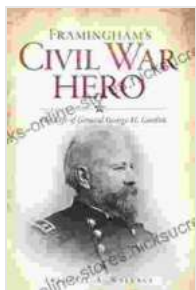


# Framingham's Unsung Civil War Hero: The Life and Legacy of Private Franklin Bartlett

In the annals of American history, the Civil War stands as a pivotal conflict that shaped the nation's destiny. Amidst the countless sacrifices made during this tumultuous era, one name that deserves recognition is that of Private Franklin Bartlett, an unassuming soldier from the humble town of Framingham, Massachusetts.

Franklin Bartlett was born on August 10, 1838, into a farming family in Framingham. Growing up, he displayed a quiet and unassuming demeanor, but beneath his unassuming exterior lay a deep sense of patriotism. When the call came for volunteers in 1861, Bartlett answered without hesitation.

Joining the 32nd Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, Bartlett was assigned to Company I. His unit participated in some of the war's most significant battles, including the Siege of Petersburg and the Battle of Cold Harbor. Throughout his service, Bartlett distinguished himself through his bravery, determination, and unwavering loyalty to his comrades.



## Framingham's Civil War Hero: The Life of General George H. Gordon (Civil War Series) by Frederic A. Wallace

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1696 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 147 pages



On September 17, 1862, the Battle of Antietam unfolded as one of the bloodiest single-day battles in American history. Bartlett's regiment was part of the Union assault on the Confederate Sunken Road, later known as "Bloody Lane." Amidst the intense fighting and horrific casualties, Bartlett's selfless act of valor would earn him lasting admiration.

Noticing a wounded comrade stranded in the midst of enemy fire, Bartlett charged into the fray, regardless of his own safety. With bullets whizzing past him, he reached the soldier and carried him to the safety of a field hospital. This heroic deed, witnessed by countless fellow soldiers, cemented Bartlett's reputation as a courageous and compassionate warrior.

In November 1862, during the Battle of Fredericksburg, Bartlett was captured by Confederate forces. He was taken to the infamous Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia, where he endured harsh conditions and the constant threat of disease.

Undeterred by these hardships, Bartlett joined a group of fellow prisoners in planning a daring escape. In February 1864, they managed to dig a tunnel under the prison walls and make their way to freedom. After a perilous journey, they eventually reached Union lines.

After his escape from Libby Prison, Bartlett continued to serve in the Union Army until the war's end in 1865. Upon his return to Framingham, he was greeted as a hero by a grateful community. However, his wartime experiences had left a profound impact on his life.

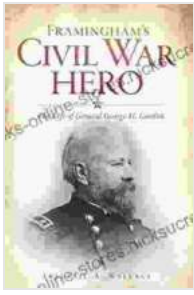
Haunted by the horrors he had witnessed, Bartlett retreated into a life of quiet solitude. He never spoke publicly about his wartime exploits, nor did he seek any accolades. Instead, he chose to honor the memory of his fallen comrades through his actions.

Franklin Bartlett passed away in 1890, but his legacy continues to inspire generations of Framingham residents. In 1906, the town erected a monument in his honor, which stands proudly in the center of the Common. This monument serves as a testament to the bravery, sacrifice, and enduring spirit of a humble soldier who made an extraordinary contribution to the cause of American freedom.

- **Rank:** Private
- **Regiment:** 32nd Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, Company I
- **Battles Participated In:** Siege of Petersburg, Battle of Cold Harbor, Battle of Antietam, Battle of Fredericksburg
- **Prisoner of War:** Libby Prison, Richmond, Virginia
- **Escape:** February 1864

Franklin Bartlett, the unsung hero of Framingham, embodies the spirit of countless ordinary Americans who answered the call to duty during the Civil War. His selfless courage, unwavering loyalty, and quiet dignity serve as a timeless reminder of the sacrifices made to preserve the ideals of freedom and unity.

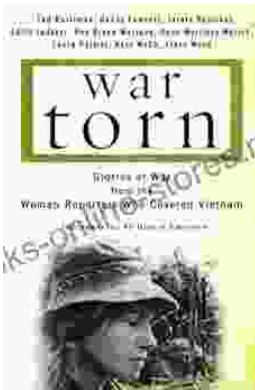
Through the monument that bears his name, Franklin Bartlett's legacy lives on, inspiring present and future generations to honor the memory of those who fought and sacrificed for the American nation.



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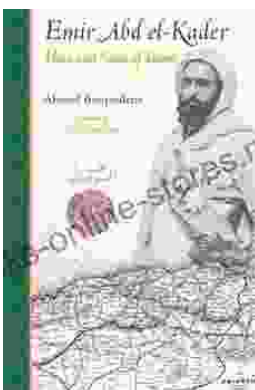
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