

The 4th of July commemorates the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress in 1776. We mark this date as the birth of our country and honor those who risked and sacrificed their lives in the Revolutionary War, as well as those who then drafted the Constitution to establish “a more perfect union.” No matter where on the political spectrum you stand 245 years later, it’s easy to see that we are still in pursuit of the stated ideals of that “more perfect union.” Also painfully apparent are deep divisions among “we the people.” And so, Megan and I had the idea of turning our attention to another time in American history when our nation was divided, and the very stability of the Union was imperiled. I’m speaking of the Civil War era, and I wish to highlight the contributions of an ancestor and other relatives who fought to preserve the Union. Their victorious service also led to the abolition of slavery, which moved our nation closer to its promise of freedom and equality under the law. There’s still much to be done to bring about “liberty and justice for all” in these United States. Perhaps by looking to the past we can find inspiration in the example of these men as we strive in our own ways to bring about healing and hope today. Please repeat the names in red after me as I read them aloud:

Theodore Lambert, Sr. (*Theodore Lambert, Sr.*) was my great-great-grandfather. If you are my child or my niece or nephew, he was your *3-times* great-grandfather. If you are my grandchild or the grandchildren of my siblings, he was your *4-times* great-grandfather. Born in 1816 in St. Jean, Quebec, Canada, he immigrated to the United States and signed up to serve in the Union Army when he was 46 years old. He enlisted as a Private on August 12, 1862 and joined Company F, 10th Infantry Regiment Vermont on September 1, 1862. He received a disability discharge from Company F on April 20, 1863 and became a naturalized citizen of the United States after his service in 1872.

His eldest three sons Theodore (Lombard) Lambert, Jr. (*Theodore (Lombard) Lambert, Jr.*), Joseph Lambert (*Joseph Lambert*), and Noel “Newell” Lambert (*Noel “Newell” Lambert*), were all born in Vermont, and they also served in the Union Army. They were my great-granduncles, or the brothers of my great-grandfather Mitchell Lambert. Uncle Ed’s middle name is Mitchell after this great-grandfather. Mitchell Lambert did not serve in the Civil War with his father and three brothers because he was born in 1850 and had just turned 15 years old when the war ended in April 1865. If you are my children or nieces or nephews, Mitchell’s brothers who did serve are your *2-times* great-granduncles. If you are my grandchildren or my siblings’ grandchildren, they are your *3-times* great-granduncles.

- **Theodore Jr.** enlisted 9/4/61, mustered in 9/16/61, Pvt, Co. C, 5th VVI (VT Volunteer Infantry), reenlisted 2/5/64, and was wounded in the Battle of the Wilderness on 5/5/64, mustered out 6/29/65.
- **Joseph** Enlisted as a Private on 2/29/64 in Company C, 5th Infantry Regiment Vermont. He was wounded at Cold Harbor 5/5/64 and transferred out of Company C, 5th Infantry Regiment Vermont on 10/26/64. He transferred into Regiment U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps the same day and mustered Out Regiment U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps on 7/10/65.
- Finally, **Noel** Enlisted as a Private on 8/12/62 and joined Company F, 10th Infantry Regiment Vermont on 9/1/62. He transferred out of Company F, 10th Infantry Regiment Vermont on 2/21/65 and into the Regiment U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps the same day. He mustered out Regiment U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps on 7/8/65.

Noel Lambert’s grandchildren’s generation donated his Civil War rifle to the Highgate Historical Society, where you can still see it today. Today we can also see the names of these four men, as well as those of other relatives and other men from Highgate who served the Union, on the Civil War Memorial monument, about a ¼ mile from where we now gather at the homestead. If you’d like to join me, I invite you all to follow me there now in a parade of sorts to pay our respects and honor their memory. Megan has crayons and paper for anyone who’d like to try to make a rubbing of their names from the monument on the back of this paper, and I have flags for all who’d like to carry them as we go together.

Can you find these names on the memorial? When you spot them, show a family member, and then use a crayon and the empty space at the bottom of this page to try to make a rubbing of the names as a keepsake of our visit to this piece of family history.

- **Theodore Lambert, Sr.**
- **Theodore (Lombard) Lambert, Jr.**
- **Joseph Lambert**
- **Noel “Newell” Lambert**