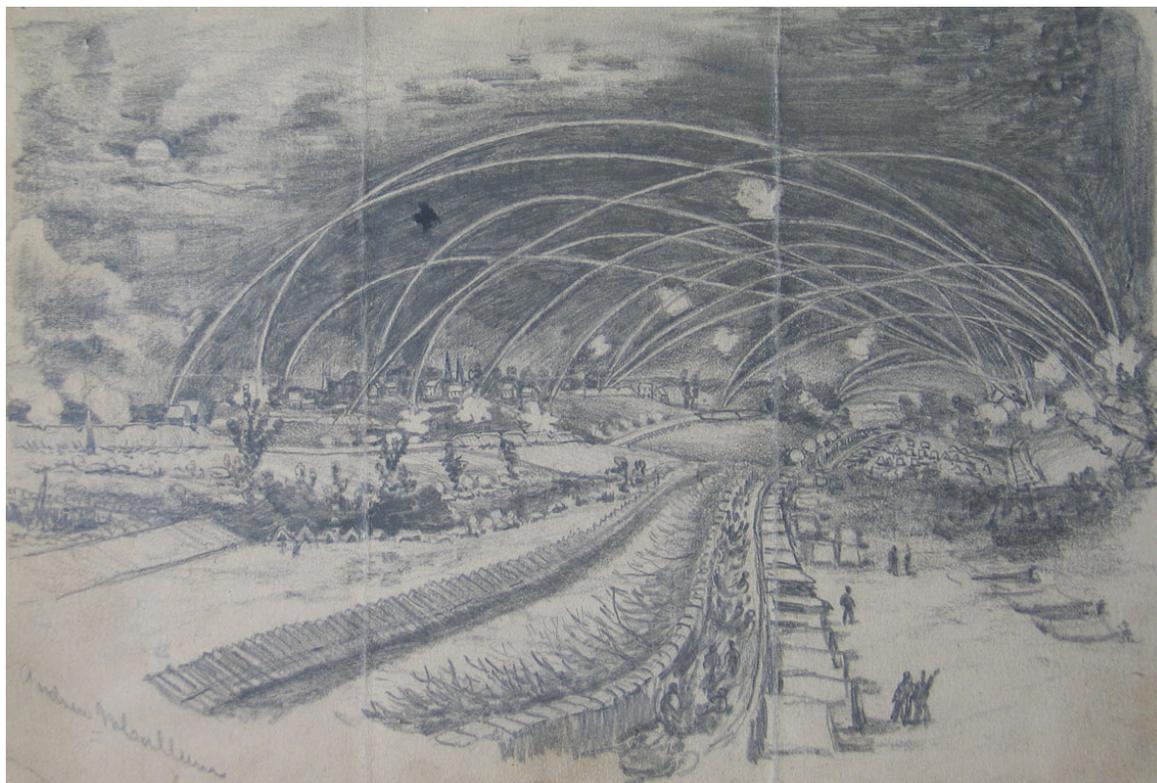


# CIVIL WAR DRAWINGS from the Becker Collection



*Andrew McCallum, Siege of Petersburg: A Night Attack, March 31, 1865, graphite on wove paper, 17.5 x 14.5"*

## Curators' Statement:

This exhibition presents a selection of approximately forty-five drawings from the Becker Collection, the largest group of Civil War drawings in private hands. Joseph Becker and his colleagues who, during the nineteenth century served as artist-reporters for Frank Leslie's *Illustrated Newspaper*, executed these drawings often under harrowing conditions. This collection of firsthand drawings, most of which were never published, have been on public display only once before. It includes original drawings by some of the era's most notable artists and landmark works long thought lost or destroyed. As the United States prepares to observe the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, the Becker Collection adds significantly to the nation's understanding of its conflicted past. At a time when photography could only capture staged or still moments, the Special Artists risked their lives to record live-action historical events. The drawings in this exhibition are dramatic representations of the events that divided and defined a nation and testaments to the contributions Special Artists made to the development of American journalism and the history of American art.

**September 4 – October 11, 2010**

*Saint-Gaudens Memorial Exhibitions at the Picture Gallery  
Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, Cornish, New Hampshire*

A scene at Gen Crooks Hd Qrs  
 Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 1864 - at Harrisonburg -  
 The Regia of the Loyal Dunkards,  
 a Non Combatant Sect, similar to the  
 Quakers, - the scene represents them at  
 Gen Crooks Hd Qrs - procuring passes  
 and making arrangements to migrate  
 to the Land of Milk & Honey - I wish  
 you would have a little extra attention paid  
 to the three officers by the engravers - they are  
 life sketches of these Gentlemen - look me in  
 Mrs Leslie I showed thru your letter & they expect  
 this little return for their liberality -  
 They hold prominent positions - Major  
 Stephen is inspection General for Crooks Corps.  
 Cap. Cherington is Provost Marshall Gen ditto.  
 Cap. Douglafs Commissary Subsistence ditto.  
 About one hundred families have gone  
 North with a return supply train - Many more  
 will do so soon - it is decided illustration  
 that all are not Reb sympathizers - for such  
 I think would remain instead of leaving home  
 & home (some of their homes are fine ones) to be  
 plundered & destroyed by both Armies -  
 This picture aimed to please Gen  
 Crooks - He is a noble man,  
 modest & retiring - well liked by all who  
 know him - he has acquired a lasting  
 fame through his masterly operations  
 in the late Campaign, & I think deserves  
 considerable notice  
 Taylor

James E. Taylor, Artist's notes from back of Loyal Dunkards at General Crook's Headquarters, October 2, 1864



Detail: Edwin Forbes, St. Patrick's Day Skirmish at Kelly's Ford, March 17, 1863, graphite on paper

From the thousands of drawings produced on the frontlines, editor Frank Leslie selected those images that would be turned into engravings and printed in his newspaper. Leslie had not only more Special Artists in the field than his competitors but also over one hundred twenty craftsmen to translate the drawings into engravings. Editorial adjustments were often made in the publication process which resulted in a loss of vital graphic information found in the images drawn “on the spot.”

### ABOUT THE CURATORS

**Judith Bookbinder** is the co-director of the Becker Collection. She teaches “American Icons: Nineteenth-Century Images of Identity” and “American Modern: Twentieth-Century Avant-Garde Art,” at Boston College where she is a member of the Art History Department. Her book, *Boston Modern: Figurative Expressionism as Alternative Modernism* (University Press of New England, 2005), considers the development of expressionist painting in early twentieth-century Boston’s immigrant community.

**Sheila Gallagher**, Associate Professor of Fine Arts at Boston College, is co-director of the Becker Collection and a professional artist and independent curator in Boston. She has exhibited widely and is represented by the Dodge Gallery in New York. She is also the great-granddaughter of Joseph Becker.

Catalogues of the Becker Collection are available at the bookstore. For additional information about the Becker Collection please visit: <http://idesweb.bc.edu/becker/>

This exhibition is sponsored through the generosity of the Saint-Gaudens Memorial.

The Saint-Gaudens Memorial is a private, non-profit organization chartered by the State of New Hampshire in 1919, to preserve and exhibit Saint-Gaudens’s home and studios and to preserve his work there. The Memorial operated the site as a museum until 1965, when they donated the property to the National Park Service to become the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site. The Memorial continues to play an important role as a park partner and supports the Site in a variety of ways including sponsoring programs and activities such as this exhibition, the summer concert series, and other events that increase public awareness of Augustus Saint-Gaudens and his works, and that promote sculpture and the arts in general.

The Fellowship of the Saint-Gaudens Memorial was established in 1977 to assist artists of promise. A Fellow is selected annually by the Saint-Gaudens Memorial, from a pool of candidates put forward by the Fellowship Committee and advisors, and is awarded to artists who have completed a body of work that demonstrates exceptional talent, and who may benefit from the recognition and financial grant that accompany the Fellowship. The year following the Fellowship, the artist submits works for installation, as part of the Saint-Gaudens Memorial exhibition series at the Picture Gallery.

To find out more or to help us by becoming a friend of Saint-Gaudens please contact us at (914) 944-1608 or email us at [SGMemorial@aol.com](mailto:SGMemorial@aol.com) or visit us on the web at [www.sgnhs.org](http://www.sgnhs.org).