


# Hard Tack and Hard Times

## Self-Guided Museum Tour

Explore artifacts related to the American Civil War in this self-guided tour. Download a copy and bring it with you to the Museum for a quick and targeted history lesson.



**1** — **Arkansas Toothpick Knife in A-Z Introduction (K is for Knives and Guns) 1st Floor**

The Arkansas Toothpick is a long heavy dagger with a pointed double-edged straight blade - not to be confused with the Bowie Knife's single-edged, convex blade. Like most knives carried during the Civil War, Bowies and Toothpicks were not particularly useful in battle. Instead, they were used to cut trees, skin rabbits, scale fish and dig trenches.

More Civil War weapons can be seen in the K is for Knives and Guns exhibit on the 2nd floor


**2** — **Lincoln Commemorative Glass Goblet (G is for Glass, 1st Floor)**

During the 19th century, important national events and people were commemorated on patterned pressed glassware. After President Abraham Lincoln's death in 1865, the Lincoln Drape line of glassware was introduced. This pattern was made in clear, milk-white and blue glass.




**3** — **Underground Railroad Oil Painting on Main Staircase Landing**

The Underground Railroad was a vast network of people and places that helped southern slaves escape to the north. While Quakers started using this system in the end of the 18th century, the name was given to the network around the 1830's; the same time railroads were beginning to carry passengers across the United States.



**5** — **Wood from the Lincoln Conspirators Execution Scaffolding (O is for Oddities, 2nd Floor)**

On July 7, 1865, four of eight convicted conspirators in the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln were hanged before a crowd of more than 1,000 people. One of them, Mary Surratt, was the first woman to be executed by the U.S. Government. After the bodies were taken down, the gallows were cut-up and distributed as souvenirs.




**4** — **Photograph of "Gone with the Wind" character Scarlett O'Hara and Chair made by Vander Ley Bros. Furniture of Grand Rapids Furniture City, 2nd Floor**

The fashionable bell-shaped skirts worn during the Civil War were often so wide women could not fit into chairs with arms. This led to the popularity of low, wide, armless upholstered chairs called slipper chairs. Larger armed companion chairs like the one displayed were made for the "gentleman of the house."



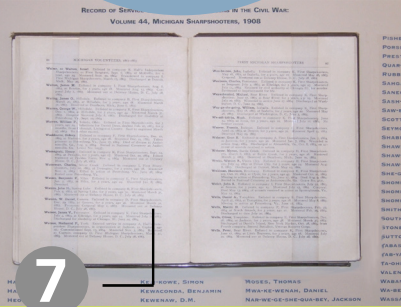
**6** — **The J.C. Craig Story Newcomers Exhibit, 3rd Floor**  
1st case on the right as you enter

As the Civil War progressed, thousands of escaping slaves, like J.C. Craig, sought protection behind Union Army lines. Once fleeing slaves crossed Union Army lines, they were classified as property. All enemy property that fell into Union hands was considered "contraband of war" and therefore would not be returned to their owners.



**7** — **Mustor Rolls of the 4th Veteran Reserve Corps Anishinabek, 3rd Floor**

About 4,000 Native Americans fought for the Union during the Civil War, despite their [then] lack of U.S. citizenship. Company K, a regiment of the 1st Michigan Sharpshooters, was composed of men from Michigan's Odawa, Ojibwa and Potawatomi tribes. Membership required specific qualifications, such as the ability to accurately hit a 5" circle from 220 yards away.



**8** — **General Champlin's Civil War Frock Coat (V is for Veterans, 3rd Floor)**

The front of a Union frock coat allowed for the wearer's rank to be instantly identified, even at a distance. High ranking officers wore double-breasted coats. Their specific ranking could be distinguished by the multiple rows and specific arrangements of their buttons. All others had a single row of nine equally spaced buttons.

Look for other Civil War items in the V is for Veterans Exhibit

