

A DRUM BEAT THROUGH HISTORY

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*IMAGES AND INFORMATION
ON PAINTED MILITARY DRUMS
DURING THE “GOLDEN AGE”
OF PAINTED DRUMS
IN NORTH AMERICA*



French Regimental

This large, impressive drum was manufactured in Europe, in the style seen in early 18th century paintings.

It was found in New England, and is perhaps a trophy of the French and Indian War.





Massachusetts Regimental

One of very few drums that can be attributed to the American Revolution, with rose head nails on the seam and a well painted emblem.

The Latin motto, “It is Sweet and Fitting to Die for Ones Country” is found on period currency and in a memorial to one of Washington’s staff officers.







The Federal Period US Regimental

Presently the only known example with a unit identification to this time period. The maker, Henry Fraley, a Pennsylvania Associator, had contracts to supply drums during the Revolution. He retired at the end of the 18th Century. Note his signature on the label.





Drum's
Made & Sold &
Repaired by
Henry Thaler
Germantown

Federal Period

Note the tack design, similar to Fraley's but with some additional tacks. Thomas Jaquett was in business, at this Philadelphia address, from 1793 -1798.



COLOURS, FIFES,

TRASOLS PLAIN OR ORNAMENTED IN
APPROVED MANNER BY

MRS JAQUETT,

o. 2. n Front Street Philadelphia.

ove and keeps every material for sale,
dresses, facking bottoms and bedding of
retian blinds, sofas, easy chairs, and bed
g, feathers, curled hair, and cattail fringe,
tain lace and bindings, &c.

ing and other upholstering work made and repaired.



Grand American Eagle

This dramatic eagle is found on the canton of an existing “Chief’s flag” matching the pattern used by Lewis & Clark.

The Henry Fraley tack design was continued by his son-in-law, Thomas Bringhurst.





War of 1812 Eagles

Shown are two examples, made and sold by L. Jones of New York City. Note the two grades of painted eagles. One drum retains its original label and both show the same tack design.

Labeled example: T. Oleary collection.











MADE AND SOLD,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL,

By L. Jones & Co. New York

A Prominent Drum Maker from Massachusetts, Abner Stevens

A unique feature is that he dated all
his drum labels.

J. Ockerbloom collection.



Fifes, Tamboreens,
BASS AND MILITARY DRUMS,

OF ALL SIZES AND PRICES,

Made in the neatest manner, and sold by

ABNER STEVENS,

At his American Drum Factory,

PITTSFIELD, (Mas.)

1814.

Traditional & Basic Drum

This typical “plain Jane” pattern was produced, common and used from the late 18th Century into the 3rd quarter of the 19th.

The Albany maker, George Kilbourn had this address from 1850 to 1857.





PREMIUM BASS AND SNARE
DRUMS,
TAMBOURINES & BANJOS,
MADE AND REPAIRED BY
GEORGE KILBOURN,
119 ORANGE STREET,
ALBANY, N. Y.

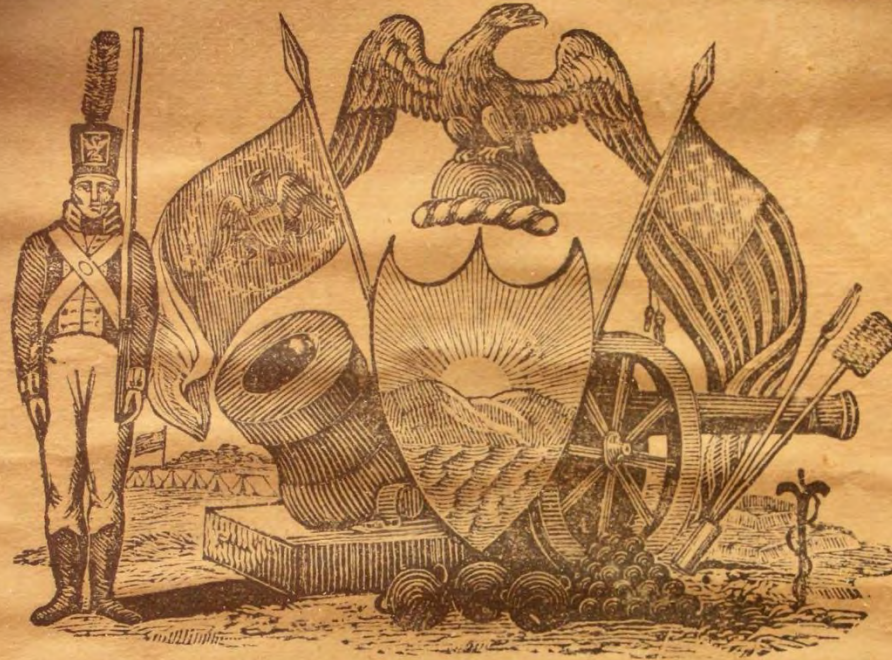
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United States Artillery circa 1825 - 1835

Based on the style of the painted eagle and early printed Brighthurst label, this may be the oldest existing Regular Army artillery drum.







DRUMS, FIFES,
IMENTAL COLORS, TAMBORINES,
 &c., MADE AN REPAIRED BY
OMAS BRINGHURST
GERMANTOWN
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, PENN.

United States Marine Corp

This is one of two known pre Civil War examples. It has no label, but compare the tack design to the previous example by Bringhurst.

D. Troiani collection.





Commonwealth of Pennsylvania circa 1825 - 1845

This rare example of a pre Civil War State drum was manufactured by William Ent, another Germantown craftsman. Ent appears to follow the Bringhurst tack design.









Drums, Fifes,
REGIMENTAL COLOURS,
TAMBORINES, &C.

MADE AND REPAIRED BY
WILLIAM ENT,
GERMANTOWN.

A New Jersey State Drum circa 1856

One of only two known examples with the New Jersey State seal, this was made for Company A, City Battalion of Newark. Manufactured by William Hall & Son Broadway NY.









WM. HALL & SON,

239 BROADWAY,

Opposite the Park,

NEW-YORK.

PIANO FORTES, GUITARS,

MUSIC,

BAND INSTRUMENTS, &c. &c.

Regulation Pattern Eagle circa 1850 - 1860

A near mint condition drum showing the pattern eagle used during the Civil War period. It lacks a label, but shows a known tack pattern design.





The 1st Minnesota Infantry

A State Pattern Eagle with Painted Motto

A wonderful example showing additional art work (as well as carvings in the wood) of the campaigns of the Regiment. The drum of Henry Fifield, Drum Major of the Regiment.







58th Massachusetts Infantry Company F

A fine example, by Rogers, with his label and tack design. In addition to the proper ribbon markings, the Company F letter was added to the design.









MANUFACTURED

BY

A. ROGERS

FLUSHING, L. I.

Civil War Infantry

An example of Vogt's late Civil War contract drums. This and other examples became surplus, and were used by various musical organizations.





Variation of the Eagle Civil War Period

An example of the numerous variations found in the 1850 period through the Civil War. It has no label but shows a familiar tack pattern.





An “Actual” Barrel Bass State of New York marking War of 1812 period

This example, made by a cooper was constructed as one would make a barrel.

Likely made in a rural part of New York, it was found near Erie Pennsylvania. It shows the New York design, as found on State uniform buttons.



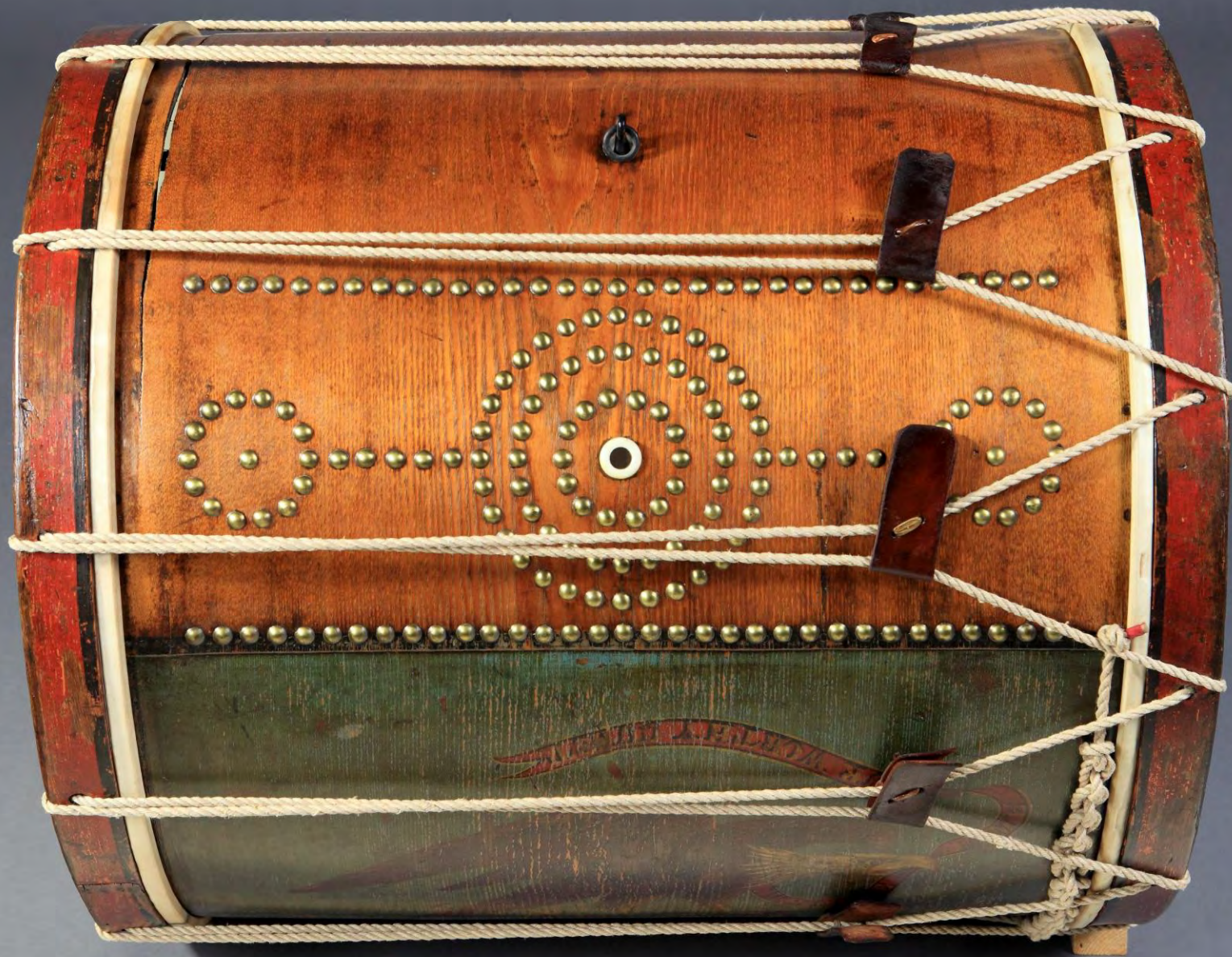




“The Lafayette Drum” 1824

This magnificent bass drum was manufactured by John W. Slater, of Germantown. His handwritten label is dated 1824. Note the “Welcome” message in the scroll work. One of two examples with a Lafayette connection.





An American Eagle circa 1832 to 1849

This extremely attractive example has the militia association noted in the ribbon. This allows one to determine the period of its initial use. A printed label and modification of the tacks, based on the size, enables one to identify the maker.







DRUMS

Reg't. C. 11th Reg't.

TAM. DRUMS. &c.



MADE AND REPAIRED BY

THOMAS BRINGHURST

GERMANTOWN

Philadelphia Com



Mexican War Trophy Brass European Construction

This example is one of a number of items deaccessioned from the Connecticut Historical Society. The construction, snare holder, and crest attachment is found on drums throughout Western Europe. Provided as an example of a metal body drum.







Thank You!

Questions?