

TEWKSBURY GAZETTE

TEWKSBURY'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

Honoring Tewksbury's Civil War Veteran

General Adelbert Ames

Civil War: Medal of Honor Recipient
Governor, Senator and Businessman



General Adelbert Ames (As Governor of Mississippi)

Portrait in oils. Painted by Blanche Ames Ames in 1933 at the request of her mother, Blanch Butler Ames. This portrait hung over the fireplace in their home and above it Mrs. Ames placed his service sword and the gift sword from the Twentieth Maine Regiment, together with his epaulets and sash. A copy of this portrait, also by the author, and painted at the request of the Mississippi Legislature, hangs in the Hall of Fame at the State Capitol, Jackson, Mississippi.

From: *Adelbert Ames, 1835-1933*, by Blanche Ames Ames, 1964

Much has been written about Civil War, Medal of Honor recipient Brigadier General Adelbert Ames, who purchased 700 acres on Tewksbury's Prospect Hill and built the Tewksbury famed 'Castle' in 1906.

Below is a very brief story about his life. For a detailed look, we suggest a book written by Ames' daughter Blanche: *Adelbert Ames, 1835-1933*, by Blanche Ames Ames, 1964, New York : Argosy-Antiquarian, in which she describes his successes in the Civil War, politics in the Mississippi, life in Tewksbury and beyond.

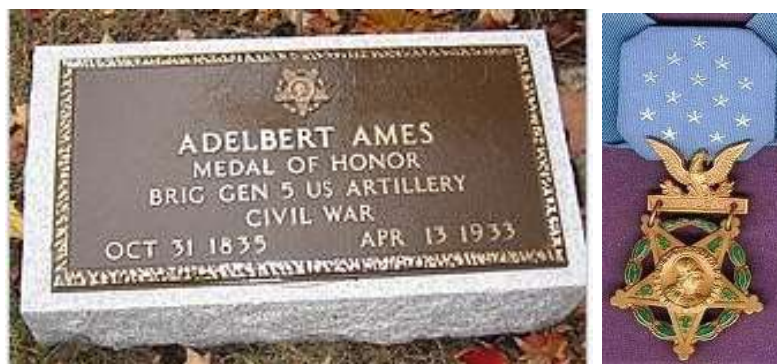
The focus here is also on a sketch map from 1907, from an online collection of Adelbert's son, Butler Ames, who resided in the 'Castle' around the 1950's.

The sketch map from 1907 shows us a snapshot in time, before the advent of the automobile in Tewksbury, of our Center, Main Street, North Street and Kendall Road, the railroad and trolley lines and even Patten's greenhouses. Directions to the Gen. Ames' residence from the Center are written to provide travel methods by carriage and by foot.

Adelbert Ames (October 31, 1835 - April 13, 1933) was born in 1835 in the town of Rockland located in Knox County, Maine. Due to his father having a clipper ship, he was presumed to grow up to be a sailor, and he served briefly as a merchant seaman on his father's ship.

However, Adelbert had other ideas about his future and on July 1, 1856, he entered the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York; graduating 5 years later in 1861.

Ames was immediately commissioned and assigned to the 5th U.S. Artillery of the Union Army at the beginnings of the American Civil War. During the Battle of First Bull Run that July, Ames was seriously wounded in the right thigh but refused to leave his guns. He was brevetted to the rank of major on July 21 for his actions at Manassas. In 1893, Ames received the Medal of Honor for his performance there.



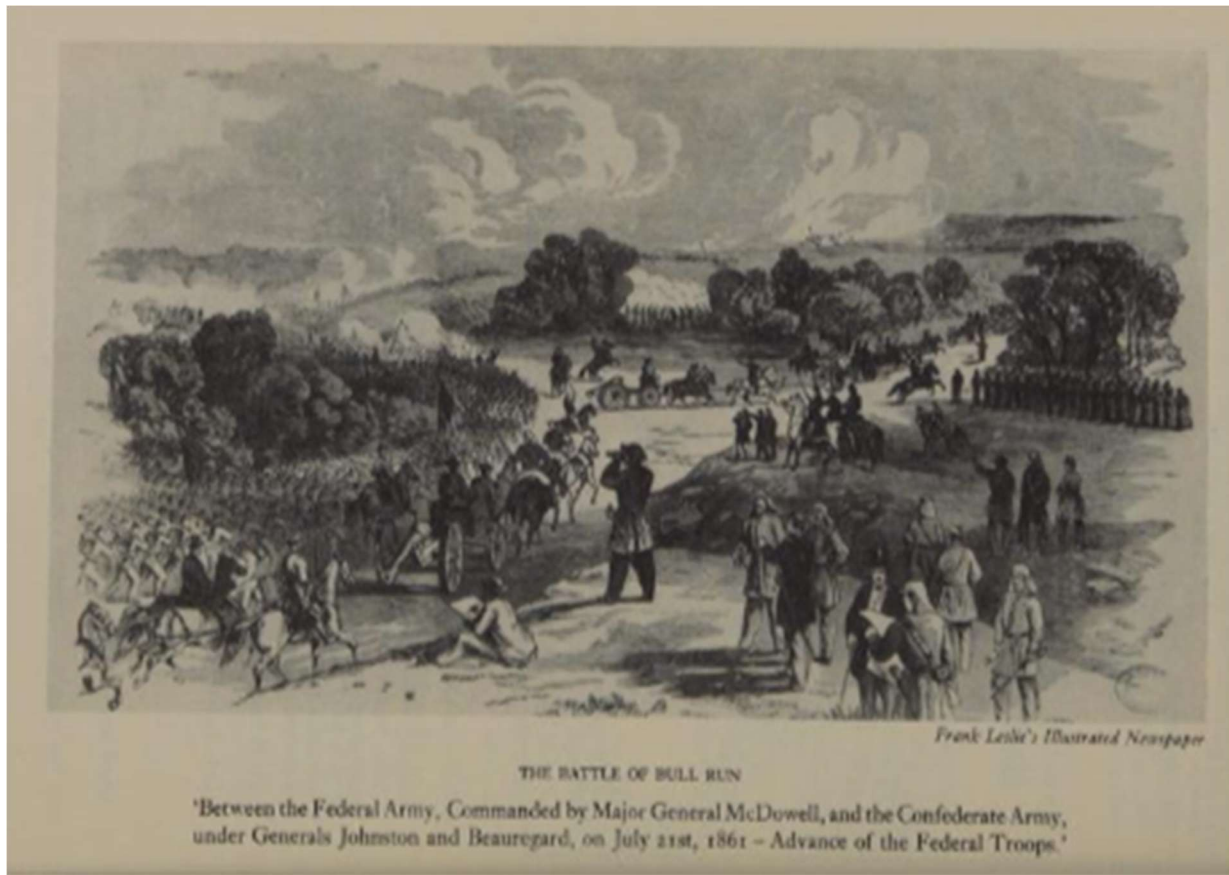
The Medal of Honor plaque at Ames' grave at the Hildreth family cemetery in Lowell, Massachusetts

Medal of Honor Action Date: July 21, 1861

Medal of Honor Action Place: Bull Run, Virginia, USA

Citation:

Remained upon the field in command of a section of Griffin's Battery, directing its fire after being severely wounded and refusing to leave the field until too weak to sit upon the caisson where he had been placed by men of his command.



After the Civil War, Ames became involved in federal Reconstruction efforts.

In 1868, he was appointed the provisional Governor of Mississippi. Ames proved sympathetic to the plight of African Americans in the south. He sought to protect Black civil rights and appointed Mississippi's first African American public officials.

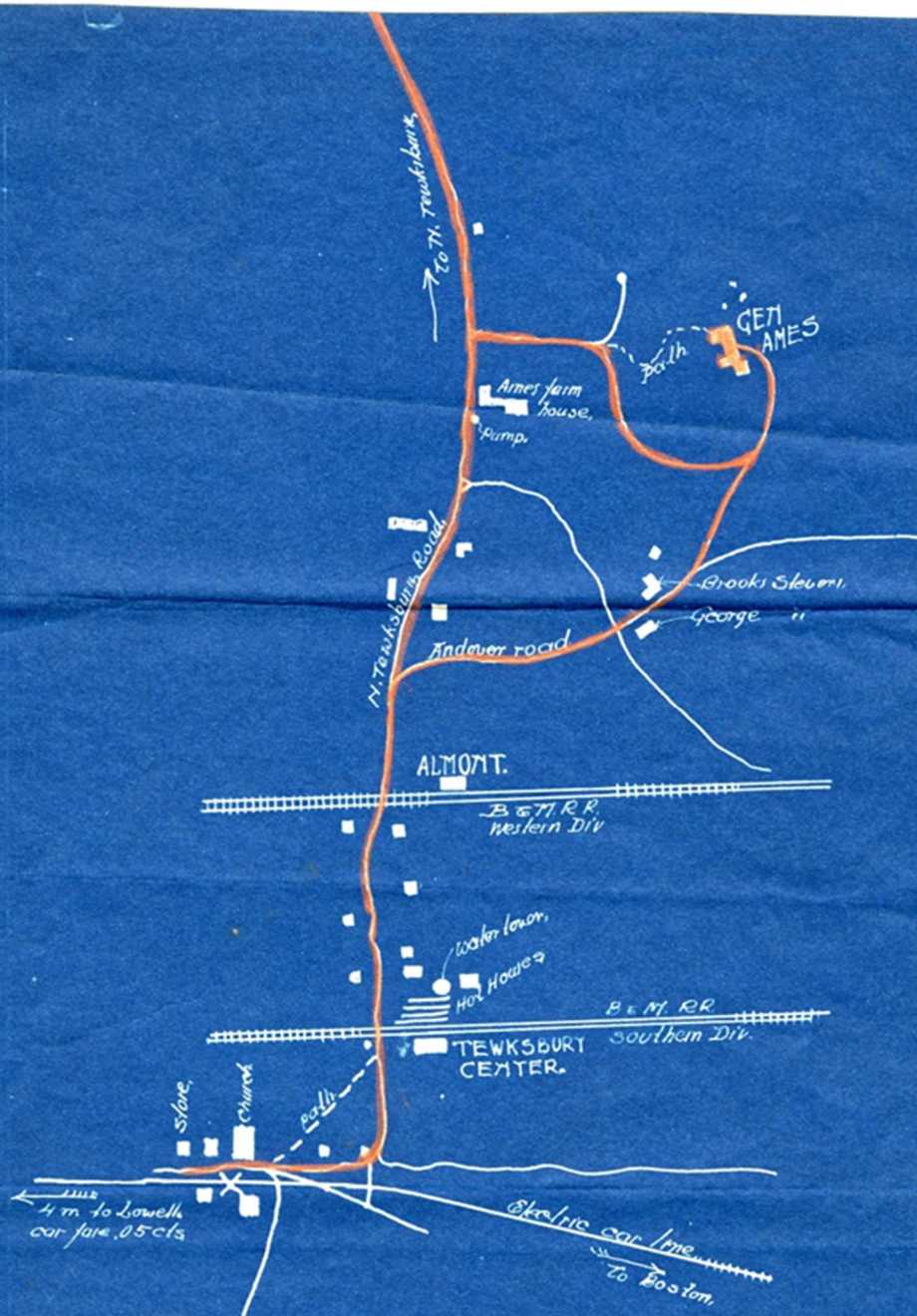
In 1870, after Mississippi was readmitted into the Union, Ames ran for U.S. Senator for the state as a Republican and won. Ames served as Senator from February 1870 to January 1874, achieving the reputation as a strong public speaker.

While serving as a Senator in Washington, D.C., Ames met and married Blanche Butler, daughter of Union General Benjamin F. Butler of Lowell, MA, under whom Ames had served during the war. Ames and his wife had six children. Ames also served as Governor of Mississippi from 1874 to 1876.

After leaving office, Ames briefly joined his father and brother in their flour mill business in Minnesota. He later in 1889 was appointed Brigadier General of Volunteers in the Spanish American War and fought in Cuba.

Several years later, he and his wife would come to Lowell, MA, home of his father-in-law, and settle in Tewksbury, on what was called 'Prospect Hill', now 'Ames Hill,' where in 1906, they built the 'Castle.'

At the time of his death, in 1933 at 97, at his winter home in Florida, Ames was the last surviving full-rank General who had served in the Civil War.



Sketch plan showing road to Gen Ames Residence,
Prospect Hill, Tewksbury.

W. A. MACK CO

Office of
Milford F. Davis,
Arch't.
Lowell, Mass.
1907.

Notes:
To reach house by carriage
take the Andover road. if one
walks take N. Tewksbury road as
far as Ames farm house and take
the path through the woods.
Walking time from Tewksbury
30 minutes. Almost 20 minutes.
House can generally be seen
from the road, nearly all the way.
height of house above village 198 ft.

1907 sketch of Tewksbury Town Center to North Street and
'GEN AMES' site of the Castle.

Notes on the sketch are:

- Sketch plan showing road to Gen. Ames Residence, Prospect Hill, Tewksbury
- On the bottom right side there are Notes:
"To reach house by carriage take the Andover Road (today's Kendall Road.) If one walks take the N. Tewksbury road (today's North St.) as far as Ames farm house and take the path through the woods. Walking time from Tewksbury 30 minutes, Almont 20 minutes. House can generally be seen from the road, nearly all the way, height of house above village 198 ft."
- Office of Willard F. Davis, Archt. Lowell Mass, 1907

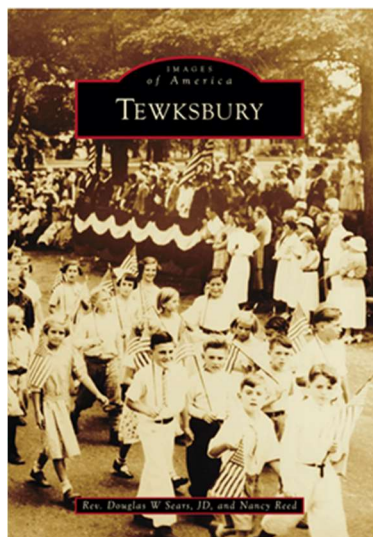
Sites noted on the plan:

- Original 'Ames farm house' on North Street
- 'GEN AMES' site of the Castle
- Almont Station, off North Street on the B & M RR, Western Div.
- The 'water tower' and 'Hot houses' (former Patten & Sons Florists on North Street)
- Tewksbury Center Station off North Street on the B & M RR, Southern Div.
- In Town Center, one can see 'store,' a building that would have been the Town Hall and then the 'Church,' which is the Congregational Church. The church and town hall both burned down in 1918. The church was rebuilt in 1922, and the new Town Hall was built in its current location in 1920.
- From the center 'to Boston' it is noted as an 'electric car line', from center to Lowell is noted '4 m to Lowell, car fare .05 cts.'
- Brooks Stevens home site on Kendall Road, his wife was Edith Ames Stevens (1873-1958), the youngest daughter of General Ames.

Highlighted sites noted above and more, including interiors of the Castle are pictured in:

Images of America, Tewksbury

- released in June of 2025, by authors: Rev. Douglas W. Sears, JD and Nancy Reed



These books are available from the Tewksbury Historical Society, where we receive profits from the sales.

Book Price: \$24.99 (Cash or Check to the Society)

Please Contact:

vpres@tewksburyhistoricalsociety.org
- to order this book from the Society!

Or - The book is also available from major retail booksellers of your choice.

**Our new book includes Tewksbury images
from our collection from the
late 1800s to the 1970s.**

Adelbert Ames article resources:

Adelbert Ames, 1835-1933, by Blanche Ames Ames, 1964, New York : Argosy-Antiquarian
Adelbert Ames - Wikipedia
Adelbert Ames | U.S. Civil War | U.S. Army | Medal of Honor Recipient
Ames, Adelbert, 1835-1933 | FromThePage
bamesresidence_018.jpg (4689×7175)

To view a video presentation of the life and times of **Adelbert Ames**, visit the Tewksbury Historical Society website's Digital Collection, video listing at **tewksburyhistoricalsociety.org**:

Tewksbury Interviews – General Adelbert Ames, Keith Rauseo, April 29, 2004,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZlrjIMyfkU>

Tewksbury Historical Society
P.O. Box 522
Tewksbury MA 01876
MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose for which the Society is organized is to act as a repository for Tewksbury history. It shall maintain any property entrusted to it and collect, preserve and interpret items of historical and traditional significance. The Society shall encourage research and involvement in these efforts by its members and the community at large. The Society shall sponsor history-based activities in the town on a regular basis. In so doing, it shall promote a better understanding of history as an important factor in the everyday affairs of the Town of Tewksbury and its residents.

Headquartered in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, the *Tewksbury Historical Society* was founded in 1993 as a 501.C.3, tax-exempt **non-profit**.

TEWKSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors:

President: Douglas W. Sears, Esq. Cell: (978)-376-7390
Vice Pres. & Tres.: Nancy Reed email: vpres@tewksburyhistoricalsociety.org
Secretary: Matthew Ducey
Corresponding Secretary : Rick Cummings
Rita O'Brien– Dee
Karen Favreau
Brian Cortez
Luann O'Keefe
Patricia Stratis
William Wyatt

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The Tewksbury Historical Society is an IRS 501 (c) (3), not-for-profit corporation, founded in 1993.

Board of Directors and Members serve as volunteers.

All Donations and Membership dues go directly to maintaining the Society's collections, archive materials, storage costs, postage and stationery.

For information about Membership, please visit our website or contact a Board member listed on the left.

TEWKSBURYPHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/TEWKSBURYPHISTORICALSOCIETY