



Clinton County's former Historian, Addie Shields' grandfather was born Louis Dupuis, a French-Canadian of Acadian Descent. In the 1830s, his parents had walked from St-Jacques-l'Achigan, Quebec, north of Montreal, and then up Lake Champlain on the ice to work in the woods in Beekmantown. His father, Louis, dragged a pung carrying their two small daughters and all their possessions. His mother, Agathe, carried his 3-month old brother, Joseph, in a deerhide sling on her back.

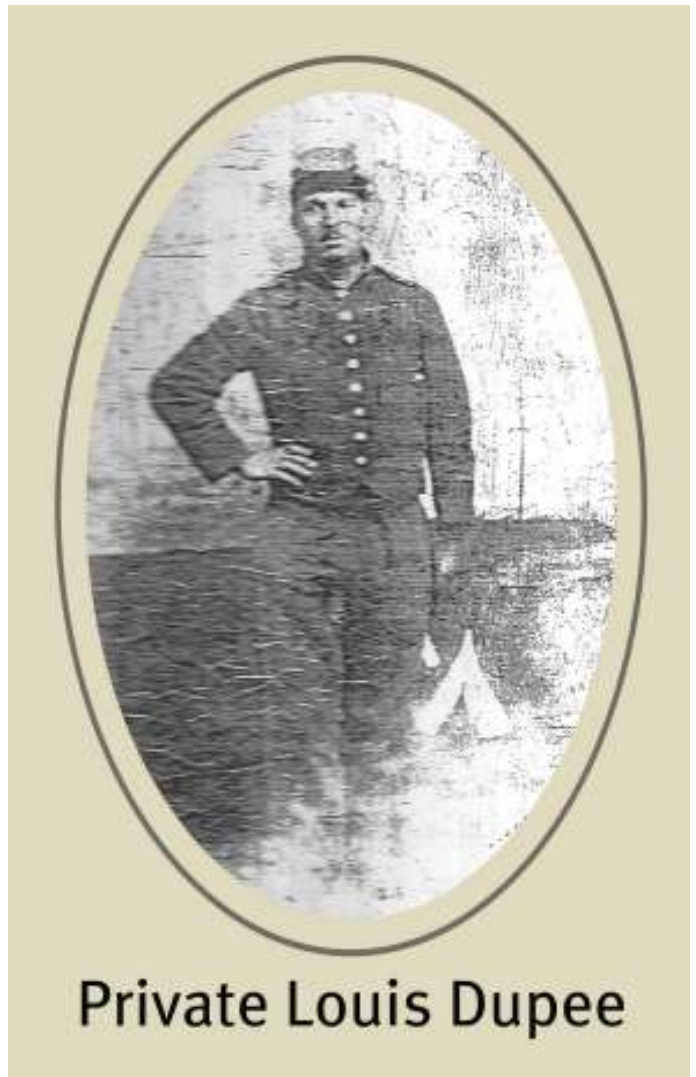
Louis was nineteen when President Lincoln declared war on the South in April of 1861. There was a great demand for hemlock bark for the tanning of hides to provide leather for the feet of men marching in the army and Lewis was working in the woods. The war had been going on for one year before Louis enlisted in the 16th NY Infantry Volunteers, on August 19, 1862, at 21 years old.

He traveled by train from East Beekmantown to Plattsburgh to enlist in the Union Army in the Great Civil War. All recruits went south out of Plattsburgh by boat, as there was no train south out of Plattsburgh at that time.

Young Louis served in the Battles of Antietam and Fredericksburg. On May 5 of 1864, he was wounded, hospitalized and furloughed home to his father on the Atwood Farm in Chazy, where Dr.

Honsinger dressed his shoulder wound. In late summer he returned to the army and served until being mustered out with an honorable discharge at Halls Hills, VA, on June 25, 1865. The US Army scribe, not having the knowledge of French phonetics, Americanized his name to Lewis Dupee.

The Roman Catholic priest at St. Peter's in Plattsburgh still wrote his name in the French way as Louis Dupuis. In 1867, after the Great War was over, he was listed Louis in the parish census as a soldat or soldier, working with his family at the seasonal camp at Port Jackson, below Plattsburgh, loading canal boats with wood.



Private Louis Dupee



East Beekmantown Station