



Col. Joseph Howland

Civil War Union Brevet Brigadier General **Joseph Howland** was a fourth great-grandson of Mayflower passengers **John** and **Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland**, and the son of **Samuel Shaw Howland** and **Joanna Esther Hone**. He was born to a wealthy and influential family.

At the beginning of the Civil War he joined the 16th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment, and was soon appointed its colonel. He led his regiment in the Seven Days Battle (Oak Grove, Beaver Dam Creek, Gaines' Mill, Garnett's and Golding's Farm, Savage's Station, Glendale, and Malvern Hill) of June 27, 1862-July 1, 1862.

Joseph was wounded in the leg during the battle, he insisted upon staying with his men rather than remaining in the field hospital. For his gallantry and coolness under fire he was appointed a Brevet Brigadier General of Volunteers. His wound was serious enough that after the battle he could no longer remain in active service, thus he resigned

his command.

Post-war, he became Treasurer of the State of New York, helped establish Cornell University, and a hospital for the humane treatment of the mentally ill. He assisted in the building of Highland Hospital, several churches, and a public library located in Beacon, Dutchess County, New York that bears name.



In May 1862, Mrs. Howland thought she was doing her husband's men a favor when she sent white straw hats down from Albany about a month before the battle at Gaines' Mill. They were proud of the hats and they gave the men respite from the summer heat and a distinctive appearance. When

the battle started, the men's "distinctive appearance" made them easy targets for the Southern sharpshooters. By the time the battle was over, most of the hats were gone - some were thrown away but most because their owners were killed or wounded - 228 men were casualties.



Eliza Newton Woolsey Howland