

EMIL BOTT

Civil War Soldier & Artist

Presented by Linda Cunningham Fluharty.



July 24, 1827 - February 16, 1908

Western Pennsylvania resident was a Civil War artist, a West Virginia soldier and a renowned landscape artist.



This government marker was obtained by Linda Fluharty and placed on his grave in December 2001. The date on the marker is the birthdate stated by Bott in his application for a government pension.



Emil Bott was born in Frankfort am Main, Hesse, Germany, July 24, 1825, according to the birth date he stated in his Civil War pension application. However, a baptismal record is found that indicates he was likely Franz Eduard Emil Bott, born July 24, 1827, baptized August 12, 1827, and the son of Ludwig Christian Bott (1785-1856) and Juliane Elisabeth Delparte (1792-1864).

When I created this webpage 25 years ago, there was essentially nothing online about Emil Bott. Over the years, a number of art galleries, historical societies, museums, and libraries contacted me and were glad to find out more about the artist. Still, there is an abundance of misinformation online about Emil Bott.



German-born Emil Bott, a Western Pennsylvania resident, was an important artist in the 19th Century. He painted landscapes and portraits, he decorated steamboat cabins with original scenes he painted in oil, and he did pencil drawings and lithographs that were published in books and magazines.

During the Civil War, Bott was a commissioned officer in the First West Virginia Light Artillery regiment. Although his service was brief, the drawings he did during the war are treasured artifacts, including the pencil drawing of the First West Virginia Infantry soldiers presented in this book.

Bott's work as an artist did not provide a lucrative income. In his old age, his application for a government pension was denied. He died destitute in the county poorhouse and was buried in an unmarked grave.

This book is about Emil Bott, and it also contains biographies of each of the six soldiers pictured in the pencil drawing.



EMIL BOTT ARTIST & CIVIL WAR SOLDIER Linda Cunningham Fluharty

EMIL BOTT ARTIST & CIVIL WAR SOLDIER

*A Pencil Drawing of
First West Virginia Infantry Soldiers*



Linda Cunningham Fluharty

JULY 2026: I DID THIS NON-PROFIT BOOK ABOUT EMIL BOTT
AND THE FIRST WEST VIRGINIA INFANTRY SOLDIERS IN THE PENCIL DRAWING.

PROVENANCE OF THE PENCIL DRAWING

The pencil drawing, pictured here, is now owned by this writer. It was in the possession of Charles J. Rawling, one of the soldiers in the drawing, for some period of time. It is known that Charles E. Dague acquired the drawing from Charles J. Rawling, along with a copy of the First West Virginia Infantry regimental history book that was compiled by Rawling. Charles Dague's family members had the drawing in their possession for approximately 110 years, as of 2026.

At first glance, it seemed that the logical person to take possession of the drawing when it was completed was the quartermaster of the First West Virginia Infantry, William Thomas Singleton. He was the senior person of the six men in the drawing. Singleton died in 1871, just six years after the war. Did he have the drawing at the time of his death, and did Charles J. Rawling later acquire it?

Perhaps Charles J. Rawling originally got the drawing from Bott when it was completed. Of course, it's possible that Bott didn't give it to anyone. Maybe he gave it to Rawling at some point after the war. It's merely a guess,

but the names of the soldiers were probably written at the bottom of the drawing by Rawling. The handwriting is not that of Emil Bott.

Another of many possible scenarios, is that Rawling was a pharmacist in Wheeling and Emil Bott's brother-in-law, Adolph Bocking, was also a pharmacist in Wheeling. Surely, the two men knew each other. According to the biography of Bocking, presented earlier, he displayed some of Bott's art in his pharmacy.....

Charles J. Rawling died in 1911, and his wife in August 1915. Rawling might have known Charles Dague, and Dague acquired the drawing directly from him. In his will, Rawling bequeathed everything to his widow. When she died, her will details more than thirty paintings and art that her son had done before he died in 1902. The Bott drawing is not mentioned, but it seems possible that some family items were sold, or given away, after the death of Rawling or his wife, at which time, Charles Dague might have acquired the drawing and the regimental history book. Mrs. Rawling died 110 years ago, as of this writing in April 2026, the same number of years that the drawing was owned by Charles Dague's family.