

British and American Awards to the American Second Grinnell Arctic Expedition of 1853-55

by Glenn M. Stein, FRGS
copyright 2010, 2012, 2016 & 2023

Originally published in the OMRS *Journal* (March 2012, Vol. 51, No. 1),

The aim of these writings is to draw a clearer picture of the men of the Second Grinnell Expedition 1853-55, and their awards of the Sea Gallantry Medal (Foreign Services) (SGM (FS)), Arctic Medal 1818-1855 and associated American medals, issued for venturing into the Frozen Zone during the search for Sir John Franklin and his lost comrades.

The Second Grinnell Expedition 1853-55 and the Kane Search Expedition 1855

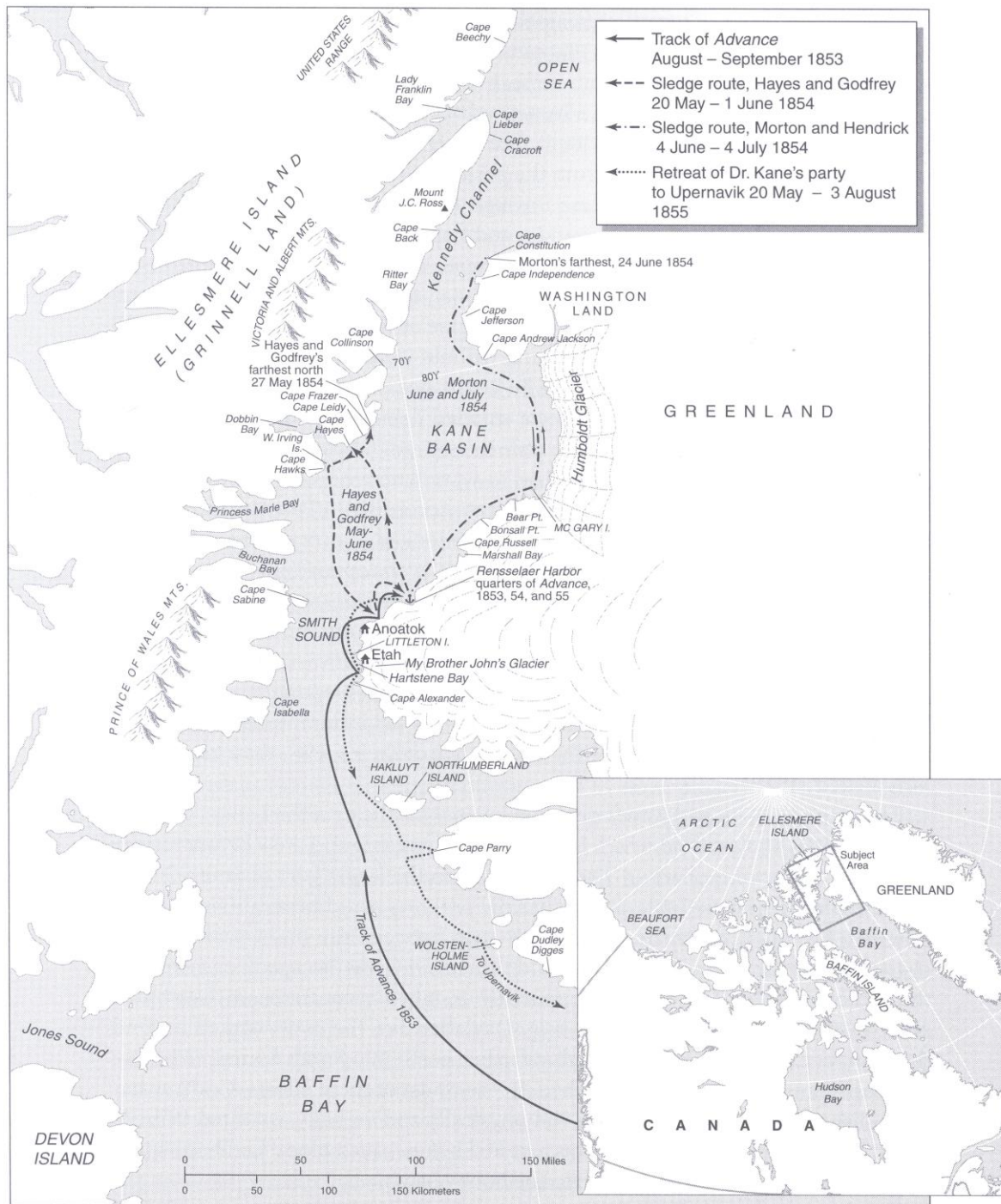
On 30 May 1853, the brig *Advance* left New York under the command of Dr. Elisha Kent Kane. This was the second American Franklin Search expedition mainly sponsored by businessmen Henry Grinnell. Kane was to push as far north into Baffin Bay as possible, to search for Franklin, carry out scientific investigations, and attempt to prove the Open Polar Sea theory (a supposed ice-free Arctic Ocean).

The *Advance* sailed through Smith Sound and discovered the broad basin later named Kane Basin. Putting into Rensselaer Harbour, on the north-west coast of Greenland, from here several boat and sledge parties in the autumn explored the coastline and laid down depots for the next spring. In the spring and summer of 1854, sledge parties traced the Greenland coast northward and crossed Smith Sound and explored the east coast of Ellesmere Land (later found to be an island). During this time, Kennedy Channel was discovered at the northern end of Kane Basin.

Fearing the *Advance* could not break free of the ice upon the approach of winter, from July to August Kane led a party to seek relief from Belcher's Franklin search squadron believed to be in Lancaster Sound, but failed and returned to the ship. Then Dr. Hayes led a party from August to December in an attempt to reach Upernivik, but also failed and returned. There was great hardship, sickness and a shortage of provisions during the winter.

In May 1855, Kane and his men set out to reach Upernivik by boat and sledge. During this retreat, the Inuit assisted with food and transportation, and the party reached their destination in August. Continuing further south by ship they reached Godhavn in September. The expedition's main achievements were the discovery and mapping of the Kane Basin and Kennedy Channel, routes used by later expeditions toward the Arctic Ocean and North Pole.

Meanwhile, in February 1855 the US Congress authorized a naval relief expedition to search for Kane; commanded by Lieutenant Henry J. Hartstene (whose surname appears in sources as "Hartstein," "Harstene" and other variations; for consistency, "Hartstene" is used here) the USSs *Release* and *Arctic* departed New York that June. Onboard the *Arctic* was Passed Assistant Surgeon John K. Kane Jr., Elisha's brother



Map of the Second Grinnell Expedition 1853-55 (courtesy of Douglas W. Wamsley, Esq.)

After a difficult passage through Melville Bay on the way to Baffin Bay, the ships reached to just a short distance from where the *Advance* lay abandoned before being stopped by ice. The expedition turned back and met up with Inuit who had seen Kane and his men and informed Hartstene that Kane was heading south. Still suspecting Kane may have tried to enter Lancaster

Sound and seek provisions at Beechey Island, Hartstene sailed to the western side of Baffin Bay, but the *Release* and *Arctic* were unable to enter the sound. Returning to the Greenland shore, Hartstene eventually caught up with Kane's party at Godhavn in mid-September and afterwards departed for New York.



“Farewell,” by Albert Operti, shows Kane and party abandoning the *Advance*. (Kersting, 1902)

Background of the research

The author's research into the SGM (FS) to Kane and his men began in 1990 and was undertaken in order to compile a roll to deal with the confusion and omissions regarding recipients' names and ranks/rates. This research is based on comparing and collating information from a number of sources, and the resulting constructed roll represents the most accurate assessment to date of the recipients' identities.

Sea Gallantry Medal (Foreign Services)

In his 29 December 1855 letter to John F. Crampton, HM's Minister in Washington, DC, Kane sent a list of his officers and men per Crampton's request, noting that Olsen, Schubert and Baker were dead (“Copy,” FO 5/624, The National Archives (TNA)). The following day, Crampton wrote Lord Clarendon, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, informing him that Kane had transmitted the list, but:

[Kane] *has not however in any way indicated what would be the most acceptable form in which the testimony might be conveyed to the crew ... I imagine that medals bearing appropriate inscriptions & the names of the men would be looked upon as the most flattering way in which acknowledgment could be made.* (“Private,” FO 5/624)

In his list, Kane inexplicably noted seaman George Reilly as the Third Officer. Including Kane’s gold medal (with a specially struck reverse), a total nine gold and nine silver medals were struck in January 1856, so there is every appearance that a gold medal for Reilly was struck in error. The list of medals is in FO 96/140, with the following names intended for the edges:

Gold	Silver
Henry Books U.S.N.	William Morton
James Mc Geary	George Stephenson
John Wall Wilson	George Whipple
George Reilly	William Godfrey
Isaac I. Hayes	John Huzzy
August Sonntag	Thomas Hickey
Amos Bonsall	Christian Olsen
Henry Goodfellow	Peter Schubert
	Jefferson Temple Baker

The extant medals for Hayes, Godfrey, Goodfellow and Baker are named exactly as they appear above (based on Kane’s list).

At the same time the medals were prepared, a silver cup (vase) for Grinnell was purchased from the London firm of Garrard at a total cost of £217 6s (cup – £210; engraving inscription – £1 18s; case - £5 8s). The inscription reads:

Presented by the British Government, as a token of their sincere gratitude and esteem, to Henry Grinnell of New York, through whose exertions and munificence the American Arctic Expedition in search of Sir John Franklin and the Officers and Crews of Her Britannic Majesty’s Ships “Erebus” and “Terror” was undertaken and carried into execution between the year 1850 and 1855. [FO 96/140]

A silver tea service and waiter (tray/salver) for Kane was also purchased from Garrard for Kane, at a total cost of £191 3s (tea service and waiter – £181 5s; engraving inscription – £3 6s; case – £6 12s). The inscription reads:

Presented by the British Government to Elisha Kent Kane M.D. of the United States’ Navy, as a token of sincere gratitude for his gallant and generous exertions in command of the American

Arctic Expedition dispatched to afford assistance to Sir John Franklin and the Officers and Crews of Her Britannic Majesty's Ships "Erebus" and "Terror" was undertaken and carried into execution between the year 1850 and 1855. [FO 96/140]

At a cost of £9, the medals, cup and tea service and waiter were sent to Crampton on 9 February 1856 aboard a mail packet from Liverpool, the receipt of which was acknowledged by him on 31 March.

A photograph of the cup was part of the US Navy's Bureau of Navigation display during the 1876 US Centennial Exhibition. The display featured a considerable number of artefacts and documents related to both American and British polar expeditions, including Franklin relics brought back by American Charles Francis Hall during the 1860s.

The special SGM (FS) differs in some respects from the 33 mm Small Medal and 45 mm Large Medal. The diameter is one millimetre smaller than the Small Medal, and "L.C. WYON." appears diagonally *below* the bust, as opposed to on the bottom edge of the bust.



The SGM (FS) in gold to Henry Goodfellow. (Goodfellow family)

Obverse: The young head of Queen Victoria, with "VICTORIA D:G: BRITANNIARUM REGINA F:D:" around the perimeter.

Reverses:

(1) Kane's was unique: central wording within a wreath, surmounted by a crown: "THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO ELISHA KENT KANE M.D. OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY, COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN ARCTIC EXPEDITION". Outside the wreath on the perimeter: "AS A TOKEN OF ADMIRATION AND GRATITUDE."

(2) All other medals: central wording within a wreath, surmounted by a crown: "THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO THE OFFICERS & MEN ENGAGED IN THE AMERICAN ARCTIC EXPEDITION". Outside the wreath on the perimeter: "AS A TOKEN OF GRATITUDE FOR THEIR GENEROUS SERVICES."

Diameter: 32 mm

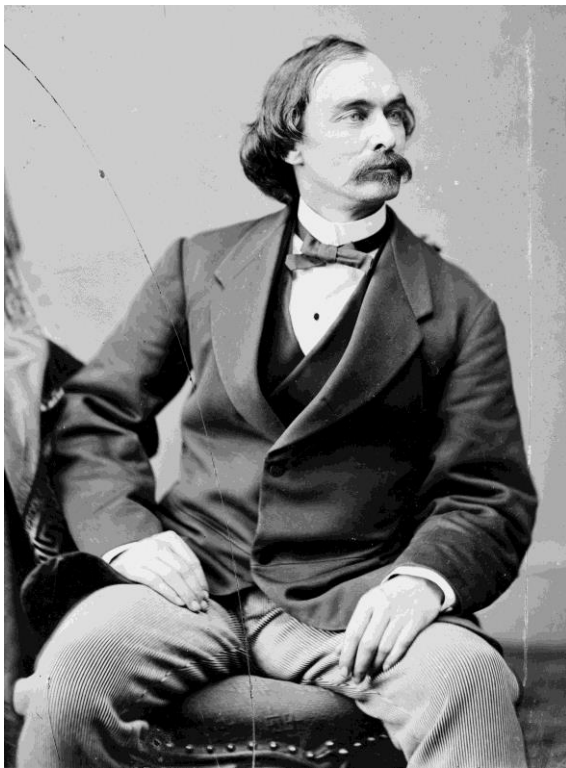
Suspension: none

Naming: engraved

Designer: Leonard C. Wyon

Manufacturer: Royal Mint

Notes: Issued in a morocco case. An unnamed silver specimen exists in the British Museum (accession number M.6442). A named silver example is listed in Irwin's *War Medals and Decorations* (1899), but the recipient is not identified.



Isaac Israel Hayes (circa 1860-75), by Matthew B. Brady

SGM (FS) Gold Medal Recipients

- 1) Dr. Elisha Kent Kane (1820-57) –
Expedition Leader (Passed Assistant Surgeon, USN)

Recipient of the privately issued Grinnell Medal for First Grinnell Expedition, 1850-51 (Passed Assistant Surgeon, USN/*Advance*), RGS Founder's Medal (1856), and Gold Medal of the Geographical Society of Paris (1858).

Born in Philadelphia, Kane studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and afterwards entered the Navy. In 1843 he attended Caleb Cushing's first diplomatic mission to China, sailed to the Philippines and western Africa, and then had distinguished service in the Mexican-American War. Kane is best known for his two expeditions to the Arctic, 1850-51 and 1853-55, and died while attempting to organize a third Arctic voyage. Published *Arctic Explorations in the Years 1853, '54, '55* (1856).

- 2) Henry Brooks - First Officer (Boatswain, USN)

Recipient of the privately issued Grinnell Medal for the First Grinnell Expedition, 1850-51 (Boatswain, USN and Second Officer/*Rescue*)

- 3) James McGary/McGeary (*circa* 1821-57) – Second Officer and Ice Master

An experienced whaler out of New London, Connecticut. Died suddenly of congestion of the brain in Boston, Massachusetts on 2 September 1857, and was buried with Masonic honours (*The New York Times* reported that he died in New London).

- 4) John Wall Wilson (1832-1900) - Sailing Master

Graduated from the Naval Academy at Annapolis and entered the USN. Serving throughout the Civil War, he took part in the capture of New Orleans, and was twice cited and promoted for gallantry. Resigned from the Navy in 1865, but at some point appears to have also been a captain in the US Revenue Service. Stated to have declined a British knighthood when offered to him. Died in Brooklyn, New York.

- 5) Dr. Isaac Israel Hayes (1832-81) - Medical Officer

Medal named ISAAC I. HAYES. Stanley Gibbons Currency Ltd, List 27, *circa* 1979; Bowers and Merena, 1985, accompanied by a 7 5/8 x 5 1/16 inch yellow bronze portrait shell plaque of Hayes, facing left, wearing the uniform of a military surgeon, his shoulders wrapped in fur, with Hayes's name below (no designer's name); RGS Patron's Medal (1867) and Gold Medal of the Geographical Society of Paris (1869).

Born in Chester County, Pennsylvania. After completing his medical studies at the University of Pennsylvania, Hayes signed on to the Second Grinnell Expedition. Led his own Arctic expedition in 1860-61 onboard the schooner *United States*. Returning to the US in 1861, he

claimed to have seen the Open Polar Sea reported by Kane in 1855, but the Civil War preoccupied Americans and lessened interest in his expedition. During the Civil War, Hayes commanded Satterlee Hospital, a 4,500-bed Union Army hospital in Philadelphia. From July-October 1869, Hayes was a guide and guest onboard the *Panther*, during a private expedition to paint and photograph along the west coast of Greenland.



Bonsall, Brooks, Kane, Hayes and Morton (Kane, 1856)

6) Augustus/August Sontag/Sonntag (1832-60) – Astronomer

His name appears as “Augustus Sonntag” in many sources, and this appears to be correct.

From about 1848 until around 1852 Sonntag was an aide at the observatory of Altona, Duchy of Holstein (now northern Germany). In late 1852, or early the following year, Sonntag emigrated to America. After returning from the Arctic, in 1856 he went to Mexico with the scientific expedition of Baron Muller and climbed the 17,887-foot Mount Popocatepetl.

Published *Professor Sonntag’s Thrilling Narrative of the Grinnell Exploring Expedition to the Arctic Ocean, in the Years 1853, 1854, and 1855, in Search of Sir John Franklin, under the Command of Dr. E. K. Kane, U.S.N.* (1857).

Sonntag was second-in-command and Astronomer during the 1860-61 North Pole expedition led by Isaac I. Hayes in the *United States*. Travelling with Hans Hendrik near Cape York in January 1861, Sonntag fell through the ice and died shortly afterward.

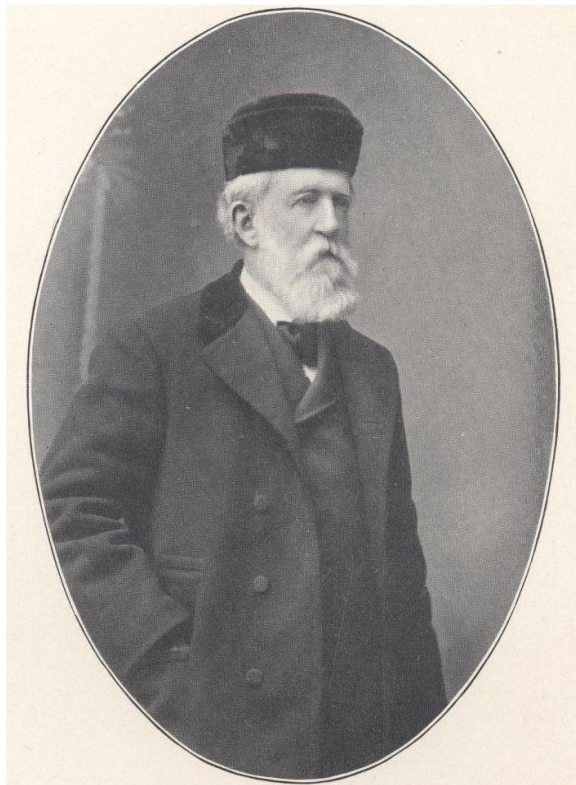
7) Amos Bonsall/Boasall (1830-1915) – Master’s Mate

Born on a farm in Upper Darby, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, Bonsall was educated at the Bolmer Academy, West Chester, Pennsylvania. From 1847-48, he was in the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania. Bonsall was tasked with the daguerreotype apparatus of the Arctic expedition. During the Civil War, Bonsall was a captain in the 124th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. In 1866, received a Master’s degree from Lafayette College. For 40 years he was a manager of the Pennsylvania Training School for Feeble-minded Children, and for 30 years a member of the Board of Managers of the House of Refuge.

Medals awarded to Bonsall were part of the US Navy’s Bureau of Navigation display during the 1876 US Centennial Exhibition (incorrectly spelled “Bronson” in the exhibition catalogue).

As president of the Philadelphia Geographical Society, Bonsall announced the award of the Elisha Kent Kane Gold Medal for distinguished services in geography to Lieutenant Peary at the regular meeting on 2 April 1901.

Bonsall died in 1915 and the same year his daughters deposited relics from the expedition in the Smithsonian Institution.



Amos Bonsall, *circa* 1902 (Kersting, 1902)

8) Henry Goodfellow (1833-85) - Natural History Observer

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Admitted to the Philadelphia bar, July 1859. Captain, 26th Pennsylvania Volunteers in May 1861. Engaged in the siege of Yorktown, battles of Williamsburg, Savage Station, Glendale, Malvern Hill, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and acting major at Gettysburg (severely wounded through right arm). Judge-advocate and acting aide-de-camp of the Third Division, Second Corps, Army of the Potomac, and engaged at the battles of the Wilderness and Spottsylvania (severely wounded). Major and judge-advocate US Volunteers, November, 1865. Made a brevet lieutenant colonel, 23rd Volunteers, for gallant and meritorious conduct at Gettysburg. Brevet Colonel, US Volunteers, for gallant and meritorious services at Spottsylvania.

Transferred to the US Army's Judge-Advocate Corps in 1867 with the rank of major. Detailed as judge-advocate and court recorder at the 1881 inquiry into the loss of the *Proteus* during the failure to relieve the US Lady Franklin Bay Expedition in the Arctic.

9) George Riley/Reilly – Seaman

Entitled to a silver medal, but as stated above, it appears a gold medal was struck for him in error.

SGMS (FS) Silver Medal recipients

1) William Morton (born 1822?) – Kane's steward

Recipient of the privately issued Grinnell Medal for First Grinnell Expedition, 1850-51 (Steward/*Advance*).

Born in Ireland and resided for many years in Jersey City, New Jersey. Served for some thirty years a yeoman in the US Navy. Served as Second Mate on the *Polaris* during the 1871-73 US North Polar Expedition.

2) George Stephenson (1827-65) – seaman

Born in Dublin, Stephenson was a sailor from his early days. In recognition of his services on the expedition, the government made him a night inspector at the Customs House. Evidently died due to heart problems connected to Arctic service.

3) George Whipple/Whittle - seaman

Born in England. Kane wrote "Whipple".

4) William Godfrey – seaman

Medal named “WILLIAM GODFREY”. *The Numismatic Circular*, No. 10, September 1893, p. 363, Mint; Robert Day, FSA, purchased this medal in its morocco case of issue when he was in the United States. Now in a private collection.

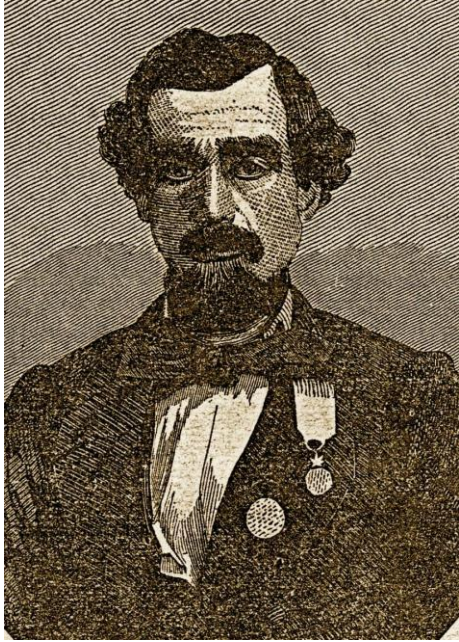
Godfrey was a harbour boatman from New York’s East Side. Published *Godfrey’s Narrative of the Last Grinnell Arctic Exploring Expedition, in Search of Sir John Franklin, 1853-4-5* (1857).



William C. Godfrey (Godfrey, 1857); Godfrey’s silver SGM (FS) (courtesy of Cameron Treleaven Collection)

5) John Blake (alias Charles Blake and John Huzzy) - seaman

A sailor from Baltimore, Maryland.



Thomas Hickey (Hickey, 1860)

6) Thomas Hickey – second steward/cabin boy

An image of Hickey is in *Thomas Hickey's Narrative of the Last Arctic Expedition of the Late Dr. Kane* (1860) shows him wearing the Arctic Medal 1818-55 and a larger round brooch. Even though the SGM (FS) was 32mm in diameter (as opposed to the Arctic's 33mm), perhaps Hickey had the former set in a frame to be worn as a brooch? Born in Ireland.

7) Christian Ohlsen/Olsen (*circa* 1819-55) - carpenter

Medal sent for his representative ("Draft," FO 5/638). Experienced in polar navigation. Died in June 1855 from a ruptured bladder, an injury sustained when saving his boat from falling through thin ice during the journey back to Upernavik. Buried at Pekiutlik, Littleton Island.

8) Pierre Schubert/ Peter Shubert (? – 1854) - cook

Medal sent for his representative ("Draft," FO 5/638). A Frenchman who died about 12 May 1854, after having a foot amputated. Buried near Baker at North Point, Observatory Island.

9) Jefferson Temple Baker (*circa* 1833-54) – seaman

Medal named JEFFERSON TEMPLE BAKER. Spink, 20 May 1991, lot 107. In a private collection.

Kane's former hunting companion, Baker died from tetanus 7 April 1854, and was buried at North Point, Observatory Island. Medal sent for his representative ("Draft," FO 5/638).



J.C.C. Petersen (Petersen, 1860)

Two expedition members, Petersen and Hendrik, did *not* receive the SGM (FS). The author believes this was because neither was engaged in the United States but were hired and released in Greenland, so Kane left their names off his list. See related information below under the Arctic Medal 1818-55, where a similar situation resulted in a partially more positive outcome.

Dog sledge driver and interpreter Johan Carl Christian Petersen (1815-80) was engaged in Upernavik, Greenland. Born in Copenhagen, Denmark, Petersen also served as an interpreter in the *Lady Franklin* (Penny/1850-51) and in the same capacity in the *Fox* (McClintock/1857-59). Awarded the Order of Dannebrog (Knight) in 1859 by King Frederick VII for his participation in the *Fox* expedition. In 1863, he was the lighthouse keeper on Hjelm Island (off Jutland in Denmark).

Petersen wrote books about the Kane and McClintock expeditions: *Erindringer fra Polarlandene opregnede af Carl Petersen, tolk ve Pennys og Kanes nordexpeditioner, 1850-55* (1857) and *Den sidste Franklin-expedition med "Fox", Capt. M'Clintock* (1860). He is pictured in the latter, wearing the Order of Dannebrog and Arctic Medal mounted together.

Hunter Hans Christian Hendrik (*circa* 1834-1889) was engaged at Fiskernaes, Greenland. He also served as a dog sledge driver and hunter on three additional expeditions: *United States*/1860-61, *Polaris*/1871-73 and *Discovery*/1875-76. His memoirs were published under the title *Memoirs of Hans Hendrik, the Arctic traveller, serving under Kane, Hayes, Hall and Nares, 1853-1876* (1878).

Arctic Medal 1818-55

In looking at lists of officers and men of American expeditions entitled to the Arctic Medal sent by the Department of State on 16 April 1856 (House of Commons Papers), five of Kane's men are absent: Ohlsen, Schubert, Baker, Petersen and Hendrik. The first three were dead, while the last two were hired and released in Greenland, thus likely explaining the absence of these five names. "Charles Blake" appears here, being one of the aliases of John Blake, leading to further confusion later on.



Arctic Medal 1818-55 (issued unnamed)

When *The London Gazette* of 5 May 1857 granted the award of the Arctic Medal, the medals for Kane, Hartstene and their men were "sent to Lord Napier, Minister at Washington, for distribution on the 25th November 1857." A letter from the Admiralty to the Foreign Office (the Earl of Shelburne), dated 26 November, states that "herewith a Box containing 96 medals for the officers and men named in the accompanying List, and My Lords desire me to request that you will move the Earl of Clarendon, in transmitting the medal to the United States' Government" (FO 5/686).

Most, if not all, of those for Kane and his men were forwarded to Henry Grinnell for distribution.

The list for the Second Grinnell Expedition 1853-55 contained within the Arctic Medal roll is as follows (and includes various misspellings taken from the earlier Department of State list):

*Passd Asst Surgeon E.K. Kane, and the following named persons belonging to his party,
returnd with Lieut. Harstein's Expedition*

Henry Brooks, U.S.N. Boatswain (See "Rescue") [name struck through]

John W. Wilson

Amos Bonsall

J. J. Hays

Augustus Sontag

Henry Goodfellow

William Morton (See "Advance") [name struck through]

George Stephenson

Thomas Hickey

James Mc Gary

George Riley

William Godfrey

Charles Blake

George Whittle

John Huzzy

Christian Olsen

Peter Schubert

Jefferson Temple

Kane appears as a passed assistant surgeon on the list for the First Grinnell Expedition (*Advance*) and as the leader (with the same rank) of the Second Grinnell Expedition, so it's possible two medals were posthumously issued to his estate (one for each expedition).

The medals for Brooks and Morton were issued off the list from the First Grinnell Expedition, and Brooks' award was "sent to his widow Mary Brooks, Brooklyn, NY. 22 Dec 58".

For Huzzy, Olsen, Schubert and Temple there is the following notation: "Not in Parliamentary Return names received from Lord Napier. See A.O. 5331 20 Nov. 57". The author searched for the original AO 5331, but without success.

Only John Blake's aliases "John Huzzy" and "Charles Blake" are shown, and since two medals were sent, he may have received both of them. "Jefferson Temple" refers to Jefferson Temple Baker.

Petersen does not appear on the list for the *Lady Franklin* or *Advance*, but is on the *Fox*'s list. McClintock received a batch of 11 medals on 28 September 1859 for distribution to his men (allowed by AO 5022, 22 September 1859), and saw to it that Petersen received his medal.

Hendrik was also not included in the Arctic Medal 1818-55 roll for the *Advance*. "In April 1855 Hans ran away from the expedition, it seems because of a growing fear of Kane whose arrogance upset him" (Holland, 1994). This is likely the reason he was not included in the Arctic Medal 1818-1855 roll, and not having anyone to act on his behalf, never received a medal. He was one of only five individuals *entitled* to both that award and the Arctic Medal 1875-76, appearing on the latter roll as "Hans Henry" (Hendrick/Henri/Heindrich in various sources). The 1875-76 medal was issued, and in 1995 was extant in a private collection.

Based on the above, Kane and his party may have been issued as many as 21 Arctic Medals.

Hartstene's medal was sent to Lord Napier and "delivered in person". This notation also appears in conjunction with other US Navy recipients for the First Grinnell Expedition and Hartstene's expedition, so it seems probable that such deliveries were carried out by representatives of the British Embassy. It also seems possible that some naval officers and men may have received their medals through the US Navy.

US Government and State Medals

The addendum of the *Reports of Foreign Societies Awarding Medals to the American Arctic Explorers, Kane, Hayes, Hall*, contains a reference to the authorization of US government medals for Kane and his men:

Extract from the Report of the Committee on the Library, House of Representatives, United States, April 16, 1856.

They recommend the adoption of the following resolutions...

*"2. Resolved, That the Secretary of the Navy shall cause to be struck and presented to Dr. Kane, his officers and men, respectively, such appropriate medals as in the judgment of said Secretary shall express the high estimate in which Congress holds their respective merits and services." **

*Unfortunately these resolutions provided for no appropriation to carry them into effect.

Despite the lack of funds, the matter evidently did not end there, as the book *Gallantry* (1939) notes a resolution/special act of Congress on 3 March 1857 (11 Stat. 255, No. 15), in which a gold medal was voted for "Dr. Kane, his officers and men" for "Their merits and services" in

Arctic exploration. *Gallantry* indicates “Medal not specified,” but the book’s inference that all the medals were to be struck in gold is misleading when compared to similar cases. For example, the Congressional medals voted on 30 September 1890 for members and next-of-kin of the *Jeannette* Arctic expedition (1879-82) were struck in gold for officers and silver for members of the ship’s company.

The author has not seen or heard of any additional information related to the federal government medal voted for Kane and his men.

The Kane Medal

The Assembly of New York State resolved on 8 February 1856:

That a gold medal, appropriately commemorating the voyage of discovery of the Grinnell ships, be struck by order of the State of New-York, and that the same be presented to Dr. E. K. Kane, commander of the said exploring expedition, and first positive discoverer of the arctic open sea [sic].



The bronze strike of the New York State E.K. Kane Medal (courtesy of Dr. Benjamin Weiss Collection)

Obverse: an engraving of the medal in *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper* (9 January 1858) depicts William Morton and Hans Hendrik, dressed in full polar garb and both carrying muskets, discovering the supposed Open Polar Sea. The actual medal shows Hendrik carrying a pole, not a musket, and in addition there are three harnessed sledge dogs between the men.

Reverse: Great Seal of New York State within a circular laurel wreath. To the right is ‘Liberty’ holding a pole with a Liberty Cap. “Justice” is on the left, holding the scales of justice. In between them is a shield with stripes and a rising sun; an eagle rests atop, on a partially visible globe. Looking west, the eagle symbolises opportunity and optimism and represents New York’s unique position in the world as the economic and commercial bridge between the East and the West – the old world and the new. This design differs somewhat from the current Seal, which came into use in 1882.

Diameter: 78mm

Metal: gold

Suspension: none

Naming: engraved – “PRESENTED TO DR. E.K. KANE, U.S.N., FOR HIS GALLANT SERVICES IN SEARCH OF SIR JOHN FRANKLIN, BY THE STATE OF NEW YORK, 1857.”

Designer: unknown, most likely Tiffany & Co.

Weight: 14 ounces

Manufacturer: Tiffany & Co.

Notes: According to *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper*, the medal cost \$1,000.00, and was to be presented to Kane’s father. An albumen print of this medal (showing both the obverse and reverse) existed in the 1990s in the Florida home of Kane’s ancestors. The author knows of at least two extant bronze strikes of the medal.

The Hartstene Medal

The Assembly of New York State resolved on 5 April 1856:

That the thanks of the Legislature of the State of New-York are gratefully tendered to Lieut. H.J. Hartsteine, of the U.S. Navy...and his philanthropy as a man, the Governor of the State is hereby authorised to cause a suitable gold medal not to cost over \$500 to be struck and presented to Lieut. Hartsteine, as an evidence of the appreciation of the State for his services in the cause of science and humanity.



The bronze strike of the New York State Hartstene Medal (courtesy of Bradley Higgins Collection)

Obverse: a depiction of an Inuit (Eskimo) standing on a ice ledge, with Lieutenant Hartstene beside him; the former is pointing southward, indicating the direction taken by Kane and his men. The steamship in the background may represent the propeller-driven USS *Arctic* (Lieutenant Charles C. Simms, USN). “TIFFANY & CO” appears on the lower right hand side.

Reverse: the Great Seal of New York State within a circular laurel wreath, with slight differences from the Kane Medal reverse, most notably the absence of stripes on the shield, which have been replaced by open land with hills in the distance, and a rising sun. “TIFFANY & CO” appears at the bottom.

Diameter: 59mm

Metal: gold

Suspension: none

Naming: engraved – “PRESENTED BY THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO COMMANDER H.S.[sic] HARTSTEIN, 1857.” Doubtless the error in the middle initial was due to the similarity of the handwritten capital letters “J” and “S” on an engraver’s list.

Designer: Tiffany & Co.

Weight: 6 ounces

Manufacturer: Tiffany & Co.

Notes: According to *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper* (9 January 1858), the medal cost \$500.00, the limit budgeted by the Assembly of New York State. The medal was sent to Hartstene on 13 February 1858, along with copies of the joint resolution of the Assembly of New York State, to be distributed to the officers and men of the Arctic expedition.

The author has seen two silver and four bronze strikes of this medal. The reverse of one of the silver medals featured an embossed circular laurel wreath, a blank space within, and “AWARDED TO” embossed on the upper area. This led the author to question whether or not the silver and bronze medals were intended for/awarded to Hartstene’s officers and men, and he contacted Tiffany in 1996, but the firm could not supply any additional information.

Henry J. Harstene (*circa* 1801-68) was born in North Carolina and entered the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy (now Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont) from Savannah, Georgia, in 1826. Graduating in 1828, he was commissioned a US Navy midshipman in April of that year. Lieutenant Hartstene was attached to the US Exploring Expedition (1838-42) onboard the brig USS *Porpoise*, but he did not proceed further than Callao, Peru, where he joined the USS *Relief*.



Commander Hartstene welcoming Queen Victoria aboard the *Resolute* on 16 December 1856, by George Zobel.
(after William Simpson; P. & D. Colnaghi & Co., 1858)

Wounded at the capture of Tuxpan in April 1847 (USS *Hecla*), during the Mexican-American War, and afterwards on service with the US Coast Survey and then in command of the USS *Illinois* (1851-55). Promoted to commander in September 1855, at the conclusion of the Arctic relief expedition. Two months later, Hartstene sailed HMS *Resolute* to England; she had been abandoned in the ice during Sir Edward Belcher’s 1852-54 Franklin search expedition, floated free and was salvaged by a New London whaler and then purchased by Congress and refitted. As an acknowledgement for this service, the British government spent £136 10s on a Wilkinson & Son sword with silver-gilt mountings for Harstene (FO 96/140).

Hartstene was later in charge of the sounding for the Atlantic cable, but resigned from the navy in January 1861, and at once offered his services to the Confederate government. Commissioned

a captain and assigned to the South Carolina Navy, Hartstene was in command of a few gun boats that took part in the investment of Fort Sumter in April 1861 and was present at the evacuation of that fort. He later transferred to the Confederate States Navy. After the capture of the USS *Isaac Smith*, carrying nine heavy guns, at Stono Inlet, South Carolina, on 20 January 1862, Hartstene was given command of this gunboat, renaming it the *Stono*.

Captain Hartstene was in command of the Confederate Navy in the Charleston Harbour until late in 1862, when he suddenly became insane. Hartstene went with his wife and daughter to Paris, France, for treatment in 1867, where he died the following year.

Acknowledgements

Adrienne Allen; Kevin J. Asplin; Dick Hanscom; Tim Popp; Dick Powell; Stack's Bowers Galleries; Lars Stevnsborg; Cameron Treleaven; David Vice; Douglas W. Wamsley, Esq.; Dr. Benjamin Weiss

Sources

Admiralty ADM 7/200, Documents relating to Arctic Expeditions, 1855-56; ADM 171/9, Arctic Medal 1818-1855 roll (The National Archives (TNA), Kew)

The American Almanac and Repository of Useful Knowledge, For The Year 1858. (1857)
Boston: Crosby, Nichols, and Company.

Appleton's Annual Cyclopædia and Register of Important Events of the Year 1900. (1901)
(Third Series, Vol. 5) New York: D. Appleton and Company.

“August Sonntag” (2010), www.dudleyobservatory.org/History/history_sonntag.htm

Barclay, Craig (2003) “Lifesaving Medals in the British Museum: Official Awards”. *LSARS Journal*, No. 48, November 2003.

Barr, William (translator and editor) (1992) *A Frenchman in Search of Franklin: De Bray's Arctic Journal, 1852-1854*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Blake, E. Vale (1874) *Arctic Experiences: Containing Captain George E. Tyson's Wonderful Drift on the Ice-Floe, A History of the Polaris Expedition, the Cruise of the Tigress, and Rescue of the Polaris Survivors. To Which is Added a General Arctic Chronology*. New York: Harper & Brothers.

Bowers and Merena Inc. (The Russell B. Patterson Collection), lot 1997, 25-26 March 1985.

Brandt, Anthony (2005) *The North Pole: A Narrative History*. Washington, DC: National Geographic Society.

Chapin, David (2004) *Exploring Other Worlds: Margaret Fox, Elisha Kent Kane, and the Antebellum Culture of Curiosity*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press

“Death of An Arctic Hero.” *The New York Times*, 9 October 1857.

Elder, William (1858) *Biography of Elisha Kent Kane*. Philadelphia: Childs & Peterson.

Ellis, W.A. (1911) *Norwich University 1819-1911: Her History, Her Graduates, Her Roll of Honor*. (Vol. 2) Montpelier: The Capital City Press.

The Encyclopedia Britannica (1893) (9th edition, Vol. 25) Chicago: The Werner Company.

_____, (1911) (11th edition, Vol. 15) New York: University Press.

Foreign Office, The National Archives (TNA), Kew:

FO 5/618, Mr. Crampton (Drafts), October-December 1855

FO 5/624, Mr. Crampton, November-December 1855

FO 5/642, Mr. Crampton, 14 March-25 April 1856

FO 5/638, Mr. Crampton (Drafts), January-April 1856

FO 5/659, Domestic various, March-April 1856

FO 5/667, Lord Napier, Mr. Lumley, Mr. Hervey, Drafts, January-May 1857

FO 5/669, Lord Napier (Drafts), September-December 1857

FO 5/675, Lord Napier, 18 November-December 1857

FO 5/674, Lord Napier, October-November 1857

FO 5/685, Domestic various, May-August 1857

FO 5/686, Domestic various, September-December 1857

FO 83/769, British Medals awarded for saving life at sea, 1839-82

FO 96/140, Entry books of presents given for assistance to ships in distress, etc., 1841-61

Godfrey, William C. (1857) *Godfrey's Narrative of the Last Grinnell Arctic Exploring Expedition, in Search of Sir John Franklin, 1853-4-5. With a Biography of Dr. Elisha Kent Kane, from the Cradle to the Grave*. Philadelphia: J.T. Lloyd & Co.

“Great Seal of the State of New York”

www.budget.state.ny.us/pubs/archive/fy0304archive/fy0304littlebook/greatSeal.html

Green, Robert M. (1907) *History of the One Hundred Twenty-fourth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers in the War of the Rebellion – 1862-1863. Regimental Re-Unions 1885-1906. History of Monument*. Philadelphia: Ware Bros. Company, Printers.

Hayward, J., Birch, D., Bishop, R. (7th edition; 2006) *British Battles and Medals*. London: Spink & Son Ltd.

Hickey, Thomas (1860) *Thomas Hickey's Narrative of the Last Arctic Expedition of the Late Dr. Kane*. Baltimore: J. Young.

Historical and Commemorative Medals: Collection of Benjamin Weiss,
www.historicalartmedals.com/TOC.htm

Holland, Clive (1994) *Arctic Exploration and Development c. 500 b.c. to 1915: An Encyclopædia*. New York & London: Garland Publishing, Inc.

_____ (2000) "Hans Hendrik". *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* (Vol. 2);
www.biographi.ca.

Irwin, D. Hastings (1899) *War Medals and Decorations*. London: L. Upcott Gill.

Joslin, E.C., Litherland, A.R., Simpkin, B.T. (1988; 6th edition) *British Battles & Medals*. London: Spink & Son Ltd.

Journal of the Assembly of the State of New-York: Seventy-Ninth Session, Begun and Held at the Capitol, in the City of Albany, on the First Day of January, 1856. (1856) Albany: Charles Van Benthuyzen.

The Journal of Geography, Vol. 1, 1902.

Kane, Elisha Kent (1856) *Arctic Explorations in the Years 1853, '54, '55.* (Vols. 1 & 2). Philadelphia: Childs and Peterson.

"The Kane and Hartstein Medals." *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 9 January 1858.

Kersting, Rudolf (1902) *The White World: Life and Adventures Within the Arctic Circle Portrayed by Famous Living Explorers*. New York: Lewis, Scribner & Co.

Leonard, John W. (1908) *Who's Who in Pennsylvania: A Biographical Dictionary of Contemporaries* (2nd edition). New York: L.R. Hamersly & Company.

"Lists of Officers and Seamen of the several United States' Expeditions, under command of Lieutenant De Haven, Lieutenant Hartstein, and Lieutenant Kane, entitled to receive the Medal for Arctic Service." House of Commons Papers, Vol. 41; Accounts and Papers: Navy, Vol. 4; Session 31 January-29 July 1856.

The Magazine of History With Queries and Notes. Vol. 19, July-December 1914. Poughkeepsie: William Abbatt.

“Obituary: George Stephenson.” *The New York Times*, 20 November 1865.

“The Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies: Acts and Proceedings, Eleventh Annual Meeting, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, Jan. 20, 1916”.

Poulsom, Major N.W. (1968) *The White Ribbon: A Medallic Record of British Polar Exploration*. London: B.A. Seaby Ltd.

Poulsom, Lieut. Col. N.W. & Myres, Rear Adm. J.A.L. (2000) *British Polar Exploration and Research: A Historical and Medallic Record with Biographies 1818-1999*. London: Savannah Publications.

“Presentation of the Hartstein Medal.” *The New York Times*, 25 March 1858.

Records of Living Officers of the United States Army (1884) Philadelphia: L.R. Hamersly & Co.

Reports of Foreign Societies Awarding Medals to the American Arctic Explorers, Kane, Hayes, Hall. (1876) Washington, DC: U.S. Naval Observatory.

Spink & Son. *The Numismatic Circular* (No. 10, September 1893).

Spink auctions. 20 May 1991.

Stein, Glenn M. (2010) “The Franklin Expedition 50th Anniversary Commemorations: Arctic Veterans and Medals from the Frozen Zone”. *OMRS Journal*, Vol. 49, No. 2, June 2010.

Tamplin, J.M.A. (1979) “Gallantry by Foreigners towards British Subjects”. *OMRS Journal*, Vol. 18, No. 2, Summer 1979.

Taylor, Rev. Fitch W. (1848) *The Broad Pennant: or, A Cruise in the United States Flagship of the Gulf Squadron, During the Mexican Difficulties*. New York: Leavitt, Trow & Co.

United States International Centennial Exhibition of 1876. Catalogue of the Articles and Objects Exhibited by the United States Navy Department in the United States Government Building, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, PA. (1876) Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott & Co.

United States Magazine of Science, Art, Manufacturers, Agriculture, Commerce and Trade. Vol. 2, No. 1, June 1855.

Vice, David (1992) “A British Government Award to the American Arctic Expedition”. *Format of Birmingham Ltd.*, No. 45., March 1992.

Virkus, Frederick A. (1926) *The Abridged Compendium of American Genealogy; First Families of America; a Genealogical Encyclopedia of the United States* (Vol. 3). Chicago: F.A. Virkus and Company.

Wamsley, Douglas W. (1994) "The Gold Arctic Medal Awarded to Henry Grinnell". *Alaskan Token Collector & Polar Numismatist*, Vol. 16, No. 9, November 1994.

_____, (2009) *Polar Hayes: The Life and Contributions of Isaac Israel Hayes*, M.D. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society.

Wilson, A. & McEwen, J.H. (1939) *Gallantry: Its Public Recognition and Reward in Peace and in War at Home and Abroad*. London: Oxford University Press.

The World Almanac and Book of Facts for 1915 (1916) New York: Facts on File Inc.