



Medal of Honor Recipients from Niagara County

Local heroes awarded the nation’s highest honor

America marks its 250th birthday this year — a milestone of enduring grit, ingenuity, and resolve. We proudly honor our thousands of local residents who have valiantly defended our freedom for generations, spanning the chaos of the War of 1812 to the worldwide conflicts of the modern era.

Their devotion has instilled deep-rooted patriotism in local life, from Niagara's thundering cascades to

Hartland’s farmlands. Still, within this rich legacy of duty, just a rare few have been awarded the Medal of Honor.

Additional Medal awardees with strong ties to Niagara County include: Andrew Bringle, Leroy Williams, Bernard Pious Bell, George E. Day, and Frederick E. Toy*, who along with those below, are immortalized in U.S. history:



Name	Rank	Branch	Birth/Death Dates	War/ Conflict	Notable Action
Daniel McFall	Sergeant	Army	Born: 1836, Lewiston, NY Died: 1919, Missouri	Civil War	Captured Confederate Colonel Barker and rescued Lt. George W. Harmon at Spotsylvania Court House, VA May 12, 1864.
 Dennis T. Kirby	Major (Brevet Brigadier General)	Army	Born: 1837, Niagara Falls, NY Died: 1922, Washington, DC	Civil War	Seized the colors during the assault on Stockade Redan, Vicksburg, MS May 22, 1863.
 Henry H. Bickford	Sergeant	Army	Born: 1838, Michigan (enlisted from Town of Hartland) Died: 1917, Middleport	Civil War	Extraordinary heroism at Waynesboro, Virginia, on March 2, 1865, where he charged the enemy lines under heavy fire.
 Michael Huskey	Fireman First Class	Navy	Born: 1841, Ireland (immigrated to Lockport as a child) Died: 1864, Tennessee from service related illness.	Civil War	Volunteered to aid in the rescue of the tug Ivy under the fire of the enemy, 1863. The medal was never presented to him or his family. Considered a “forgotten” hero.
James Madison (aka James Congdon)	Sergeant	Army	Born: 1842, Town of Niagara Died: 1926, California	Civil War	Recaptured a Union standard and recovered Gen. Cook's headquarters flag at Waynesboro, VA March 2, 1865.
 Alonzo Smith	Sergeant	Army	Born: 1842, Town of Hartland Died: 1927, Buried in Middleport	Civil War	Captured 26 Confederate soldiers at Hatcher's Run, VA October 27–28, 1864.
 Frank Gaffney	Pvt. First Class	Army	Born: 1883, Buffalo NY (resided in Lockport, entered service in Niagara Falls). Died: 1948, Niagara Falls, NY	WW I	Pushing forward alone after his squad was killed, he destroyed a enemy machine gun crew, captured the gun, bombed dugouts, killed four more enemies with his pistol, and held the position until reinforcements captured 80 prisoners near Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918.
 Willis W. Bradley Jr.	Commander	Navy	Born: 1884, Ransomville, NY Died: 1954, California	WW I	Extinguished a fire from a saluting cartridge explosion aboard USS Pittsburgh, preventing a catastrophic explosion (July 23, 1917).
 William F. Leonard	Pvt. First Class	Army	Born: 1913, Lockport NY Died: 1985, Lockport, NY	WW II	Led an assault on a German roadblock near St. Dié, France, destroying machine gun nests and killing/capturing numerous enemies, November 7, 1944.
 John P. Bobo	Second Lieutenant	Marine Corps	Born: 1943, Niagara Falls, NY Died: 1967, Vietnam	Vietnam	Organized defense and directed fire after losing a leg during an enemy attack in Quang Tri Province, March 30, 1967. Awarded posthumously. Buried at Gate of Heaven, Lewiston

* Frederick Toy was born in Buffalo in 1866 and died in Youngstown in 1933 and is buried at Riverdale Cemetery in Lewiston.

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