

# The Historic and Unique Collection of Medals and Artifacts of General David L. Brainard, USA (1856-1946)

Last survivor of the Lady Franklin Bay Expedition, 1881-84 (Greely Expedition)

From the Polar Collection of Glenn M. Stein, FRGS

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**1) Purple Heart** - (edge numbered 29069, and officially engraved: "DAVID L. BRAINARD"). With lower part of the BB& B box of issue and label with the edge number handwritten in ink and the printed date "2-12-32". Issued Jan. 27, 1933, for wounds received at the Battle of Little Muddy Creek, Montana Territory, May 7, 1877.

I wrote to George B. Harris (OMSA Member) and he indicated that Brainard's Purple Heart is the only Indian Wars issue he's ever heard of in existence. George wrote, "I used to collect Indian Wars medals very seriously (I had over 50 numbered ones at one point, plus four or five Medals of Honor etc.). He also wrote that someone told him only five Purple Hearts were issued for the Indian Wars. One Purple Heart was awarded to Pte. Charles A. Windolph (alias Charles Wrangel/1851-1950), who was wounded in the hilltop fight during the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Windolph also received the Medal of Honor, and both medals are part of the Little Big Horn Archives. *Above and Beyond: A History of the Medal of Honor from the Civil War to Vietnam* suggests there may have been only 12 Purple Hearts issued for the Indian Wars.

**2) Indian Campaign** - "NO. 527" (first style ribbon). Issued Dec. 8, 1908.

- 3) **Spanish Campaign** - "NO. 137" (second style ribbon). Issued Jan. 6, 1908.
- 4) **Philippine Insurrection** - "NO. 231". Issued Jan. 14, 1908.
- 5) **WWI Victory Medal** - clasp 'FRANCE'
- 6) **Military Order of Christ (Portugal/GO class/neck badge, breast star, ribbon bar)** - verified
- 7) **Military Order of Aviz (Portugal/GO class/neck badge)** - verified
- 8) **French Legion of Honor (Officer)** - no medal roll exists for awards to foreigners
- 9) **Explorers Club Explorers Medal** - Unique/bronze/"TIFFANY" on edge.

Awarded in 1929 with engraved inscription:

To  
 DAVID LEGGE BRAINARD  
 SOLDIER AND EXPLORER  
 WHO, ON MAY 13, 1882, WITH  
 LIEUT. JAMES B. LOCKWOOD U.S.A.  
 FELLOW MEMBER OF THE  
 INTERNATIONAL LADY FRANKLIN BAY  
 EXPEDITION UNDER FIRST LIEUT. A.W. GREELY  
 U.S.A.  
 REACHED LATITUDE 83° 24' 30", THE  
 MOST NORTHERLY POINT ATTAINED UP  
 TO THAT TIME IN  
 ARCTIC  
 EXPLORATION

- 10) **Explorers Club Fifth Anniversary of Peary's North Pole Discovery** - on obverse pedestal: "DAVID L. BRAINARD [engraved]/APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>/1914 [impressed]"; bronze/"TIFFANY" on edge.
- 11) **Bronze medal of the USWV Ladies Auxillery** - (evidently Mrs. Brainard's).
- 12) **Tin Type Image** - full length/Sgt., 2nd Cavalry/in period case ("D L. Brainard 1879"-rev. of image)
- 13) **CDV Image** - ("Sgt. D.L. Brainard/Troop L, 2 Cavalry/Montana, 1878 -" ink on reverse).
- 14) **CDV Image** - ("D.L. Brainard/-1880-/Montana" ink on reverse).
- 15) **Photograph of Brainard** ("BRIG. GEN'L DAVID L. BRAINARD (sic)/PICTURE MADE BY CAPT. STEPHEN WATERMAN/APRIL 1944/HIS AGE AT THIS DATE - 87").
- 16) **Contemporary Photograph** - old Greely (3 7/16" x 5", undated/no inscription).
- 17) **Contemporary Photograph** - Greely Exp. Panorama, 1893 Columbian Expo. (8 3/16" x 6 3/16").
- 18) **Stereoview** - LFB Expedition display at the 1893 Columbian Exposition.
- 19) **Book** - *The Outpost of the Lost* (1929)-inscribed to Brainard's wife and dated 1940.
- 20) **Book** - *Six Came Back* (1940) - inscribed to Brainard's wife and dated 1940.
- 21) **Booklet** - *Greely Relief Expedition. Reception of Lieut. A.W. Greely, U.S.A., and his Comrades, etc.* (1884).
- 22) **Black Cloth Card Case** - with brass Old English encircled capital "B".

**23) Calling Card** - "D.L. Brainard/Lady Franklin Bay Expedition."

**24) Inuit Bone Knife** - (200 mm. long, with blue ink stains on both sides) - Since Brainard was involved in printing the *Arctic Moon*, the ink likely came from the printing press at Fort Conger.

**25) Commission Document** - dated Dec. 28, 1905, promoting Brainard to Lieut. Colonel (Deputy Commissary General), *signed* by President Theodore Roosevelt.

**26) US Govt. Death Accolade** - Mar. 22, 1946, facsimile signature of President Truman.

**27) Letters from Greely to Brainard** - one undated handwritten note, along with one handwritten and two typewritten letters and envelopes (dated 1920s).

In a 1925 letter, *five years after Robert Peary's death*, Greely wrote:

"I have sent a letter to Shea stating that I am in accord with him at Peary's farthest North. At a proper time I hope you will express your opinion. I do not question Peary's truthfulness, but I do his accuracy. You are the best informed man alive who can pass from personal experience of the wonderful marches that P thought he made. It is an impossibility in my judgement."