

# HISTORY MAKER

## SAMUEL TIMOTHY MICKEY

**Born:** March 14, 1839, Salem, N.C.

**Died:** Jan. 9, 1914, Mobile, Ala.

**Known as:** The leader of the 26th NC Regimental Band during the Civil War and the Salem Band afterwards, but, perhaps most famously, as the creator of the Salem Coffee Pot with his brother Julius.

Sam Mickey and his brother, Julius, opened a tinsmith shop at the northern limits of Salem near the growing town of Winston.

Sometime about 1858, they built a sign to get people's attention, a 7-foot-tall tin coffee pot. Their advertisements in the Western Sentinel Newspaper promised "good bargains" of the "best Tin Ware" to be had. They manufactured practical items such as lightning rods and cooking pots but also carried fancy lanterns and cookie cutters.

Like most businesses in the Twin Cities at the time, they accepted tallow, beeswax, feathers, and other country goods and produce in payment.

Samuel Timothy Mickey was the youngest of three children born to Johann Solomon Mucke, a cooper in Salem, and his wife, Salome Spach. Active in the Moravian church, he attended the boys' academy, played coronet in the church band and went into business with his eldest brother, Julius, while still a

teenager.

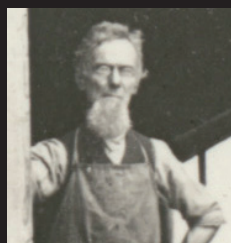
In spring 1862, Sam convinced seven other Salem musicians to enlist as a military company band.

They headed to New Bern, where the 26th NC Regiment, a Moravian unit, was encamped under leadership of future North Carolina Gov. Zebulon Vance.

For the next three years, the band served the unit from the North Carolina coast to Gettysburg to Petersburg in drills, parade and boosting morale with their music.

During engagements they held strictly to non-military roles, acting as medics, surgeons' assistants and camp cooks.

Though never an officer, as the band leader, Sam was informally called "Captain," a title he kept the rest of his life. The band, ordered to move to the rear as Petersburg was falling, was captured. Their instruments were taken – except Sam's E-flat coronet, which he hid in his haversack and managed to keep while in the federal prison at Point Lookout, Md. Today it is in the collection at



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WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Construction of Interstate 40 prompted the removal of the Salem Coffee Pot from its original location on South Main Street and its placement in 1962 in a grassy area a few blocks away.

Old Salem.

Once home, he rejoined his brother in their business. He holds at least one patent: His 1883 patent application for "a simple, inexpensive and efficient means of escape" yet "burglar-proof" shows a

retractable ladder that could be easily deployed in an emergency.

He operated a vineyard and was active in the Salem Band for many years. He continued working until a year before his death.