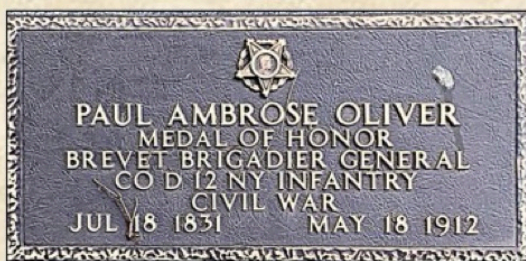


Gen. Paul Ambrose Oliver (1831-1912) was born in the English Channel on board the *Louisiana*, a vessel built by his grandfather, and owned and commanded by his father. The family lived in Germany. Oliver settled in New Orleans in 1849 and was involved in cotton export and shipping.

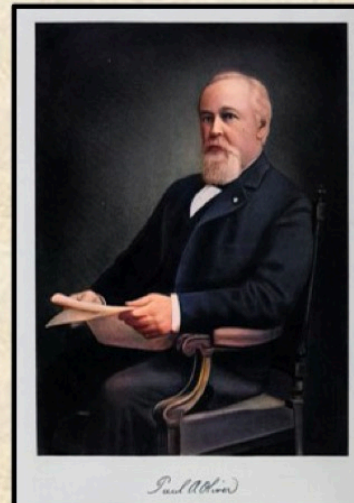
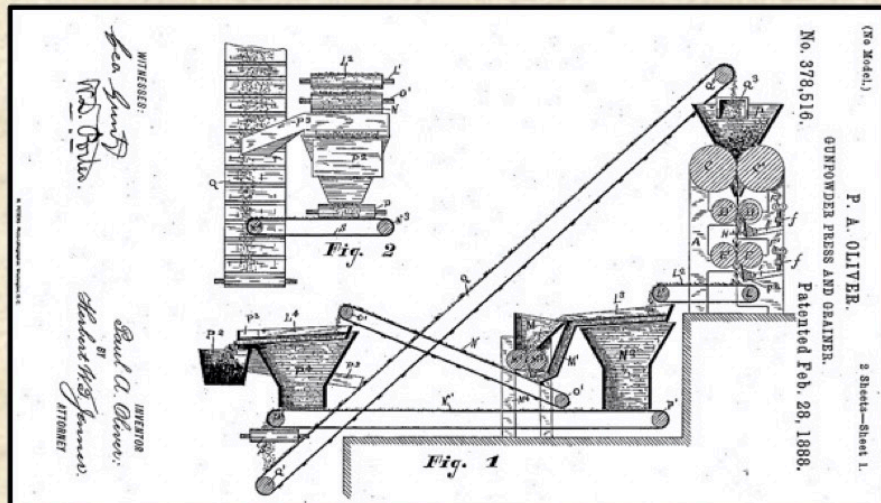
He enlisted in the 12th NY Volunteers in 1861 as a second lieutenant, took part in 25 battles and was brevetted brigadier-general of volunteers at the end of the war.

At Resaca, Georgia, on May 15, 1864, Oliver "assisted in preventing a disaster caused by Union troops firing into each other." The brigade being fired into was led by Col. Benjamin Harrison. When Harrison became president, Oliver was decorated with the Medal of Honor.



Battle of Resaca – James Walker

After the war Oliver entered the anthracite coal trade but soon gave that up to manufacture explosives at Oliver's Mills, PA. He received several patents for explosives formulas and machinery. His machines were designed to mix the ingredients in small quantities with an excess of moisture to prevent violent explosions; his powders were especially adapted for blasting in coal mining. He could be credited with the invention of dynamite, but his discoveries were at the same time as, and perhaps independent of, similar inventions of Nobel and others. Being in close touch with the anthracite coal operators, his business "grew to large importance," and was purchased by DuPont.



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