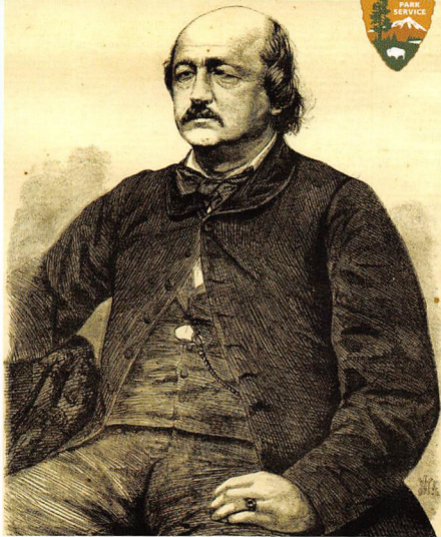Lowell National Historical Park

Benjamin F. Butler

Benjamin Franklin Butler

Born: November 5, 1818 in Deerfield, N.H.
Died: January 11, 1893 in Washington, D.C.

Benjamin Butler moved with his widowed mother to Lowell in 1828. He formed the Lowell City Guards and on April 17, 1861 was the first to respond to President Lincoln's call for troops. To honor the courage of the African American soldiers during the 1864 Battle of New Market Heights, he created the Army of the James Medal inscribed *Ferro iis libertas perveniet* (Freedom will be theirs by the sword).