

Dr. John Ordronaux (L.L.D.)
Surgeon
15th Infantry (NY)
Field & Staff

Born:	1830
Where:	New York
Town Affiliation:	Roslyn
Occupation:	Surgeon, Professor, Author
Enlistment Date:	6/6/1864
Enlistment Location:	Flushing, Queens
Rank on Enlistment:	Assistant Surgeon
Result of Service:	Discharged
Date:	7/7/1864
Died:	1/20/1908

Notes:

Dr. John Ordronaux, a resident of Roslyn after the U.S. Civil War, was a pioneering professor of medicine, including battlefield medicine, author of both medical texts and U.S. history, renown lecturer, and philanthropist.

The son of Captain John Ordronaux, a veteran of the War of 1812, Ordronaux graduated from Dartmouth College, Harvard Law School, and later medical school. At the beginning of the War, Ordronaux was a professor of medical jurisprudence at Columbia Law School, and held lecturer positions at Dartmouth, University of Vermont, and Boston University. According to his obituary in the New York Times, Ordronaux served as an army surgeon, stationed in New York. In 1861 Ordronaux wrote "Hints on the Health of Armies," (re-written in 1863) for the U.S. Sanitary Commission.

In the preface to his "Hints on the Health...", Ordronaux writes that the inclusion of a regimental surgeon is not sufficient to "protect troops against preventable disease," and so "officers and men need an insight into the general principles of hygiene in order to be able to assist, themselves, in furthering prophylactic measures." The pamphlet, unlike a medical manual or textbook,

specifically omits medical jargon, to better translate contemporary medical thought into "hints" to be of best use to military officers and soldiers, rather than surgeons, to promote "greater watchfulness over preventable disease... and [to stimulate] other minds to worthier efforts in the cause of Military Hygiene.... (sic)" Ordronaux wrote this while living in Roslyn.

In 1864, Ordronaux wrote another report to the U.S. Sanitation Commission, subtitled, "This concerned pensions for the war wounded and was subtitled, "on a system for the economical relief of disabled soldiers, and on certain proposed amendments to our present pension laws," where he discussed the societal and economic effects of a returning population of disabled soldiers back into the mainstream of society. It is unclear whether Ordronaux served any time in the field during the War.

After the War, Ordronaux returned to Columbia Law School and returned to his writing career. In the following decades, he wrote

medical treatises on mental illness, translated Latin texts into English, biographies, and other texts. He died at his home in Glen Head (Roslyn) in January 1908. According to the New York Times, upon his death, Ordronaux has an estate worth \$2,757,000 in railroad stocks and bonds. Ordronaux bequeathed tens of thousands to a number of colleges, universities, and hospitals, as well as relatives and friends. He never married nor had any children.