



STONE WALL

Bull Run Civil War Round Table

February 2002

Engineers in the Union Army of the Potomac

We are honored to have one of our own, Keith Young, as our guest speaker at the 14 February 2002 meeting of the BRCWRT. Keith is a long term and serious student of the American Civil War. His wide range of interests include both the Eastern and Western Theatres of Operation all the way out to the Department of New Mexico.

Two of his great-grandfathers served in that war. One served with the 14th Alabama Infantry Regiment in the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. The other served in the west with the Union 5th Iowa Infantry and the 5th Iowa Cavalry Regiments.

Keith is a graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy and a former submariner. Following a distinguished military career, he retired with the rank of Captain. At present, Keith is the Unit Histories Section Advisor for the Compuserve Civil War Forum and the Vice-President of the BRCWRT.

John D. Billings, a Veteran of the 10th Massachusetts Artillery Battery, wrote one of the most informative accounts of soldier life during the Civil War. He had the following to say about the role of the Engineer Corps to the Union Army of the Potomac:

“... there was a portion of the (Union) army which could not often indulge in short cuts, which must ‘find a way or make it’, or have in made for them by others; and as some time and much skill and labor were necessary in laying out and completing such a way in an efficient manner, a body of men was enlisted for the exclusive purpose of doing this kind of work. Such a body was the Engineer Corps, often called the Sappers and

Miners of the army: but so little sapping and mining was done, and that mainly by the fighting forces, I shall speak of this body of men as Engineers – the name which, I believe, they prefer.

In the Army of the Potomac this corps was composed of the Fifteenth and Fiftieth New York regiments of volunteers and a battalion of regulars comprising three companies. They started out with McClellan in the Peninsula Campaign, and from that time till the close of the war were identified with the movements of this army . . .

The engineers’ special duties were to make roads passable for the army corduroying sloughs, building trestle bridges across small streams, laying pontoon bridges over bridges, and taking up the same, laying out and building fortifications, and slashing.”

(Source: Billings, John D. Hartack and Coffee. Boston. George M. Smith & Co. 1887. pp377-378.)

Join us at our General Membership Meeting on Thursday, 14 February at 7:15 pm for what will undoubtedly be an interesting presentation.

General Membership Meeting

14 February

7:15 PM

- **Keith Young**
“Engineers in the U.S. Army of the Potomac”
- **Civil War 101 6:30 PM**

**Bull Run Civil War
Round Table**

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The STONE WALL is published
monthly by the Bull Run Civil War
Round Table. Meetings are held at
7:15 PM on the second Thursday
of the month at:

**The Centreville Regional
Library
14200 St. Germain Drive
Centreville, VA 20121-2299
Tel. No. (703) 830-2223**

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER:

In addition to receiving the
STONE WALL earlier than you
normally would through regular
mail services, there are other
benefits to being on the BRCWRT
e-mail list. Periodically, I receive
information from various sources
that I pass along to members via e-

mail. These include photos I am
unable to include in the print
version of the newsletter due to
space constraints, and information
on events and websites.

If you would like to participate
in the e-mail program, (messages
are sent blind copy to protect
privacy), or if you would like to
offer comments please contact:

Mary R. Ahrens
(703) 352-9775

ahrn@starpower.net

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The deadline for March 2002
articles is 27 February 2002.
Please send input to Mary Ahrens
at the above address or e-mail.

General Membership Meeting
7:15 PM
Thursday, 14 March 2002

- **John P. McAnaw**
“Hidden Civil War Heritage
of Fairfax County: Forgotten
Partisan Rangers, Firefights,
Battles, Fortifications and
other Historic Sites”

Visit our website at:

<http://www.geocities.com/bullruncwr>

For more information on
the BRCWRT website contact:

Maureen Quinn:
MRQuinn@patriot.net

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By: John McAnaw

Congratulations to Past BRCWRT President, Dan Paterson, for a most informative presentation at our General Membership Meeting on 10 January 2002. Dan covered the post war years and associated controversies of his great grandfather, LTG James Longstreet, before a full room of interested members and guests. Well done!

And, speaking of controversial subjects, there are two preservation issues of utmost importance. The first should be familiar to readers of the *Stone Wall* - the proposed rezoning of a portion of the Centreville Historic District and adjacent property by Stanley-Martin Homebuilding, L.L.C. For a second time the public hearing before the County Board of Supervisors on this proposed rezoning has been postponed. All members are urged to attend the cited public hearing - which will be held on Monday, 25 February 2002 at 4:30 pm.

The second preservation issue concerns the future of Bristoe Station Battlefield where II U.S. Corps repulsed LTG Ambrose P. Hill's III Corps on 14 October 1863. The Prince William County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on 6 February 2002, at 7:30 pm in the McCoart Administration Building just off Prince William Parkway and near the Prince William Cannons baseball stadium. Members are encouraged to attend this hearing and state their opinions. More information on both issues can be found in the Preservation Corner.

On 16 February 2002, we will kick off our 2002 tour schedule with a three-hour tour of Leesylvania State Park, including the site of the famous Confederate Battery at Freestone Point. The Historic Interpreter at Leesylvania State Park will be our chief tour guide.

Also, don't forget our Civil War 101 classes, beginning at 6:30 pm before each meeting. This is the ideal time to learn or brush up on the basic information to better understand the war.

A review of the list of paid members for 2002 indicates that many Round Table members have not yet paid their 2002 dues. The income derived from the yearly dues is the financial lifeblood of our organization. So, kindly take the time to send in your check or pay

Treasurer Mark Knowles at our 14 February 2002 meeting. Your attention to this matter is appreciated.

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

Marching Orders! Winter Tour of Leesylvania State Park - 16 February 2002

The BRCWRT will conduct a tour of Leesylvania State Park on Saturday, 16 February 2002. A number of historic sites will be visited, including the Confederate Battery at Firestone Point and the sites of Civil War fisheries.

Tour Guides: Patricia Ilura Williams Knock (Chief Tour Guide/Historic Interpreter), John DePue, John McAnaw

Assembly Location/Date/Time: Visitors Center, Leesylvania State Park; 16 February 2002; 11:45 am

Tour Duration and Exertion: Three (3) hours - including time inside the Visitors Center. Exertion is light to moderate. (Upslope along a ridge for about 700 yards. Most of the walking on relatively level terrain.)

Attire/Food: Expect windy conditions along the Potomac River. Good boots recommended. Bring water, energy food, and walking stick.

Directions to Visitors Center: Leesylvania State Park: (703) 583-6904 or (703) 670-0372. Travel South on I-95 and exit Eastbound to U.S. 1 (Jefferson Davis Highway). Turn right (South) and travel about one mile. Then turn left (East) onto Neabsco Road. Travel east on Neabsco Rd. to intersection with Daniel Ludwig Rd. Turn right (South) on Daniel Ludwig Rd. into Leesylvania State Park. Continue until you reach the Visitors Center (on right).

Sign up: At 14 February 2002 General Membership Meeting or contact John McAnaw at (703) 978-3371.

MISCELLANEOUS

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2002 **BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

If you have not done so already, please pay dues for CY2002 as soon as practicable. The dues rates are as follows:

Family - \$25.00; Individual - \$15.00; Student - \$10.00

PRESERVATION CORNER

Make checks payable to the "Bull Run Civil War Round Table." Either drop the check or cash at the Membership Table at the February monthly meeting or mail the check to:

Mark Knowles
169 Applegate Drive
Sterling, Virginia 20164

If you have any questions, contact Mark at (703) 787-9811

Centreville Historic District Update
By: Mary Ahrens

On 28 January 2002 the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors was scheduled to hear public comment about the proposed rezoning application by Stanley-Martin Homebuilding, L.L.C. for the Centreville Historic District and its environs. This meeting has been postponed. The new hearing date will be Monday, 25 February 2002 at 4:30 pm.

INCLEMENT WEATHER SOP FOR MEETINGS AND TOURS

MONTHLY MEETINGS

If, on the date of a scheduled monthly meeting, adverse weather conditions exist or are impending take one of the following actions to determine whether or not the meeting will be held as scheduled:

1. Call John McAnaw at (703) 978-3371. Either he or a recorded message will advise the caller, or
2. Call the Centreville Regional Library at (703) 830-2223. A staff member will tell you if the meeting is on or not.

TOURS

1. Call the Chief Tour Guide. The name and telephone number for the Chief Tour Guide for each tour will be published in the monthly newsletter. In the event contact cannot be made, then

Contact John McAnaw at (703) 978-3371. Either he or a recorded message will advise the caller.

Prior to the postponement I submitted a letter to the editors of the *The Centreview Newspaper* and to *The Northern Virginia Journal*. The following is the original version of the letter as it appeared in *The Centreview Newspaper* on Thursday, 24 January 2002. To view the version printed in *The Northern Virginia Journal* on the same day you can visit:

<http://www.jrnl.com/cfdocs/new/ffx/pdfarchive.cfm>

"Death Knell for the Centreville Historic District???"

On January 28, 2002, at 5:00 pm, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will hear arguments pertaining to a proposed 7.81-acre subdivision slated for the Centreville Historic District and its environs - "The Village at Mount Gilead." The current boundaries of the Centreville Historic District were approved by the Board of Supervisors in the 1980s and encompass 2 historic Churches and 3 historic houses. The developer is seeking a zoning change that will allow them to build between 5-8 dwellings per acre of land. Currently, the re-zoning action is in the public comment stage of the process and will either be approved or disapproved by the Board at the abovementioned meeting.

*A little over 2 acres of the proposed development lie within the boundaries of the historic district. A portion of this acreage contains Civil War earthworks that are eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Sites. The other portion of this small plot of land contains **10** of the 47 (\$400,000+) houses comprising the development.*

To the south of this wall of closely spaced houses is quaint St. John's historic church, its cemetery and parish hall. St. John's Parish was created in the early 1850's and the church served as a Civil War hospital.

Congratulations to John Hennessy!

Congratulations to distinguished historian, John Hennessy who has been chosen as the new Chief Historian of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. The good news was received on 31 January 2002 and is celebrated with enthusiasm by the many friends and fans of John Hennessy.

The cemetery, and its spacious, tranquil grounds – are on that section of the St. John’s property directly across the street from the 10 houses threatening to intrude into the historic district. (John Wilmer Mclean is buried here. In one of those great ironies of the civil war – it was on his mother’s property that the Battle of First Manassas began, and it was at his parent’s house at Appomatox Court House that General Lee surrendered to General Grant. Also buried at St. John’s are the first two soldiers of the Civil War to have been executed, several unknown Confederate soldiers, and James P. Machen, son of Lewis Machen who owned Walney Farm.)

Across the street from the proposed subdivision, to the west, is Mount Gilead, a beautiful colonial house (built c. 1750). The manor house sits at the end of a magnolia-lined lane on nearly 7 acres of land, owned by the Board of Supervisors.

The Civil War earthworks are east of Mount Gilead and north of St. John’s Episcopal Church. They were part of a network of fortifications built by the Confederates after the Battle of First Manassas. The Confederates, always without means, but not without imagination manned their fortifications with “Quaker guns”, trees carved and painted to look like cannons. The Confederates pulled out in March of 1862 and the network of earthworks and forts were occupied for the duration of the war by Union troops. The developer has offered to give at least a portion of the earthworks to the Park Authority (it is unknown at this time the extent of earthworks to be preserved), but that does not address the remaining acre or so of land within the historic district.

*The “Village at Mount Gilead” encroaches on and overwhelms the placid character of the Centreville Historic District. The proposed houses are designed to be 32 feet across with townhouse size yards and are only **10 feet apart!!!** (St. John’s historic chapel, incidentally, is only 24’5” wide and 40’5” deep.) Ten of these houses - (10!) - are planned to be **within** the historic district, itself – and not just within it, but **between** St. John’s and the earthworks, causing an unnatural barrier and practically severing St. John’s from the rest of the historic district. Why purposely fragment the historic district? Do we want a true historic district or the pretense of one – carved up by a modern subdivision?*

The developer, Stanley-Martin, is currently selling upscale homes in 7 Fairfax County locations – 3 of those developments are located in Centreville. Between Winchester Homes and Pulte Homes over 2,000 dwellings are proposed in the vicinity (north of Rt. 28 – Centreville Farms area). With all of the construction activity in that area, can’t we find a way to do away with these 10 problematic houses and preserve the integrity of the historic district?

When the death knell next tolls – will it be for the Centreville Historic District itself?

If, during this public comment time, you would like to add your voice to those citizens – historians and non-historians, alike – who are speaking out against this encroachment on the historic district you can visit: <http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/government/board/default.htm> for information on how to contact Board Members. A Public Hearing is scheduled for Monday, January 28, 2002 at 5:00 pm. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA”.

Unmarked Graves Complicate Deal to Save Part of Bristoe Station Battlefield

By: Jim Burgess

Vice-Chairman, Prince William County Historical Commission

On Wednesday, February 6 at 7:30 pm the Prince William County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the McCoart Administration Building just off Prince William Parkway and next to the Prince William Cannons baseball stadium. On the agenda is a rezoning application by Centex Homes for what they call “New Bristow Village” (REZ PLN 2001-00157). Centex has a contract to purchase a 338-acre tract at Bristow bounded by Route 28 to the north, Route 619 to the east, the Norfolk-Southern Railroad to the south, up to and including an equestrian center to the west. Centex intends to develop this tract with a mix of residential and commercial use. They are requesting a higher density than the county’s comprehensive plan suggests but as quid pro quo, they are also offering to donate 127 acres of the Bristoe Battlefield core area to the Civil War Preservation Trust and allowing it to remain open space.

This represents an unprecedented opportunity to save a significant chunk of the Bristoe Station Battlefield.

The area to be saved includes much of the ground over which Cooke's North Carolina brigade advanced and was repulsed from the Union positions along the railroad and the hill on which McIntosh's battery was captured. It also includes the sites of at least two Confederate cemeteries dating to 1861. Certainly other parts of the battlefield remain threatened by future development. The ground over which Posey's and Perry's brigades fought will be sacrificed to Centex's bulldozers. The land east of Route 619, where Kirkland's troops met repulse, is held by the Manassas Assembly of God but remains zoned for light industrial development. All the ground encompassing the Union positions south of the railroad is also vulnerable to future growth. With a commuter rail station and an expanding municipal airport nearby, the whole area is ripe for intense development. The Centex deal must be viewed in this context. This may in fact be our best and only opportunity to save a piece of the Bristoe Station Battlefield. Consequently, the Prince William County Historical Commission is prepared to support the Centex rezoning before the Planning Commission.

However, there is justifiable concern that the Centex development may impact unmarked Confederate graves known to be in the general vicinity of Bristoe Station. Centex has shown great sensitivity on the subject, adjusting their plans to avoid two burial sites that had been identified, the 10th Alabama cemetery and an adjacent cemetery whose occupants have yet to be identified. There were 143 Confederate dead buried on the field after the battle in October 1863. General Ewell lost 35 men killed in his rear guard action at Kettle Run/Bristoe in August 1862, but the vast majority of the graves at Bristoe date to 1861. These were victims of disease in the Confederate encampments located here after First Manassas. Documentary evidence indicates separate cemeteries scattered over a wide area for Alabama, Mississippi, and North Carolina regiments. The total number of graves could go above 500. Not all of these unmarked graves may be in the path of the Centex bulldozers but there is a potential some are.

To address this issue, Centex offers the following paragraph in their proffers to the county: "10.4 During grading activities, the Applicant shall provide an archeologist who will inspect areas of high and moderate potential in each section of the property as the topsoil is removed to identify any historically significant structures or graves ("features") that might be uncovered. A member or designated representative of

the Historical Commission shall be offered the opportunity to accompany the archeologist."

Only archeologists who stand to profit financially from such activities would endorse this methodology. Looking for sometimes - shallow - Civil War burials with a bulldozer is a sure way to disturb the remains and/or destroy all evidence of graves. It might be OK in the case of traditional six-foot deep burials in a confined area with only one piece of equipment operating. Even if we had an archeologist for every Centex bulldozer over the wide expanse of this tract, the damage would likely be done before the archeologist could halt work. State law requires that cemeteries be identified BEFORE plans are approved. Allowing it to be done during actual development is simply unethical and this merits strong protest.

Centex contracted with a private firm, Thunderbird, to perform the minimum required "Phase II" archeological survey on the property. They found evidence of the 10th Alabama cemetery but no other burials. The Sons of Confederate Veterans had to point out an adjoining cemetery. A "Phase I" is a very superficial survey, not employing methodology that will readily locate unmarked graves. More extensive fieldwork with expensive remote sensing equipment is needed. Ignorance is bliss for most developers when it comes to graves so a "Phase I" will usually tell them what they want to hear.

When an archeologist working for a developer finds nothing, there is always a perception of a conflict of interest. If there really is nothing to be found, it is better to learn from an independent source not on the developer's payroll. The Historical Commission would rather see an independent archeological survey made for the specific purpose of locating any graves that may lie in the path of development on the Centex tract. This would have to be funded from alternative sources and/or take advantage of voluntary, pro-bono archeological services. All that would be required from Centex would be permission to access the property before grading operations begin.

The Historical Commission would appreciate the backing of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table members in general support of the Centex plan to convey 127 acres to the Civil War Preservation Trust. Support for finding the unmarked graves first is also needed. Please attend the public hearing before the

Planning Commission on 6 February 2002 and add your voice to the cause if you are able to do so.

A Letter to Civil War Enthusiasts

By: Bobby McManus

Hello Fellow Civil War Interested people,

The reason for writing is I am trying to save Bristoe Station Battlefield, well the graves at least. I have been writing letters and attending meetings for a real long time on this. Last year I got the Sons of the Confederate Veterans interested in this project and they collected money from the different camps of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, in the states that took part in the fights and who also took part in the main battle of Bristoe Station. They raised enough money to have two thermal imaging sessions done. Though both thermal imaging sessions were incomplete they found 500 graves. What needs to be done now is to have a thorough Forensic Anthropologist and a complete thermal imaging on this property before it is developed.

The first imaging that was done, was from a fixed wing aircraft. It was terrible as they were dodging the Manassas Airport flight pattern. Well, the next time that it was attempted we a helicopter but after trying for two days in inclement weather, we ended up going onto the property. We went to the area that was known to have graves with just hand held thermal imaging instruments and found over 500 graves.

On February 6th at 7:30 PM the Prince William County Planning Commission will hear rezoning arguments for Bristow Village Townhouses and a Town Center (stripmall). The developer has offered 129 acres of the 330 acres of the known battlefield and cemetery (10th Alabama etc . . .). This is the entrance at Route 619 (Bristow Rd.) on back to the graves and is also wetlands. Prince William County is pleased with this and will accept it, without doing further research on this area to see if there are more graves.

Here are some other engagements at Bristoe . . .
Camp Jones

Bristoe Station, Va. -- Action Aug. 26, 1862
Bristoe Station, Va. -- Exp. to Sept. 25-28, 1862
Bristoe Station, Va. -- Skir Oct. 24, 1862
Bristoe Station, Va. -- Skir Aug. 18, 1863

Bristoe Station, Va. -- Skir Sept. 12, 1863
Bristoe Station, Va. -- Action Sept. 24, 1863
Bristoe Station, Va. -- Engm't Oct. 14, 1863
Bristoe Station, Va. -- Skir Oct. 18, 1863

Bristoe Station, Va. -- Skir Feb. 1, 1864
Bristoe Station, Va. -- Scout Mar. 8, 1864
Bristoe Station, Va. -- Skir Mar. 16, 1864
Bristoe Station, Va. -- Skir Apr. 9, 1864
Bristoe Station, Va. -- Affair Apr. 15, 1864

For information on contacting the Prince William County Board of Supervisors you can visit:
<http://www.pwcgov.org/bocs/> or call: (703) 792-4660.

FLASHBACK 1862

February 1862

By Bob Ford

Feb. 1 – Grant at Cairo, IL prepares a campaign to take Fort Henry. There is a skirmish near Bowling Green, KY. Indian chiefs meet with Federal authorities at Leavenworth, Kansas.

Feb. 2 – Skirmish in Morgan County, TN

Feb. 3 – Grant moves toward Paducah, KY and gunboats start up the Tennessee River toward Ft. Henry. Lincoln declines offer of war Elephants from King of Siam. Lincoln sends a letter urging McClellan to go south overland. Michigan legislature urges abolishment of slavery.

Feb. 4 – Grant lands troops in a rainstorm and advances on Ft. Henry. Virginia legislature debates enrolling Negroes into Confederate army, while the Generals appeal to troops whose enlistments are about to expire.

Feb. 5 – Grant continues build up and attacks Ft. Henry. U.S. Senator from Indiana expelled for complicity with enemies.

Feb. 6 – Ft. Henry surrenders.

Feb. 7 – Grant pushes toward Ft. Donelson Federal naval forces bombard Roanoke Island.

BOOK CORNER

By: Ralph G. Swanson

There are a number of excellent photographic histories of the Civil War available today. By 1860 the science of photography had already been advancing for over 20 years and the quality of photos from that era is striking. Nobody can fail to be impressed by the crisp, clear images created by the lens of a Matthew Brady or Alexander Gardner.

“The Civil War in Depth” and *“The Civil War in Depth Vol. II”*, both by Bob Zeller (Chronicle Books), literally add a new dimension to the enjoyment of readers who thrill to the photo anthologies of the war. Zeller’s work is the first presentation of war photographs as they were originally recorded and intended to be seen – in full stereo view. Many of the photos are published for the first time and some of the most famous photos that we know from the war are published here for the first time in their original stereo format.

Zeller has not attempted a complete photographic history of the war. Rather, his volumes are a collection of some of the most important and famous photo sequences and individual views.

Stereo photography was a common photographic format from the late 1850’s through the 1930’s. Many families owned a hand-held stereoscope through which photo-cards with paired images were viewed. They were a favorite entertainment, virtually the computer video games of their day. Unfortunately, stereo did not transfer well to other media, such as books, magazines or motion pictures. Over the years, the paired negatives were separated, usually for publication, and became lost, then forgotten.

Zeller opens his first book with a brief history of photography and the development of the art into a commercial trade. Inevitably he focuses on M.B. Brady, the premier Civil War photojournalist responsible for much of our rich war photo-history. Many of the other giants in Civil War photography – Tim O’Sullivan, Alexander Gardner, James Gibson – began in Brady’s employ. Their work is amply displayed in these volumes. The highlights of this first book are the Gardner death studies at Antietam and Gettysburg that so shocked the nation when they were first published during the war.

Feb. 8 – Burnside captures Roanoke after futile resistance.

Feb. 13 – Grant attacks Ft. Donelson.

Feb. 16 – Grant demands and obtains Ft. Donelson’s unconditional surrender.

Feb. 17 – Grant is promoted to Major General of Volunteers.

Feb. 18 – Lincoln proclaims people should celebrate Washington’s Birthday. Skirmishing at Independence, MO; Bentonville, AR; Mount Vernon, MO; and Federal expedition operates around Winton, NC.

Feb. 19 – Willie Lincoln dies at the White House. General Buell, objecting to Grants move on Nashville advances slowly from Bowling Green to Nashville.

Feb. 21 – Engagement at Valverde in New Mexico territory.

Feb. 22 – Jefferson Davis is inaugurated as President, Confederate State of America. Skirmishing in MO, VA and TX.

Feb. 23 – Fighting around Pea Ridge Prairie, MO.

Feb. 24 – Skirmishing occurs near Pohick Church, Mason’s Neck, Occoquan, VA. Casualties light. Harpers Ferry is occupied by Union troops.

Feb. 25 – Buell’s troops occupy Nashville.

Feb. 26 – Cavalry skirmish at Keytesville, MO.

Feb. 27 – Jeff Davis is given authority to suspend the writ of habeas corpus.

Feb. 28 – South. Charleston, VA, occupied by Federal troops, designates this as a day of fasting. The town is to become the capital of the new State of WV.

Sources: *1400 Days, The Civil War Day By Day*, By Chris Bishop, Ian Drury, and Tony Gibson; and *The Civil War Bay By Day, An Almanac 1862-1865*, By E.B. Long.

In Volume II, Zeller describes his hunt for rare images and the thrill of discovering an obscure view. Many of his most important discoveries have occurred only recently and he believes many undiscovered war views still await the diligent researcher.

Volume II also features the first color photos of the war, the originals of which were individually and laboriously hand tinted, and a chapter on rare Confederate photography. Each book comes with its own stereo viewer and is meant to be read as a stand-alone work.

In reality you do not read these books, you experience them. The images soak through your skin and into your psyche. Let it happen. Let the photos pull you back in time and into the scene. You are standing amongst ordinary people, except they are living the history and times we can only read about. These photos are as close as we will ever get to the Civil War, but it is pretty close.

Next take up a magnifying glass for a closer examination. You can make out extra detail in the faces, lettering on signs, or spot everyday items, momentarily discarded for the pose. Again, this testifies to the quality of these photos taken over 135 years ago.

It is one thing to read that 600,000 soldiers were killed or wounded during the Civil War. It is quite another to peer closely into the face of a young, dead American boy, the blood still wet on his cheek, and realize that just hours before, he faced into a line of raised muskets, smelled burned gunpowder, and met a frightening death. So put aside your battle studies and biographies for a time, open one of Zeller's books, and prepare for one of the most powerfully moving Civil War experiences yet available to us.

(Those wishing to pursue Civil War photography in greater detail should meet William A. Frassanito of Gettysburg, a noted author of several books on the subject. He can often be found autographing his own books at the Gettysburg Book Sale over the 4th of July holiday. He has many interesting stories to relate about his research into civil war photos. While in Gettysburg, visit Gibson's Photographic Gallery at 65 Steinwehr Avenue, an actual, operating 19th century photo studio.)

Until next time, keep reading!

VIEW FROM WAY BACK

Submitted by Keith Young

During a meeting before Belmont under flag of truce, Grant and Polk took some time at the end of the discussion to exchange a toast or two. "Polk had proposed a toast to George Washington; only after his Union counterpart raised his glass did he add, 'The first rebel.' Grant now sought to even the score. He raised his glass, declaring, 'Equal rights to all.' Polk smiled, lifted his glass, then sputtered as Grant added, 'White and black.'"

Source - The Brooks Simpson biography of Grant -

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Note: If you plan to attend an event please verify the information given in this column by calling the telephone number provided.

Feb. 9 - 2 PM "Hampton Roads Peace Conference" Civil War Encounter, The Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond. Info: (804) 6491861

Feb 9 –10 – 11AM – 3 PM "Introduction to the Signal Corps" Hands on demonstration of authentic Civil War era telegraph equipment. Museum of Civil War Medicine, 48 E. Patrick St., Frederick, MD Info: (301) 695-1864

Feb 22 – 7 PM "Taken at the Flood: The Confederates in Maryland in 1862" Prof. Joseph Harsh. Frederick Community College, Jack B. Kussmaul Theater, Frederick. Info: Liz Shatto (301) 644-4042

Feb 23 – 1 PM "Lincoln: The Great Emancipator?" Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Rd. Info: (703) 838 – 4848

Feb 23 – 1 PM – 3 PM "Hidden Treasures from Our Collection", Museum of Civil War Medicine, 48 E. Patrick St., Frederick, MD. View items not routinely exhibited to due to space limitations. Info: (301) 695-1864

